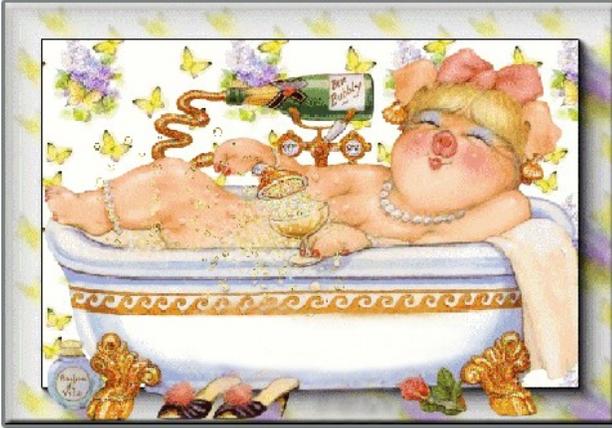


FEAR OF TAKING A BATH



Most pigs don't like the feel of water – except when they're very hot and using it to cool off. They also don't like the slippery, wet tiles in the bathroom as they can easily lose their footing. Getting in and out is a pretty difficult process as well if you have little stubby legs!

To get your pig used to being bathed, gradually start getting your piggy used to being in the bathroom with no negative experiences. Cover the floor of the bathroom with non skid rugs so she can't lose his footing. Even if you have to stuff your pig full of food to do so, get her in to the bathroom and have her used to being in there. When she is in the bathroom, give her praise

and a special treat. You can also get her to perform some simple tricks like sit or spin to show her that bathrooms can be fun places too. Repeat this process every few days until your pig is happy going into the bathroom without too much trouble.

When you're at this point, you can start to turn on the taps – just to get her used to hearing the running water. Give her a treat when the water is running and turn it on and off a few times and every time you turn it back on, give your pig another treat. This conditions the piglet to understand that turning on the water is a good thing and not something to be afraid of.

Although you can use a bathtub to bathe your pig, it's easier to do so in a shower stall as she won't feel so confined. The next step in the process is to start getting her used to going into a shower stall. This may take a while, but you can slowly get her in there using a line of grapes on the floor and a small pile at the end of the line. Once she's happy going into the stall, gradually add a small amount of standing water in the stall and increase the depth of the water each training session. Make sure the temperature is perfect (use the same method as for checking the water temp for a baby) as if it's too hot to too cold your piggy won't like it. Every time your pig gets her hooves wet, reinforce it with the voice command "Bath."

When your piglet is in the stall, start introducing her to water slowly by massaging her back with wet hands. Use very little pressure. When you want to introduce baby shampoo (make sure it's mild), let her sniff it first. Of course while this is going on, you need to continually feed and reassure your pig so she doesn't get frightened. It's usually best to have a second person do this task as it gets too much for one person to handle.

When you have finished, you can towel your piglet off using warm towels straight from the dryer to give her a massage. They like the feel of the warm towel and it will reinforce bath time as a relaxing, pleasurable time for your piglet.

You can use a bath as well, but it would pay to put her in the bath when it's dry a few times for her to get used to the bath. If she tries to jump out, just command her to sit. You should also line the bottom of the bath with towels so she doesn't get frightened and lose traction.

If you can learn to associate bath time with a good experience for the pig, it will make the entire process a whole lot easier and in time your pig will learn to love it.

Note: We recommend using Cheerios or another low-sugar snack. Save the best snacks as the reward - not the coaxing food. Another idea is to put peanut butter on the inside of the bathtub and perhaps the pig will be so busy trying to lick off the peanut butter that it won't mind the bath water.... ☺