

For further clarification on accepted animal husbandry practices for pigs, please contact the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421

If you suspect animal cruelty or neglect please visit:

[www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com](http://www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com)

Or call  
**(877) 9-HUMANE**



## **The Vermont Humane Federation's Animal Cruelty Response Coalition**

**A state-wide network of professionals coordinating Vermont's efforts to prevent and respond to animal cruelty through communication, education, and training.**

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- The VT Veterinary Medical Association
- The VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- The VT League of Cities & Towns
- The VT Farm Bureau
- The Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Cooperative
- The VT Sheriffs Association
- The VT Police Chiefs Association
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- The VT Animal Control Officers Association
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## **Caring for Pigs**



### **Vermont's Recommendations and Requirements**

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# Pigs: The Basics

## Terminology

Female - Sow

Young female - Gilt (female that has not yet given birth)

Male - Boar

Castrated male - Barrow

Young weaned pig (either sex) - Shoat

## Pig Care

- Fresh, clean water should be available at all times.
- Pigs should be fed complete pig ration at least twice a day. Vermont law prohibits the feeding of food waste or garbage to swine. They may be fed fruits and vegetables from the garden. Area should be large enough to allow all animals access to food.
- Pigs do not need a salt block as long as they get a minimum of 1 to 2 pounds of a complete swine ration daily.
- Hoof trimming is not necessary.
- De-worming and vaccinations should be based on veterinarian recommendations.



# Pig Care (cont)

## Shelter

Vermont law requires that pigs are provided with shelter. Concrete, sloped pens that can be hosed down, expanded metal or slotted floors, or a clean, bedded pen are suggested for housing. If they are kept on concrete, they should be offered a forkful of sod once a week to chew on. Straw should be used in cold weather to help keep them warm. Shelter should allow enough room so that the pigs are not overcrowded.



## Heat Considerations

In the summer, shade is extremely important. If they are not provided with sufficient shade, pigs may die of heat exhaustion. They should have some method to cool them in the heat (a lawn sprinkler or some other cooling method). It is NOT acceptable for pigs to be in mud constantly, however they should have mud available in order to wallow and help them cool off. Pigs enjoy an occasional mud bath, but must have a clean, dry area available to them as well.

# Common Concerns

## Appearance of Animal

A droopy/straight tail can indicate ill health (happy, healthy pigs have a tightly curled tail); thinness; scratching (usually indicates presence of lice); limping. *If you see any of these signs, it is recommended that you contact a veterinarian to examine the animals.*

## Housing Conditions

It is unacceptable to keep pigs in sloppy, manure and/or trash laden pens. Pigs must have a clean, dry area to rest, in addition to a muddy area where they can wallow. Adequate light and proper ventilation is also required.

## Overcrowding

Overcrowding leads to illness and disease and may prevent the weaker animals from gaining access to food sources. Owners are obligated to ensure that all animals are receiving enough feed to maintain a healthy body condition.

## Behavior

If the animal is dull, minimally responsive, listless, uninterested in surroundings, or drooping its head, this may be a sign of illness and a veterinarian should be consulted.