



CARE SHEET FOR POTBELLY PIGS

Nutrition

When you get your baby potbelly pig, I suggest feeding him Mazuri Potbelly Pig food for Youth. The instructions are on the bag and depend on weight and age. If your piglet does not want to eat the pellets when you get home, you can soak them in some fruit flavored Gerber baby food or Gerber baby cereal until the piglet is eating and then wean to straight pellets. I suggest feeding one bag of the Youth potbelly pig food and then start feeding the Adult/Maintenance type.

For treats, I recommend any fruit or vegetable. My pigs love carrots, green beans, pumpkins, watermelons, bananas, grapes and lots of others. For training and special treats I give Cheerios or other types of cereal. They also love vanilla wafers for treats. Anything that is good or low fat or calorie for us is good for them.

Do not feed commercial pig food or corn to your potbelly pig. Both of these are fed to pigs to fatten them up, which is not what you want for your potbelly.

Preventative Health

I recommend deworming your pigs four times a year. I alternate between Panacur and Ivomec dewormers and apply them to a small piece of bread. Pigs of course will root in the ground where worm eggs are so it is very important to deworm them. Unless you raise or are around domestic pigs on a farm, you do not need to vaccinate your potbellies. I also recommend spaying and neutering your potbellies at around 4 to 6 weeks of age. Spaying or neutering your pigs makes them much better pets. I also recommend keeping your pig's hooves trimmed if they are on a walking surface in which they do not get worn down. When your pig is young play with its feet often and get it use to trimming. If your potbelly needs a bath, use Johnson and Johnson Baby Shampoo. If your potbelly gets dry skin (which is very common), give it a fish oil capsule daily. Potbellies also love to have toys to root around and stimulate their activity.

I carry the dewormers at my clinic, Flanary Veterinary Clinic. I also see many potbelly pigs in my practice in case you have any problems. If I can ever help in any way, please do not hesitate to email me at drflanary@yahoo.com or visit my websites at www.flanarysakefarm.com and www.flanaryvet.com