

# For Your Information

Courtesy Of:

## Cotati Large Animal Hospital

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## Pot Bellied Pig Husbandry Recommendations

**Feeding:** Always use commercial diets formulated for pot bellied pigs and don't substitute with diets meant for commercial hogs.

Feed about ½ cup of feed for every 25lbs of body weight split into two feedings (morning and night). Depending on their body condition this may need to be adjusted up or down. Fresh fruits and vegetables can be used to make up a portion of this. Be sure to remove the stones from fruit and slice firm produce into small pieces so the pig does not choke.

**Sick animals:** The most common illness that this hospital encounters is decreased appetite and activity (lethargy). We are also asked about vomiting, coughing and high temperatures (greater than 103). We are available 24/7 for advice if any of these occur.

**Vaccines:** The number one rule in pot bellied pig disease prevention is to avoid contact with other pigs, especially commercial pigs. Diseases tend to spread very easily between pigs and they tend to have a high morbidity and mortality rate.

**BPE (Bordatella, Pasturella, Erysipelas)** vaccine at 12 wks, booster 3-6 wks later, booster again at 1year old and then the last vaccine at 2 years old. If your animal will be changing its environment (i.e. moving or introducing a new pig), then a booster is recommended at least 2 weeks before the change occurs.

**Worming:** Administration of deworming medication is only recommended if your regular veterinarian suspects internal or external parasitism. We suggest fecal exams every 3 to 6 months for the first year of owning the pig, then annually. This will allow the veterinarian to assess the parasite burden on your pet 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.

**Recommended Routine Veterinary Care:** Feet and teeth care are the maintenance procedures we usually only need to address this every 6-12 months. Generally Pot Bellied pigs are very low maintenance, and have an average lifespan of 12-18 years.