



FACT SHEET - PIGS

It is not unknown for people to keep pigs such as the Vietnamese Pot-Bellied, Gloucester Old Spot, Kune Kune and Tamworth as a type of pet.

This may be fine if you have a smallholding, but they are not house pets. Weighing in at anything from 35-70kg or more they are very strong and intelligent animals. Owning and caring for a pig requires a great deal of commitment, knowledge and land on which to house the animal not forgetting compliance with legislation governing the keeping and movement of pigs.



Pigs Need

- An area for rooting and foraging in the earth
- Warm, dry, draught-free, straw-bedded accommodation
- Adequate cover during the day to shelter from the sun
- Companionship of other pigs
- Strong fencing
- Commercially prepared pig food (it is illegal to feed any waste food to pigs. This includes meat, bones, blood, offal, or other part of the carcase of any livestock or of any poultry, or product derived from or hatchery waste or eggs or egg shells, table/kitchen scraps or any food product which has come in to contact with any of these items)
- Fresh drinking water available at all times
- Feet regularly trimmed

Pig Health

- Pigs can suffer with scaly skin. Baby or vegetable oil should be rubbed on the skin to prevent dryness
- Sunburn is a problem especially to light coloured pigs
- Conjunctivitis caused by inverted eyelids and lashes should be treated by a vet
- Any lameness should be checked by a vet
- Regular vaccinations against parvovirus, clostridial infection and various parasites such as mange, lungworm and lice

Pig Facts

- Average lifespan is 5 - 10 years but can be more
- Check with DEFRA for regulations concerning pigs

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.