

Together, We Can End Pet Pig Homelessness

Keeping Pet Pigs Safe. Pigs can make a wonderful pet, but they aren't the right pet for everyone. Due to the challenges pig owners experience during 3 months to 12 months of age, adolescent pigs run a high risk of being abandoned or taken to a shelter. Some pig owners are taken by surprise with the normal maturation, behavior and needs of the younger pig. Others are so wrapped up in how cute and adorable their new pig is that they let their pig get away with anything their heart desires. Adolescence can be a trying time for the pet pig owner. Eventually the adolescent pig will mature from their teenage period and move on to adulthood. The time you spend training your pig during this period will provide you pleasure for years to come.

In all situations the unfamiliar dog is the one to be concerned about. The pet pig should be provided a secure fenced area that will protect them from the dangers of a stray dog. When you are out in the public or at someone else's home, where you are not sure how the dog will act, it is wise to have a good pig harness and lead on the pig. At the first sign of aggression behavior or too rough "playing" by the dog, the pet pig needs to be removed from the dog's presence. The harness and lead will help the pet owner do this. An aggressive situation can turn badly very quickly, so it is better to be overly cautious than ignore the possibility of a hurt or killed pet pig.

Looking for a Pet Pig to bring into your Family? Owning a pig can either be the beginning of a wonderful addition to your family or an overwhelming responsibility for which you may not be fully prepared. Since this is a long term relationship, it is wise to ask yourself a few questions to determine if you are ready to become a pet pig parent. Be sure to spend the time you need to totally do your homework on how a pig fits into your family. There are sources to look into while learning more about the pet pig, the internet, books, talking to other pet pig owners, and pig rescues. All of these will give insight and information before adopting a pet pig from a pig rescue. Think about your community. Does your community have pet pig restrictions? Contact your local animal control or city hall to make certain that your city has an ordinance allowing pet pigs. Many communities have restrictions, which include the pig's size, numbers, spay / neuter requirements, the size of your yard, and if the pig is registered by a recognized pet pig registry. Think about your home. Do you have a fenced outside area that will allow your pig outside time and space? Is your home arranged so that your pig can have their own place so that can easily be blocked off, if necessary? All pigs need somewhere they call their own if the household becomes too active. Analyze your lifestyle. Are you gone a lot? Who will watch your pig? They do not do well when left alone for long periods of time without attention. If you travel often and you don't have the time to give to your pig you might want to consider adopting a different type of pet. Do you have the time necessary to properly train your pig? It is very important that you train your pig from the very first moment. This can be fun and challenging experience. Pet pig have amazingly high IQs and need stimulation from those around them. Most pig get into trouble because their owners do not provide them proper training and stimulation they need to live happily in their home. If you do not have the time to spend in training your pig, then a pig is not the right pet for you.

From the very beginning, zoning has been an issue for pet pigs, as the different communities across the nation have looked at city ordinances. When the pigs first arrived in this country, in the mid-1980s, they were zoned out of almost every community. Gradually many cities and townships have addressed the potbellied pigs as a pet within the city limits. In various locations it is required that the pigs be registered by a recognized potbellied pig registry and be neutered or spayed to be kept as a pet within

the city. Some owners think a pig who has been spayed or neutered will have issues during surgery. This is a misconception. The main reason pigs need to be spayed or neutered is to keep them healthy and happy and reduce over population. In 1987 there were, by most estimated, 300 potbellied pigs; in 1993 it is estimated that there were more than 20,000. In 2002 there were 35,000 registered purebred potbellied pigs and an estimated 200,000 unregistered pigs in the United States. Everyone wants one and everyone wants one now.