

Section 8: How to screen potential adoptive families

If you screen families for dogs and cats, you should also have a procedure in place for “exotics” as well. Pigs are unfortunately considered “livestock” in many areas, although the USDA doesn’t classify mini pigs as anything other than pets. Because of this, many cities, counties, and towns have forbid pigs to live within the city limits; therefore, zoning becomes a problem. Potential adoptive families will need to ensure they’re appropriately zoned for pigs before agreeing to take any pigs home. Otherwise, here is a sample application that can be used to be sure this pig finds a great/pig-appropriate family to live a great life with.

Personal Information

Date: _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Home# _____

Work# _____ cell# _____

E-MAIL _____

Are you over 21 years of age? ___ Yes ___ No

If no, please have parent/guardian complete and sign the Application.

Do you have a medical condition that would limit your ability to care for the pig? __Yes __No

Property Information

Describe your home and yard:

Does your local zoning allow pet pigs? _____ Yes _____ No

Many communities do not, and they have the legal right to come to your home and confiscate your pet if it is against their zoning ordinances.

Do you live in a: __ House __ Apartment __ Condo __ Mobile Home __ Other

Do you: _____ Own _____ Rent

Do you live in a planned community? _____ Yes _____ No

If you live in a planned community, you will need written permission from your

homeowner's association to have a pig. Even though local zoning ordinances may permit pigs, a homeowner's association has the legal right to refuse them.

Do you have a fenced-in yard? ____ Yes ____ No

Will your pig have his/her own pen or fenced area? ____ Yes ____ No

Household Information

Number of adults living in your home: _____

Number of children in your home and their ages: _____

Do all members in your household want this pet? ____ Yes ____ No

Do you currently have a pig? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, is this pig neutered/spayed? ____ Yes ____ No

Age: _____ **Sex:** _____

Names of other pets: _____

Have you ever previously had a pig? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, what happened to him? _____

What other pets do you currently have? _____

Who will be responsible for caring for the pig?

Pig Specifics

Age preference: ____ Baby (under 1 year) ____ Younger (between 1-4) ____ Older (4+) ____ Does not matter

Sex preference: ____ Male ____ Female ____ Does not matter

Color preference: ____ Black ____ White ____ Does not matter

Where will the pig(s) live primarily? ____ Indoors ____ Outdoors

Are you willing to adopt two pigs who are buddies? Pigs are by nature herd animals and really enjoy the company of another pig to snuggle with, especially if they are outdoor pigs. ____ Yes ____ No

Are you willing to take an un-socialized pig (one who has had little to no human contact)?

____ Yes ____ No

Are you willing to take a special needs pet (one who is obese and needs dieting, one who has behavior problems and needs to be worked with, one who has health problems, etc.)? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you willing to assume the responsibility of the pay/neuter? _____ Yes _____ No

If Indoors:

Is your home pig-proofed? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Need more info

Where will the pig sleep? _____

How many hours will the pig be alone each day? _____ **Hours per day**

Is there a safe place for your pig to stay during the day? _____ Yes _____ No

Is there a safe place for the pig to spend his outside time? _____ Yes _____ No

If Outdoors:

Do you have a well-insulated house for the pig? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have a way to heat this house in cold weather? _____ Yes _____ No

Is there access to a wading pool or mud hole in summer? _____ Yes _____ No

Is there a spot available with all-day shade? _____ Yes _____ No

Describe the living conditions you will provide. Please be very specific about the size of the pasture:

Vet Information

Vet Name _____ **Phone Number** _____

Are your current pets neutered? _____ Yes _____ No

Are your current pets up-to-date on their vaccinations? _____ Yes _____ No

DOES YOUR CURRENT VET CARE FOR PBPS? _____ Yes _____ No

It is very important to find a vet who will treat the pig before actually getting one. A potbellied pig has different medical needs than your typical companion animal or even a farm pig. These vets are few and far between and could mean the difference between life and death in an emergency.

Pig Education

I understand that the average weight of a full-grown potbellied pig is 75-150 pounds, some smaller and some larger, and that genetics determines size.

Underfeeding the pig will not change his skeletal size and will only lead to health and/or behavioral problems. Over-feeding the pig or not feeding him food specific to his species will also lead to health and/or behavioral problems.

Yes No Need more information.

I understand that rooting is a basic natural instinct and that ALL pigs will root to varying degrees. This can lead to destructiveness in the house when they are bored and do not have other outlets or if they do not get enough outside time. It can also lead to destructiveness of lawn and flowerbeds.

Yes No Need more information

I understand that dogs and pigs must be carefully monitored and should NEVER be left unsupervised together, even the most gentle dog and even if the pig and dog are best of friends. They are both animals with animal instincts. Dogs are predators and pigs are prey, and a dog can kill a pig if provoked.

Yes No Need more information

I understand that a pig can become territorial. This can include growling, snapping, charging, or even biting to varying degrees. It is most common in house pigs but can also occur outside. In the wild, pigs are herd animals, and it is a natural instinct for them to try to test their dominance and become "top hog". Behavioral modification techniques can help. Because of this instinct, children and pigs must always be carefully supervised.

Yes No Need more information

I understand that a pig should not be placed in a home until he is at least 8-12 weeks of age, properly weaned, and eating on his own. Earlier placement can lead to starvation and/or aggressive behavior.

Yes No Need more information

I understand that spaying/neutering of all pigs is ESSENTIAL, not only for reproduction purposes but also for behavioral and health reasons as well. An unaltered pig does not make a good house pet. An unaltered pig may also develop reproductive organ disease when older and larger and no longer a safe surgical candidate.

Yes No Need more information

I understand that it will most likely be difficult to find a competent vet who will care for my pig. I also understand that I must have a plan set up in advance to get my pig to the vet in an emergency situation. This plan should include an adequate vehicle and adequate muscle if the pig is no longer mobile.

_____ Yes_____ No_____ Need more information

In the case that this pig is to be a companion for a current pig, I understand there will be an "introduction" period between the two, whereby they work it out between themselves who will be "top hog".

_____ Yes_____ No_____ Need more information _____ Not applicable

I understand that this animal is a pig, and as such, I will allow him to be a pig. I understand that he has specific needs basic to his nature, and I will strive to meet those needs and appreciate the very qualities that make him such a unique and delightful creature.

_____ Yes_____ No_____ Need more information

Hypothetical Questions

What steps would you take to find a lost pet?_

What will you do with your pet when you go on vacation?

What would you do if you're pet if it became ill and needed expensive veterinary care? _____

What would you do if you became and could no longer care for your pet?

What are your views on euthanasia and your animals?

General Information

Please supply us with the name and e-mail of two references:

Can someone come out and check your home to be sure it is safe (properly pig-proofed, adequate shelter, supplies on hand for pig's arrival, etc.)? _____ Yes _____ No

How far would you be willing to travel to pick up your pig?

In what way have you educated yourself on the proper care of a pig?

Are you committed to care for the pig for his/her life. (it is estimated the lifespan of a potbellied pig can be up to 20 years)?

Do you have any questions/concerns about caring for a pig?

Most importantly, why do you want a pig as a pet?

I hereby certify that the information I have provided above is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge, and you may rely on this information to evaluate my application. I also understand that I will be asked to provide a donation fee (\$50 to \$200, depending on the cost of the spay/neuter)

_____ (signature)
_____ (date)

(Signature to be obtained at home inspection) You will be notified as soon as possible after the screening process is completed. Thanks for taking the time and showing interest in adopting a homeless animal from one of our many sanctuaries and shelters. Contact info for rescue whose adoption application this is has been removed for privacy, but a special thanks to them for allowing us to use for educational purposes.

This is a GREAT example of an adoption application fully touching on important factors for you to determine whether or not a family is appropriate to adopt a pig in your care. Again, the pig rescue world or Mini Pig Info are fully able to help you find foster homes or temporary places for pigs to go should you not have appropriate accommodations. Please reach out to us for any questions. minipiginfo@gmail.com