

An enormous, primordial toad lands nearby, crushing plants and bending small trees. Its huge mouth gapes, displaying rows of crocodile teeth, and you notice that the thing's body—forest-green with crimson stripes, and as big as a wagon—would easily accommodate many humans.

The amphibious stogkrosh is a canny, powerful hunter that stalks most living creatures as food. They have a slow, deliberate way of hunting and fighting that speaks of an easy life at the top of a food chain. A stogkrosh can speak, but rarely bothers.

## STOGKROSH (GIANT SWAMP TOAD)

LEVEL 14 ELITE SOLDIER

Large natural beast (aquatic)

XP 2000

**Initiative** +8      **Senses** Perception +12; darkvision


**HP**; 466 **Bloodied** 233

**AC**: 29; **Fortitude** 29, **Reflex** 25, **Will** 28

**Saving Throws** +2

**Speed** 6; **Climb** 4; **Swim** 4


**Action Points** 1

 **Bite** (standard; at-will)


Reach 2; +23 vs. AC; 2d8+5 damage, and the target is grabbed (until escape).

 **Sticky Tongue** (standard; at-will)



Reach 5; +21 vs. Reflex; 5 damage and target is pulled 2 squares.

 **Opportunistic Biter** (Immediate reaction, when an enemy is pulled within reach)


The stogkrosh makes a bite attack.

 **Swallow** (standard; at-will)

The stogkrosh attempts to swallow a bloodied Medium or smaller creature it is grabbing; +19 vs. Fortitude; on a hit, the target is swallowed and restrained (no save) and takes 5 damage plus 10 acid damage on subsequent rounds at the start of the stogkrosh's turn. The swallowed creature can make melee basic attacks only, and only with one-handed or natural weapons. If the stogkrosh dies, any creature trapped in its gullet can escape as a move action, ending that action in a square formerly occupied by the stogkrosh.

 **Thundering Croak** (move; encounter)  **Sonic**

Close burst 5; +19 vs. Fortitude; 4d10+6 damage and targets are dazed (save ends).

 **War Croak** (immediate reaction, when first bloodied)

The stogkrosh's thundering croak recharges and is used immediately.

**Alignment** Chaotic Neutral

**Languages** Common

**Skills** Stealth +7

**Str** 21 (+12)

**Dex** 12 (+8)

**Wis** 10(+7)

**Con** 22 (+13)

**Int** 4 (+4)

**Cha** 5 (+4)



## STOGKROSH TACTICS

The Stogkrosh usually opens combat by leaping into the middle of a group and unleashing its thundering croak. Any resisters are quickly swallowed, and their allies are not far behind. While not terribly concerned with stealth or careful tactics, a stogkrosh will observe a group for a few minutes if it can to ascertain who should be the first to enter its gullet, usually settling on the one with the least metallic armour.

## STOGKROSH LORE

A character knows the following information with a successful Nature check.

**DC 20:** Stogkrosh means “croaking devourer” in goblin, which is apt. Stogkrosh are somewhat intelligent, merciless, and blessedly rare. They generally grab prey with their mouth, bringing it closer with their sticky tongues if it proves elusive, and swallow it whole.

**DC 25:** A stogkrosh has few real weaknesses, but they do not have well-developed reflexes. When bloodied they unleash a thunderous croak loud enough to tear flesh.

## ENCOUNTER GROUPS

Stogkroshes sometimes make deals with other swamp denizens to share territory, but these deals often crumble as the creature’s voracious appetite outweighs its social obligations. For more powerful creatures, though, they make excellent guard animals, and are sometimes encountered in mated pairs.

### Level 13 Encounter (XP 4,000)

- ✦ 2 stogkroshes (level 14 elite soldier)

### Level 14 Encounter (XP 5,000)

- ✦ 1 stogkrosh (level 14 elite soldier)
- ✦ 1 lamia (level 12 elite controller)
- ✦ 1 cyclops impaler (level 14 artillery)
- ✦ 3 cyclops guards (level 14 minion)

### Level 19 Encounter (12,000)

- ✦ 1 stogkrosh (level 14 elite soldier)
- ✦ 1 fomorian Painbringer (Level 19 elite controller)
- ✦ 1 fomorian warrior (level 17 elite soldier)
- ✦ 2 ettin marauders (level 10 elite soldier)