

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**The most important question to ask before you get a pig... *Is your home ZONED to keep a pig-pet?* (Also, check with your HOA as most DO NOT allow any Pig as a Pet!)**

**How long does a pig live?** *The question should be how long is my commitment to caring for a pig?* The answer is 15-20 years. The longest lived pig we know of is 22 years old! And if something should happen to you or your circumstance, are you prepared for a new home for your pig? 90% of houses are either not equipped or live in condos or just cannot handle the caring for a pet pig!

**Did you know an unspayed female pig goes into heat every 21 days?**

Potbelly Pigs, Potbellied Pigs, Mini or Teacup Pigs, whatever you call them, a pig is one of the most intelligent creatures on earth! Irresponsible backyard breeders are pushing these "cute little mini piglets" out for the pet trade without considering the consequences! We are not against responsible breeding for the pet trade, but we are pleading with breeders and owners to please spay or neuter your piglet! And while unwanted and abandoned piglets are overcrowding shelters, sanctuaries and rescue groups, we plead for a moratorium of pet pig breeding and ask... PLEASE DON'T BUY A PIGLET... ADOPT A PIGPET!

Piglets should not be sold before 8 weeks old and should be spayed and neutered as early as 6 weeks, so why are backyard breeders, pet shops and swap meets selling these piglets at 4-5 weeks old? Probably because they are so "cute" and it's an easy sell! Unfortunately, this causes more psychological problems in the years to come and sometimes misunderstood, these wonderful, loving animals end up without a forever home. And like puppies and kittens, they all GROW UP!

**As a pig owner, why should you spay or neuter your pig? Because all the pigs being given up or "dumped" are due to behavioral problems are not spayed or neutered! Fixing your pet pig eliminates hormonal behavioral problems and in females, uterine tumors are almost a given as they get older! The pushiness and aggressiveness in male pigs are almost totally eliminated! The few hundred dollars you spend when they are little will make them the best lifelong pet! Why wouldn't you? If that small cost is a factor, please ask yourself, "[Is a pig right for me?](#)"**

*How many animals were euthanized last year where you live? Rescue, Spay & Neuter!*

**In considering a pig as a pet, ask yourself, is there such a thing as a "[miniature pig](#)"?** So many pigpet owners buy a piglet thinking their little baby will grow up to be a little mini lap pig. Education is of the utmost importance before you get in over your head, please do your homework as all potbelly pigs are imported and the first potbelly pigs were somewhere between 200 - 250 lbs! The average size your potbelly can grow is between 75 - 150 lbs! 200 lbs is not uncommon though and your pig will grow (skeletal for about 2 years) but won't put their full weight on til about 3-5 years!

**Do you have access to potbelly pig pellets?** Make sure you have access to proper feed. Potbellies cannot live on dog food even though there are a lot of people feeding it. Pots cannot utilize the meat proteins in dog kibble and will get obese, even fat blind, making it just as cruel to the animal! Potbelly pigs do not have thalamus glands, so they don't know when they are full! It is up to you to control your pig's diet so they do not become obese!

**Do you have access to a pig veterinarian or a hoof/tusk trimmer?** A lot of areas do not have qualified people to help a pet pig so make sure you check around before getting a pig! Most pigs don't travel well as they get older, so is there mobile vets or trimmer available in your area?

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**Do I want a 3 year old child for 20 years?** Pigs are considered the 5th most intelligent creature, behind humans, primates, whales and dolphins. They have a thought process like a 3 year old. If you don't give them outside rooting time, they will root inside the house. If you tell them "no", it's like telling them to wait until I am not home! Pigs are always thinking so you will always have to be on your toes! You may need to childproof your home, pigs can open cabinets, refrigerator doors, move and upturn chairs and love to scratch on every corner they can find! Pigs need constant guidance from their "TOP PIG" and that would be you. Do you have the time commitment to be the "Top Pig"? A lot of people assume their pet pig will just be a follower. As a herd animal, there comes a point (we call it the terrible twos) where they want to be the dominant pig, are you prepared to direct that aggression? Pigs have very sharp teeth and in males, sharp tusks! If the upcoming aggression is not something you can handle, the pig will become top hog and then are you prepared for your pig to hurt you or someone else?

### **Are you prepared to be your pig's herd?**

Potbelly Pigs are herd animals and are also prey animals. They are considerably different than a dog as dogs are predators. What happens if you dog(s) don't get along with your new pig? Are you prepared to separate them? A lot of pigs don't get along with young children! The children have to be taught not to stick their hands in a pig's mouth and to move slowly around the pig. Pigs rely on their herd to keep them safe, so you are their safety. Are you prepared to protect them as it is instinctive for them to rely on you for protection! Pigs are very routine and it is up to you to keep the routine for your pig's sake!

**In considering a pig as a pet, ask yourself, should I buy versus adopt?** So many people, whether on purpose or accidental, breed potbelly pigs! Yes, they are cute when they are piglets, but ALL pigs grow up! Pigs can have up to 12 piglets per litter and because of their specific requirements, most cannot find a good permanent home. Please consider adopting before buying!

**Should I get two pigs?** If your zoning allows it, yes! Pigs health and happiness seems to be so much greater if they have company of their own kind! Plus, when you are busy with life, as we all get, they will have company! Pigs love to root together, eat together, fight together and sleep together! Just like siblings, they love to have the company even though there maybe occasional bickering! Just make sure they are spayed and/or neutered as again, PIGS DO NOT MAKE GOOD PETS, no matter how many you have, if they are not fixed!

**Do you have additional questions?** Yes, of course, we cannot explain every aspect of what can or may happen once your bring your pig home. But, we can guide you on specific areas in your yard you may want to fence off (out of bounds zones) where to put a piggy pool, yes they need access to water to drink and to cool off in! Does my pig need sunscreen? Pigs, unlike most other animals get sunburned, so do you have enough shade for them? Is it possible to put in a piggy door? There are so many specialized needs of pigs to be great pets, but once you are able to fulfill that, there is no greater companion animal than a pet pig!

**VegasPigPets' ultimate goal is to guide and educate owners on caring for and making the happiest, healthiest pet potbelly pigs one can own! With the economy as it is and sanctuaries overflowing, there are just not enough homes for our special pets! Please educate yourself and ask for our help so we have one less pigpet to find a new home for! One day, with proper education and responsible breeding, there won't be a need for VegasPigPets and any other number of rescue organizations and sanctuaries across the nation!**

**Please feel free to email any questions or concerns to [info@vegaspigpets.org](mailto:info@vegaspigpets.org).**