



## Collared Peccary (*Tayassu tajacu*)

**Order:** Artiodactyla **Family:** Tayassuidae

**SIZE:** Weight, 30-60 lbs.; height, 20-30 inches at the shoulders; length, 30-36 inches.

**DESCRIPTION:** A piglike animal (although they are not pigs) resembling a razorback hog, but with heavier neck and shoulders. They have piglike snouts that are used to root for food. Body is covered in heavy, bristly hair that can be erected into a mane. They are grizzled gray in color with a whitish to yellowish collar from shoulder to shoulder. Sharp, straight canines are used for fighting off enemies.

**LOCOMOTION:** Their small, oblong hooves are well adapted for running. Can gallop at speeds up to 25 mph. Usually walk single file when travelling to and from water or bed grounds. Will swim if necessary.

**SENSES:** Poor eyesight, but good sense of smell that alerts them to enemies. Hearing is fair.

**COMMUNICATION:** Their alarm call is a barking cough or a clacking of the teeth. Will squeal if injured or terrified. Grunts keep the herd together while feeding. A scent gland on their hindquarters gives off a mild, skunky scent which helps to keep the herd together and mark territory. Members of a herd often rub their faces against one another's backs.

**HABITS:** Found in deserts, rocky canyons and brushland. Travel in herds of 6-30. Mainly active in the early morning and late afternoon, and takes shelter under a bush or boulder during the midday heat. Will run from danger if they can, but will defend themselves fiercely if cornered.

**DIET:** Primarily herbivorous and eat prickly pear cactus, mesquite fruit, tubers, bulbs, nuts, roots, and berries.

**RANGE:** Southwestern United States and Mexico.

**FAMILY LIFE:** Peccaries are polygamous, and breeding may occur at any time of year. After a gestation period of 142-148 days, 2-6 young are born. Young are precocial and can travel with the herd one day after birth. The young are protected by all members of the herd.

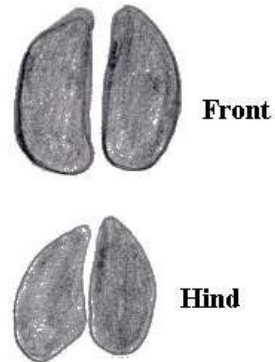
**ENEMIES:** Coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT...?**

- They got their commonly known name, javelina, from their javelin-like canine teeth.
- The peccaries preferred food, prickly pear cactus (spines and all), provides them with water as well as food.
- Peccaries can live 8-10 years in the wild; 20 or more years in captivity.

## Track

Front Foot is larger than the Rear Foot.



## Scat

Scat tends to be segmented



# Range

Sothwestern United States and Mexico  
including most of Arizona.