

WHAT IS SCAMPP?



SCAMPP is a IRS approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization; all donations are tax-deductible.



SCAMPP's mission is to educate the public on the proper needs, care & size of Potbellied Pigs.



SCAMPP has membership meetings; anyone is welcome to attend, pig ownership nor membership is required to attend our meetings or events.



SCAMPP publishes a quarterly newsletter for paid members. Anyone can join at <http://scampp.com/MembApp.html>



SCAMPP welcomes new members nationally & internationally; pig ownership is not required to become a member.



SCAMPP participates in community events, such as Adoption Fairs, Pet Expos, School Events, Parades, Festivals, TV shows, TV films, Commercials, Birthday Parties, Educational Presentations, etc. If you would like SCAMPP to come to your function, please call us.



SCAMPP helps place Potbellied Pigs that need homes into good loving homes. We can post pigs available for adoption, but we are NOT a Rescue Organization.



SCAMPP helps support Shelter Pigs, Potbellied Pig Sanctuaries and Pig Rescue Organizations as funds allow.



SCAMPP helps with medical, spay & neuter, rescue, transportation and emergency needs for Potbellied Pigs as funds allow.

ABOUT SCAMPP



SCAMPP was formed in 1989-1990, shortly after the potbellied pig was brought over to our country, and it was a club that supported breeding and breeders. In the beginning, SCAMPP was a charter association of the National Committee On Potbellied Pigs (NCOPP). We participated in NCOPP-sanctioned shows, which included conformation classes, trick contests, costume contests, obstacle courses and many other categories in which the pigs were judged and would compete for Championships (much like horse shows, or dog and cat shows). NCOPP dissolved quite a few years ago, but SCAMPP survived. When the influx of over-breeding, backyard breeding for profit, and many homeless potbellied pigs became in need of rescue, SCAMPP evolved into more of a "educational" club and helping fellow potbellied pig rescues as funds allow. There are still many potbellied pigs that are in need of rescue and re-homing these days, mainly due to greedy breeders who breed to make a profit, and breeders who mislead buyers about the actual full-grown size of potbellied pigs. Therefore, SCAMPP no longer supports breeding and strongly advocates spaying and neutering, and participates in events to promote education geared towards responsible potbellied pig ownership.

Therefore, Southern California Association for Miniature Potbellied Pigs (SCAMPP) is an association of potbellied pig lovers who gather for meetings and events for the purpose of sharing our common love of potbellied pigs with others who also love potbellied pigs, and to help educate those who are interested in adopting or learning more about potbellied pigs and supply proper care and health information about potbellied pigs through various animal-related and community events.

We publish a quarterly newsletter that is packed full of informational articles, potbellied pig stories, and photos & reports on events that we have been a part of each month. Membership dues are \$38 per year which includes our newsletters as well as voting privileges. If you prefer to subscribe to the E-Mail version of our newsletters, membership dues are \$23 per year. See subscription information on the back cover, or you may subscribe online at our website: <http://scampp.com>. Our website and Facebook pages are updated frequently to keep you informed on our meetings, events and adoption opportunities.

POTBELLIED PIG FACTS



Miniature Potbellied Pigs Make Wonderful Pets



They Are Very Quiet (Except When Threatened Or Provoked)



They Are Generally Very Mellow And Low-Maintenance (Babies Are More Active And Need To Be Trained, Just Like Children, But They Are Easily-Trained)



They Are 4th On The Intelligence List



They Can Do Tricks A Dog Never Thought Of



They Are Clean (They Only Roll In The Mud To Keep Cool, But They Prefer Small Kiddy Pools)



They Can Be Kept As House-Pets And Litter-Box Trained



They Don't Shed Like Dogs Or Cats, Nor Do They Get Fleas Like Dogs Or Cats (*Note: some pigs lose their bristles in the summertime because this helps keep them cool during the summer, but their bristles grow back as fall approaches. Some pigs who live in a flea-infested area can get fleas or ticks in the soft areas of their skin, such as in their armpits or behind their ears, but generally their skin is too thick for fleas and ticks to burrow into*)



Since Pigs Have Bristle-Like Hair, People Who Are Allergic To Dog And Cat Fur Generally Are Not Allergic To Pigs



They Don't Annoy Neighbors Or Disturb Peace By Barking Like Dogs



They Don't Run The Neighborhood Getting Into and/or Going Potty In Neighbors Yards (Unless Via Irresponsible Owners)



They Don't Jump On Top Of Furniture Or Countertops (They Sometimes Like To Be With You On The Sofa Or In Bed With You If You Let Them)



They Can Be Trained To Walk On A Leash



Some Have Been Known To Live 15 To 20 or More Years



Pigs Do Not Stink (Except Male Pigs That Are Not Neutered) - Naturally Neutered And Spayed Pets Make Better Pets

IMPORTANT!!!! ~ If You Are Looking For A Pet That's A Little Different, Then A Potbellied Pet Pig Is The Perfect Choice, But Please Make Sure You Are Zoned To Have A Potbellied Pig And That You Are Properly Educated Before Getting One!

If you are considering adopting a potbellied pig, photocopy this page and send it to your city Zoning Department to make sure you are allowed to have a potbellied pig. We get calls often from persons who are forced to get rid of their pigs due to zoning regulations. There are not enough homes for these pigs to go to.

Zoning Committee: I am considering adopting a potbellied pig for a pet, please kindly complete the following survey and return it ASAP. Thank you in advance for your time.

ZONING SURVEY

1) Township or City Name: _____

2) Are there currently laws or regulations governing the ownership of a pet potbellied pig?
Yes _____ No _____

3) If the answer to question #2 is yes, are potbellied pigs allowed?
Yes _____ No _____

4) If the answer to question #3 is yes, are there any requirements (i.e. licensing, fees, registration) to be met? Yes _____ No _____

5) If the answer to #4 is yes, what are the requirements?

6) What is needed to complete these requirements?

7) Comments? _____

Please, if possible, send a copy of any current zoning regulations or ordinances pertaining to the ownership of the potbellied pig and other animals. Enclose with this completed survey.

Note to person completing this survey: Please fill in the information below.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Questions To Ask Yourself Before You Get A Pet Pig

- ♥ Are pigs allowed in your city or town?
- ♥ Do you own, or rent, your property? If renting, has it been cleared with the property owners?
- ♥ Will the pig be kept indoors or outdoors?
- ♥ What will the pen size be?
- ♥ Do you have a fenced yard?
- ♥ Is your backyard landscaped?
- ♥ Are you aware that a pig can be destructive, they love to dig, it's an instinctual behavior, their snouts are a digging tool? Note: older pigs usually mellow out and don't root as much.
- ♥ If outdoors, what type of house will the pig have for protection?
- ♥ Will the pig have shade, shelter, pools, misters and plenty of water in warm weather?
- ♥ Will the pig have sunlight, warm blankets and a dry area during the winter?
- ♥ If the pig is going to spend most of its time indoors, will the pig be able to go outside when you are not home (eg: a piggy door)?
- ♥ For pigs that will be allowed in the house, what type of floor covering do you have?
- ♥ Is your house child-proof?
- ♥ Have you owned a pet pig?
- ♥ Are you aware the size of an adult pig?
- ♥ Did you know that pigs continue to grow till about 3 or 4 years of age?
- ♥ Have you seen a 4 or 5 year old pig?
- ♥ Is everyone in the family happy about adopting a pig?
- ♥ Do you own other animals? If so what types? Do you know that certain dogs will attack and maul pigs?
- ♥ Do you have children? If so what age(s) are they?
- ♥ A pig's life span is estimated at 12 to 20 years or more. Are you aware of this?
- ♥ What are your long-term plans if the pig lives for 12+ years?
- ♥ Are you aware of proper feeding and where to buy special formulated potbellied pig food?
- ♥ Do you have a veterinarian who has experience working on potbellied pigs?
- ♥ If you are adopting a second pig to go with a pig you already own, are you able to fence-train the pigs so that they can visit with each other for a week or two before putting them together?
- ♥ Would you consider rescuing a pig in need of a loving home rather than buying one from a pig breeder?
- ♥ What age, sex, color, breed and size pig(s) are you looking for?

Pre-Adoption Education

Impulse buying a potbellied pig (or any pet, for that matter) is a bad idea. You need to totally acquaint yourself with the nature of the pig and your responsibilities as a pet pig owner. Take the time to familiarize yourself with all aspects of the potbellied pig prior to adoption. There are several excellent books available to assist you in this educational process. See SCAMPP's website, particularly the "Info Articles," "Adoption Corner," "Piggy Videos," and "Buying a Teacup Pig" pages for information and resources. Our website is updated often, so check back regularly.

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>

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.

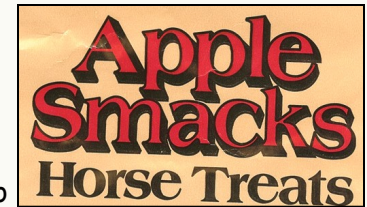
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

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 that pigs LOVE "Apple Smacks" - not the breakfast cereal, but these 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 snacks and have not too much protein for pigs. The 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.

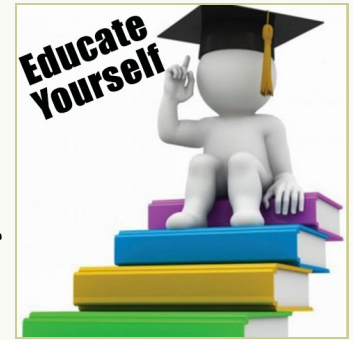
Vitamins

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 overflowing 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.

What should I do before I get a Potbellied 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 Potbellied Pig?

We can not recommend strongly enough: **DO NOT BUY A PIG FROM A PET SHOP, FEED STORES, SWAP MEETS, 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.

Indoor Living

Yes, Potbellied Pigs generally make good house pets!

All pigs root. It is the natural instinct of the pig, it's how they find food in nature. You would not want to prevent a human baby from learning to walk, so why prevent your pig from rooting! It does not mean you allow the pig to root your entire house. Instead, give the pig plenty of outside time in a secure run, or take long walks so they can root outside. Or, make a rooting-box filled with rocks or small to medium hard rubber balls. Sprinkle a couple of treats in the box to teach the pig what it's used for. You can also sprinkle some Cheerios or pieces of carrot, plain air-popped pop corn, etc., into a large pile of blankets to teach the pig to root in it's blankets.

Pigs are intelligent, curious animals. You will need to pig-proof your home, just as you would baby-proof your home for a toddler. Some people will clear off a lower shelf or two, well within reach of the pig's snout and put piggy toys there. The pig will quickly learn to take toys off its shelf only, making a happy pig and happy people. Pigs often watch where their food comes from, so they can learn to open cabinets and even the refrigerator! Plants may also need to be put up in high places, so they are not eaten or spilled all over your floor.

Your pig will need a soft bed of blankets or pillows. All pigs need a "place" of their own to hide when they are feeling insecure or want to be left alone. This can be a quiet room, a closet or a large animal crate in a corner. You may also want to teach your pig to sleep in a crate or separate room. Someone once wrote a 10-pound pig in the bed is cute, but a 100-pound pig in the bed may not be! Also teaching your pig to sleep in a crate will get it accustomed to being in a crate in case you need to transport the pig for any reason.

Potty Boxes

In cold or rainy weather, indoor pigs may not want to go outside to potty. However, it's best to teach the pig to potty outside, especially male pigs, because they tend to urinate for what seems to be forever! If you choose to use an indoor potty box, select one with low sides or cut down an entrance. Pigs don't like to step up and over something to use the potty. The box must be big enough for the pig to turn around in. If the bottom of the box is slippery, put a no-slip mat in the bottom, under the litter. Avoid using clay litter, as pigs may inhale it (causing pneumonia) or eat it (causing intestinal blockages), both which could be fatal. Pine shavings are inexpensive, old towels can be used, adult diapers or under-pads make good box-liners too and are easy to wash or dispose of. Cedar is also not recommended. Sod, although more expensive, could help your pig get used to going outdoors quicker.

Pigs learn to potty in a particular spot. Choose the potty box location carefully because the pig may not want to change potty spots later. When a pig is very small, take him to the box every hour or at least every two hours when he is awake, as soon as he wakes up, and right after he eats or drinks. If you are not home to closely supervise the pig, you can also confine the pig to a small area with its bed and potty box separated as much as possible. The pig will not use its bed as a potty box, so it will learn to use the litter box. Or, you can put some of the pig's poop into the box, once the pig smells it; it should start to use the box. Do not give the pig free, unsupervised run of the house until he is at least 6 months old. Pigs younger than that are prone to accidents!

Potty Boxes (cont)

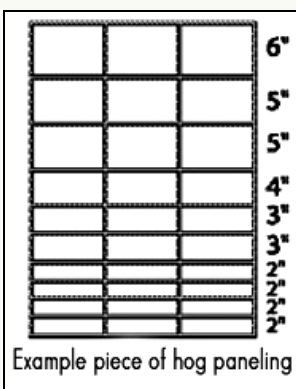
If the accidents are not caught and corrected immediately, housebreaking will be more difficult. If a pig does something once, he remembers. If he does something twice, it's a habit. If he does it three times, you may be out of luck! Close supervision and proper housebreaking early on will help avoid problems in the future. If you catch a pig making a mistake, take him to the litter box and let him finish pottying in the proper place, then praise him. Clean up the mess with a commercial deodorizer made for removing pet odors or vinegar and baking soda. Clean up is important to avoid future accidents in the same spot - pigs have strong noses and good memories! If possible, put a heavy piece of furniture in that spot or a bath mat and the pig's food dish and feed him there for a few days. Pigs do not like to eat and potty in the same places! After a week or so, clean the spot again. Wait a few more days and when the pig is not looking sprinkle some food or a couple of treats in the area. The pig will think the treats sprout from the rug or floor and will not want to potty there again. There are some additional good potty-training tips and litter information here: <http://www.minipiginfo.com/potty-training-tips-and-dos--dents.html>

Outdoor Living

Outdoor pigs need a sturdy, rainproof shed, barn or doghouse. In cold climates, it must also be wind-proof and have enough room for plenty of straw and blankets to keep the pig warm. Ideally outdoor pigs should be kept in small groups for extra body warmth. Remember pigs need plenty of fresh water at all times. In hot weather, they need a small pool or mud puddle to keep cool. In cold weather, be sure not to let their water freeze.

It is not recommended that a pig be kept full time in a run or pen with a cement floor. The pen should give the pig plenty of room to move around, and a place for its potty area away from it's housing and food areas. We like pens no smaller than 8' x 16', with access to areas outside the pen for exercise or a 16 x 16 foot pen (which is the length of the standard hog panels!).

Pigs don't jump high, but they do like to root & dig. A 4-foot high fence will easily keep your pigs in, but will not keep an aggressive dog or other animal out. If you live in an area with stray dogs or other roaming animals and creatures (i.e. kids), you may wish to choose a 6-foot fence.



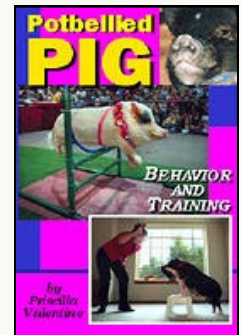
Hog panel (available from farm stores) is the best and probably most inexpensive and secure fencing material. These panels are used by commercial hog farmers and are good and sturdy, for making sure the pig stays in its pen. Chain-link fencing reinforced with chicken wire at the bottom may also make a suitable pen, but BE SURE there is no place a pig's snout can get stuck, caught or injured. Pigs are curious and will root and look for holes and ways to move the chicken wire. To be sure the pen is completely secure, you should dig a trench about 1 foot deep just inside the chain link fence. Fasten the chicken wire to the lower 6' of the fence and extend it down into the trench. Fill in the trench, burying the wire. You can also put boards into the trench, bury part of the board, and fasten them to the fencing to secure the bottom. Picket or split-rail fences will NOT keep a pig in, but you can attach a hog panel to the fence to secure it. That makes an attractive as well as secure fence! A board on board fence will keep a pig in, but may require reinforcement at the base, so a pig can't dig out beneath it.

Toys

Whether indoor or outdoor, all pigs love toys, especially any toy with food. Old magazines, old shoes, old clothes (wear them so they have your scent and give them to the pig unwashed), infant toys, dog or cat toys and balls are all good pig toys. Be careful, piglets can get caught in sleeves, buttons, snaps, etc. Pigs also enjoy "Buster Cubes" (PetSmart.com) and "Busy Balls" (Pigs4ever.com) filled with food or treats. You can make your own inexpensive version from a whiffle ball, 2-liter soda bottle or plastic milk jug. Stuff the whiffle ball with plain air-popped popcorn, food pellets, frozen peas, etc. Or, punch holes in the soda bottle or milk jug, making sure they are big enough for the food to fall out when the toy is pushed or rolled. Put the treats into the bottle or jug, and the pig will push it around so the treats or food will fall out. For overweight or bored pigs, you may consider feeding the entire food ration this way too -- it's good mental stimulus and exercise!

Tricks

Please visit www.valentinesperformingpigs.com and click on "On-line Videos" to see some great piggy tricks that have been taught to pigs. Priscilla Valentine, former SCAMPP member, unfortunately passed away in 2012. She & her husband and their "star" pigs traveled the country performing for many audiences. These amazing videos are well worth watching. She published a behavioral/training book that can be ordered from Amazon.com.



Potbellied Pig Behavior and Training Book by Priscilla Valentine

Health Care

It can be difficult to find a veterinarian experienced in treating potbellied pigs. Potbellied pigs are NOT farm hogs. There are differences in their medical treatment.

Before allowing your vet to sedate your potbellied pig, be sure he knows the types of anesthesia to use and the amounts. The wrong drugs or dosages can be harmful or fatal to your pet. Isoflurane gas is the safest, most effective type of anesthesia for a potbellied pig with the least amount of side effects. The injectable dissociative drugs are common and effective, but recovery can be rough and delayed; you should either crate or hold your pig until the pig is fully recovered in order to lessen the stress and fear and possible injury to your pig. There are many other injectable drugs that can be used that are safer and provide a smoother, quicker recovery than the dissociative drugs; the drawback to these drugs is that they are very expensive.

If your pig is "freaking" out for a sustained period of time (not just for a few minutes when you pick him up or when he is getting his hooves trimmed), stop and let him calm down before continuing with whatever you are doing. Covering him up with a blanket may help to calm your pig down, but it freaks out some pigs because they feel "trapped" and confined.

The most common potbellied pig health problems are diet-related. Overweight pigs suffer from heart problems, entropion (eyelashes curling into the eye), fat-blindness (too much fat around the eyes), organ failure and arthritis. Overweight pigs are also a bad surgical risk should emergency surgery be necessary. Under-fed pigs (often in an attempt to keep them small) usually die from malnutrition or complications from malnutrition.

Spaying and Neutering

Every pet pig should be spayed or neutered

Male pigs are fertile as early as 2 months old. Intact male pigs do not make good pets, they tend to "hump" everything. Their mouths will foam constantly and they often "mark their territory" with a pungent smelling fluid. Intact females often get "PMS" and may forget their potty training while they are in heat. Generally females go into heat every three weeks. Also, intact female pigs have a very high incidence of life-threatening uterine tumors and infections when older and larger, and no longer safe surgical candidates. Besides, we don't need any more babies in the world, due to the fact that there are already many homeless pigs because of over-breeding and people unable to keep their pigs for various reasons. Anesthesia needs to be used when spaying and neutering.

Eyes and Ears

Some pigs are prone to eye problems, so check your pigs eyes for irritation or stuck eyelashes, or eyelashes that may curve into the eye and cause irritation (this is called "entropion" - a condition that should be corrected by surgery done by your vet). Some pigs have naturally weepy eyes that produce sticky, brownish tears. Wipe away the goo with a soft, warm, damp cloth or baby wipes. You can also use a little Vaseline around the eye to keep the brownish tears from caking on the pigs face, it will also help to soften any brownish gook already caked there for easy removal.

Pigs sometimes get a brown waxy build up inside their ears - this is normal and should be cleaned out. Wipe the outside part of the ear gently with a soft cloth. Stay away from the ear canal and inner ear. DO NOT try to clean deep inside the ear. Do not flush the pigs ears out, liquid in the ear can cause deafness and balance problems. A damp paper towel, not stuffed deep into the canal and still sticking out of the ear, left in the pig's ear for a little while will soften the build-up making the build-up easier to remove. Deep-cleaning, if needed, is best left for your vet.

Hoof Trimming

Pigs that have access to concrete and are able to walk on concrete daily, generally do not need hoof trimming as often as pigs who almost always walk in dirt, grass or carpet, because walking on concrete will wear down their hooves naturally. Otherwise their hooves should be trimmed about every 9-12 months. Hoof-trimming is best done by your vet or someone experienced doing this. If the hooves get so long that they curl up on the ends or if the dewclaws touch the ground, it hurts the pig to walk. They can also develop serious leg problems. Long hooves shift the weight back and break down the hoof and ankle structure.

Anesthesia generally is not necessary for routine hoof trimming. It is safer not to use anesthesia unless the pig absolutely needs it due to his/her stress level. The most common way a pig's hooves are trimmed is that the pig is flipped over on it's back. Others prefer to trim the pig with someone holding the pig in an upright position, but some pigs will allow trimming while laying on its side. Hoof trimming should only take a few minutes and the pig will be back up on it's feet. Remember to give the pig a few treats to show the pig that hoof trimming is not so cruel after all.

Tusks

Female pigs do not really have a tusk. They have canine teeth which in the males continue to grow and become tusks. Also if done properly and at an early age (very close to when the adult canine tooth starts to erupt-around 8-10 months of age), male tusk removal is safe, not too hard and does not cause any damage to the jaw. In some cases, the canine teeth/tusks help keep the tongue in place and in some cases, when a canine tooth is missing, the tongue may protrude to that side. Properly removing a tusk in later ages is difficult because the tooth has a very long and deep root that is very strongly attached to the jaw bone. We do not recommend to routinely remove the tusks unless the tooth root is infected and abscessed and then it needs to be done surgically with proper tools and anesthesia. So, in most adult male pigs, it is best to just cut the tusks every year or so once they are over 2-3 years of age. Some owners think it's "manly" for their male pig to have protruding tusks. However, their tusks can get caught on chain-link fences, etc, or cut your leg if your pig side-swipes your leg, so it is best to get the tusks trimmed on a regular basis. NEVER let anyone trim the tusks if the pig is awake and screaming. He can accidentally inhale the tusk. Tusk trimming is best done by your vet or someone experienced doing this. As with hoof trimming, anesthesia is not generally necessary for routine tusk trimming and it should be performed by an experienced trimmer. Teeth cleaning is desirable for possibly preventing decay, but generally not essential.



Homer was a pig we rescued because he was being neglected by his former owners. His tusks had grown so long that they curved inward and punctured the sides of his cheeks, creating holes in his cheeks which were badly infected

Vaccinations

Potbellied pigs are susceptible to several contagious diseases. Even if you and your pig are never around other pigs, you should have your pig vaccinated every 12 months or so. A good time to have your pig vaccinated is at the same time his/her hooves & tusks are trimmed which is also usually a good time to clean their eyes and ears and check their general appearance. Vaccines should include **Pleurogard 4** which covers hemophiles, pleuro pneumonia, rhinitis and erysipelas, along with **Respisure** which covers microplasma pneumonia. In addition, it is recommended to also vaccinate with **Erysipelothrix**, **Leptospirosis**, and **Bordetella**; first because of the risk to people and not wanting to create a situation where a pet pig will be "blamed" for infecting a person with something. The other is that pigs do not have to be exposed to other pigs to get these bacteria. These diseases can also come from contaminated soil, water and other animals including dogs and people. Most vets also include a dose of **Ivomec** along with the vaccinations to prevent worms and mange. There are **NO** rabies vaccines approved for pigs, so many vets will not give rabies shots to pigs. Pigs are resistant to rabies and are very unlikely to contract the rabies disease. If your zoning ordinance states that your pig must be vaccinated for rabies, we have copies of letters from vets stating this fact if you can't obtain a letter from your local vet. The city or county should then waive that ordinance. Lyme's vaccine is also not approved in pigs. Tetanus can be given on a yearly basis.

Skin Care

While it is not unusual for potbellied pigs to have somewhat dry skin, you may need to make a dietary change or give oral supplementation in order to help relieve an extremely dry skin condition or dull coat. The most beautiful coats and good skin conditions are on those pigs fed a large variety of vegetables daily, going light on the fruits, along with a nutritionally complete potbellied pig feed. Providing your pig with ground Flaxseed, Flaxseed Oil capsule or Vitamin E capsule daily is sure to help with dry skin. There are also many topical skin care products, shampoos and conditioners, but products made especially for pets that are not harsh but meant for dry sensitive skin is preferable. You probably don't want products that are too greasy, which will leave grease stains on fabrics, furniture, carpets, etc. Some pig owners favor Avon's "Skin So Soft", because it acts not only as a skin conditioner but also an insect repellent.

MOVE THE PIG

Move the Pig 101: Teaching the Pig to Move

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Teaching our pigs to move when and where we ask is just like teaching any other behavior we want. Our goal should be to break the exercise down into tiny pieces the pig can absorb, then once he grasps the basic concept we work toward putting the pieces together to shape the behavior further. To put this in relatable terms it's very similar to teaching a child her ABCs. When that task is mastered, she can move on to writing words, then sentences, then paragraphs. We teach small steps, then string them together to complete a task.

This first set of instructions is geared toward the pig that simply needs to learn to move for us, as well as her owner, who needs to learn to move her confidently. For a pig that has already established unwanted behaviors, like head swiping or biting, we make just a couple of adjustments, which I will outline later.

This is all perfectly natural for a pig; as a herd animal he innately understands that moving when asked is conceding power to you. That is instinctive; it's pig herd language 101. What we're doing is connecting a natural and very desired behavior to specific cues or signals so that we can calmly use that behavior to our advantage in a variety of situations we are undoubtedly going to encounter as pig owners. This is NOT showing him who's boss, being top hog or being alpha pig. This is simply leading our pigs in a direction they can understand and in which we want or need for them to go.

First and foremost, it is essential that we begin teaching any behavior in a calm environment. While MTP is extremely effective in preventing and changing unwanted behavior, like biting or head swiping, we sure don't want to try MTP for the first time right after any altercation with the pig. Trying to do this is akin to having an elementary school student take an English test right after having a heated argument or fight on the playground. His mind is not receptive to processing anything new in that moment.

Choose instead a calm time and place when both of you are relaxed. In the beginning we're going to give several very clear signals or cues to alert the pig that something should be happening. She won't understand what they mean at first, but that's expected. We'll make it clear to her very quickly. As we advance in teaching this and she understands more of what we want, we can refine the signals and ask for more effort from her.

So the pig is chilled, maybe having a nap, maybe just snuffling about doing piggy things. The first thing I want to do is to increase my presence and energy. Instead of just pattering about, I'm going to step toward him with authority, even thudding my feet a bit heavily. Then I give a verbal signal. Choose one that you can live with because you'll use it often with this program. I say "come on, let's go, let's go!" in an authoritative voice. It does not need to be a yell or shout, but it does need to impart a sense of urgency, like you don't have all day to wait, because you don't. When you ask for movement, for it to be effective, it needs to happen immediately. I also will clap my hands or give a clucking sound, like someone urging a horse into a trot. I have no idea how to spell that sound, so I'll go for the description, instead.

So count those up: feet, voice, clap and/or cluck. That's three, possibly four strong signals if you use them all, which alert the pig that something should be happening. She doesn't have a clue what that is yet, but by the time you take several animated, marching-type steps to get to her, she's on alert, and may well have stood up if she was previously lying down. This is great, it's what we want. If she happens to move away a couple of steps, you can stop there. If not, you add another cue for her. Keep encouraging her with your previous signals, and walk firmly into her bubble, her personal space. If she does not move away, step right into her, being careful not to trip over the pig. She will likely give a squeal or grunt of surprise and jump away. As soon as he moves even a step or two away from you, immediately stop your movement and stop your signals. Make it very defined, like someone unexpectedly pulled the plug on your power source.

~ continued on next page ~

MOVE THE PIG

(....continued from previous page....) Tell him "good" or "good boy" so he has a verbal affirmation that he did what you wanted. Take a deep breath and blow it out.

When you stop, you release the pressure you were applying to have her move. She does not learn to move from the pressure you're applying, she learns from you releasing that pressure the instant she does what you want. The pressure is to create the movement, but the release of pressure is the reward. She will repeat what she gets rewarded for. We want her to come to the conclusion that "OH! When I move my feet, she stops!"

If your pig is one of the more dominant types that has begun or even has firmly established dangerous behaviors like biting or head swiping, we simply add a sorting board to our tool box for safety. The steps to move him are identical, with the exception that you'll be holding the sorting board between yourself and the pig. In that type of pig, you're much more likely to get a reaction instead of action. He may well swing around and confront you when you get into his space, and in that case you would simply keep the sorting board between you and his head, and carry on. As you step, you'll bump-bump-bump into him with every step. If he resists, and he probably will, it is perfectly permissible to increase the pressure until you get the desired effect. If we stay static at the same level of pressure he's resisting, we actually teach him to resist to that level and even a step above it. If we increase the pressure onward and upward, we will eventually find the spot where he decides the payoff for unwanted behavior is not worth the effort. So if bump-bump-bump does not get immediate results, you go to bump-Bump-BUMP. If he's still in the naughty zone, banging his noggin' on that sorting board, you step it up to BUMP-BUMP-BUMP. We need to leave no doubt that we expect him to move and move now.

Then just as with the more docile, calmer pig, the moment she backs up a step or two, or even turns, we stop and give our verbal approval by telling her "good" or "good girl". Remember, the cessation of pressure is what tells her she did what we want, so just like we expect an immediate response from her when we ask for movement, so we absolutely must give an immediate response when she does what we wanted. This is an exercise in accountability, where ours is even more important than hers.

Once he's moved and you've released the pressure, you can then invite him back into your space. This is important, for as much as we want to have a sensitive pig that moves when we ask, we also want a relaxed pig. If all we do is move-move-move they can become overly sensitive and jumpy. We want to make very clear distinctions between now we're moving, and now we're not. We do this by inviting that pig back to our space for a quick rub or scratch after the moving exercises, then walk off and go about our normal business. You don't have to invite them in with every single move, but you do need to do it often. We constantly strive to find the balance between sensitizing them (moving) and desensitizing them (inviting them back to us for a rub). Those are two sides of the same well-rounded pig.

We lather, rinse and repeat this maneuver several times a day specifically to teach them that any time and any place we ask them to move, they need to do it. How often depends on the pig. In the beginning, we want to repeat it enough that it becomes automatic, the pig moves when we ask, then calmly comes back to us when we're finished with the exercise. A very light, responsive, naturally submissive pig won't need nearly as much as a pushy, dominant pig, or a pig that has already established unwanted behaviors that need to change.

As we advance in teaching this maneuver we will add another step or two, then another. Just like any behavior we teach, there's a learning curve, not just for the pig, but for the human as well. With practice we can learn to vary our speed, direction, and intensity. We will also refine the signals we give. While we start out with exaggerated step/voice/clap/cluck, in time we shift the cues to be lighter and more subtle. Eventually, we can simply walk into his space and he will move respectfully and easily out of our path. ~ by Lydia Weaver

PIGGY VET INFO

We strongly recommend you take your pig to someone who sees potbellied pigs regularly

Questions to ask vets when looking for a vet for your potbellied pig:

1. What is the Vet's experience with potbellied pigs? How many potbellied pig owners has the Vet had as clients?
2. Does the Vet make house calls? If "yes," what is the Vet's house call fee?
3. If the answer to #2 is "yes," how far is the Vet willing to travel from his/her base?
4. Is the Vet familiar with trimming hooves and tusks of potbellied pigs? Have the Vet explain his/her procedure.
5. If above is "yes," what is the Vet's charge for trimming hooves and tusks of potbellied pigs?
6. Does the Vet perform surgery, including spaying and neutering of potbellied pigs? Have the Vet explain his/her procedure.
7. Is the Vet familiar with the necessary yearly vaccinations needed of potbellied pigs? Ask the Vet the names of the vaccinations.
8. Is the owner allowed to stay with their animal at all times while being treated? You should always be allowed to stay with your pig when getting shots, having surgery or when awaking from surgery. HOWEVER: the anxiety level of most pets, pigs included, is much higher when owners are around. This results in fighting the anesthetic agents, struggling to 'stay awake,' and again struggling significantly more during recovery. These situations can lead to serious injuries for the pets, and not to mention it is very stressful for both pet and owner!
9. Does the Vet listen when you have questions or offer advice or information? If the answer to this question is No, FIND ANOTHER VET!
10. What would the Vet do, in the event the animal bit him? What would be his/her reaction, i.e., want to destroy the animal to test for rabies? Notify authorities? What would be his/her reaction?
11. Does the Vet have plans to move out of the area or retire anytime soon? Does the Vet have a back-up vet who can specialize in the treatment of potbellied pigs in case of his/her absence, such as moving out of the area, retirement, illness or vacations?
12. Can the Vet disclose reference information of potbellied pig owners he/she has had as clients. Ask if you can contact them.
13. If the Vet does not treat potbellied pigs, ask if the Vet would be interested in furthering a specialty in potbellied pigs. SCAMPP can supply resources that would be helpful in training and educating him/her in this area.
14. Is the Vet interested coming to one/some of SCAMPP's meetings as a guest speaker and/or writing articles for the SCAMPP newsletter?

Helpful tips when your pig needs a vet:

A well-trained and prepared pig will be much more likely to cooperate with any procedures that your vet deems necessary. The training time prior to the visit to the vet is time well spent so that your pet will experience as little stress and pain possible.

Pre Office Visit Training:

- ♥ Make certain your pig can be lifted and held easily
- ♥ Train your pet pig to go into a kennel, so the ride in the car will be a safe one
- ♥ Touch your pig all over - inside his/her ears, his/her hooves, under his/her tail and stomach - because your vet will be doing this during a physical examination
- ♥ Make sure your pig is used to being rubbed or scratched vigorously on the neck and behind the ears since this is an action the vet might do while giving an injection

At The Vet Office:

- ♥ Interview your prospective vet to determine his experience with the potbellied pig and his interest in learning more about your pig's care
- ♥ Obtain references, if possible, and talk to them about their experience with the prospective vet
- ♥ Visit your prospective vet with your pet pig prior to any emergency situation and have your prospective vet do a "well" checkup for your pig
- ♥ Evaluate your prospective vet as to the manner in which he/she relates to and handles your pet pig
- ♥ Take treats and have your vet offer a few as a friendly introduction
- ♥ Take a rubber mat or rug for your pig to stand on, thus providing better footing on the slick cold exam table or floor
- ♥ Follow your vet's instruction should the stress to you or your pig become too great during exam
- ♥ Do not allow anyone to lift your pig up by his/her stomach or by his/her legs

Should Your Pig Need To Stay Overnight:

- ♥ Travel with extra bedding and a plastic bag should your pig have an accident in the car
- ♥ Take your pig's familiar bedding for your pig to have while staying at the vet office over-night
- ♥ Check the temperature of the location in which he/she will be housed - make sure you or the vet can provide a heat lamp or a fan if necessary
- ♥ Reward your pig with a very special treat after the visit to his/her vet

TOXICITY OF PLANTS TO POT-BELLIED PIGS

by Joyce Johnston

A quick and easy guide

As many of us have pigs which we take with us to lots of different places, it is imperative to know the major plant toxicity's to pigs. The problem with this is many of the less common poisonous plants are not listed, and also there are some plants such as a Camellia which are not listed as toxic because they are not poisonous to humans and yet will kill a pig due to the high content of caffeine.

If you have any doubts about a plant, there is a 24hour National Animal Poison Control number at the University of Illinois, Veterinary Toxicology Department, (800) 548 2423. They charge a flat fee of \$25.00 each time you call, but it is well worth it when it can save the life of your pig which they did for me.

This is the most complete and extensive center in the U.S. on toxic plants to animals, and there is a veterinarian there at all times you can talk with.

One of the major concerns is oak leaves and acorns, especially in spring when they are green and budding. They contain the toxin "tannin," which accumulates in the pig's system and causes permanent kidney damage which eventually ends in death.

Also, you need to be aware of the danger of pine needles, which have their greatest toxicity in winter. They cause abortion easily with excessive bleeding from the uterus. Everyone already knows of the toxicity of poinsettias and mistletoe (especially the berries).

However, pigs are said to survive through eating mistletoe better than other animals.

The best thing to do if you know your pig has ingested a poisonous plant is to immediately give it about 7 ml. of hydrogen peroxide. If you mix it in a strong tasting juice (like grape or cranberry) the pigs will drink enough of it to vomit within several minutes. Ipecac Syrup will not work in pigs and will not cause them to purge. Otherwise, get them to the vet for a heavy dose of charcoal and antitoxins.

Keeping your pigs regularly vaccinated with Clostridium will also help to prevent sickness from overeating in general. In addition, if they get into the pig chow and indulge, that can also be fatal. They will either need to be made to vomit, or you must get them immediately to the vet for an antitoxin. Otherwise, they will get severe toxemia in a few days and die.

The following list of plants is divided into four groups: extremely toxic; minor toxicity's; oxalates (cause pain and swelling of the mouth and throat); and food leaves. It is advisable to purchase a poisonous plant book and learn the scientific names of the groups of plants that are poisonous.

Toxicity of Plants to Potbellied Pigs

EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

EXTREMELY TOXIC (one leaf can kill them)	Delphinium	Morning Glory	MINOR TOXICITIES (vomiting, diarrhea, nausea)	Ranunculus	FOOD LEAVES	
	Elderberry	Mountain Laurel		Sweet Pea		Tomato leaves and vine
	Flax	Narcissus		Sweet William		Avocado
	Foxglove	Nightshade		Violas		Moldy Walnut shells
	Four o'clocks	Oleander		Aloe Vera		Rhubarb
	Geranium	Pea family		Amaryllis		Corn stems (nitrates)
	Heavenly Bamboo	Pig weed		Bird of Paradise		Cotton seeds
	Hemlock	Potato plant		Birch		Decayed Sweet Potato (black parts)
	Holly Berries	Privet		Boxwood		Potato leaves and green parts
	Ivy	String of Pearls		Cedar		Rosacea Family (leaves and seeds): apple, apricot, pear, peach, almond nectarine, cherry plum.
Cherry	Thorn Apple	Chrysanthemum				
Lantana	Toyon	Daffodil				
Larkspur	Tulip	Daisy				
Licorice Plant	Vinca	Eucalyptus	OXALATES (pain and swelling of mouth and throat; swollen tissue can cause restriction and breathing difficulties and death from suffocation.)			
Lily of the Valley and Faster Lily	Wintergreen	Gladiola				
Lobelia	Wisteria	Hydrangea				
Lupine	Yew	Hyacinth				
Milkvetch and Milkweed		Iris				
Monkshood		Juniper				
		Redwood tree				

Note: the above article was from a potbellied pig magazine in 1991. New Info: for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - if you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call (888) 426-4435. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card, but you will be given a case # and you can call back as many times as needed at no charge if related to the same case. More info: <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control>

Toxic Plants -- Beware! Some household and yard plants may be toxic to your potbellied pig. Be careful when allowing your pig around the following plants. This list is not exhaustive.

<p>Aloe Vera Amaryllis Apple (seeds) Apple Leaf Croton Apricot (pit) Asparagus Fern Autumn Crocus Avacado (fruit and pit) Azalea</p>	<p>Baby's Breath Bird of Paradise Bittersweet Branching Ivy Buckey Buddist Pine</p>	<p>Caladium Calla Lily Castor Bean Ceriman Charming Dieffenbachia Cherry (seeds and wilting leaves) Chinese Evergreen Christmas Rose Cineraria Clematis Cordatum Corn Plant Cornstalk Plant Croton Cuban Laurel Cutleaf Philodendron Cycads Cyclamen</p>	<p>Daffodil Devil's Ivy Dieffenbachia Dracaena Palm Dragon Tree Dumb Cane</p>	<p>Easter Lily (especially in cats!!!!) Elaine Elephant Ears Emerald Feather English Ivy</p>
<p>Geranium German Ivy Giant Dumb Cane Glacier Ivy Gold Dieffenbachia Gold Dust Dracaena Golden Pothos</p>	<p>Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy Heartland Philodendron Hurricane Plant</p>	<p>Indian Rubber Plant</p>	<p>Janet Craig Dracaena Japanese Show Lily (especially cats !!!) Jeusalem Cherry</p>	<p>Kalanchoe Lacy Tree Philodendron</p>
<p>Madagascar Dragon Tree Marble Queen Marijuana Mexican Breadfruit Miniature Croton Mistletoe Morning Glory Mother-in Law's Tongue</p>	<p>Narcissus Needlepoint Ivy Nephtis Nightshade</p>	<p>Oleander Onion Oriental Lily (especially in cats!!!)</p>	<p>Peace Lily Peach (wilting leaves and pits) Pencil Cactus Plumosa Fern Poinsettia (low toxicity) Poison Ivy Poison Oak Pothos Precatory Bean Primrose</p>	<p>Red Emerald Red Princess Red-Margined Dracaena Rhododendron Ribbon Plant</p>
<p>Taro Vine Tiger Lily (especially cats!!!) Tomato Plant (green fruit, stem and leaves) Tree Philodendron Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia</p>	<p>Weeping Fig</p>	<p>Yew</p>		

Note: the above list is compliments of NWMPA (Northwest Miniature Pig Association)

Pros and Cons of Potbellied Pigs

Having a pig as a pet can be a rewarding experience, as with any animal, they **do** require a great deal of effort and commitment. Pigs are not maintenance-free animals and are not as easy to care for as a cat or dog. Vietnamese potbellied pigs have been heavily promoted as house pets - although they should not be raised **full**-time as house pets. Anyone considering a pig as a pet should know that potbellied pigs are expected to live 10 to 15 years or more and a full-grown pig often weighs well over 130 pounds.

PROS	CONS
Pigs are intelligent and have been placed fourth on the intelligence list (first are humans, second- primates, third-dolphins/whales, fourth-pigs).	Because of their high level of intelligence, pigs that are kept as FULL-time house pets can become bored easily and are often destructive when finding ways to entertain themselves. It is not uncommon for them to root up carpeting or linoleum floors, eat drywall, learn to open the cupboards or refrigerator, overturn house plants and root through the dirt.
Pigs that have been neutered or spayed are generally sweet-natured and sensitive animals. In fact, pigs are so sensitive that you can hurt their feelings.	Pigs are herd animals and have a pecking order similar to that of chickens. Each member of the herd has a particular standing in a pecking order and a pig will usually vie to be "top pig" in the herd. When raised in the house, the family members will become the pig's herd. At around 18 months of age, the struggle for "top pig" will begin. To determine the order standing, pigs fight. They will charge their opponent, snapping and swinging their head. When the opponent is a family member or a guest that has come to visit, this can be quite dangerous.
Pigs can be litter-box trained. Outside pigs generally use only one corner of the yard as the bathroom.	Pigs do root. Anyone desiring a perfectly manicured lawn should not have a pig. Placing a ring in their nose is cruel because rooting is a natural instinct for pigs. By rooting, they obtain necessary vitamins and minerals from the ground as well as food. They have been known to eat worms and grubs and also will root to find acorns or truffles.
Pigs generally enjoy hardy health. Pigs should receive yearly vaccinations, yearly hoof trimmings, and a yearly physical. There is no approved rabies vaccine for a pig; therefore they are not given rabies shots.	Pigs are very susceptible to pneumonia. The biggest cause of pneumonia is weather, but it can also be brought on by stress. Pigs can "stress out" quite easily. Because of their small lung size, bronchitis or pneumonia can kill a pig quickly.
Pigs have bristle-like hair. People allergic to dog and cat fur generally are not allergic to the hair of a pig.	Finding a vet knowledgeable in the health-care of potbellied pigs can prove difficult. Vet care can be expensive, depending, of course, on your particular area and the health condition of your pig. Emergency treatment and/or specialized surgery can be especially expensive. Potbellied pigs should not be treated as domestic farm hogs. Also spaying & neutering a pig is quite different from a dog or cat. Due to the size and difficulty in transporting, a vet willing to make house calls is recommended.
Pigs are generally clean, odorless animals. The only reason they "roll in the mud" during hot weather is to cool off, the mud also protects their skin to keep off flies.	Pigs need a pool or mud puddle for cooling off in hot weather. They do not sweat and must have a way of lowering their body temperature when they become overheated. They need plenty of bedding in their sleeping area during the colder months. In the winter, they love to bury themselves under straw and blankets.
	Local zoning laws may not allow pigs as pets. Many people are forced to get rid of their pig is not zoned.
Pigs do not stink - except male pigs that are not neutered.	Pigs should be neutered or spayed before 8- 12 weeks of age. If they are not, female pigs can become quite moody. An un-neutered male pig generally has a strong, foul odor. Spay and/or neuter your pigs.

PIGGY HARNESS TRAINING



H-Style Harness



A-Style Harness

Training your pig to walk with you on a leash and harness makes your life as his caregiver easier as well as allowing your pig to be safer and a closer part of your family. A leash-trained pig will be easier to take with you on family outings, summer walks, and certainly to the vet.

Pigs that have already bonded to you or the family typically don't have any trouble with harness-training. If your pig doesn't trust you, he needs to be better socialized before harness-training.

Some key pointers to keep in mind...Pigs are prey animals and, as such, do not like to be restrained; it is very threatening to them. Care needs to be taken not to force your pig into a harness. Once they become scared of an object, it is very hard to relieve them of that fear. Their intelligence usually makes training them easier, but it can also hinder progress if they continually feel threatened. They don't forget much.

To keep them from feeling scared, don't immediately try to put the harness on the pig. Let them play with the harness first for a day or so, to let them realize that the harness itself offers nothing of which to be afraid. When putting the harness on for the first time, it can be useful to distract him by putting treats on the ground. Although he will still be aware of what you are doing, his mind will be focusing on the treats rather than this new activity. If the pig fights, reassure the him that everything is OK and try again. Move slowly and speak softly and do not force this first experience. Once the harness is on your pig, let him run around for a few minutes. Do this a couple times a day at first, increasing the

amount of time you leave the harness on the pig. You do not want the harness to be tight (they will feel restrained) nor too loose (they may get caught in objects or even slip out of the harness).

Once he is used to you putting the harness on and taking it off, you can add the leash to your routine. This shouldn't be as stressful, but we would recommend you let him play with the leash like you did with the harness and allow him to spend time running around without any resistance (being careful to not allow the leash to get wrapped around any objects that might scare or trap him).

Once your pig is used to the harness and leash, you can again get out your treats and apply a little pressure to the leash. Call his name and provide a little force. Once he looks your direction or takes a step towards you, give him a treat. It's important that they learn to look at you for guidance when they feel pressure on the leash. Continue this practice for short periods so it doesn't seem like a chore. Once they understand that pressure means "look at you," start to teach him to walk with you at your pace. Go slowly at first. What you want to teach is that you want him to stay close to you. Walk slowly and when he catches up, give him treats and abundant praise. Don't scold him for not following. Always provide praise and treats for staying close to you. If you attempt any of this by forcing the pig (pulling him along, jerking him with the lead, etc.), you can pretty much forget about having a pig that is well-trained with a harness. Remember, they learn and respond quickly by you using treats, gentleness and compassion. Once a pig is harness-trained, he is harness-trained for life. Pigs never forget.

You should use harnesses that are especially made for potbellied pigs. Dog harnesses generally are not secure enough to hold a pig. There are two different styles - A & H. The "A" style slips on over the pigs head and snaps behind the front legs or girth. The "H" style has two snaps; one that snaps around the neck one that snaps around the girth. Either will fit the pig securely and comfortably. Be sure to measure your pig with a flexible tape measure or a piece of string before ordering. You will need to measure your pig around its girth, right behind the front legs and up over his shoulder, and around the neck in front of the front legs. Always use the largest measurement. Piggy harnesses are adjustable (neck and girth).

Piggy Harnesses are difficult to find in local stores. Online orders can be placed at:

<http://healthypigs.easystorecreator.com/items/harnesses/list.htm>

<http://potbellypigs.com/wordpress1/resources>

<https://rossmillfarm.com/product/safety-harness>

<https://www.pigglz.com>

Amazon has some harnesses, but make sure they are especially designed for Potbellied Pigs

THE MYTHOLOGICAL "TEACUP" PIG



**THIS PIG MAY
APPEAR "TEACUP"
BUT IT IS JUST
A NEWBORN....**

By now, you have heard and read about the widely advertised "Teacup Pigs." These are the "Micro-Mini Pigs," "Dandies," "Pixie Pigs," "Pocket Pigs," "Nano Pigs" and other "specialty-bred" pigs that breeders claim will not grow more than 15-30 pounds. Those are all just fancy names made up by breeders, but all miniature pigs within the United States come from the same line. It is true that when miniature potbellied pigs are first born, they can weigh as little as 3 to 5 pounds, but a healthy normal potbellied pig will grow anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds, sometimes more. Breeders that are selling those "Teacup Pigs" show people their pigs that are only a few days or weeks old, and tell them that their pigs will stay small if you do not feed them a lot. HOWEVER, underfeeding a pig, or any animal for that matter, will cause serious health problems and deformities. Therefore, the so-called "teacup" or "micro-mini" pigs, are just normal potbellied pigs that have been chronically underfed and malnourished in an attempt to keep them small. Their life span is maybe five years or less. This is because the pig might stay tiny (if underfed), but the organs continue to grow as for a normal size pig. Many breeders are frantically trying to breed smaller potbellied pigs in hopes that the smaller size will attract more buyers. 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. Every year hundreds of potbellied pigs are abandoned, "thrown away" or die, due to lack of information and knowledge and because buyers had unrealistic expectations, or were given the wrong facts. In addition, underfeeding often causes aggressiveness because the pig is not being fed properly and is constantly hungry. This information has been verified with numerous sanctuaries and knowledgeable pig people. In the few instances where a very small (less than 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 and very short life spans. A normal healthy potbellied pig can live from 12 to 20+ years. The cute tiny "teacup" pigs you see in photos on "teacup pig" websites and "teacup" ads are merely just newborn babies; they are only teacup-size for a short while. Those breeders are only out to make \$\$\$\$ and they often sell pigs that are too young to be weaned, and often they are not neutered or spayed (an extra expense for the buyer).

SCAMPP members, sanctuaries and shelters receive calls weekly from people who have purchased these "teacup" pigs and have become very disappointed that their pigs did not stay as tiny as promised. Therefore, there are many homeless, abandoned, abused and neglected "teacup" pigs in shelters and sanctuaries and there are not enough homes and shelters for them all, meaning many are euthanized. We constantly receive requests from owners and shelters who want us to place these no longer "teacup-sized" pigs. For that reason, we advocate spaying & neutering and discourage breeding. Our reasoning is: WHY should breeders bring any more pigs into the world that will be dumped later when folks learn the truth that their "teacup" pigs do not stay "teacup" size. We strongly feel existing pigs need loving homes FIRST. To buy from breeders only encourages breeders to breed more, which in turn causes the older pigs to die in shelters, sanctuaries & foster care or abandoned and left to die alone out in the deserts, foreclosed homes, or turned loose on the streets. These already-existing pigs deserve and need loving and caring homes with true pet lovers.

In addition, people oftentimes purchase those pigs without checking their zoning ordinances. Many cities and counties do not allow miniature pigs, mainly because the officials do not know the facts regarding how domesticated, clean and quiet these pigs can be. Therefore many of these pigs are confiscated, turned in or dumped, due to Animal Control violations.

Caring pig owners have heard story after story about these "teacup" breeds of pigs that did not "stay small" and have personally seen (may even own) one or more of those "micro-mini" or "teacup pigs" that are now the size of any other normal potbellied pig.

The term "miniature pig" is a term used to describe "small" mature pigs. Miniature pigs are generally considered to be about 1/10 the size of a commercial farm pig. Given that farm pigs can approach and even exceed 1,000 pounds when full-grown, it is obvious to see that the term "miniature" is both relative and very subjective. Keep in mind that weight is often not the best way to describe a pig. Pigs are very solid and "hard-bodied." It does not take a very "big" pig to weigh 100 pounds. It is often best to describe a pig in terms of size, not weight. In dealing with inexperienced pig people, we often ask them to describe the size of their pig in relation to the size of a dog. Most people can relate to and visualize the size of a dog better than they can a pig. An average potbellied pig at maturity will probably be in the 100 to 175 pound range if not overweight. This is the size of a small to medium sized dog in terms of height and length. We have seen potbellied pigs at well over 400 pounds; but those pigs have simply been grossly overfed and under-exercised and/or have been cross-bred with other pigs - even with farm pigs. The pig's parents size is not a guarantee how big it's offspring as a healthy adult potbellied pig will become (much like in human nature). Pig owners can affect their pig's weight through feeding and exercise, but not the pig's eventual size. Potbellied pigs can continue to grow well into their fourth and fifth year. Therefore, realistically speaking, a 15" to 24" tall, full-grown 100 to 200+ pound potbellied pig is a "miniature" compared to farm hogs.

We cannot stress it enough: BEWARE OF BREEDERS!!! Most breeders are only in business to make money. They will misinform you and tell you anything to encourage you to buy from them. Also keep in mind that pigs can breed when they are only 3 to 4 months of age. Therefore, naturally if they have bred the parents at only 3 or 4 months of age, the parents will obviously still be fairly small, yet the breeder will tell you the parents are "full-grown" but that is not true; remember, pigs continue grow until four or five years of age.

If you still want to purchase a "teacup pig," and INSIST on buying one, you could force the seller to write up a contract stating that if the pig grows to over the weight "promised" at one, two and three years of age, you get all your money back and/or the seller agrees to take the pig back (if you haven't fallen in love with it already which naturally is very easy to do if you are a committed and responsible animal lover). If everyone who purchases these "micro-mini teacup pigs" set up such a contract, hopefully, the seller will be discouraged from making such ridiculous claims and a penalty will be incurred right where it hurts....in the pocket book. But beware, read the fine print in the contract, because most times the breeder will insert a clause stating that the contract is null and void if you do not feed the pig according to their feeding instructions (which is usually not the proper diet, or includes a specialty over-priced food that must be ordered only from them or online). We have compared feed labels of their specialty feed and feed you can purchase locally at a much lower cost. Their feed most of the time is by-products, midlings and sometimes unhealthy ingredients. You can get healthier whole grain feed locally for less money.

We can ADOPT tame, sociable, lovable miniature pigs for free or next to nothing (depending on whether the pig needs vet services). We require home checks to make sure you are properly set-up, educated and zoned to own a miniature pig. We network with rescue organizations and shelters to place pigs who need loving homes. Please take a look at the Adoption pages in our newsletters, on our website, on our Facebook page and at <http://www.petfinder.com> to see current pigs that are waiting and need someone to love and care for them.



Just like human babies, these "teacup" piggies do grow up!

Once we grow up, we don't fit the cup!



Compare these "teacup pigs"

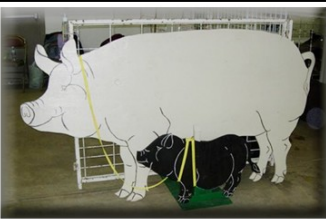


To these "Miniature" Humans For Sale!!! Not to exceed 25 pounds. Champion lines. Teacup sized!!

Yeah, right! like babies don't grow up?



KoKo at 6 weeks old; he was only five 5 inches tall and eight pounds and smaller than the toy piggy next to him. He grew to over 200 pounds.



FARM PIG VRS. POTBELLED PIG



"Kito" sold as a "teacup pig" - above 2 months old



"Kito" - 2 years old - 140 pounds

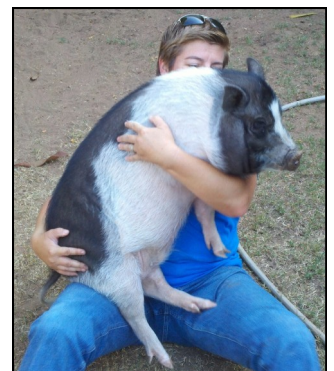


ABOVE- WILBUR AT 8 WEEKS OLD

BELOW- WILBUR AT 2 & 3 YEARS OLD



Duke at 6 months.....Duke at 1 1/2 years old





Typical characteristics of the Vietnamese Potbellied Pig when first brought to the USA in the mid-80's - early 90's

ORIGINS OF THE POTBELLIED PIG

Although potbelly pigs have been domesticated for hundreds of years, it's nice to know a bit about where your lovable pet has come from. You research about your ancestors, right? So why not know about the ancestors of your best potbellied friend?

We all know that potbellied pigs are a direct descendant of the old world wild pig family that ranged Eurasia from the Mediterranean to Siberia for 40,000 years. But how did they get to America?

The first group of 18 potbellied pigs came to America from Canada during the mid-1980's by Keith Connell, a Canadian zoo director. These potbellied pigs were bigger than the ones we have today (they averaged up to 190 - 250 lbs. and therefore, were miniature pigs when compared to domestic swine that weigh 600-1500 lbs.). They were all black and wrinkled around the head and face. When Keith Connell imported this original group, little could he have realized just what an impact these were destined to have on the pet market. Intended as breeding stock to supply zoological gardens, they were to prove to be the foundation stock for the new pet on the block in the USA. Keith named them the "Con Line."

Shortly after Keith Connell's "Con line" was imported, at least two other local breed types of potbellied pigs were brought into the USA. The "Lea Line" imported by a breeder named Leavitt (gentle disposition, white and black markings, somewhat smaller) and the "Royal Line", imported by a breeder named Espberger (mostly white, somewhat larger than the "Lea Line"). In fact, these pigs, Con, Lea and Royal, represent most of the foundation stock found in America today. All were descended from regional varieties in Vietnam. The different lines provided a larger gene pool to work with, give us a healthier breed type and enable breeders to develop more desirable characteristics (size, disposition, color, conformation, etc.) better suited for domesticated companion "House Pets."

In the short space of a few years, potbellied pig ownership expanded at quite a remarkable rate. There were many official associations that controlled the registration of these pets, clubs for pet owners and there was a highly organized show system. (**Editors note:** SCAMPP was formed in 1989-1990, although some of our original members had potbellied pigs before that time). There are not as many registries, organizations or shows as there once were. The vast majority of all registered potbellied pigs in the USA can be traced back to these original lines.

The question is ... Why is there such a wide variety of breed types in the first place? Because potbellied pigs are the same species as ordinary farmyard pigs and wild boars, they are capable of interbreeding. Many potbellied pigs have been crossed with various farm pig breeds and other potbellied pig types, such as the KuneKune from New Zealand and the Yucatan Pig (also known as the Mexican Hairless Pig) just to name 2 - therefore, we have the Great American Potbellied Pig melting pot!! There are so many "miniature pig breeds" these days, but ultimately, the majority of miniature breeds in the United States are linked to each other in one way or another. Many common labels or nicknames for the miniature pigs of today include: Teacup, Micro, Super Micro, Nano, Pixie, and Pocket Pig. These nicknames are not considered breeds, but selling or marketing tools. Most pigs nowadays are a cross-breed of some kind although the cross breeds are not recognized as actual breeds, but classified merely as miniature pigs.

When the first potbellied pigs were sold in the USA, their market price ran well into the thousands of dollars. Nowadays, due to so many breeders interbreeding and cross-breeding, or not getting their pigs neutered or spayed, and/or breeding and selling for financial gain, along with the fact that so many people are giving up their pigs for various reasons, there are many homeless pigs that we cannot even adopt out most of these pigs for free. Keep in mind, these pigs are not to be raised as a food source (even according to the USDA). Sadly, there are not enough responsible homes with folks to properly love and care for these precious creatures and many end up in overflowing shelters, sanctuaries and rescue organizations. (**Editor's note:** SCAMPP personally believes that the breeding needs to drastically decline, due to the fact of the over-abundance of unwanted potbellied pigs these days).

The above information was gathered from several internet sources, which all seem to be commonly stated.

ARE POTBELLIED PIGS GOOD PETS?



Potbellied pigs are very "special" animals. Potbellies are like two-year-old children—intelligent, curious, mischievous, and, sometimes manipulative. They are sensitive creatures that can be playful, and even almost humorous. Many owners bond to their pigs as if they were their own children. Many owners sleep with their pigs, travel with their oinkers, dress them in costumes, and share every aspect of their lives with them. Potbellies love to have

their bellies scratched, and snuggle with their owners. In the intelligence scale, they are only two species away from the intelligence of humans!

Unfortunately, their intelligence and ability to learn quickly is often detrimental. The porker can quickly learn to open refrigerator doors and cupboards in its eternal quest for food. Pigs can learn to scream, to wake their owners for breakfast, beg for food, and raid pantries. They can be demanding, overly sensitive, or even neurotic. A potbellied pig's personality is complex and intriguing. Because of this, they need a lot of discipline and monitoring. Very often, a bored pig may root and knock over house hold objects.

Pigs are not good pets if left alone with no mental stimulation. In their eternal quest for treats, they can get aggressive with young children. The good news is that pigs are very trainable. First, a pig must be taught that it can trust its owner. Firm, gentle discipline works well. Because of their love for food, positive reinforcement is very effective. Negative physical reinforcement absolutely does not work. Pigs have a great memory, and respond well to commands. They are capable of learning to slam dunk a basketball, play a piano, or golf, play soccer, jump through hoops, dance, ride a skateboard and a scooter, and dozens of other feats. Housebreaking comes very easily to pigs.

Potbellied pigs average anywhere between 125 - 175 lbs. at three years of age. Unfortunately, sometimes they are advertised by breeders as being around 50 lbs. at maturity. What some buyers don't realize, is that as the pig grows beyond the age of one year, it is often too large and heavy to lift and ride in a car to go to the Vets. This problem can be overcome, if the owner is dedicated, by training a pig to climb a ramp into the car. All pigs must be neutered or spayed to be good pets.

Potbellies are herd animals with a strong pecking order. If spoiled, they often become territorial and aggressive towards humans, especially house guests. The pigs have an instinctual urge to be "Top Hog" and defend their territory. Pigs need lots of subtle, daily discipline. They also need to know their boundaries in the home. If they are well trained and disciplined, they usually do not exhibit this aggression. The potbellies must be taught the word "NO" and to respect humans.

Porkers need to spend time outdoors, in a fenced yard, secure from hostile dogs. This helps reduce their territorial nature and keeps them from becoming bored. Pigs root by instinct, however; this can often be slightly curtailed. They do not get fleas, but can get mange. Mange is easily treatable.

All in all, pigs have the potential to be the BEST pet, or the very WORST pet. It really depends upon the expectations and efforts of the owners. Pigs are not small, or easily transportable, and do not belong in apartments, generally. They can be convoluted, or even aggressive. They get bored easily, and will sometimes knock over waste paper baskets and household objects... And, OF COURSE, pigs will do ANYTHING for food ! That's what being a pig is all about!

But, if you do not expect a pig to be anything other than a pig, a potbelly can be a marvelous lifetime companion. They are adorable, loving, affectionate creatures with incredible intelligence. Most of us wouldn't trade ours for anything in the world!

SAFE TRANSPORTATION

We always recommend crating pigs! Transporting safely is one of the more difficult tasks with pigs. Transporting pigs loose in your vehicle can be very dangerous. We have known pigs to:

- ◆ Break through a van window, shattering glass to escape from a moving vehicle
- ◆ Jump 4-feet straight up in the air to go over barricades or the back door of a horse trailer
- ◆ Multiple pigs will use each others bodies to make a pyramid to climb up and out a horse trailer door
- ◆ Pigs are incredibly strong and determined to be free....a combination that makes them harder to confine than a 2,000 pound bull.
- ◆ Pigs will die or suffer life-long disabilities from heat stress if moved in temperatures too hot and get lung disease from being moved in temperatures too cold.
- ◆ Pigs are often unable to cope with a lot of stress and the sounds and smells of the highway mean many die if moved in crates in a truck bed.
- ◆ They can climb over the seats in your car and land in your lap; a hysterical 180 pound pig does not make a good co-pilot.
- ◆ Handmade barricades, plastic and wire cages are invitations for injuries too numerous to mention. (Warning: plastic cuts are the most deadly, as the broken edge of plastic is ragged and tears the flesh instead of cutting it)

So, how to transport them safely:

- ◆ In a **large crate**: big enough to turn around in; put blankets or towels inside so they don't slip and slide, and inside a vehicle with air conditioning to keep it cool. Wear a sweater when hauling pigs as they cannot tolerate heat when stressed. About 60 to 65 degrees is good.
- ◆ In a **horse trailer** where the openings above the walls are:
 1. Over 4-feet above ground level (or)
 2. Reinforced by welded mesh or rods (or)
 3. Too small for the pig to get through (and)
 4. Temperature should not get outside the 45 to 70 degree range for the duration of the trip. Check temps **INSIDE** the trailer for safety. It can get very hot even with the vents.
 5. Plenty of hay and a heavy rubber mat under it to cushion the hard ride.
 6. A ramp to load/unload them without stress
- ◆ If loose in a **cargo van**: use heavy mats and a driver protection door or barricade (most are equipped) This is a good choice for multiple pigs. Put down a tarp, cover with rubber mats or a sheet or two of cardboard and add heavy blankets. Carry the ramp with you, placed where they can walk through it so they don't get hurt with it. Keep temperature cool and they will travel almost stress-free. The cost of renting a cargo van is under \$100. A very inexpensive way to make for a safe trip. By planning and being patient and careful, you will always have a safe trip. ~ from: <https://www.9sites.org/pigrescue/rescue.htm>

EMERGENCIES

Are you prepared for an emergency or worse ... the end of your pig's life? Do you know where 24-hour veterinary care is in your area, so in an emergency you can take your pigs there at any hour? Will they work on potbellied pigs? Second, do you have a vehicle that is high enough for a animal crate, preferably a "Giant" ("700") crate especially if you have larger pigs? Do you have helpers to load your pig to take it to the vet if needed? Transportation is the first thing you need to think about.

Do you know how to load your pig into a crate? If your pig is not accustomed to being crated and can run from you, do you have sorting boards or animal exercise pens handy to help corral the pig to where you need the pig to go in order to get your pig into the crate?

If you do not have the equipment you'll need, do you have the ability to borrow it at any time, day or night? Do you have a plan of what you will do when/if your pig gets sick? Figure it out NOW, don't wait? Find out from who you can borrow a crate or vehicle, call any/all of the vets in your area that might provide you 24-hour emergency care, even if just antibiotics. Can or will you give injections to your pig?

Now, what will you do if your pig is so old it can no longer walk, if it is suffering and needs to be euthanized? Do you have a mobile vet who will come to your house to euthanize your pig? Will they take the body for you? Do you want your pig cremated and ashes returned to you? Have you found a crematorium that will even cremate a pig, many will not.

Also are you prepared for natural disasters? Some of these disasters may come with some warning and some may not. What they all share in common is that most of your local disaster workers (police, fire, medical) will probably be at least temporarily overwhelmed, and you will be to some extent "on your own" possibly for weeks. Something to keep in mind is that if you have some warning as with wild fires and often flooding, don't wait until the last minute to gather and restrain your animals. Even the tamest animal will probably act quite different when heat, smoke and roaring flames are bearing down on them. They better already be in the horse trailers, animal crates and vehicles, and you should have already been gone before the danger arrives. A foot of water in your yard may not be a problem for you, but your potbellied pig will find it quite upsetting. In the event of an earthquake, do you have a fenced area or the ability to create a fenced area in your yard where you can contain your pets if your home is uninhabitable. Do you keep a supply of extra food and water at all times for your animals (and you), or do you wait until you run out to buy another bag of pig feed?

Do you have a plan for your pets if your home is destroyed or damaged? Can you transport your pets to safety? It is a great idea to have a small camper trailer readily accessible and full of emergency supplies, including pet food. Do you have the capacity to live in it or haul it full of your pets to safety if needed? Realize that any steps you take NOW to be better prepared for emergencies with your pets and even your family, will make it much easier when emergencies occur.

~ excerpts from CPPA's website: <https://www.cppa4pigs.org/emergencies.html>