



Herd This?



Volume 6, Issue 1

April 2017

Don't forget to call our office at (910) 655-2442 and set up appointments for:

- Pregnancy checks for fall calving herds
- Herd Health Evaluations for sheep/goats and cattle
- Herd Vaccination Ordering and Deworming Recommendations
- Potbelly Pig Appointments

Contact us via e-mail at: pineviewveterinary@gmail.com

Inside this issue:

- Potbelly Pig 101 2
(Feeding, Housing, What's normal)
- Potbelly Pig 101 3
(Vet Care)
- Monthly Herd Checks for Sheep & Goats 4

MEET OUR NEW VET

Leslie Jarrett, DVM



It has been a wonderful 7 months so far and I cannot thank you enough for welcoming me into the Pineview Veterinary Hospital Family! I continue to enjoy meeting all of you and your critters! Thank you for being so gracious, kind and helpful. You have made my transition to Pineview go smoothly and I love getting to work with and for you.

I grew up outside of Raleigh, NC and was very active in a 4-H horse club. I headed to Clemson University for undergrad and during this time started showing sheep and working on cows. I graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor's in Animal and Veterinary Sciences (and a minor in Athletic Leadership). Following this, I headed to North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine from which I graduated in May 2015. Following graduation, I continued at NC State working as the Ruminant Health Intern, finishing in June 2016. During veterinary school, I also completed veterinary chiropractic training through ACES and passed my certification exam in October 2015 to be an AVCA (American Veterinary Chiropractic Association) certified veterinary chiropractor. My professional interests include bovine, small ruminant and equine internal medicine and herd health.

When not working, you can find me spending time with my husband, David and super friendly cat, Lily. I enjoy volunteering for 4-H and Special Olympics Equestrian. I love to read, journal and hope to grow tomatoes in my backyard this summer.

SOMETIMES YOU CAN TRUST GOOGLE

The internet has a lot of information, sometimes helpful but not always. Here are a couple of our favorite online resources for Small Ruminant & Pig information:

- American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control: <http://www.wormx.info/>
All you ever wanted to know about goats/sheep & parasite control and more!
- Cornell—Common Small Ruminant Diseases and Fact Sheets:
<https://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/programs/NYSCHAP/modules/smallruminant/facts.cfm>
- American Mini Pig Association: <http://americanminipigassociation.com/>
Full of helpful articles, resources and forums related to miniature pigs
- Iowa State University—Swine Disease Manual: <https://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/about/production-animal-medicine/swine/swine-disease-manual/index-diseases>
Quick reference for most swine diseases in production and pet pigs

Most websites that end in .edu or are associated with cooperative extension are good sources!

Potbelly Pig 101: Feeding, Housing & What's Normal

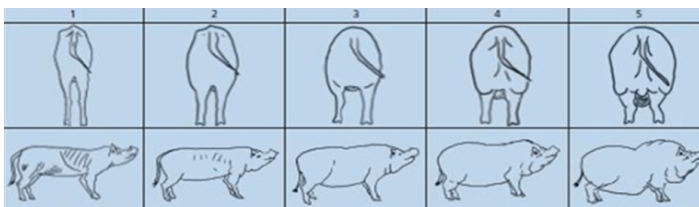
FEEDING: Pigs are monogastrics like humans and have a single compartment stomach. In fact many pig organs are very similar to humans which is why pig heart valves are sometimes used in human heart valve replacements and pig insulin is also used in humans at times.

While you may have grown up seeing images of fat pet pigs, in reality the normal weight of a potbelly pig should be between **60-160 lbs.** and if they gain too much weight and have too many rolls of skin on their face they can become blind. Additionally, some people think if they feed a pig less they won't get as big, but in reality not feeding enough results in a malnourished and unhealthy pig.



There are several good **commercial foods formulated for pet pigs** (ex. Mazuri). We recommend feeding your potbelly pig one of these feeds starting with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup twice a day and adjusting this amount based on other food in their diet. Pigs can get a lot of calories and nutrients from **grazing** on good quality grass. In 1 hour of grazing they can eat enough to meet most of their daily needs. If your pig is out grazing then they will need less feed in their diet.

It is best to keep **treats** to a minimum but if you do want to give your pig treats, limit it to low calories and small amounts, **vegetables** make great snacks, you also can do some fruit, cereal or popcorn but be careful with all the added sugars. Avoid giving fruit juices, oils, candy, chocolate, breads and meat. And remember to always have access to fresh water!



Body condition scores for potbelly pigs range from 1 to 5. An ideal body condition score for pet pigs is a score of 2 or 3 on the chart below. Potbelly pigs should have hips and spine that are easily felt with light to heavy pressure. Focus on their hips and less on how low their belly hangs. They should have minimal excess rolls of fat across their neck and legs. The healthier your pig is the longer they will be able to happily live with you. (Potbelly pigs life span: 15-20 years)

HOUSING: Pigs love **rooting around and burrowing under straw and blankets.** They do not like the cold and snow and so you will want to have a shelter for your pig to be in when it's cold outside (ex. a large dog house they can turn around in). In the summertime they love to graze and enjoy rooting in the soil and leaves. Pigs do NOT sweat to keep cool and so it's important to provide shallow play pools for them to get in too cool off during our hot summers! It may also be helpful to have some areas with sand/rocks for them to walk over to help naturally trim their feet down in between hoof trims.



WHAT'S NORMAL?

- Height: 14-22 inches to shoulder
- Weight: 60-160 lbs.
- Potbelly Pigs at 1 year old are typically 1/2 their adult weight & 80% of their frame size!
- Pigs normally produce a lot of earwax (do not put anything in their ears!)
- Brownish-red eye secretions are normal!
- Squealing when touched! Anytime we handle pigs we recommend ear plugs!

Potbelly Pig 101: Routine Vet Care

DEWORMING: Pet pigs can get a variety of parasites that attack the gastrointestinal tract, in addition to mites, mange and other external parasites. Even if you only have one pet pig they still can pick up parasites from being outside and rooting in the soil. We recommend cleaning manure out of the pen they live in, doing yearly fecal exams and deworming at least once a year.

VACCINATIONS: We currently recommend four main vaccines in pet pigs:

- **Tetanus** (Calvary 9) is a bacteria found in the soil and when gets into small cuts, abrasions or wounds on pigs and other mammals can be life threatening if they contract tetanus. This is given to all of our castrations.
- **Leptospirosis** (Spirovac VL5) is a bacteria that is hosted in several different mammals it can cause abortion, stillbirth and infection of kidneys.
- **Erysipelas** is a painful skin disease also known as “Diamond Skin Disease”. Pigs are exposed to this bacteria in the soil and when infected can get high fevers, and bruising of their skin in a distinctive diamond pattern. It is very painful and can be fatal! The vaccine that we use for erysipelas also has protection against several respiratory diseases and other conditions caused by: **Bordetella**, **Actinobacillus Pleuropneumoniae**, **Pasterurella multocida** and **Haemophilus parasuis** (Parapleuro Shield P + BE).



Pig with Erysipelas

- **Rabies** vaccine in pet pigs is off label but highly recommended for all pet animals.

We usually start vaccinations when pigs are 7-10 weeks of age. All of these vaccines with the exception of Rabies will initially require a booster, 3-6 weeks after the first vaccine, and then are boosted yearly.

SPAY/NEUTER: Pigs are sexually mature VERY early in life. Males can be sexually mature as early as 6-10 weeks and females 10-12 weeks. This means that pigs could breed each other very early on and male/female pigs should be separated at weaning. Male pigs ideally should be castrated around 3-8 weeks of age. Castrating male pigs reduces their mounting and breeding behavior, helps to reduce secretion of boar musk from their preputial glands, and eliminates risk of testicular tumors. Castration of male pigs is ideally done under inhalational anesthesia which is the safest way to anesthetize pigs. However, we do offer castration with injectable anesthesia since we do not have inhalational anesthesia at Pineview. Due to variability in responsiveness to injectable anesthesia we are limited to only castrating pigs that are <50 lbs.

We recommend spaying your female pig to reduce unwanted heat behavior, avoid accidental breedings and to keep your female pig healthy by avoiding a pyometra (infection in the uterus) or uterine tumors. Females ideally should be spayed when they are around 12-20 lbs. We are unable to spay pigs at Pineview because this requires general anesthesia. We are happy to help provide you with the names of local veterinarians who provide this service. squeals can be very loud!

HOOF & TUSK TRIM: Intact male pig's tusks grow fast and usually need to be trimmed once/year, castrated males every 2 years and females only 1-2x in their life. Depending on footing pig feet may need to be trimmed every couple months to 1-2x/year. Both of these procedures are typically done with the pig restrained on their back. If you start while your pig is young, touching their feet and getting them used to being trimmed some owners are able to trim their pig's feet. Use pruning shears to trim their feet taking off the overgrowth of the walls and trimming the toe back as well.



Overgrown Pig Feet – Trim before they are this long!



So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Pineview Veterinary Hospital is a large animal veterinary practice meeting the needs of horses and food animals in southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

Our mission is to provide high quality service to our clients coupled with the most advanced and progressive veterinary care for our patients with an emphasis on preventive and herd health medicine.

Pineview Veterinary Hospital
7263 Green Swamp Rd. S.
Bolton, NC 28423

Christine Long, DVM
Jennifer Freeman, MPH DVM
Leslie Jarrett, DVM

Phone: 910-655-2442
Fax: 910-655-8552
E-mail:
pineviewveterinary@gmail.com
www.pineviewvet.com

Monthly Herd Health Checks for Sheep & Goats

As we come into the spring and summer months we wanted to remind you of some things you can do to keep your small ruminants (sheep & goats) healthy!

Each month we recommend getting your hands on each animal in your herd and checking three things:

- Eyelid Color (FAMACHA score)
- Check/Trim Feet
- Body Condition Score

Eyelid color (FAMACHA score) can be done by pressing down on the upper eyelid while at the same time pulling down on the lower eyelid to view the eyelid membranes. Much like our own gums we expect them to be nice and pink in a healthy animal. If they are pale pink to white in color then the goat is likely anemic (due to parasites) and deworming is recommended. If one of your animals is starting to look pale then please give us a call! We



will likely recommend a fecal egg count to help us set up a deworming plan.



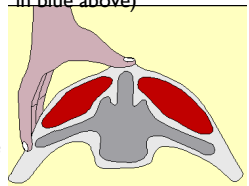
Before/After
Hoof Trim

Once a month when you check eyelid color, pick up all four feet and check for any overgrowth of the hoof wall. If there is simply trim it off with pruning shears. If you do this monthly, your small ruminant's feet will grow healthy and strong.

Body condition scores in small ruminants is done using a scale from 1-5. A score of 1 is an animal that is very thin and a score of 5 is fat. Ideal body condition scores are right in the middle (scores of 2.5-4). To body condition score your animal you want to feel the slope of the muscle across the lumbar part of their back (behind the ribs in front of the hips). You want this muscle to be evenly rounded and not sunk in. Also feel the points of the spinous and transverse processes.



Feel the muscle across the lumbar vertebrae just behind the last rib (marked in blue above)



Location of Spinous (thumb) and transverse processes (fingers)