

# All about

# Pigs

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# Pigs

#### Introduction

Throughout the years, pork has been a meat that has been widely consumed..
The pork industry has escalated due to advancements in feed and exercise tactics.
Today, pigs are used as show animals, pets, and raised for meat products.
Regardless of what your needs are, there is a pig that is just right for you.

## **General Description**

Pigs have certain characteristics that need to be observed to be considered a good hog. These characteristics are:

- Conformation the pig should have a long frame and lots of muscle.
- Muscle their overall muscle pattern should be long, thick, and smooth.
- Fat there should be a small amount of fat in each pig, but if there is too much, the pig will not be worth anything.
- Structural correctness pigs should have a structure that allows them to move without any trouble.
- Balance a pig's body parts should be balanced on each side (e.g., shoulders should be even in height on both sides).

# Selecting your Pig

When you begin shopping for a new hog, you need to make sure that breed, size and quality are all taken into consideration. You also want to make sure that the price you pay is not too high for the animal. If you intend to use the pig in show competitions, then you need to make sure that it meets all the breed standards.





Automatic Waterer



**Feed Bucket** 

- Equipment for Your Piq
- Supplements for Your Pig



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#### A Few Words about Breeders

When purchasing or obtaining a pig, you want to make sure that the animal is free of disease and has been well taken cared of, especially if the animal is to be exhibited. Also, if you are putting the pig in with others, you want to make sure that your new addition does not carry any diseases. Buying a hog from a registered breeder is the safest way to get an animal that is healthy and fairly well taken cared of. Breeders take the time to have the animals tested. They have them treated if signs of infection do show up. And they make sure that the rest of the litter(s) is not contaminated.

#### A Few Words about Auctions

Buying a hog from an auction or auction house is a practice that is looked down upon by many people. Auction houses do not require that animals be tested; therefore, you run the risk of taking home pigs that have diseases. By the time the signs show up, the rest of the pigs could already be infected. Auction houses are not recommended places to buy an animal even if it is usually the cheapest.

# Preparing for your Pig

When bringing the pig home, you should make sure that everything is set up before it arrives. The first thing you should make sure you have is an adequate area to house it. In the housing area, the pig needs both a sleeping area and an area for him to play in. You also need to fence the area where the pig will be housed, not only to keep him in but to keep other animals out.

Other items you will need when bringing the hog home is feed and water. Pigs like to root and roll in mud and dirt, so try to find a spot that has this type of conditions.



**Galvanized Feed Pan** 



Flexible Shaft



**Hog Ringer** 



**Fence Feeder** 

You'll need these basics before your Pig comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- Fly Control
- Feed Storage
- Fencing





# Care and Feeding

#### **Pig Feeding**

Pigs must be given certain nutrients daily to remain healthy and grow properly. These daily requirements include water, protein, minerals, and vitamins. Water is the single most important thing in an animal's diet, especially during the summer months. Water must be given at least once a day. Carbohydrates and fat are also essential to a pig's growth. These nutrients help pigs maintain body temperature and enhance muscular movements. Proteins help the hog to build muscles, hair, and tissue, while making him stronger. Minerals also help to make the hog stronger. The minerals help to build strong bones and teeth, and promote good muscle tone.

#### Pig Health Care

To keep your pig healthy, you need to make regular observations of the animal and keep an eye out for signs of diseases. If your pig starts to show signs of sickness, you need to get in touch with your veterinarian as soon as possible.

#### **Pig Containment**

Pigs need to have a shelter to go to especially when the weather turns bad or is very hot. A pig's containment needs to be cool in the summer and warm in the winter, but still allows fresh air and sunlight to come in. Inside the containment, there needs to be materials provided for bedding. These materials can be made of shavings or straws. The containment that the pig is to sleep in should be 8 square feet and each exercise lot should be 6-15 square feet for each pig. The area needs to be fenced in with strong materials to hold the pig as it grows. Gates and doors should also be securely locked and easy to open and close.

#### **Medical Considerations**

Hogs are a species that can easily carry disease or infection back to the rest of its group. Some of the common problems that hogs experience include anemia, erysipelas, parvovirus, pseudo rabies, swine flu, roundworms, and whipworms. There are a number of vaccinations that can be given to pigs to help prevent some of these conditions.

# **Necessary Items**

Pigs are animals that do not require a lot of equipment, unless you choose to show them. The most needed requirements of pigs are food and water. They also enjoy table scraps. They also must have a fenced area and shelter to accommodate them. In addition, feeds and medications should be kept at hand. You will also need to have a means to transport your animal if you need to travel with it, usually a well-sized trailer will do.



**Wormer** 



Treatment for Pneumonia



<u>lodine</u> <u>Spray</u>



### **Popular Products for Your Pig**

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- Rechargable Prod Handle
- Roundworm Treatment
- Push Button Water Bowl
- PLE+B Vaccine



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Pink Eye Vaccine



Baby Pig Feeder



Submersible De-Icer



Antibiotic Ointment



Heated Plastic Tub

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