

# Water

## Drinking Water

Ever hear of the phrase "sweat like a pig"? Well, pigs do not actually have sweat glands. Pigs cannot sweat! Actually the only place they "sweat" is out of the top end of their nose! You will see little tiny droplets of water forming there. This means they need plenty of fresh water available at all times to prevent overheating.

Male pigs can be prone to urinary tract infections. Check with your feed store (or call us) to find a product that lowers the pH balance in the gastro-intestinal tract. Make sure all male pigs have plenty of fresh water available at all times and that they drink it. If your pig seems reluctant to drink water, add a little fruit juice (like apple juice) or some diluted Gatorade or similar sports type drink to the water. Just enough to add flavor usually does the trick.

## For Health and Safety

Pigs keep cool by splashing in water or rolling in mud. Give your pig a child's plastic swimming pool filled with a few inches of water. Some pigs are afraid to step into the pool for the first time, so you may want to throw a few grapes or apple chunks into the pool to entice the pig. It also helps to cut a little "doorway" in the side of the pool so the pig can step in easily.



# Food

Pigs like to eat! Pigs will do just about anything for food. If left to their own devices, pigs will overeat and quickly become obese. BUT, this does not mean you should starve your pig. It means your pig needs to eat wholesome food. Potbellied Pig Pellets are manufactured specifically for potbellied pigs; try to find the lowest % of protein, most potbellied pig feed is 12% to 17%. Also try to find potbellied pig feed that contains the most whole grains rather than "by-products" or "middlings," which are basically scraps sometimes swept up off the floor. The proper amount of food for your pig depends upon a lot of different factors: the pig's age, size, activity level and environment, but the general amount to feed is about 1 cup at least twice a day with limited healthy treats. If the pig gets plenty of grazing grass, or access to fallen fruits or acorns (acorns can be toxic to the kidneys when eaten in large doses), take this into account when determining how much food and treats he needs.

Don't feed your pig commercial hog foods, dog /cat foods or table scraps as they are too high in fat, salt and protein. Chocolate is very bad for pigs, just as it is for many other animals.

A pig's size (height & length) is determined by his genes, not by his diet (unless he is overfed and becomes overweight). Underfeeding a potbellied pig will not "keep him small" and is simply cruel! Underfeeding can cause aggressiveness because the pig will be constantly hungry and needs proper nutrition.

It should go without saying that pigs will investigate and taste virtually anything they find in their environment-natural or manmade. Therefore, you must ensure that any and all plants, chemicals, cleaning supplies, rat poison, antifreeze, etc....that may be bad for your pig are well out of reach.