



BABUEN HALOMTANO' (wild pig)

Sus scrofa

Regulated Game Species

Domestic pigs were brought to Guam by the Spanish in the late 1600s. The first stock probably came from domestic herds in the Philippines and likely was introduced to feed the soldiers, government servants, and missionaries on Guam. Some of this domestic stock escaped from captivity or were intentionally released and established wild, free living populations in the forest, completely away from people. These were the ancestors of our wild pigs now found in the boonies.

Known in Chamorro as babuen halomtano', wild pigs are smaller than domestic pigs. Wild adult males, or boars, typically weigh from 50 to 120 pounds, but can weigh up to 300 pounds. Wild pigs usually are all black, with stiff bristle-like hair. Some are spotted with white and red. These mixed colors come from breeding with farmers' pigs. Both males and females have sharp canine teeth called tusks (or "kotniyos" in Chamorro) which are used for fighting and feeding. These grow to long lengths in males and are highly prized as trophies by hunters.

The babuen halomtano' can raise one litter of babies every eight months. They give birth to between one and 10 piglets, usually five. The piglets nurse from the sow, or mother, pig for about four months until they become big enough to find their own food. Pigs can eat almost anything. They dig in the forest floor with their noses searching for fallen fruits, young plants, coconuts and animals like worms and snails. They feed on farmers' crops, such as watermelon and taro, causing considerable damage. They also build and use wallows. Wallows are pits which trap water when it rains. Rooting, wallowing, and trampling by pigs can cause severe damage to forest and agricultural resources. Such damage is commonly seen in many of Guam's forests today.

Pig numbers have increased in recent years. They are common to abundant in northern limestone forests and less common in savanna habitat in central and southern areas.

Hunting of wild pigs provides a significant amount of recreation for island sportsmen. Wild pig season is year-round on Guam and the legal bag limit is two per day and 40 per season. Pigs may be hunted only with a hunting license and during legal hunting hours, which are a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset.