



THANDA SAFARI  
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



## WHY WARTHOG IS SO UGLY



**In the beginning**, Warthog was a small but handsome beast. Unfortunately, he was also despised by all the other inhabitants of the savannah because he was vain and rude. Even Hare could not tolerate Warthog's superior attitude.

One thing Warthog had learned from the start was how to make himself a comfortable home. This was usually an old aardvark hole, no longer required by the original owner, and with some alteration and enlarging it was ideal.

In this snug, comfortable home he was safe from prowling hunters at night, and during the day he never ventured too far from safety. This retreat was needed quite frequently because Warthog's rudeness meant that he was often scurrying to safety. Bright and early one morning, Warthog was out enjoying a meal. He was feeding on roots and grass shoots with his bottom sticking up in the air in a most undignified manner, so busy eating that he failed to notice Porcupine.

After a night of walking around searching for food, Porcupine was exhausted, and after seeing an inviting looking hole, quickly scurried down the passage and was soon curled up in the main chamber of Warthog's hole, fast asleep. After several hours of feeding, Warthog trotted off to the nearby waterhole and had a good wallow in the mud. Feeling much refreshed, he was about to head off to find more grazing when he noticed Lion strolling by. Unable to resist the temptation, Warthog passed some very rude remarks about Lion's mane looking very messy and unkempt.

This was too much for Lion who had far too many tricks played on him and too many undignified remarks from such a rude little fellow.

So Lion charged Warthog, hoping to catch and teach him a lesson that he would never forget. Seeing the enraged Lion bearing down on him, Warthog was seized by panic and sprinted off towards his den. A great chase ensued, but eventually Warthog arrived safely at his home and shot down the tunnel. Lion was left to stand guard at the top.

Meanwhile, Porcupine, who had been fast asleep, woke with a start, sure that some predator had found her down the hole and was coming to grab her. Jumping to her feet, Porcupine braced herself for an attack, spreading out her long, sharp quills. Warthog, unable to stop, came bursting through into the chamber, straight into Porcupine. Warthog got a face full of sharp painful quills.

Lion was startled to hear a great yelp of pain from Warthog's den. There was the sound of considerable commotion from under the ground, and then Warthog shot out of the tunnel, screaming and howling with pain. He had a dozen or so quills sticking out of his cheeks, nose and forehead, plus signs of many more puncture holes. Lion saw and heard the obvious discomfort of Warthog and decided that he might have learned his lesson and so left him to his pain. Warthog was most miserable, especially as none of the animals would help him pull out the quills, remembering how rude and vain he had been in the past. Warthog's face swelled up and was sore for a very long time.

To this day, Warthog is covered in warts and bumps and he is no longer handsome. Taught his lesson, he is now a humble animal who minds his own business. And, as if reminded of his painful experience, Warthog now enters his den backwards to protect his face from further damage.



The **END**

