

PIGGY VET INFO

We strongly recommend you take your pig to someone who sees potbellied pigs regularly

Questions to ask vets when looking for a vet for your potbellied pig:

1. What is the Vet's experience with potbellied pigs? How many potbellied pig owners has the Vet had as clients?
2. Does the Vet make house calls? If "yes," what is the Vet's house call fee?
3. If the answer to #2 is "yes," how far is the Vet willing to travel from his/her base?
4. Is the Vet familiar with trimming hooves and tusks of potbellied pigs? Have the Vet explain his/her procedure.
5. If above is "yes," what is the Vet's charge for trimming hooves and tusks of potbellied pigs?
6. Does the Vet perform surgery, including spaying and neutering of potbellied pigs? Have the Vet explain his/her procedure.
7. Is the Vet familiar with the necessary yearly vaccinations needed of potbellied pigs? Ask the Vet the names of the vaccinations.
8. Is the owner allowed to stay with their animal at all times while being treated? You should always be allowed to stay with your pig when getting shots, having surgery or when awaking from surgery. **HOWEVER:** the anxiety level of most pets, pigs included, is much higher when owners are around. This results in fighting the anesthetic agents, struggling to 'stay awake,' and again struggling significantly more during recovery. These situations can lead to serious injuries for the pets, and not to mention it is very stressful for both pet and owner!
9. Does the Vet listen when you have questions or offer advice or information? If the answer to this question is No, **FIND ANOTHER VET!**
10. What would the Vet do, in the event the animal bit him? What would be his/her reaction, i.e., want to destroy the animal to test for rabies? Notify authorities? What would be his/her reaction?
11. Does the Vet have plans to move out of the area or retire anytime soon? Does the Vet have a back-up vet who can specialize in the treatment of potbellied pigs in case of his/her absence, such as moving out of the area, retirement, illness or vacations?
12. Can the Vet disclose reference information of potbellied pig owners he/she has had as clients. Ask if you can contact them.
13. If the Vet does not treat potbellied pigs, ask if the Vet would be interested in furthering a specialty in potbellied pigs. SCAMPP can supply resources that would be helpful in training and educating him/her in this area.
14. Is the Vet interested coming to one/some of SCAMPP's meetings as a guest speaker and/or writing articles for the SCAMPP newsletter?

Helpful tips when your pig needs a vet:

A well-trained and prepared pig will be much more likely to cooperate with any procedures that your vet deems necessary. The training time prior to the visit to the vet is time well spent so that your pet will experience as little stress and pain possible.

Pre Office Visit Training:

- ♥ Make certain your pig can be lifted and held easily
- ♥ Train your pet pig to go into a kennel, so the ride in the car will be a safe one
- ♥ Touch your pig all over - inside his/her ears, his/her hooves, under his/her tail and stomach - because your vet will be doing this during a physical examination
- ♥ Make sure your pig is used to being rubbed or scratched vigorously on the neck and behind the ears since this is an action the vet might do while giving an injection

At The Vet Office:

- ♥ Interview your prospective vet to determine his experience with the potbellied pig and his interest in learning more about your pig's care
- ♥ Obtain references, if possible, and talk to them about their experience with the prospective vet
- ♥ Visit your prospective vet with your pet pig prior to any emergency situation and have your prospective vet do a "well" checkup for your pig
- ♥ Evaluate your prospective vet as to the manner in which he/she relates to and handles your pet pig
- ♥ Take treats and have your vet offer a few as a friendly introduction
- ♥ Take a rubber mat or rug for your pig to stand on, thus providing better footing on the slick cold exam table or floor
- ♥ Follow your vet's instruction should the stress to you or your pig become too great during exam
- ♥ Do not allow anyone to lift your pig up by his/her stomach or by his/her legs

Should Your Pig Need To Stay Overnight:

- ♥ Travel with extra bedding and a plastic bag should your pig have an accident in the car
- ♥ Take your pig's familiar bedding for your pig to have while staying at the vet office over-night
- ♥ Check the temperature of the location in which he/she will be housed - make sure you or the vet can provide a heat lamp or a fan if necessary
- ♥ Reward your pig with a very special treat after the visit to his/her vet