Not native to North America, but Eurasia, pigs first came to the New World with European explorers, possibly as early as 1498. With no refrigeration in those days, ship crews commonly carried domestic pigs, with them to feed their crews. Pigs eat anything and don’t take up as much space on cramped ships as cows. Early expeditions brought pigs along to feed their troops. Some inevitably escaped into the wild where their descendants now number in the millions.

After centuries of uncontrolled subsistence hunting and habitat loss, many wild game populations plummeted by the late 19th century. Therefore, some sportsmen released Eurasian boars onto their hunting lands to replace vanished wild game. Much larger and meaner with longer legs and snouts than domestic pigs, a hard, bony ridge running down their spines gave these Eurasian tuskers the nickname “razorbacks.”

Many people consider feral hogs among the most dangerous beasts in eastern North America. When it comes to pure orneriness, few animals in North America provide bonus hunting opportunities all year long.

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Sophie Williams bagged this beast while hunting in Monroe County. Since hogs can cause major damage to crops and pasturelands, many landowners welcome, even encourage, sportsmen to shoot all the hogs they can on their properties.