

**GREAT
WILD INDEX**

ENDANGERED SPECIES

**4 Totally Cool
Wild Animals!**

**Crazy Fun
Facts Inside!**

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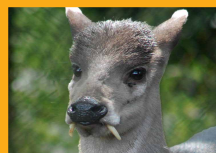
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RAREST PIG?!



ANGRIEST CAT



VAMPIRE DEER!



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Kris R. and Dominique D. would like to dedicate this issue of The Great Wild Index to the quiet fighters of the forest, the mountain, and the island, those endangered and critically endangered species whose stories often go untold. In this edition, we spotlight four remarkable creatures: the tufted deer, the caracal, the Pallas cat, and the Visayan warty pig. Each of these animals carries a unique ecological role, evolutionary history, and cultural significance, yet all face threats that stem from human activity. From habitat loss, hunting, fragmentation, and climate change.

Through these articles, we hope to offer more than just facts. We aim to spark empathy, curiosity, and a sense of urgency. The tufted deer, with its fang-like canines and misty mountain habitat, reminds us of nature's quiet elegance. The caracal, leaping skyward with precision, shows us the beauty of adaptation. The Pallas cat, comically grumpy yet fiercely resilient, teaches us about survival in extremes. And the Visayan warty pig, critically endangered and endemic to the Philippines, stands as a symbol of biodiversity worth fighting for.

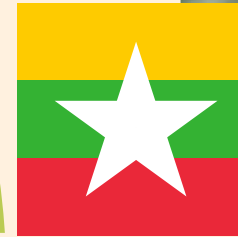
Let's make space for the wild to thrive!



WILD FACT FILES!

FAMILY	Cervidae (deer)
SUBFAMILY	Capreolinae
DIET	Herbivorous grazer & browser; eats leaves, twigs, fruits
COUNTRY	Central and Southwestern China, Northern Myanmar
HEIGHT	50–70 cm
WEIGHT	17–30 kg
STATUS	Near Threatened (IUCN)

TUFTED DEER



"Elaphodus Cephalophus"

MYANMAR'S FANGED FELLOWS

WRITTEN BY
Dominique D.



The tufted deer (*Elaphodus cephalophus*) is a small, solitary hoofed mammal native to the mountainous forests of central China and northeastern Myanmar, where it thrives in dense vegetation and steep terrain that offer both concealment and escape routes from predators (Laing, 2024). Males are easily recognized by their fang-like upper canines and a prominent tuft of dark hair on their foreheads, which not only gives the species its name but also serves as a visual signal during territorial disputes and mating rituals (Fact Animal, 2024). Although generally shy and crepuscular, tufted deer may forage during daylight hours in undisturbed areas, and they rely on their agility and speed, reaching up to 70 kilometers per hour, to evade predators such as leopards and dholes or feral dogs (Animalia.bio, 2025). Their diet consists mainly of leaves, twigs, fruits, and grasses, and they are known to browse quietly along forest edges and bamboo thickets, where food is abundant and cover is readily available (Laing, 2024).

Tufted deer inhabit elevations ranging from 500 to 4,500 meters, and they are particularly well-adapted to cool, misty environments with thick undergrowth, which helps them remain

These fangs are for fighting off rival males!



hidden from both predators and human activity (Fact Animal, 2024). Despite their adaptability to rugged terrain, their populations are increasingly threatened by habitat loss due to logging, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure development, which have reduced genetic diversity (Animalia.bio, 2025). In addition to habitat degradation, they are hunted for their meat and hides, and their distinctive canines are sometimes sought after as curios, further pressuring wild populations (Laing, 2024). Although the tufted deer is currently classified as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), conservation efforts remain limited, and more comprehensive studies are needed to assess population trends, enforce anti-poaching laws, and establish protected corridors that connect isolated habitats (Animalia.bio, 2025). Because tufted deer contribute to forest ecology through seed dispersal and vegetation control, their decline could have critical effects on biodiversity, making their protection essential not only for species preservation but also for maintaining ecosystem balance (Fact Animal, 2024).

CARACAL CAT

"Caracal caracal"

THE SILLY CARACAL CAT

WRITTEN BY *Kris R.*

The caracal is a sleek, medium-sized wildcat found across Africa, the Middle East, and Central and Southwestern Asia, thriving in savannas, deserts, and rocky hills. Known for its striking black-tufted ears and powerful hind legs, the caracal can leap up to 3 meters to catch birds mid-flight (Fact Animal, 2024). Although solitary and elusive, it is a formidable predator that feeds on rodents, birds, and small antelopes (Britannica, 2025).

WILD FACT FILES!

FAMILY	Felidae
SUBFAMILY	Felinae
DIET	Birds, mammals, small reptiles
COUNTRY	Africa, Middle East, Southwestern China
HEIGHT	40-50 cm
WEIGHT	8-19 kg
STATUS	Least Concern (IUCN)



PALLAS CAT

KAZAKHSTAN

"Otocolobus manul"

THE GRUMPIEST CAT IN THE WORLD

WRITTEN BY *Dominique D.*

The Pallas cat, also known as the manul, inhabits the cold, arid steppes and rocky grasslands of Central Asia, including the Tibetan Plateau and the Caucasus. With its dense, fluffy fur and low-set ears, it is uniquely adapted to harsh climates. The Pallas cat is a skilled ambush predator, feeding primarily on small mammals like pikas and voles. Although classified as Least Concern, its fragmented populations face threats from habitat degradation and hunting.

WILD FACT FILES!

FAMILY	Felidae
SUBFAMILY	Felinae
DIET	Pikas, voles, small rodents, birds and insects
COUNTRY	Mongolia, China, Russia, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran
HEIGHT	25-30 cm
WEIGHT	17-30 kg
STATUS	Near Threatened

VISAYAN WARTY PIG

"*Sus cebifrons*"



A WARTY PARTY

WRITTEN BY *Dominique D.*

The Visayan warty pig is a critically endangered wild pig species endemic to the central Philippine islands. It is one of the rarest wild pigs, with likely less than 200 of them left in the Philippines. Once widespread, this unique species is now restricted to the islands of Negros and Panay in the Western Visayas region. Males are easily identified by three pairs of fleshy facial warts and distinctive mane that grows longer during the breeding season, which serves both as a display and a form of protection during fights. These pigs are omnivorous and

forage for roots, fruits, and small invertebrates, but they also play a vital ecological role by aerating soil as they dig. Although they are social animals that live in small groups called sounders, habitat loss and hunting have pushed them to the brink of extinction.

Historically, Visayan warty pigs occupied a wide range of forested habitats, but deforestation has reduced their range to isolated patches, making population recovery increasingly difficult. Conservation efforts include captive breeding programs and protected reserves, yet

enforcement remains inconsistent, and local awareness is still limited. These pigs are also threatened by hybridization with domestic pigs, which not only dilutes their genetic purity but also introduces diseases that can devastate small populations. As flagship species for Philippine biodiversity, the Visayan warty pig symbolizes the urgent need for sustainable land management and community-based conservation, and its survival depends on coordinated efforts between scientists, local communities, and government agencies.



WARTS

Thick skin pads that protect males from tusk strikes!

MOHAWK
Raised during fights or courtship displays

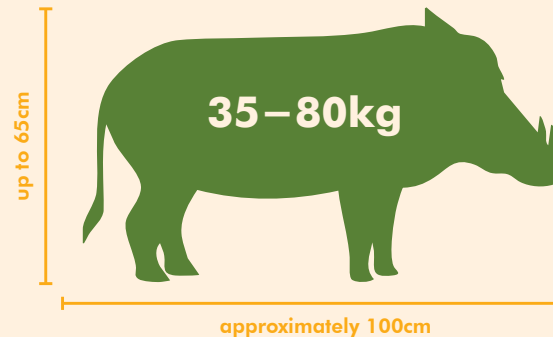
MANE RIDGE
Stands on ends to make the warty pig look bigger and tougher during confrontations

STURDY LEGS
Short but powerful limbs for digging, sprinting, and pushing through dense undergrowth

HOOVES
Strong hooves built for digging and aerating soil

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED!

Less than **200** left! These pigs have been pushed to the brink of extinction by habitat loss & hunting!



WILD FACT FILES!

FAMILY	Suidae
SUBFAMILY	Suinae
DIET	Omnivorous; roots, tubers, fruits, seeds, fallen crops
COUNTRY	Philippines; found only on the Visayan Islands
HEIGHT	60–65 cm
WEIGHT	35–80 kg
STATUS	Critically Endangered

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