

What should I do before I get a pig?

In a word: **GET EDUCATED**. We can not urge the prospective pig owner enough to learn about these animals first-hand before getting one. Education is not only the key to ensuring that you are not getting in over your head but it is the main ingredient in reducing the number of abused, abandoned and neglected pigs needing rescue. Contact a sanctuary and go visit. If there is not one near you, find one on the Internet. They can more than likely put you in touch with some pig rescue organization or potbellied pig service group in your area that can provide you with detailed information. Virtually every sanctuary we know of is more than happy to spend time with a prospective pig owner and provide a first-hand education about potbellied pigs. At the risk of infuriating breeders, we strongly recommend you do not go only to a breeder for your education. Remember, the breeder is in business to sell pigs for profit, while many homeless die in shelters, sanctuaries, abandonment and abuse. There is a wide selection of books and literature available which discuss potbellied pigs in great detail. Some of it is good and some of it is very misleading. There is no substitute for getting a solid, first-hand education. It's better to find out before you invest the time, money, and energy in a pig only to find out that you are not zoned for a pig or that a pig was a bad choice as a pet for you. Remember, finding new homes for these pet pigs is very difficult.

Where should I go to get a pig?

We can not recommend strongly enough: **DO NOT BUY A PIG FROM A PET SHOP, FEED STORE, SWAP MEET, INTERNET LISTS OR FROM THE BACK OF SOMEONE'S TRUCK**. As with many other animals sold in these places, these animals are frequently improperly bred, not properly weaned, not vaccinated, not neutered or spayed, not wormed and often sickly. In many cases a potbellied pig will be bred to another pig breed - even a farm pig - to produce quick, large litters to maximize their profits. You will be forced to pay an outrageous price for a "pig in a poke" profits. Reputable adoption agencies should charge you nothing or very little, except in the case where vet bills need to be covered. Please check SCAMPP's Adoption Corner on the SCAMPP website, check adoption opportunities on SCAMPP's Facebook, or contact us because we network with adoption agencies all across the states.

Zoning

CHECK YOUR ZONING FIRST! Before deciding to live with a piggy in your life, it is important to determine whether or not potbellied pigs are allowed in your town. Many towns classify potbellied pigs as 'livestock', thus they are not legal to keep as pets. Sometimes zoning regulations can be changed, but many cities and towns that once did not allow pigs as pets, now do as a result of the persistence, hard work and a lot of time by devoted pig people. Contact your City Hall and ask for the zoning regulations showing which animals are allowed as pets according to your residential zoning. You may have to pay a couple of dollars, but it's best to get it in writing if potbellied pigs are allowed, so that you will have written back-up in the future should you have any problems.

FOR A ZONING SURVEY THAT YOU CAN SEND OR TAKE TO YOUR CITY HALL OR ZONING COMMISSION, SEE PAGE 4 OF THIS BOOKLET.