

# Capybara

*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*

Least Concern

Fact Sheet · Activities

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# Capybara — Fact Sheet

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<b>Scientific name</b>	Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris
<b>Conservation status</b>	Least Concern
<b>Region</b>	South America — Panama to northern Argentina
<b>Habitat</b>	Riverbanks, swamps, and flooded grasslands; always close to water
<b>Diet</b>	Herbivore — grasses, aquatic plants, fruits, and bark
<b>Weight</b>	35–66 kg
<b>Size</b>	100–130 cm long; 50–62 cm at shoulder
<b>Lifespan</b>	6–10 years in the wild
<b>Wild population</b>	Stable; hundreds of thousands across South America

## Did You Know?

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- Capybaras are the world's largest rodents, related to guinea pigs.
- They are semi-aquatic and can stay submerged for up to 5 minutes to hide from predators.
- Almost every animal gets along with capybaras — birds, monkeys, and caimans rest on them peacefully.
- They communicate using purrs, barks, whistles, and even teeth-chattering.
- Baby capybaras (pups) can walk and swim within hours of birth.

## Threats to Survival

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1. Hunting for their meat and hide (still legal in some countries)
2. Habitat loss due to agriculture, particularly cattle ranching
3. Drought reducing river and wetland habitats

# Capybara — Activities

## Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

O	L	R	J	Z	H	S	H	A	V	G	M
K	I	E	C	Y	P	I	L	U	Q	M	R
V	R	T	K	U	A	D	I	F	S	I	O
B	D	A	P	T	N	L	X	Z	K	N	D
T	Q	W	D	M	S	O	C	I	A	L	E
S	L	C	A	P	Y	B	A	R	A	G	N
S	I	I	B	W	N	A	Q	Z	R	V	T
W	Z	X	X	X	V	G	L	N	C	V	K
I	A	T	K	V	D	X	J	Q	J	V	N
M	R	K	M	W	J	R	E	G	N	V	M
V	B	X	F	T	S	J	M	R	A	J	J
G	S	S	A	R	G	N	Z	S	T	U	K

CAPYBARA	RODENT	SWIM	GRASS
SOCIAL	BRAZIL	WATER	PUPS

## Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

<b>Capybara</b>	world's largest rodent
<b>Semi-aquatic</b>	lives both on land and in water
<b>Herbivore</b>	an animal that eats only plants
<b>Pup</b>	a baby capybara
<b>Social</b>	lives in groups

## Fill in the Blanks

1. The capybara is the world's largest \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Capybaras live near rivers and \_\_\_\_\_ in South America.
3. They can stay \_\_\_\_\_ for up to 5 minutes.
4. Baby capybaras are called \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: rodent / swamps / underwater / pups

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