

Caring for your

Pot-Bellied Pig



life-span

- A pig will live an average of 12-18 years, estimates range to more than 20 years.
- Considered grown by 6 years of age, and usually weigh 125 pounds or more.

personality

- Pigs are very social creatures, and may become sad if left alone for long periods of time.
- Pigs can be territorial and have a drive to be dominant. They may fight to establish dominance between co-mingled pigs.
- Intelligent-almost like a dog; walk, potty-train, teach tricks
- Curious-will explore EVERYTHING!

restrictions

Pot-bellied pigs are considered swine by most local governments and therefore subject to local swine ordinances. These may include but are not restricted to: housing, transportation, vaccination, disposal of waste, licensing, breeding, limits on number, and leash laws. Before purchasing a pig, you should check with your local authorities to see what restrictions apply to you.

diet

- In non-breeding adults, feed about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of maintenance food per 25 pounds of the pig's weight, split into 2 meals per day.
- Feed a diet specifically made for pot-bellied pigs if possible.
- Do not overfeed – never feed as much as they will eat since pigs have a voracious appetite.
- Do not feed dog or cat food (too high in protein).
- Ensure plenty of fresh water is available.
- Fat rolls over the eyes or a belly that touches the ground are visual indicators that a pig is overweight. In a pig of normal weight, hip bones can easily be felt with minimal pressure and they eyes (whole socket) should be easily visible.

housing

- Provide a sleeping area with a blanket or bed
- Separate pig room for when alone-otherwise they may be destructive
- Access to fresh water at all times
- Bathroom area-preferrably a grassy area and away from sleeping and eating areas.
- Outdoor area conducive to their needs

handling

- Young pigs can be picked up like a puppy
- Harness and leash for walking the pig
- Pet carrier for transporting

toys & treats

- Provide plenty of toys to keep your pig occupied-stuffed animals, balls, rawhides, squeaky toys, boxes with newspaper (for rummaging)
- Fruits and vegetables are a great treat for your pig as well as a good training tool

training

- Pigs respond best to kindness and treats-it needs to be a positive experience, not a power struggle

healthcare

Basics

- Many breeders recommend neutering of both genders at a young age if the owner does not wish to breed them. Many local laws also require licensed pet pigs to be neutered.
- Provide your pet pig with no more than a monthly shampoo. Too much shampooing or using dog, cat, or baby shampoo will cause your pig to have drier skin.
- Provide your pet pig with a monthly beauty check. Clean your pig's ears and treat for ear mites, if necessary. Trim your pig's hooves. Have the veterinarian trim your pig's tusks, if needed.

If you notice any of the following signs, consult a veterinarian:

- runny eyes/nose
- excessive snorting/wheezing
- diarrhea
- repeated vomiting
- swelling, sores, abrasions
- bloody stools
- lameness
- seizures
- emaciation/anorexia

