

OCTOBER ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

JAVELINA



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JAVELINA



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This month, we are learning all about the Javelina (*Tayassu tajacu*). Here are some key facts:

- Javelinas are social animals who live in herds of 5-15. The adults weigh 35-60 lbs., and generally live for seven or eight years. They are more closely related to hippos than pigs.
- They are primarily vegetarian, prickly pear and other succulents make up most of their diet here in Arizona. They are opportunistic feeders, eating flowers, fruits, nuts, berries, bulbs, and occasionally eggs, carrion, snakes, fish, and frogs.
- While generally not aggressive, both sexes will defend their territory and young, leading to tense encounters, especially when dogs are involved, as these are considered predators. Always give Javelinas plenty of space, especially if they seem defensive.

Sources:

Backyard Gardener #32: Javelinas by Jeff Schalau, Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County.