

EMERGENCIES

Are you prepared for an emergency or worse ... the end of your pig's life? Do you know where 24-hour veterinary care is in your area, so in an emergency you can take your pigs there at any hour? Will they work on potbellied pigs? Second, do you have a vehicle that is high enough for a animal crate, preferably a "Giant" ("700") crate especially if you have larger pigs? Do you have helpers to load your pig to take it to the vet if needed? Transportation is the first thing you need to think about.

Do you know how to load your pig into a crate? If your pig is not accustomed to being crated and can run from you, do you have sorting boards or animal exercise pens handy to help corral the pig to where you need the pig to go in order to get your pig into the crate?

If you do not have the equipment you'll need, do you have the ability to borrow it at any time, day or night? Do you have a plan of what you will do when/if your pig gets sick? Figure it out NOW, don't wait? Find out from who you can borrow a crate or vehicle, call any/all of the vets in your area that might provide you 24-hour emergency care, even if just antibiotics. Can or will you give injections to your pig?

Now, what will you do if your pig is so old it can no longer walk, if it is suffering and needs to be euthanized? Do you have a mobile vet who will come to your house to euthanize your pig? Will they take the body for you? Do you want your pig cremated and ashes returned to you? Have you found a crematorium that will even cremate a pig, many will not.

Also are you prepared for natural disasters? Some of these disasters may come with some warning and some may not. What they all share in common is that most of your local disaster workers (police, fire, medical) will probably be at least temporarily overwhelmed, and you will be to some extent "on your own" possibly for weeks. Something to keep in mind is that if you have some warning as with wild fires and often flooding, don't wait until the last minute to gather and restrain your animals. Even the tamest animal will probably act quite different when heat, smoke and roaring flames are bearing down on them. They better already be in the horse trailers, animal crates and vehicles, and you should have already been gone before the danger arrives. A foot of water in your yard may not be a problem for you, but your potbellied pig will find it quite upsetting. In the event of an earthquake, do you have a fenced area or the ability to create a fenced area in your yard where you can contain your pets if your home is uninhabitable. Do you keep a supply of extra food and water at all times for your animals (and you), or do you wait until you run out to buy another bag of pig feed?

Do you have a plan for your pets if your home is destroyed or damaged? Can you transport your pets to safety? It is a great idea to have a small camper trailer readily accessible and full of emergency supplies, including pet food. Do you have the capacity to live in it or haul it full of your pets to safety if needed? Realize that any steps you take NOW to be better prepared for emergencies with your pets and even your family, will make it much easier when emergencies occur.

~ excerpts from CPPA's website: <https://www.cppa4pigs.org/emergencies.html>