



Axis porcinus

STATUS

- Lower risk

DISTRIBUTION

- The Hog deer's habitat ranges from Pakistan, through Northern India, to mainland Southeast Asia.
- In uncultivated parts of India they are still quite plentiful, but their numbers are declining in Myanmar and Sri Lanka due to habitat loss.

HABITAT

- Hog deer are found in lowland grassy plains, including swampy areas.
- Their food consists of grass, leaves, young shoots and rice plants.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Unlike other deer, they are not found in herds. It is rare to see more than 3 or 4 Hog deer together.
- Males normally defend just one female at a time; they may gather in open meadows to fight for dominance.

DESCRIPTION

- Hog deer have a low, heavy build.
- They are about 70cm at the shoulder, with relatively short legs & face.
- The fur of fawns is sometimes spotted, but becomes brown with a yellowish tinge as the animals mature.
- Males have antlers which are about 40 cm in length.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Hog deer make a whistling sound when alarmed.
- They have a habit of rushing through the grass with head down like a pig, rather than bounding – hence their name.
- Their natural predators are leopards, dhole (wild dogs) and crocodiles.
- Hog deer have been introduced into Australia in southeast Victoria.