

## Intelligence

Potbellied pigs are clean, intelligent, affectionate creatures. Pigs are the fourth smartest animal group on the planet, following only humans, apes/chimps, whales/dolphins. Their intelligence, curiosity and charm make them appealing, but it may also make them a challenging pet. Pigs have special needs. They make wonderful pets for those people who understand their special needs and are willing to educate themselves and meet those needs. They require extra patience and perseverance, but it is more than made up for by their wonderful personalities!

## Size

**PLEASE DO NOT BELIEVE THE LIE THAT YOUR BABY PIGLET WILL STAY TINY!** No matter how much money you

pay for a "micro-mini teacup pig," they are only that tiny when they are babies. We state that normal potbellied pigs are "miniature" because they ARE miniature in relationship to their cousins, the farm hog. Farm hogs can grow up to 900 pounds or more. Pigs have dense compact bodies, especially when compared to dogs or people. A 150-pound pig is much smaller than an 80-pound German Shepherd or a 100-pound person. A 150-pound pig is not as big as one may imagine! A average typical, full grown, potbellied pig can be anywhere from 125 to 250 pounds. The largest registered potbellied pig is over 400 pounds (not healthy and probably due to poor diet and/or being a mixed breed). As with people, the size varies, but the smallest average size is somewhere between 125 and 150 pounds, being 20 inches or less in height at the shoulder. Pigs grow quickly until they are about one year old, then continue to grow slowly until they are between three and four years old. So, that 10-pound baby piglet will grow into a 100-pound or more adult -- don't believe anything else!



*Baby Potbellied Pig, Full-Grown Potbellied Pig, Farm Hog*

## What is a "Teacup" or "Micro-Mini" pig?

Many breeders are frantically trying to breed smaller and smaller potbellied pigs in hopes that the smaller size will attract more buyers. We have investigated and seen numerous pigs advertised as a "Teacup," "Dandies," "Pixie," "Petite," "Juliana" or "Micro-Mini" pigs. In virtually every case, what we have found was a normal potbellied pig that has been chronically underfed and malnourished in an attempt to keep it small. This information



has been verified with numerous sanctuaries and knowledgeable pig people, including veterinarians. In the few instances where a very small (under 20 pounds) pig has been bred, it has been the result of inbreeding or very concentrated cross-breeding. These pigs tend to be sickly and unhealthy pigs with a myriad of health problems, poor bone structure, and very short life spans. At the present time, and to our knowledge, the teacup or micro-mini pig does not exist, nor has anyone successfully bred a healthy and normal pig this size. Again, we cannot reiterate it enough...they are only that size as babies, but babies DO grow up, they do not stay that small. We have seen these pigs, in which some cost up to \$5000, and if fed properly, are the average size of a normal potbellied pig. We are certain, however, that the quest by breeders to breed this highly desirable and highly marketable pig will continue. For more info on Teacup Pigs, please see

<http://scampp.com/TeacupPigs.html>