

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Supplement your pig with plenty of fresh, leafy vegetables. Iceberg lettuce is ideal because it helps the pig feel full, but has no fat and very few calories. Some pigs are picky and won't eat everything. Fruit and starchy vegetables (peas, corn, potatoes) can be fattening, so keep those to a minimum. Freeze grapes or cucumber slices for cool refreshing treats. Generally 1 cup of fresh fruits and vegetables is fine for most pigs. If your pig spends the day grazing on your lawn or eating your flowers, cut back on this amount. These types of supplements help to add variety to your pigs diet, but are not necessary to be fed every day as long as you have the pig on a good quality potbellied pig food.

Treats

Pigs LOVE treats! But, be careful not to go overboard on the treats. Pigs will eat as much as you give them, and will almost always act as if they are starving -- even if you are feeding your pig properly. This is no more than an ACT - don't give in!

Good treats are air-popped popcorn (no butter, oils or salt), carrot slices, individual pieces of dry non-sugared cereal (Cheerios, Puffed Corn, Puffed Rice or Chex). We have found pigs LOVE "Apple Smacks" - not the breakfast cereal, but they are horse treats (made by Star Milling) and can be found at most feed stores. Most pigs will do ANYTHING for these; they are healthy and not too much protein for pigs. They love the apple smell and apple flavor. Dogs even love them. Some feed stores carry them in peppermint flavor also.



Pigs LOVE these healthy treats

Remember to include the treats fed during training sessions when deciding how much food your pig is getting -- those treats can add up! Some people measure out a set amount of treats (say 1/4 cup for cereal) for a specified amount of time (1 - 2 days). This makes it easier to determine exactly how many treats the pig is getting.

Vitamins

Many pig owners give their pigs a children's chewable vitamin every day, along with ground Flaxseed, Flaxseed Oil capsule or Vitamin E capsule each day for their skin. This is not necessary and can be quite expensive if you have more than a couple or so pigs.

Life Span

On the average, the longevity range for potbellied pigs has been from 12 to 20 years. Given the hardy nature of these pigs and with regular competent veterinary care, good diet and a healthy and a stress-free environment, we have known potbellied pigs who have lived 20 to 25 years or more. This is a serious consideration for anyone contemplating a potbellied pig as a pet. Please plan to make your pig a family member and keep it as long as it lives. Shelters and Sanctuaries are over-flowing with homeless animals, even potbellied pigs. There are not many places left for them to go to, should you decide to re-home your pig, no matter what the reason.