

SCHWEINEHUND



It took me a while before I could tackle this feisty and ferocious animal: an endemic creature which is up to mischief in German-speaking countries. Beware of this grim and grumpy hybrid – a nasty mixture of dog and pig! I dare you to take a close look at it. Can you manage to size this animal up with a long hard stare – without getting scared?

There are plenty of people who have been sizing this animal up for quite some time – (me included) – doing a thorough analysis of the situation. There's an IT-specific term for that – analysis paralysis. People suffering from analysis paralysis might look like a couch potato, but they are inactive for a good reason: They are sizing up the "Schweinehund" with a long hard stare.



The "Schweinehund" is domesticated in German-speaking countries. As everyone is carrying one of these "cuties" inside it's most common to name it "innerer Schweinehund". The "Schweinehund", as a curse for insulting people in the form of "Du Schweinehund!", is more and more outdated – at least according to my humble linguistic hunch. For sure, when consulting LEO or dict.cc you still find (mis)translations of the "Schweinehund" like skunk, swine or ratfink.

My inner voice, which is sometimes conspiring (or maybe consulting :-)) with the "Schweinehund", is just telling me not to weasel out of providing a proper definition of this strange and intriguing animal. So here we go:

The "(innerer) Schweinehund", a hybrid creature made of dog and pig, is the manifestation of your fears and your inertia.

My recommendation:

Listen to this very personal pet of yours as it can provide you with useful information but do not always take it seriously. Have a good time together and frolic! Try seeing your "Schweinehund" as a pleasant and likeable companion and never forget that you are the leader. Make sure it feeds properly – a balanced diet with a focus on positive experiences is to be recommended. Walk it skilfully and relax together on a couch or wherever you like. Don't stare at it for too long and go for fun and frolics not for fright!

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| curse | magic words that are intended to bring bad luck to someone |
| curse | a rude word or phrase |
| cutie | someone who you consider attractive or like a lot |
| dare | <i>dare somebody to do something</i> : So jump, then. I dare you. |
| endemic | EINHEIMISCH <i>especially of a disease or a condition, regularly found and very common among a particular group or in a particular area:</i> Malaria is endemic in many of the hotter regions of the world. |
| feisty | <i>active, forceful, and full of determination</i> : She's a pretty feisty kid, isn't she? |
| ferocious | frightening and violent |
| fright | <i>the feeling of fear, especially if felt suddenly, or an experience of fear that happens suddenly</i> : I lay in bed shaking with fright. |
| frolic | <i>to play and behave in a happy way</i> : A group of suntanned children were frolicking on the beach. |
| frolic | <i>happy behaviour, like that of children playing</i> : It was all fun and frolics until it began to pour down with rain. |
| humble | <i>not proud or not believing that you are important</i> : He's very humble about his success. |
| hunch | an idea that is based on feeling and for which there is no proof |
| inertia | lack of activity or interest, or unwillingness to make an effort to do anything |
| inertia | the physical force that keeps something in the same position or moving in the same direction |
| intriguing | very interesting because of being unusual or mysterious |
| ratfink | SCHEISSKERL DICT.CC |
| skilful | good at doing something, especially something that needs special ability or training |
| skunk | a small, black and white North American animal that makes a strong, unpleasant smell as a defence when it is attacked |
| swine | <i>a person who you consider to be extremely unpleasant and unkind</i> : Leave her alone, you filthy swine! |
| tackle | to try to deal with something or someone: There are many ways of tackling this problem. |
| weasel out (of sth) | <i>to avoid doing something that you have agreed to do, especially by being dishonest</i> : Although they had signed the contract they tried to weasel out of the deal later. |