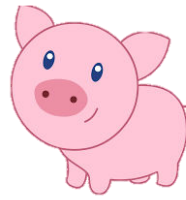


Pig Care and Management



Dedicated to the health of your business...

Housing and Field Management

Fencing must be strong, robust, and well maintained to prevent escapees and injuries, and provide protection from wild animals. Electric fencing can be useful as it can be easily moved as required.

You must provide shelter for your pigs which protects from rain, cold and wind; and shade from the sun.

Housing of a minimum of 36 sq m is required per pig. This must be draught free, without sudden changes in temperature, and is warm and dry bedded. Floors must be smooth but not slippery, and there should be no wires or sharp edges accessible within reach. Pigs should be kept in at least pairs.

Pigs are inquisitive and curious animals and need appropriate environmental enrichment with toys (as long as they are well secured and pig proof) to keep them entertained!

You must be registered with the local DEFRA animal health and veterinary laboratories agency (AHVLA) office, and be issued with a holding (CPH) number. You must also tell the APHA that you have pigs, within 30 days of them arriving and the pigs must be able to be identified if they had to be moved off your holding.

Walking your pig

If you wish to take your pig outside your home or premises, you will have to get a yearly licence from you APHA for the desired route. The route may not be approved if it presents a possible health risk, such as passing close to a livestock market or pig farm or fast food restaurant. You must always have your licence with you whilst walking your pig.

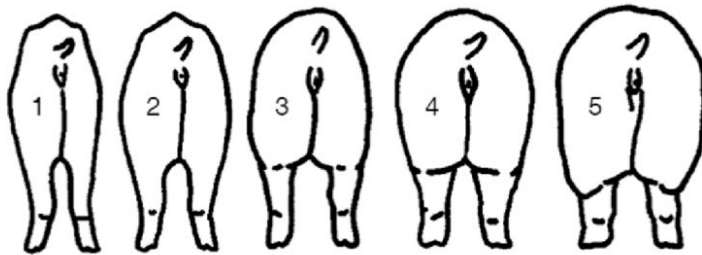
Feeding

A pig specific feed should be fed in several small meals (at least 2) per day and fed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines, with enough trough space for all pigs to eat at the same time. This will provide all the nutrients they require; however they will also enjoy earthworms, apples, grass and brambles from foraging in their pen.

Body Condition Scoring

We use body condition scoring to rate how thin or fat an animal is. We use a scale of 1-5. To body condition score,

This is a good way of monitoring how much extra feed your pigs may need or whether they need a bit of a diet! We recommend pet pigs to have a BCS of 2.5 – 3.5.



Score	Condition	Detection of ribs, backbone, "H" bones, and "pin" bones
1	Emaciated	Obvious
2	Thin	Easily detected with pressure
3	Ideal	Barely felt with firm pressure
4	Fat	None
5	Overly fat	None

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Body-condition-scoring-system-utilized-in-the-Common-Swine-Industry-Audit-standards_fig2_313961377

Handling

Pigs are intelligent and can be trained (with food!) rather similar to a dog. It is strongly advised you have a way of adequately handling and restraining your pigs, which will be very beneficial for any vet visits and make preventive health care much easier for you. A clean, dry, concreted area with corners and some pig boards are very useful for us to examine your pigs. Please discuss with a vet if you have any questions.

Vaccination

It is advised for your pigs to be vaccinated against certain diseases, including: Erysipelas (every 6 months), Parvovirus, Escherichia coli, Clostridial infections. Please contact us for further advise on this.

Worming

Growing pigs should be wormed at 8 weeks old then every 2 months until maturity and then every 6 months after that. This is however, dependent on the land and if you are breeding your pigs. Please contact us for further advise on this and the best product to use.

Other

It's a good idea to keep a diary/calendar or a book to help plan and record management and treatment of you pigs. For any medication, you should record:

- **Name of the animal treated**
- **Name of the product/drug**
- **Dosage**
- **Batch number and expiry date**

You can also use this book to keep a record of vaccinations and body condition scores.

If you are at all concerned about your animals please call us, we have a **vet available on the phone 24/7** to help you in an emergency or offer advice.

We are happy to teach you any skills you may need such as injecting, please just ask!

If you are planning on breeding **please let the practice know**. It is a very exciting time but also requires planning, preparation and equipment so it is best to chat with a vet and we can write a breeding programme for you.

Please contact us on:

Office 01844 260616

thame@norcalvets.co.uk