



INVASIVE ANIMAL

Invasive Pig

Sus scrofa

MARCH 2025



[BCINVASIVES.CA/SQUEALONPIGS](https://bcinvasives.ca/squealonpigs)

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PIGS?

Canada has no native pigs, but escaped domestic pigs, wild boars, and their hybrids have become a serious problem. Initially introduced for farming and hunting, these animals have adapted to the wild, causing widespread damage.

FAST FACTS

- Invasive pigs are the most destructive large mammal in Canada
- Invasive pigs can successfully survive cold Canadian winters
- They damage crops, spread disease, and harm native wildlife
- In B.C., an invasive pig is any pig that is not in captivity or under a person's control

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

Invasive pigs are well established in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, with lower numbers reported in B.C., Ontario, and Quebec. Reports have come in from most regions of B.C.

There are **no known established populations in B.C.**—help keep it that way!





HOW CAN WE MANAGE THEM?

- Report any sightings of invasive pigs or abandoned animals
- Public engagement and awareness
- Use secure, double fencing to prevent escapes
- Capture escapees immediately
- Monitor with trail cameras, as pigs are often nocturnal

Effective population control involves coordinated removal efforts, large ground traps, aerial nettings, and GPS-collared “Judas Pigs” to locate others.



DID YOU KNOW?

Pig sport hunting is legal in B.C., but it is **NOT an effective way** to control populations.



WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

ADULTS

- Up to 2.4 metres long and 1 metre tall
- Weight: 35-200 kg
- Large wedge-shaped head, long ears, and coarse or bristly fur
- Colours range from black to reddish-brown and white or pink
- Some have a mane of hair along the spine



PIGLETS

- Born with stripes or spots that fade over time
- Can have solid fur as they grow

From One to Too Many

Females **reproduce within their first year**, and males as early as **seven months**. They can have **two litters per year**, with **10-12 piglets per litter**, and at least half survive. With such rapid reproduction, populations can grow quickly if not managed!

HOW DO THEY SPREAD?

Invasive pigs thrive in dense cover near water and farmland. They form groups called sounders and have spread over 1 million km² across Canada. They spread due to:

- Accidental escapes from farms
- Intentional releases for hunting
- Expanding populations in neighbouring provinces



WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Destruction of native plants and habitats
- Soil disturbance that spreads invasive species
- Increased erosion and water contamination
- Competition with wildlife for food
- Predation on small mammals, reptiles, and ground-nesting birds

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Damage to crops, property, and fencing
- Increased costs for disease prevention and control
- Risk to Canada's pork industry from African swine fever (ASF), which is **not currently in Canada**



HEALTH RISKS

- Can spread *E. coli* and hepatitis E to people
- Contaminate food and water sources
- Risk of disease transmission to livestock and wildlife



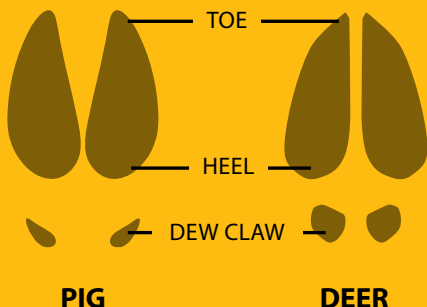
DID YOU KNOW?

Over 60 countries, including the Dominican Republic and Haiti, have reported cases of ASF.

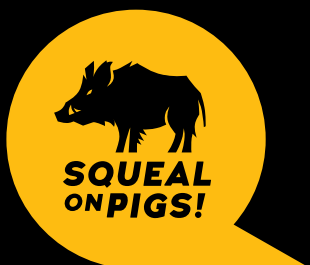


Did you find some tracks?

Use this diagram to help you tell the difference between pig and deer tracks.



Together, we can protect
B.C.'s landscapes and communities.
If you see an invasive pig, report it!



REPORT

ONLINE: Report through the
B.C. government website or at
bcinvasives.ca/SquealOnPigs



MOBILE APPS: Report using **Report Invasives**
or **iNaturalist**

If human safety is at risk, call **1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
or **911 for emergencies***

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