

## Keeping pigs as a pets



We feel that informed pig owners make loving and responsible owners so we encourage you to do lots of research and to meet our pigs before you buy.

It's especially important to be realistic about the size of a miniature pig. For this reason we encourage potential buyers to visit our tourist attraction in Devon to interact with and view Pennywell Miniature pigs of all ages. If you decide to go ahead and buy we'll deduct your admission from the price (maximum of 2 Adults and 2 children).

### **Considerations**

While you may view a pig as a pet, legally they are farmed animals and so subject to the same regulation as pigs kept as commercial livestock.

Potential owners should consider whether they have the time, finances, facilities and access to suitable veterinary care required to meet a pigs needs. As well as the ability to comply with the legislation that surrounds pig keeping.

### **Welfare**

Pigs are highly intelligent, social animals so enrichment is an integral part of their care. Consider giving your pig toys such as durable dog toys and providing the opportunity to forage.

Due to their social nature we would strongly recommend keeping Pennywell Miniature pigs in pairs and taming them to facilitate interaction.

## **Walking**

Walking is a great way to keep pigs fit and happy. To do this you must first obtain a Pig Walking Licence from your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Pigs cannot be walked in Scotland.

## **Food**

Our pigs are fed on Sow Nuts which you can buy from any good farm supplier. A moderate handful morning and night is all that is required and they enjoy fruit and veg as a treat. Foraging is a natural pig behaviour and should be encouraged by scattering a small quantity of their food. Please be aware that it is illegal to feed pigs any food waste or scraps.

Your pig will need access to a constant supply of clean fresh drinking water and a miniature pig will drink up to 5 litres a day!

## **Housing**

Pigs require dry, well ventilated draught free housing and dry bedding, straw laid over concrete is best. We recommend a minimum area 6mx6m for your pig which should be securely fenced. You will need to clean housing daily but pigs are naturally clean and will usually only toilet in one area.

Your pig should be free to exhibit its natural behaviour, it will need opportunities to forage and wallow in order to keep cool.

Young piglets are vulnerable to the elements and other threats, so we recommend they are kept in a secure, warm space for the first few months.

## **General care**

Your pig will require some skin care as their skin is similar to ours, if they are out in the sun they must have shade and sun screen. You should also rub pig oil on them as necessary to keep their skin supple.

Worming regime and products should be given on the advice of your vet.

If your pig requires veterinary treatment then a farm vet will likely come to you or consult over the phone. If it becomes necessary for the pig to be transported to a practice you must record and report the movement.

## **Medical records**

Pig owners are legally required to keep a record of any veterinary medicines purchased or administered to your pig(s)