



Important Facts About Pigs

Mini Pig Info



Just being a pig

Facts about pigs

- Pigs are like toddlers; they tend to get into everything and sometimes can be destructive, especially when bored.
- Pigs require training. They do not know until you teach them. In order to have a well-behaved pig, you must train your pig to be a well-mannered and behaved pig.
- Pigs need to stay with their mother at minimum, 6-8 weeks. This is important for many reasons, but especially their overall well-being. Many dishonest people will say a pig is older than they really are and/or tell you bottle feeding creates a “special bond” with your pig. Actually bottle feeding can easily KILL your pig. Do not hesitate to ask for documented proof of age.
- ALL pigs have different personalities. Some love to cuddle while others prefer to be left alone. Some pigs are quite vocal while others are relatively quiet. Most pigs do not like to be picked up though.
- It has been determined by scientists that a pigs squeal is a greater decibel than a jet on take-off.

- Some people will try to pass off a pig as much older than a piglet actually is. This is a way to “show” you how small their pigs are, this is a dangerous practice and has claimed the lives of many pigs by being taken from their mother too soon.
- Pigs do not stop growing longer and taller for 3-5 years. They will continue to gain weight as long as the caloric intake is more than what they are burning off based on their activity level.
- No one can guarantee the size of your pig when your pig hits maturity. If someone is claiming a weight guarantee... don't walk away... run away.
- Pigs can live to be 15-20 years old. Some live longer, unfortunately, some live for a lesser amount of time.
- You typically have to be zoned for pigs, to determine whether or not you are zoned, you will need to research you county/city/providence/town ordinances to be sure it is legal for you to have a pet pig.
- Pigs are EXTREMELY intelligent. You must provide “enrichment” type activities for your pig.
- Pigs need vet care. A vet relationship should be established BEFORE you get a pig. Vets that treat pigs can be difficult to find and during an emergency is NOT the best time to try and locate one. We have a list of over 1,000 vets that will see pigs on our website.
- Pigs have hooves that normally need to be trimmed once or twice a year. Some will wear them down naturally, but the majority will need someone to trim them if you cannot do it yourself.
- ALL pigs have tusks. Female tusks do not usually get as long as male pigs tusks. It is thought hormones play a big factor in the time/length of tusks in intact pigs. Tusk trims are recommended for pigs who tend to head-swipe or who have tusks that are growing at wrong angles and piercing the skin in the mouth. Tusks cannot be removed entirely though. It is part of their jawbone.
- Intact pigs do NOT make great pets. Please spay or neuter your pig. Not only does this eliminate the potential for reproductive tumors (which is often the case in older intact pigs) It also helps with a host of behavioral issues resulting from fluctuating hormones.
- Pigs do NOT do well with dogs and many pigs have been attacked and killed by dogs. NEVER-EVER leave them alone unsupervised. With the exception of horses, most pigs get along with other animals.

- Pigs dig. That's just what pigs do. They have a NEED for outside time. Do not add a pig to your family if your yard is your "pride and joy". You can have a beautiful yard or you can have a pig, but you cannot have both. Nose rings are cruel and barbaric. If you add a pig to your family, do NOT get a nose ring to prevent them from acting in a natural manner.
- This time is important because the sunlight helps in the absorption of essential vitamins and minerals.
- Pigs need to be given parasite control at least twice a year. The medications to do this can usually be bought over the counter at farming type stores. Instructions are posted on our website for dosing.
- Pigs do NOT "need" to be bathed, although for some of us, it is a necessity for pigs that live indoors.
- Some pigs are rather vocal while others are fairly quiet. Each pig's disposition is different though.
- Aggression seems to be a common problem for pet pigs. Please do not rehome your pig because it has behavioral problems. These types of problems can be worked out with dedication from you.
- You should have a 1st aid kit at all times for your pig. We have a list of important items on our website so you can build a great kit to help you in emergencies.
- In the US, there are rules you must follow in order for a pig to cross over the state line into another state. Know the rules before traveling with your pig. Not following these guidelines can be the difference between life and death.
- Pigs do better in pairs. That's not to say a single pig wouldn't be great alone, but a pair of pigs is better for them. Introducing a new pig to the family needs to be done slowly to minimize fighting between the 2 of them. We have a page detailing how to do this properly.
- Pigs need a diet made for pigs. Ideally there is mini pig feed accessible to you, but if there's not, we have a section about natural foods that can be substituted to maintain a balanced diet.
- During the warmer months, pigs need a place to cool down such as a kiddie pool. In the winter, pigs need a structure to help keep them put of the cold/hot weather or elements.
- Pigs are relatively easy to train, but you must use positive reinforcement (treats work well) and be consistent with your training.
- Homes need to be "piggy proofed" to be sure your pigs environment is suitable for a pig.
- There are lots of flowers, plants and vegetation that can be extremely toxic to your pig.

- Pigs do not like to show weakness, when they're sick; they tend to hide the early symptoms until the illness is advanced. KNOW your pig; know your pig's routine and habits so you are able to identify problems early on.
- Pigs do not "sweat" in the traditional sense. The small amount of sweating they do comes from the top of their snout and isn't effective at regulating their body temperature. Instead, they cool themselves off by the evaporation of water from their bodies or dig holes to reach cooler soil.
- Overfeeding your pig can lead to obesity and obese pigs do not have a great quality of life. They can become fat blind, arthritic and even have heart disease. At the same time, starving a pig to keep them small is cruel and will be accompanied by health problems manifested as a result of malnutrition.
- We have forms that can be downloaded to help you and your vet determine the ailment your pig is suffering from. Things you may forget or feel are unrelated may very well be the information your vet needs to make a diagnosis and treat your pig.
- Pigs grieve the loss of their families; you never want to see a pig cry real tears.
- Regardless of what you may have read or heard, pigs are NOT hypoallergenic. People have had documented allergies to pigs. Pigs are known for their dry skin and they blow their coat once, sometimes twice a year which is similar to "shedding" in other animals. Normally, they go completely bald for a period of time before the bristles grow back.

If you have ANY additional questions, please send them to us: email at minipiginfo@gmail.com.

