

Potbellied Pig Origins

The common belief is that most pot-bellied pigs in the United States are descendants of Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs that were introduced to the US in 1985. Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **Origins of Vietnam:** The pot-bellied pig is a domesticated pig "breed" that comes from Southeast Asia. Specifically, they are generally associated with Vietnam. The Vietnamese Potbelly Pig is not technically a breed, but a local type.
- **Introduction to the US:** Keith Connell imported the first pot-bellied pigs to North America from Canada in 1985. He intended to supply them with zoos. In 1986, the first potbellies were sold into the U/S.
- **Early Lines:** The pot-bellied pigs in the U.S. can be traced back to a few lines: The Con Line, the Lea Line, and the Royal Line.
- **Con Line:** Keith Connell imported the "Con Line" to the U.S. from Canada in 1982. These pigs were originally for zoological purposes. By today's standards, they were relatively large (60 to 80 kg - 132 pounds to 176 pounds), all black, and wrinkled, particularly around the head and face.
- **Lea Line:** The "Lea Line" was imported by Leavitt and had a gentle disposition with white and black markings. They were also somewhat smaller.
- **Royal Line:** The "Royal Line" was imported by Espberger. These pigs were mostly white and somewhat larger than the Lea Line.
- **Crossbreeding:** The variety of potbellied pigs seen in America today is likely a result of crossbreeding different local types of Vietnamese pigs.
- **Not a true breed:** Pot-bellied pigs are not a single, specific breed but rather a "breed type". This means they share a common characteristic but can look quite different from one another.
- **Popularity as Pets:** Pot-bellied pigs became popular as pets because of their smaller size compared to farmyard pigs, their intelligence, and their ability to bond with humans.