



KUNE-KUNE PIGS



ARTIODACTYL
Family: Suidae
Genus: Sus
Species: scrofa

Range: Present New Zealand though its ancestors may have come from Asia

Habitat:

Niche: terrestrial, diurnal and herbivorous grazers

Wild diet: Grasses

Zoo diet: grains and assorted "chows"

Life Span: (Wild) there is no wild population
(Captivity) 15 years

Sexual dimorphism: Male is larger than female, tusks are more obvious in the male

Location in SF Zoo: Children's Zoo Barnyard

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

Kune-kunes are the smallest of domestic pigs and vary greatly in appearance. Typically they are short and round-bodied. They have short (squashed in) dished faces, heavy jowls and short, stocky legs. These pigs have characteristic fleshy "tassels" (or pire pire) that hang from its lower jaw and are about 4 cm in length. They serve no apparent purpose and can vary in size from pig to pig. A pig can be born with only one tassel or lose one through fighting, or stepping on them. Kune-kunes come in a variety of colors including black, brown, white, ginger, cream, black and white, as well as ginger and black. They can also have a number of different coat types, from smooth sleek hair to coarse & curly. The coat also varies according to the time of year, sometimes resulting in a marked difference between summer and winter coats. Extensive hair loss is common in the summer.

Weight: M 265 # - 120kg

F c. 80 - 100? #

Length: 2.5' - 80cm

M- c. 60 cm at shoulders

F. c. 42cm at shoulders

STATUS & CONSERVATION

It is believed they are descendants of an Asian domestic breed introduced in the early 1800s by whalers or traders, and are markedly different from the feral pig known in New Zealand as a "Captain Cooker". It is quite certain, however, that they were not in this country prior to the arrival of Europeans.

3000+ now exist from a purebred foundation stock of 6 sows & 3 boars that was begun in the 1980s (Another source has 18 as the founding stock but all these were not purebreds). With an established breeding program they are presently in no danger.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

The typical kunekune nature is that of a sociable, placid pig that likes human contact. They are intelligent, resourceful and affectionate, with a passion for food and a good scratch.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Estrous Period: 8 - 48 hrs every 18 - 22 days

Gestation: 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days

of Mammae

of Young: : litters of 6-8 common, up to 12 possible

Sexual Maturity: 8 - 12 months

Weaning Age

Weight at birth:

MISCELLANEOUS

The name, which means "chubby", is variably spelt as Kunekune, Kune kune or Kune-kune, and pronounced "koonay koonay".

Kune-Kune is Maori for "Fat & round".

The Polynesian word '*kunekune*' simply means 'plump'.

Sources:

www.geocites.com/nzsanctuary/kune.html?200630

info@kunekune.co.nz

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