

CARING FOR YOUR NEW PIGLET

Piglet: 8 weeks - 3 months

Your new baby will obviously be frightened when you bring him home because he is away from his litter mates for the first time.

Please follow these steps for a less stressful transition:

Place your baby in his new home indoors, a warm place away from drafts. I recommend using a playpen, as you can organize this environment, move it around, and it gives you easy access from above. You will need a litter box with pelleted horse bedding or pine shavings, along with 2 heavy bowls and a blanket for sleeping. You can also include small soft dog toys, too. Dog cages are difficult in the beginning as your piglet will initially run to the back of the cage. And they are difficult to grab sometimes! Keep your baby in a quiet place for a few hours and let him adjust. Keep all other house pets away from him, too. He needs to bond with you first and feel safe before he meets the family dog.

If your baby has been traveling earlier that day, please make sure you have some Pedialyte and a small baby bottle on hand. A few sips will go a long way in preventing dehydration!

Teenagers: 3 months to 12 months

Pigs are eager to please their owners and respond to love and praise just like young children.

Pigs are intelligent and learn quickly...they also have a tremendous amount of curiosity. Their first priority is to eat, so they never forget where you last moved the cat food bowl or where you keep the bag of dog food!

Like any teenager, they begin to test the boundaries, have selective hearing, and even ignore your requests. Please know that this is just a phase, and your pig will out grow this behavior. He is just testing his position within the family. With constant reinforcement for good behavior, this will resolve itself over time.

Some tips to help get you through the teenage years:

Play and exercise! Your pig needs exercise, either by you taking it for daily walks on a leash or having an area outside to run around, play, root and eat grass!

Be consistent with your training. Decide how you want your pig to live in your house and follow through with your training and expectation. Also, make sure your entire family understands that they have to be onboard as well. You never want to confuse your pig.

