



California Potbellied Pig Association

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a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



Big Facts About Micro/Mini Pigs:

Many breeders promise potential mini pig owners that they have finally created that mythical, truly tiny pet pig. It is not true.



This "myth" has been going on for over

20 years and despite all the obvious facts and examples to the contrary, people are still shocked when their pet pig outgrows their expectations.

Male pigs can breed at a few months old and females can carry a litter at half a year, but they aren't yet full grown.

A mini pig can be under 30 lbs at one year, but 150 lbs at 5 years, which is average. There is no way to know how big or small a mini pig will be until it is full grown at 3 to 5 years of age.

The weight does not make them bad pets, but a big pig comes with more challenges.

A 25 lb pig can be easily carried down stairs or into a car, but a 100+ lb pig is less manageable.



You have to adapt your house and lifestyle for any pet, but a large pig can be a real challenge.

Mini pigs should not be kept in apartments or only indoors. Pigs need outdoor time. Preferably with some dirt to root in.

Pet mini pigs can bring you great joy, but for people less willing or able to adapt, a large pet pig can bring grief and heartache.



By adopting a rescued adult mini pig you will be more certain of its true size.

PLEASE do research before "buying" a teacup/micro/mini pig!

Please go to our web site:
www.CPPA4Pigs.org
for more information.

CALIFORNIA POTBELLED PIG ASSOCIATION

CPPA is dedicated to the support of the companion potbellied pig.

We strive to share ideas, experiences and information which will benefit pigs and their guardians so they may live happy and satisfying lives together.

We work with people and animal shelters to find new homes for unwanted or abandoned potbellied pigs.



Membership is open to anyone with an interest in pet potbellied pigs. To join our emailing list, please send your name, email address, and your city, state and/or country to:

info@CPPA4pigs.org

Are potbellied pigs legal pets in my area?

The most important thing for you to know about potbellied pigs has nothing to do with their care. It is whether you can legally keep a potbellied pig at your home.

Start by asking at city hall or your county zoning offices.

If you are told they are illegal, ask for a copy of the ordinance. Often there is none. The person behind the desk just assumes potbellied pigs are illegal.

If you are told they are legal, ask for a copy of that ordinance. There may be restrictions that you will need to know about, and having your own copy of the ordinance may prove useful if you get a potbellied pig.

Three ways you can proceed:

1 If there are no ordinances at all (including swine ordinances), you are probably safe.

Keep your neighbors friendly, keep fences in repair and your gates locked. Don't get too many animals of any type. Keep your animal areas clean and picked up daily. Be sensitive to odors in your yard (your pigs will be unfairly blamed for any smells).

It is easier to defend dogs, miniature goats, miniature horses, etc. than it is to defend having potbellied pigs as pets. It may be completely unfair, but history has spent a lot of time vilifying these wonderful, intelligent animals.



2 If there are ordinances allowing potbellied pig ownership, beware of any restrictions placed on this ownership: property size, permit or license requirements, zoning, number of pigs, size of pigs, etc.

Sometimes an ordinance permitting potbellied pigs can be worse than no ordinance at all.

Many of these ordinances are based on a very old poorly written specification of the North American Potbellied Pig Association that stated a proper potbellied pig should weigh less than 100 lbs. What this specification failed to mention is that it was referring to pigs under one year of age. In truth, any potbellied pig can reach 200 lbs and not be overweight. Most will be 100 to 150 lbs. If your pig is not at least five years old, it may not be fully grown.

These ordinances may also restrict the number of pigs to one. Pigs are herd animals and often do better as pets with at least one partner.



3 If ordinances exist that expressly prohibit potbellied pigs or even swine, you should probably not get a potbellied pig. Sometimes the swine laws are very old, but potbellied pigs are swine.

You could try to change the law before getting a potbellied pig. You can do this through your local city/county offices and council meetings.

This could be very involved but well worth the effort if you want to share your life with a pet potbellied pig. If the ordinance only forbids livestock, an argument can be made that potbellied pigs are not livestock. The USDA considers potbellied pigs to be pets. They do not consider them to be livestock.

Situations have occurred where police, animal control officers, zoning officials, etc. have come to homes demanding the removal of pet potbellied pigs only to find out that they had no legal standing to do so. Always demand to see an ordinance. Even better, know if one exists in advance before ever putting you or your pet potbellied pig in this situation.