RECEIVED
AUG 0 2 2022
BY: GCR

Request for Ordinance Change
22Z00017
Allen
Submitted by Applicant

American Mini Pig
Rescue Advocates

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing today to ask your city to consider an amendment to your animal zoning ordinances to allow pet mini pigs to live with their families.

The American Mini Pig Rescue Advocates is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advocating for pet mini pigs. Unfortunately, there has been a huge increase of pet pigs losing their homes due to outdated zoning ordinances. We ask you to join the many cities across the nation that have updated these ordinances to reflect the pet market of today while reducing unnecessary displacement and abandonment of pet mini pigs.

Many city ordinances across the nation were written prior to 1986 when Vietnamese Potbelly Pigs were first sold into the pet market in the United States. These original potbelly pigs averaged 250 pounds which were comparatively miniature to the 600-1,500 pound domestic swine that are raised as livestock. Today's mini pigs, as recognized and registered by the American Mini Pig Association, are a mix of several smaller breeds. These mixed mini pigs are referred to as American Mini Pigs, averaging 15-20 inches in height and 75 to 150 lbs. or more at maturity. These pet pigs have different temperament, genetics, size, and purpose from the large commercial farm pigs. American Mini Pigs are housed as pet animals, just like a dog or cat. They receive the same standard of veterinary care, training, healthy foods, and comfortable accommodations. Mini pigs often accompany their families on vacations or shopping trips.

If your city has any questions or concerns regarding allowing mini pigs as pets in your zoning ordinances, please contact us. We would be glad to help dispel the many myths and misconceptions of these wonderful pets.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephanie Matlock

American Mini Pig Rescue, President

RescueAdvocates@AmericanMiniPigRescue.com

References:

http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/swine/vietnamesepotbelly www.americanminipigassociation.com

and www.americanminipigrescue.com

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Mini Pig Association would like to thank you for taking the time to consider amending your zoning ordinance to allow pet mini pigs to live with their owners. Mini pig families are very passionate and dedicated to these pets.

On behalf of the American Mini Pig Association, I would like to formally recommend an amendment to your city's animal ordinance to allow mini pigs. This amendment may include the same regulations that are set forth for dogs or cats to encourage responsible ownership, including a pet limit per household, appropriate veterinary care, leash law, and/or registration. Please see supporting document "The Facts of Owning Pigs As Pets" to dispel many common misconceptions about these cherished pets.

Mini pigs are intelligent and sensitive pets. It causes a great hardship for the families to be separated from the pets they are bonded to. In addition, this separation due to zoning often results in displacing animals that end up putting a burden on local animal shelters or worse. These pets have great potential to increase welfare in the community as registered Therapy Animals volunteering at schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other community centers, or as Emotional Support Animals to help their owners at home through difficult times. The AMPA has a blog series dedicated to Mini Pig Heroes in the community showcasing the benefits they have brought to the people of their city.

The American Mini Pig Association has created a nationwide registry to document verifiable information on these mini pigs such as age, size, health, track pedigrees, promote responsible breeder, ownership, and veterinary care. AMPA Registered Breeders are required to follow a strict code of ethics. They must prove age and size of their mini pigs. These steps will ensure that consumers are not victims of fraud or deceived on size of their new pets. AMPA Registered mini pigs will have an official certificate verifying their pet status.

Visit the American Mini Pig Association website to learn the facts of mini pigs as pets. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be more than happy to discuss any issues your city may have. www.americanminipigassocation.com

Sincerely,

Kimberly Chronister

American Mini Pig Association, Vice President info@americanminipigassociation.com

EMERALD CITY
EMERGENCY CLINIC

March 15, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, there have been numerous unfortunate situations involving covenants, city or county ordinances, pet miniature pigs, and citizens bonded to those pets.

It is time to re-visit the pet miniature pig. Miniature pigs, including pot bellied pigs, Julianas, Kune Kunes, and small mixed pigs, are not livestock. They are smaller breeds of swine, growing up to 250 pounds, that are kept as house pets. They are well cared for, receive proper veterinary care, proper diet, leash, litter box, and trick training. They can live to be 15 or 16 years old, and are very affectionate with their people. These pigs and their people have a human/animal bond which benefits people and communities everywhere - it teaches compassion, instills a sense of responsibility, prevents loneliness, and provides comfort to those with conditions such as autism or PTSD.

Small breeds of pigs are used in schools, hospitals, and nursing homes to provide entertainment and comfort. They are recognized and registered as emotional support animals and it is only a matter of time before they will become eligible to be registered service animals.

Proactive changes to zoning laws and HOA rules will prevent future litigation related to the Americans With Disabilities Act. These changes will also prevent the civil actions and the adverse publicity that occur when the authorities remove a beloved pet from a home

Proactive steps should be used to make everyone's pig experience happier. Requirements for leash training, housing, noise restrictions, vaccinations, composting and waste removal, landscaping and fencing, sterilization, the number of pigs, and licensing can be established before a problem develops.

It is time to get ahead of the pet pig situation and to welcome them into our communities.

Please consider zoning FOR pet pigs at this time.

Thank you,

Cathy Corrigan, DVM

4102 Stone Way North • Seattle, Washington 98103
Phone: (206) 634-9000 • Fax: (206) 634-9078

www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com

To whom it may concern:

We are writing in regard to the inclusion of mini pigs as pets in city animal ordinances. As veterinarians that treat family pets including cats, dogs, and mini pigs, we encourage you to include mini pigs in city or town zoning.

Mini pigs live as family pets. We recommend your city animal ordinance reflect this. Mini pigs are not a single breed such as potbellied pig, but rather a size classification of smaller sized pigs that are raised as clean and quiet pets. There are very clear distinctions between large breeds raised commercially as livestock and the miniature breeds of pets.

Mini pigs are not raised, housed, treated, or used for the purposes of livestock animals. They are not fed garbage or exposed to commercial hog farm diseases. There is a very low risk of zoonotic diseases with pet pigs. It is very unlikely for a person to become sick from a pet mini pig.

When mini pigs are kept as pets in residential areas, we recommend the following:

- Spay/neutered before 6 months of age
- Microchip placement as permanent identification
- Vaccinations as appropriate
- Annual checkup, routine parasite control, fecal & giardia test
- Appropriate housing and containment (mini pigs should not roam)

Respectfully,

Dr. Carrie Schneider, DVM at Barnyard Pet Vet

Seattle, Washington http://barnyardpetvet.com/

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member

www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com

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Respectfully,

Dr. Alison Meyer, DVM at Marymont Animal Clinic

Silver Spring, Maryland http://marymontanimalhospitalinc.com/

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member

The Facts of Owning Pigs As Pets

Written by:

The American Mini Pig Association

Mini pigs have unfairly been excluded from city zoning ordinances across the United States. Most of these laws were put into place before the era of the pet mini pigs. The laws in place are often referring to livestock, as large hogs raised for meat purposes. Please consider the following to amend your local ordinance to allow pet mini pigs to live with their devoted families. There is no reason these pets should be excluded or singled out. Mini pigs offer a variety of benefits and challenges for their owners just as all other pets do. To learn more about mini pigs as pets please visit www.americanminipigassociation.com or contact the American Mini Pig Association directly at info@americanminipigassociation.com. We would be glad to answer any questions you or your city council members might have.

Myth: Pigs are not pets

We beg to differ! Pigs have been pets since the 1980s. A rapidly growing number of owners across the United States, Canada, and beyond, claim their dedication to pet mini pigs. The numbers continue to spike as more families fall in love with the charms and challenges of these unique pets. Follow the American Mini Pig Association on Facebook or view the massive educational website dedicated to mini pigs as family pets.

The American Mini Pig advocates for responsible owner, breeder, rescue, and veterinary practices. Mini pigs are being registered as pets through the official AMPA registry.

Resource:

www.americanminipigassociation.com

Myth: Pigs will make us sick

Pet pigs present a very low zoonotic risk to humans. You are far more likely to get sick from your child's classmates or a stranger at the grocery store than from a pet pig. Pigs living as pets are not exposed to the conditions and diseases of commercial farm hogs.

The CDC states: "Almost all influenza cases in humans are caused by human flu viruses, not viruses from swine." and

"At this time, there are three main flu viruses that circulate in U.S. pigs: H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2. These viruses do not usually infect people and are genetically different from the H1N1 and H3N2 viruses that commonly circulate in people."

According to the North Carolina Swine Veterinary Group, even on commercial pig farms, people are more at risk from mechanical or electrical injury than microorganisms.

To further protect against zoonotic diseases, mini pigs should be vaccinated yearly against erysipelas and regularly dewormed with Ivermectin to prevent mange mites as recommended by the Merck Veterinary Manual. This is similar to the vaccine and parasite control routine that is standard for dogs, cats, and other pets. Some cities require a rabies vaccine in pet pigs as an added precaution.

Resources" www.cdc.org

www.ncsu.edu

Myth: Pigs are HUGE!

Mini pigs average in height from 15 to 20 inches tall at maturity. They are short and heavy. They are very similar in height to English Bulldogs or Cocker Spaniels. Mini pigs average 75-150 lbs or more in weight when full grown. Very similar in weight to medium to large dogs but the pigs are much shorter in height than a dog with similar weight. A 70 pound mini pig will take up less space on the couch than his 70 pound Labrador Retriever brother!

Comparing pigs and dogs:

Mini Pigs

15 to 20 inches average

75 to 150 pounds average

English Mastiff dog

30 inches MINIMUM according to the Mastiff Club

343 pounds on record

Newfoundland dog

36 inches tall on record

260 pounds on record

Great Danc dog

44 inches tall on record

230 pounds on record

Neapolitan Mastiff dog

31 inches according to AKC Breed Standard

200 pounds according to Dog Breed Info

Irish Wolfhound dog

34 inches according to AKC Breed Standard

120+ pounds according to AKC Breed Standard

Saint Bernard

35 inches inches according to Dog Guide

357 pounds on record

While no one can guarantee the size of any animal, choosing an AMPA Registered Breeder will ensure pet owners are not deceived. These breeders have been pre-screened, proven measurements of the breeding pigs, and signed a Code of Ethics to ensure happy, healthy, socialized mini pigs. AMPA Registered Breeders will make sure your neighborhood doesn't accidently end up with an Esther sized pig!

Resources:

www.AMPAbreeders.com

www.americanminipigassociation.com

www.akc.org

www.guinnessworldrecords.com

www.ibtimes.com

www.dogbreedinfo.com

www.dogguide.net www.mcoamastiff.com

www.thehydrantblog.com

www.worldrecordacademy.com

Myth: All pigs are the same, or all pet pigs are potbellied pigs

Pigs come in a variety of shapes and sizes, bred for different purposes. There are three distinctions of pigs: pets, livestock, and medical research.

Pet Mini Pigs are a miniature size of pig as recognized and registered by the American Mini Pig Association. These pigs are usually mixed with several breeds Juliana, Gottengin/Guttengin, African Pygmy, Yucatan Micro, Swedish White, and various mixes of these breeds. It is very rare to find a purebred Vietnamese potbellied pig. Instead, today's pet pigs are mixed breeds or "mutts" often referred to as American Mini Pigs. Mini pigs average in height from 12 to 18 inches and 50 to 150 pounds at maturity when they are 5 years old. Mini pigs are bred and sold as pets. Breeders focus on temperament, personality, size, and structural soundness avoiding genetic faults or aggression. These pigs are often used as Therapy Animals in hospitals, nursing homes and schools and as Emotional Support Animals (ESA) due to their intelligence and bonds with their owners/families. **The purpose of these animals is to be family companions as pets.**

Livestock are defined by Merriam-Webster as **farm animals kept for use and profit.** Pigs in terms of livestock are often referring to as "farm hogs" or "full size hogs". Common livestock breeds of swine are Landrace, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Tamworth, Red Wattle, Large Black, Large White, Mulefoot, Duroc, Guinea Hog, and Old Spot. These animals are raised as a food source on a small or large scale, both at farms and commercial facilities. Livestock farm hogs will typically grow in excess of 700-1,000 pounds when allowed to mature. However, the vast majority of farm hogs are slaughtered by the time they reach 250 pounds around 6 months of age. **The purpose of these animals is financial profit through food production.**

Medical research has long used swine in laboratories for medical advances to benefit human health care. According to the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the most common miniature breeds available in the United States are the Hanford, Yucatan, Yucatan micro, Sinclair, and Göttingen (from largest to smallest). Swine have been an integral part of surgical training, pharmaceuticals and medicine development, testing the safety of medications, toxicology testing, organ transplantation, bioprosthetic organs, cardiovascular research, wound healing, burn victim treatments, and regenerative medicine. Swine have also been used in studies involving ulcers, cancers, diabetes, and alcoholism. Swine involved in medical research are bred, born, and raised in closed facilities that are highly regulated for genetic background and disease control.

Resources:

American College of Veterinary Pathology

Gottingen Mini Pigs

National Anti-Vivisection Society

www.americanminipigassociation.com

www.merriam-webster.com

www.vet.sagepub.com

www.thepigsite.com www.minipigs.dk

www.navs.org

Myth: Pigs are noisy

Pigs are animals and do make noise as they communicate, just as all animals and humans do. A well cared for pet pig will not cause any disruption to the neighborhood. Many pet pigs live happily in their home or in their yard with only soft grunting and quiet communications of contentment. If you're lucky you'll hear an oof oof or a funny bark if they get excited that sounds a lot like a dog! High volume obnoxious sounds are more connected to commercial farm settings with many, many large animals similar to a dog kennel or shelter. This is a completely different scenario than a single pet mini pig or single pet dog. A pet mini pig does not face the same challenges as a large scale commercial farm.

The noise of a pig can be compared to the noise of a dog, in that typically they are very quiet, but can raise their voice when they are hurt, scared, or lonely, and each is an individual with its own personality. Some dogs are very quiet and some are a regular nuisance to their neighbors.

A pig's most extreme squeal can reach 110 decibels, which is a very short burst of panic noise. Similarly, a dog kennel of barking dogs can reach 100-108 decibels of nonstop barking, as referenced by Perdue. Some things commonly heard in a neighborhood that are louder than a pig's brief squeal are circular saw, chain saw, and firecrackers.

Resources: www.pijac.org

www.progressiveag.org

Myth: Pigs stink and create too much waste

Mini pigs have no body odor when they are spayed and neutered. They have very few functioning sweat glands, instead relying on water or mud to cool them off. Most pet pigs enjoy a nice roll in a kiddy pool! That is, when they aren't snoozing in front of the TV.

Intact boars (males that have not been neutered) do have a musky odor that is used to attract females. The American Mini Pig Association recommends all pet pigs be spayed or neutered before 6 months of age. A neutered pet pig will not have the odor of a boar.

All pets create waste, but pigs create fertilizer! Pig's manure can be composted to feed the garden. Swine manure contains several essential plant nutrients giving a higher crop yield than inorganic fertilizers.

All pet waste should be managed by owners. For pigs, picking up regularly and disposing of the waste or composting, there is no smell or odor.

Resources:

www.sagepub.com www.americanminipigassociation.com

Myth: Pigs are dangerous

Pigs are affectionate, intelligent, excellent communicators, and very much loved as family pets across the world. There is no reason to fear them. These small pigs are very similar in size to a bulldog. If a male mini pig grows tusks past the lip line, these can be easily trimmed by a veterinarian as described by the Merck Veterinary Manual.

Statistics vary by locality, but residents are far more likely to be bitten by a dog or cat in the neighborhood than a pet pig.

To reduce any concern, zoning regulations may include requirements for pet pigs to be spayed, neutered, microchipped with a permanent identification, vaccinated against rabies, and contained in a fence or on a leash.

Resources:

www.merckvetmanual.com

Myth: Property values will decrease

There is absolutely no evidence that property values will decrease by having a pet pig in the community. On the contrary, mini pigs tend to bring a lot of positive attention, sometimes even media coverage! These special pets are opening the eyes of people everywhere. Local mini pigs often become celebrities in their own neighborhoods towns. They bring a certain join to the community that no other pet does.

Meet Skooter, the Mini Pig Hero that saved his little boys life by alerting his mom to an incident in the bathtub that left the boy nearly unconscious.

Meet Pearl the Mini Pig Hero that teaches children responsibility at school.

Meet Bacon Bit the Mini Pig Hero that detects seizures.

Meet Addy the Mini Pig Hero that visits nursing homes.

Meet Hamlet the Mini Pig Hero that brings joy to the Human Department of Children Services.

Resources:

www.americanminipigassociation.com/blog click Mini Pig Heroes

Myth: Pigs are fed garbage or waste scraps

Mini pigs are considered family pets with all the comforts and care that other family pets are given, including top notch nutrition and sanitary care.

Mazuri and other companies have formulated a complete pelleted diet to meet the specific needs of mini pigs. In addition to their pellets, mini pigs often enjoy a daily salad of fruits and vegetables along with a few healthy snacks or treats such as popcorn, cheerios, or raisins.

Mini pigs should NEVER be fed garbage or waste scraps. While this *may* be the case with some farmers that raise large hogs for slaughter, they do this to grow the hog to market size as cost effectively as possible. Mini pig families are not raising pigs to slaughter and they are not looking to cut cost. Pet pigs are family and often claimed to "eat better" than their humans! Many pet pig owners go to great lengths to feed their pigs a fresh assortment of organic vegetables and whole, fresh foods. Learn more about Mazuri mini pig food.

Resources:

www.americanminipigassociation.com www.mazuri.com

Myth: Pigs cannot live indoors

Mini pigs are very happy to live indoor/outdoor just like the family dog, as stated by the Merck Veterinary Manual. If pigs are housed outside, they should be given proper fencing and protection from the elements as addressed in the American Mini Pig Association Owner Code of Ethics.

Mini pigs can be trained to use a litter box like a cat, or to go outside into the yard to use the bathroom just like the family's dog. Read more about potty training pet pigs.

Resources: www.americanminipigassociation.com

www.merckvetmanual.com

Myth: Pigs are dumb livestock

Mini pigs are highly intelligent companion pets. Classifying a pet mini pig as livestock would be similar to classifying a child's pet bunny as livestock because they are commonly raised in rabbitries in the meat/fur industry and shown at livestock shows. Mini pigs are raised and treated as family pets. There is no correlation to the livestock swine industry. Penn State classify rabbits as livestock, while stating "Rabbit farming has grown from raising a few rabbits for family consumption to large commercial operations with hundreds of rabbits. Investment in a rabbitry, including breeding stock, can be quite modest." Yet, this classification does not stop families from owning a rabbit as a family pet.

Mini pigs are so smart they learn to move levers and switches to get food and water. They have high level social cognitive abilities and self-awareness. Furthermore, pigs have shown a variety of emotions and feelings as shown by the Humane Society.

Mini pigs have been certified nationwide by the 501c3 nonprofit organization Pet Partners alongside dogs as Animal Assisted Therapy volunteers. This certification requires the right temperament and plenty of training. These mini pigs and their handlers are invited to hospitals, schools, nursing homes and other community centers to provide therapy to the residents. Mini pigs are also used as Emotional Support Animals to comfort their owners with emotional disorders. www.petpartners.org

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Meet Pearl the Mini Pig Hero that teaches children responsibility at school.

Meet Bacon Bit the Mini Pig Hero that detects seizures.

Meet Addy the Mini Pig Hero that visits nursing homes.

Meet Hamlet the Mini Pig Hero that brings joy to the Human Department of Children Services.

Resources: www.extension.psu.edu

www.humanesociety.org

www.petpartners.org

Mini pigs have been trained to:

- Sit
- Stay
- Spin
- Bow or Curtsy
- Crawl
- Back up
- Take treats gently
- Clicker train
- Walk on a harness
- Relax for hoof trims
- Come to their name
- No

- Out or leave it
- Shake hands
- Wave
- Push a ball
- Pick up objects
- Paint
- Solve puzzles
- Honk a bike horn
- Play a piano
- Play guitar
- Kiss
- Obstacle course
- Swim
- Ride a skateboard
- Ring a bell to go potty outside
- Unroll the red carpet
- Step up onto an object
- Jump through a hula hoop
- Use a doggy door
- Run through a tunnel
- Use stairs
- Walk up a ramp
- Understand sign language
- Distinguish colors
- Distinguish shapes
- Walk on a teeter totter
- Weave through poles
- Figure 8 through legs
- & Lots more!

FEDERAL DEFINITIONS

-U.S. Code Title 7 § 8302 states "The term "livestock" means all farm-raised animals." -Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines:

> "*Farm animal* means any domestic species of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, or horses, which are normally and have historically, been kept and raised on farms in the United States, and used or intended for use as food or fiber, or for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. This term also includes animals such as rabbits, mink, and chinchilla, when they are used solely for purposes of meat or fur, and animals such as horses and llamas when used solely as work and pack animals."
>
> "*Pet animal* means any animal that has commonly been kept as a pet in family households in the United States, such as dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, and hamsters. This term excludes exotic animals and wild animals."
>
> "*Exotic animal* means any animal not identified in the definition of "animal" provided in this part that is native to a foreign country or of foreign origin or character, is not native to the United States, or was introduced from abroad. This term specifically includes animals such as, but not limited to, lions, tigers, leopards, elephants, camels, antelope, anteaters, kangaroos, and water buffalo, and species of foreign domestic cattle, such as Ankole, Gayal, and Yak."
>
> "*Wild animal* means any animal which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state, within the boundaries of the United States, its territories, or possessions. This term includes, but is not limited to, animals such as: Deer, skunk, opossum, raccoon, mink, armadillo, coyote, squirrel, fox, wolf.
>
> > ***Wild state* means living in its original, natural condition; not domesticated.
>
> "*Retail pet store* means a place of business or residence at which the seller, buyer, and the animal available for sale are physically present so that every buyer may personally observe the animal prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of that animal after purchase, and where only the following animals are sold or offered for sale, at retail, for use as pets: Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, gophers, chinchillas, domestic ferrets, domestic farm animals, birds, and coldblooded species."

-USDA Animal Welfare Act & Animal Welfare Regulations defines same as Code of Federal Regulations.

USDA

ed States
artment of
culture

:97

Ms. Pamela J. Winscon
26:30 Avenue S. NW.
Wmtu Haven, Florida 33881

Dear Ms. Win$ton:

DC
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Thank you for your lener or Sepe.ember 19, 1997, io President CliolOO cooceming pol bellied pies. Because our Aeency of the U.S. Department or Agriculmre (U DA) enJorc:a the Animal Wdfarc /v;;t (AWA)-a - !hat go\ .ffll the ttnnnenl of many animals-the Whne House forwarded your lcuer to us for rtSpCX\IC.

We share your concern for the growing population of unwanted animala and commend your effons to care for such animals in your area. Under the AWA, our Agency is charged with the responsibility or lkcnsing or reeiJtering cena.in breeders, rescarchers, cxhibitors, and dea1cn to ensure that they provide their arum.al& with living conditions dw meet or exceed specified standards for veterinary can: and animal husbandry. Included **are areas** such as handlin1, saniiation, food, waicr, transp0{1ati and procecrlon apil\$l extremes of weather and temperature. However, animal ownership laws are under I.he jurisdiction of State and local governmenu, and we suggese you continue working willi thac authorities on this mauer.

In regard to your request dw the Federal government recognize pol bellied pigs as pets, we wish to clarify that-in most case&-we do consider tbue animall to be pet animals. A po< bellied pi& is considered livestock only wta lhese animalJ a.re in impon or export status. Restrictions arc imposed only to prevent disease transmis.5ions that may affect the hcallh status of the domestic swine industry in either the importing or uportint country. However, USDA- for all olher purpoSC$-COOSiden pol bellied pip to be pet animals because they arc not bred and raised in this country for food or flbcr purpo Acco rdingly , their 01re at1d prot tion fall within lhc jurisdictina of **Swe and** local authorities.

We hope this information is helpful and that you will continue your efforts to ensure the well-being of these animals.

Sincerely ,

Terry 1. Medley
Administrator

City Ordinance Tips from the American Mini Pig Association

& 13 Example Ordinances From Across The Nation

Amending your city's zoning animal ordinance to include the housing of mini pigs is an important step in meeting the demands of today's pet owners. As you will see in the example ordinances below, including mini pigs can be as simple and direct or as specific and drawn out as your council chooses. These ordinances were compiled on March 11, 2016 and are not guaranteed to be up to date after this. These are simply provided as examples.

Ideally, pet mini pigs should have all the same rights and restrictions as cats and dogs. If your city requires official registration, veterinary care, vaccines, permanent identification, containment as fencing or leash laws, noise restrictions, waste removal, fines for noncompliance, rules against chaining up pets, or any other stipulations, these can be directly included to pet mini pigs as well.

Consider the following when proposing ordinance changes.

Spaying/neutering: While ordinances for dogs and cats typically do not include spay/neuter stipulation, the American Mini Pig Association strongly suggests including this for pet families. Mini pigs that have not been spayed or neutered do not make the best pets. Intact pigs will likely have behavioral and/or health problems that are easily prevented with a spay or neuter.

Vaccinations: Veterinary recommendations on pet mini pig vaccines varies greatly. Some veterinarians recommend vaccines and some do not. Some city ordinances require vaccines and some do not. The AMPA does not hold a stance on whether vaccines should or shouldn't be included in city ordinances. However, if they are included, erysipelas and rabies are recommended to protect the health of the pig and the people around them. In addition, regular parasite control is important. Ivermectin given every 6 months is recommended. This is the same medication that is frequently given to dogs on a monthly basis to prevent heartworm and other intestinal parasites. Ivermectin can be given at home or through a licensed veterinarian. REMEMBER, these are pet pigs. They will not be in contact with farm animals or commercial swine diseases.

Permanent Identification: The AMPA recommends all pet pigs be microchipped as an appropriate form of permanent identification. This microchip is required in many cases for traveling across state lines, will help to reunite owners, and will help to identify pigs in case of health records are needed or other identification of an individual is needed.

Per Household Limit: While some cities limit the number of pet mini pigs in a household, we believe a more reasonable stance is limiting the total household pets. There is no more burden with owning a pet pig compared to a dog, cat, or other pet. Instead of limiting pet pigs to 1 or 2, simply include pet pigs in the total pet limit. There is no reason or cause to single them out.

Breed: Potbellied pigs were the first small pet pigs to enter the U.S. pet market in the 1980's. Various Potbellied Pig organizations and registries popped up at this time. These first pigs grew up to 250 lbs. The vast majority of today's pet mini pigs are not purebred. Instead, they are mixed between a variety of small breeds as they were selectively bred down in size, selected for temperament and body structure. As this mixing of breeds occurred in American, these smaller pigs are often referred to as American Mini Pigs. The average height is 12-18 inches, miniscule in comparison to many family dogs. They are dense in structure averaging 50 to 150 lbs when they mature at 5 years old. The American Mini Pig Association holds the official registry for these pet pigs. Breeders are pre-screened thoroughly and verified to have American Mini Pigs. Registered mini pigs receive an official certificate of registration to dispel any concern that they are a larger breed of swine.

Unfortunately, many cities updated their animal ordinances to reflect the Potbellied Pig's introduction to the pet trade many years ago. These ordinances required "purebred potbellied pigs" are outdated and impossible to fulfill.

Instead of requiring pet pigs be purebred potbellied pigs, the AMPA recommends writing your ordinance for "pet pigs" or "small breed pigs" or "American Mini Pig" to classify the smaller mixed breed pet pigs of today.

Height/Weight Restrictions: Some cities have included height or weight restrictions in their ordinances. Unfortunately, some of these ordinances were written with misinformation, which has run rampant as the "teacup" and "micro" scams have spread. It is a reasonable restriction to limit the height of mini pigs as 24 inches tall, which is merely 2 feet tall. The majority of mini pigs will be under 20 inches tall.

Putting a restriction on weight is far more difficult. This is where many misconceptions come into play. Some city ordinances have in the past put restrictions of 60 pounds. Unfortunately, very few pet pigs will meet this requirement. There have been unscrupulous or misinformed breeders that have sold pigs telling customers the pigs would only grow to 20-35 lbs. Sadly, the pigs outgrow this unrealistic size expectation before they reach maturity. Most mini pigs will be closer to 100 pounds, but still only as tall as a bulldog. Mini pigs are deceptively heavy. Most people would guess ½ of the mini pig's actual weight. When you look at a 100 lb pig, it looks more like a 50 lb pet. Once the pig is put on a scale, everyone is surprised at the dense weight! If your city puts an unrealistic weight restriction on pet pigs, you will not eliminate healthy sized pigs. You will simply have owners hiding their pigs and not being honest about their actual weight. Please do not further the myth of the unrealistically small pig.

Ideally, there will be NO weight limit in your city ordinances. Even for a pig that is 16 inches tall, they can weight as little as 50 pounds or as much as 120 pounds depending on their body structure, length, and body condition. Just as with humans, you cannot flip a switch and maintain perfect weight the rest of your life. Some people are 100 lbs and some are 300 lbs. Similarly, if a family's Labrador retriever weighs a healthy 70 lbs then is fed too many treats or

requirements or limitations herein, provided that proof of 4-H or Future Farmers of America registration for such animals can be provided upon request by the department.

(Ord. No. 03-03, § 16, 10-20-02; Ord. No. 12-36, § 1, 10-15-12; Ord. No. 13-34, § 6, 9-19-13; Ord. No. 2014-21, § 1, 1-6-14)

Other cities that are zoned for pet mini pigs

The following list has been compiled by pet pig parents as cities across the United States and Canada that allow mini pigs in the zoning ordinances alongside cats and dogs. Pet mini pigs are increasingly popular as a choice of family pet. **Please note this list is not guaranteed for accuracy. Ordinances are updated and changed often. If you are looking to bring a pig into your life, or move to a city, it's important to contact the city directly to get the current ordinance in writing.

Double Springs, AL

Denver, CO

Sterling, CT

Lakeland, FL

Loxahatchee, FL

Green Cove Springs, FL

Middleburg, FL

Perry, FL

Key West, FL

Palatka, FL

Savannah, GA

Augusta, GA

Atlanta, GA

Kauai County, HI

Boise, ID

Peoria County, IL

Chicago, IL

Plainfield, IL

Robertsdale, AL

Loxley, AL

Summerdale, AL

Bayminette, AL

Fairhope, AL

Valdez, AK

Mesa, AZ

Queen Creek, AZ

Flagstaff, AZ

Phoenix, AZ

North Little Rock, AR

Rogers, AR

Lakeside, CA

Bakersfield, CA

Norco, CA

Oakland, CA

Alameda, CA

Rancho Cordova, CA

Sacramento County, CA

Hanford, CA

Lakewood, CO

LaJunta, CO

Bennett, CO

Arapahoe County, CO

Denver, CO

Sterling, CT

Southwest Ranches, FL

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Alachua County, FL

Homestead, FL

Tampa, FL

North Port, FL

South Beach Miami, FL

North Fort Myers, FL

Loxahatchee, FL

Green Cove Springs, FL

Middleburg, FL

Perry, FL

Key West, FL

Palatka, FL

Savannah, GA

Augusta, GA

Atlanta, GA

Kauai County, HI

Boise, ID

Peoria County, IL

Chicago, IL

Plainfield, IL

Winamac, IN

Hartford City, IN

Newton, IA

Wilsey, KS

Abilene, KS

Elwood, KS

Olathe, KS

Leitchfield, KY

Millwood, KY

Leitchfield, KY

Clarkson, KY

Covington, LA

Franklinton, LA

West Monroe, LA

Waggaman, LA

Pollock, LA

Fishville, LA

Pineville, LA

Alexandria, LA

Lake Charles, LA

Charlotte Hall, MD

Calvert County, MD

Baltimore, MD

Montgomery County, MD

Harford County, MD

Hillsboro, MD

Livonia, MI

Ypsilanti, MI

Mt Pleasant, MI

Pleasant Ridge, MI

Otisville, MI

Kalamazoo Twp, MI

Norway, MI

Vulcan, MI

Red Wing, MN

West Saint Paul, MN

St Paul, MN

Eagan, MN

Learn the History of Mini Pigs

The idea of having a pig as a pet is a relatively new one, although pigs have been domesticated for thousands of years. Many remember the popularity of the Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs in the 1980's. Unfortunately, this breed grew to 150-200 pounds and Americans realized how difficult a pig of that size was to manage. All the while, scientific and medical laboratories had already developed a smaller version of the full sized, 1000 pound pig for their research needs. Pigs are anatomically and physiologically similar to humans. Creating a manageable, smaller sized pig for use in research seemed like a perfect idea. Labs began selective breeding to develop this smaller pig with specific characteristics to benefit their research. Selecting breeds of pigs to combine for their size, color, and growth rates resulted in the Mini Pig.

In 1949, Black Guinea Hogs, Feral boars, and the Piney Rooter of Louisiana became the bases for what would be called the Minnesota Mini Pig. The Ras-n-Lama pigs from Guam were then selected for their Island Dwarfism traits to again reduce the size of the pigs.

The Minnesota Mini Pig was then crossed or bred with Vietnamese Pot-bellied Pigs in Germany, resulting in a spotted pig that had Pot-bellied characteristics.

In 1965, the German Landrace pig was introduced into the breeding to encourage a light colored pig.

Then in Germany in 1969, the breeding combination of 60% Vietnamese Pot-belly, 33% Minnesota Mini Pig, and 7% German Landrace established the breed Gottingen Mini Pig which were eventually exported to the U.S. to aid in the development of the Juliana.

The most common mini breeds used or developed in the U.S. labs were the Hanford, Yucatan, Yucatan Micro (a smaller version of the Yucatan), the Sinclair, the Gottingen, as well as up to 14 other breeds.

But what about the Teacup pig?

In 1992, Chris Murray of Pennywell Farms in England spent 9 years cross breeding or mix breeding the Kune Kune pigs from New Zealand, averaging 200 pounds, with Vietnamese Potbellies, Gloucester Old Spot, averaging 600 pounds, and the Tamworth, averaging 800 pounds. After 24 generations of pigs on his farm he had come to realize the pigs enjoyed sipping tea. Pennywell Farms introduces their Mini Pig or the Teacup Pig, not because of size, but for their love of tea. Over the years, labs have decreased their use of Mini Pigs in their research. Many were euthanized, some sold or given away. As they were released they immediately found popularity from zoos, breeders, pet stores, and animal lovers.

What Is The American Mini Pig

There are many who say the American Mini Pig is the same as a Pot Belly Pig. We find that many who say this lack an understanding of the swine world outside of what they have been told or from their own limited experiences. By taking what we know from research books/documents on biomedical research, pigs in the U.S. along with breeder information/knowledge of breeding practices, and a general knowledge of the different build features of many different breeds/breed types of swine, we get a better understanding of what an American Mini Pig truly IS.

From the links found on the "History of the American Mini" page you can see that PBP's were used in the development of most biomedical research pigs. However, the American Mini also has many other breeds

"mixed in". From Landrace hogs and Durocs, too many different breed types of feral hogs. The truth of the matter is, not to many people in the country can say with 100% certainty what their mini pigs really are. There is no genetic test to determine exactly what the genetic makeup of a pig actually is. Currently there is only a parentage test with just a few breeds already on file out of the 100+ recognized breeds/breed types of swine.

Aside from just the documentation regarding biomedical research pigs we also have information on other imported breeds that played a role in the development of the modern American Mini. Such as the Pot Belly Pig breed types Imported in the 80's, the Gottingen from Germany (who's lineage for the most part actually lies with some of the biomedical research pigs developed here in the states), and the KuneKune.

The first thing you should know about Pot Belly pigs is that they are not a single specific breed. The Potbellied pig, also known as the Chinese, Asian, or Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pig, is a domesticated "breed" of pig that originates from the Southeast Eurasian continent. There are at least 15 local "breed types" that make up the Pot Bellied Pig "breed". They can only be found in the mountainous regions of Vietnam, China, and Thailand. Many of these "local breed type" pot-bellies can now be found all around the world. While these local types do share some significant build characteristics it has been shown that they are not all that closely related genetically.

Pot-bellied Pigs in the U.S. today can be traced back to a few different imported breed types or "lines". The Con line, Lea line and Royal line represent most of the foundation stock for pot-bellies in America today. Keith Connell imported Pot Bellied Pigs to the U.S. from Canada in 1982 for zoological purposes. Keith named them the "Con" line. At least two other local breed types of Pot Bellied Pig were brought into the U.S. shortly after Keith Connell's "Con line". The "Lea Line" imported by Leavitt (white and black markings) and the "Royal Line", imported by Espberger (mostly white, somewhat larger than the "Lea Line"). By American and European standards all local types of Pot Bellied Pig are relatively small, ranging in weight from 80-300 pounds and 16-32 inches tall. The different imported lines provided a larger gene pool to work with. Giving us a healthier breed type that enables breeders to develop more desirable characteristics such as size, disposition, and conformation.

From what is known and what can be seen in the American Mini Pigs of today, they are vastly different from their Asiatic descended cousins/ancestors. Off the bat, the first indicator is the variation in coloration. The Asiatic breeds/breed types brought to the U.S. are black, white, or black and white with varying patterns. Only through the introduction of European, American, and various feral types can we account for the wide variations in color that we see in the American Mini Pig. Next we look at build features. Most PBP breed types have a pronounced pot belly and a very visible swayed back. Their hair is also much thinner than the American Mini Pig leaving the skin easily visible through the hair. The majority of American Mini Pigs have a much thicker coat, little to no pot belly and/or swayed back. They also come in every color and pattern possible in swine.

Through cross breeding and selective breeding we were able to get to what we have now. Due to the varied history of these animals we find that build and coloration can vary widely depending on the individual breeders "standards," as well as the genetic makeup of the individual pig. We can see key build features in our modern American Mini Pigs that also help to link them to both their recorded and unrecorded history. From ear shape and set, coloration, facial structure, and over all build it is possible to make an educated guess as to what the dominant genes could possibly be linked back to. They can

share any number of characteristics from their lineage depending on how the genes line up on that individual. That being said these animals do stand apart from any one of the individual breeds/breed types that went into their development.

When the use for biomedical research pigs began to decline, the majority of facilities eliminated their programs all together while some continue on to this day. Some of these pigs made it in to the hands of the general public. They were bred and cross bred with any number of available breeds in the US, unchecked for decades. The American Mini Pig could potentially be one of the most genetically diverse breed types of swine in the world. We can see elements of different island feral hogs, Asiatic hogs, European swine, Australian, Russian, and American breeds in our modern American Mini Pigs. Some can very closely resemble any number of other breeds of swine. It all depends on the ratio of the genetics on that individual.

Ultimately, the majority of miniature breeds in the United States are linked to each other in one way or another. We know that Pot Bellied Pigs were used in the development of biomedical research pigs. One of those research breeds known as the Minnesota Mini Pig was shipped to Germany to be used in research facilities. While there, they were crossed with local breeds ultimately resulting in the development of the Gottingen. The Gottingen was then brought to the US and used to help create the Juliana. It is now a fairly common practice to cross Juliana's and American Mini Pigs. Things have gone full circle with these amazing creatures.

We as an organization recognize that there can be vast similarities between some Pot Bellied Pig breed types, Julianas, Gottingens, as well as many other breeds, with some modern American Mini Pigs. We do not deny that. That being said, as a whole they are now their own unique hybrid that does not fit in to any one of those single miniature pig breed types or "standards".

Many common labels or nicknames for the American Mini Pig of today include: Teacup, Micro, Super Micro, Nano, Pixie, and Pocket Pig. These nicknames are not considered breeds, but size classifications or market tools and labels individual breeders place to describe size. These labels or nicknames can be defined differently from breeder to breeder. The American Mini Pig Association hopes that our registry classifications will one day replace the labels and allow breeders to have a universal system of size definitions.

http://m.vet.sagepub.com/content/49/2/344.full http://netvet.wustl.edu/species/pigs/pignotes.txt

http://minipigs.dk/fileadmin/filer/Publications/Rethink_-_Article_6.pdf

Thank you for taking the time to consider mini pigs as residence of your city or community. If you have any questions, please contact the American Mini Pig Association at info@americanminipigassociation.com or visit our educational website at www.americanminipigassociation.com

If you are a mini pig owner and have successfully updated your zoning ordinance, send us a copy of your zoning and your story to be featured on the American Mini Pig Association blog!