

Overview

Raising pigs can be a joyous experience, as these animals are just as clever (if not more!) than man's best friend. Compared with other livestock, pigs can be relatively low maintenance and tend to be easy going when it comes to fitting in to a lifestyle block property.

Before committing to pig ownership there are a few crucial things you need to know regarding pig welfare and management.

Water / Feed

Water – Ensure clean fresh water is available at all times. Make sure to clean troughs regularly to reduce bacterial contamination.

Feed – Pigs cannot live on grass alone. Feeds such as pig nuts, fresh fruits, vegetables, and grains are good. Meat scraps **MUST** be boiled for 1 hour.

Environment

Shelter is a necessity for pigs to avoid weather extremes and have somewhere to rest and sleep.

Bedding – barley straw is the best bedding for pigs as meadow hay can contain moulds and dust that cause lung damage.

Additional shade trees, sails and wallows are needed for hot days.

Keep wallows free from contaminants (do not feed near the hole).

De-sexing

Desexing males at 4-6 months of age is strongly recommended if you do not plan to breed from them.

Common Problems

Overgrown hooves – can cause lameness and arthritis if left untrimmed.

Jaw abscesses – swelling or green discharge of the cheeks requires immediate addressing.



A GUIDE TO Pig Care

Overgrown tusks – can be dangerous and may need to be trimmed.

Rooting & Ringing – some pigs root up food as a natural behaviour. This may be deterred by using nose rings as a deterrent. Rooting is a deeply ingrained behaviour for pigs, taking up around 20% of their time. Rooting is performed even when fed a perfect diet. Ringing prevents rooting as a natural outlet, which can result in long term behavioural changes.

Nose ringing is a painful procedure. Over time the pain should reside to discomfort when using the nose,

however this can take some time. A course of pain relief will be required immediately after piercing, and the wound monitored closely to ensure adequate healing

Check out our Pig Nose Ringing handout for more information.

Health maintenance

Refer to table over page for **parasite control & vaccination**.

When to call us

If you are concerned with any of the mentioned problems.



Health maintenance

Parasite control & vaccination.

What	Life stage	When	Product	Dosage	Information
Worms	Piglets	3 & 6 months old	Flubenol	1g/10kg body weight	Flubenol kills all worms including whipworm, which are high risk in pigs under 6 months old. Give 1g per 10kg body weight as a one off dose. Give in a peanut butter & jam sandwich to disguise taste.
	Adults	Twice a year	Flubenol	1 heaped tsp/130kg sow	Flubenol is the only pig drench that also kills whipworm, which is high risk in backyard pigs.
			Ivomec* or Dectomax	1ml/ 33 kg	May be used but does not reliably kill whipworm.
	Pregnant Sows	Pre farrowing	Ivomec* or Dectomax	1ml/ 33 kg	Do not kill whipworm, but covers mange which is at high risk of passing to newborn piglets. Repeat dose in 10-14 days.
Mange Mite & Lice	All	As required for clinical signs & sows pre farrowing	Ivomec* or Dectomax	1ml/ 33 kg	Treat all in-contact animals and repeat dose in 10-14 days.
Quarantine Treatment	All	New pigs coming onto the property	Flubenol & Ivomec* or Dectomax	See above	Flubenol is a broad spectrum drench to prevent all worm species from entering the property. Two doses of Ivomec/ Dectomax 14 days apart will eliminate mange mites and lice.

* Ivomec comes in both Injectable and Oral.

Tip - inject while the pig is eating, or the injectable formula may be given orally, disguised in something like peanut butter/ jam sandwich if required.