**Pet Pig Husbandry Recommendations**

Courtesy of:

**Cotati Large Animal Hospital**

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**Diet:**

* Always use commercial diets formulated for pet pigs. Mazuri is a well trusted and researched brand. You should follow the feeding instructions on the feed label. Typically, for weight maintenance this is 3 cups of feed per 50lbs of body weight per day. Depending on their body condition this may need to be adjusted up or down.
* High water content vegetables such as carrots, celery, or cucumbers are the best treats to give to pet pigs. Try to avoid fresh fruits that have a high sugar content. Be cautious to use fruits sparingly and only as a high reward treat. Be sure to remove the pits and slice produce into small pieces to avoid choking and stomach obstructions.

**Feeding Frequency:**

* Several small meals at least 2-3 times a day. Try to use a slow feeder bowl/food toys, or spread their feed along the ground to increase meal time and exercise. The more activity you can create for them, the better.

**Routine Care:**

**Vaccines:**

* **Rhini Shield: (Bordetella, Pasteurella, Erysipelas)** 1st dose at 4-6 weeks old, booster 3-6 weeks later, and then final vaccine at 1 year old. Booster annually
* **Parvo Shield: (Erysipelas, Leptospirosis, Parvovirus):** Recommended if you plan to breed.\*Talk to your veterinarian to determine a plan\*
* **Tetanus:** Annually
* **Rabies:** If desired. We recommend if your pig will be around children, dogs, or wildlife.

**Deworming:**

* + We recommend fecal exams every 6 months or more frequently if there are any concerns. This allows us to assess the parasite burden and to determine if treatment is necessary. Worming may be needed if signs of external parasites, such as mites, are seen. These signs include crusting on the body especially around the ears and between the legs. **\*Talk to your veterinarian about what dewormer would be appropriate for your pig\***

**Tusk and Hoof Trimming:**

* + We recommend tusk and hoof trims every 6-12 months. Depending on the activity of your pot belly pig, hoof trims may need to be done more frequently. Routine hoof care can help prevent lameness and increase you pig’s longevity.

**Common Medical Problems:**

* + Inappetence/Lethargy
	+ Constipation
	+ Gastrointestinal obstructions
	+ Obesity leading to arthritis and fat blindness
	+ Pneumonia
	+ Foxtails