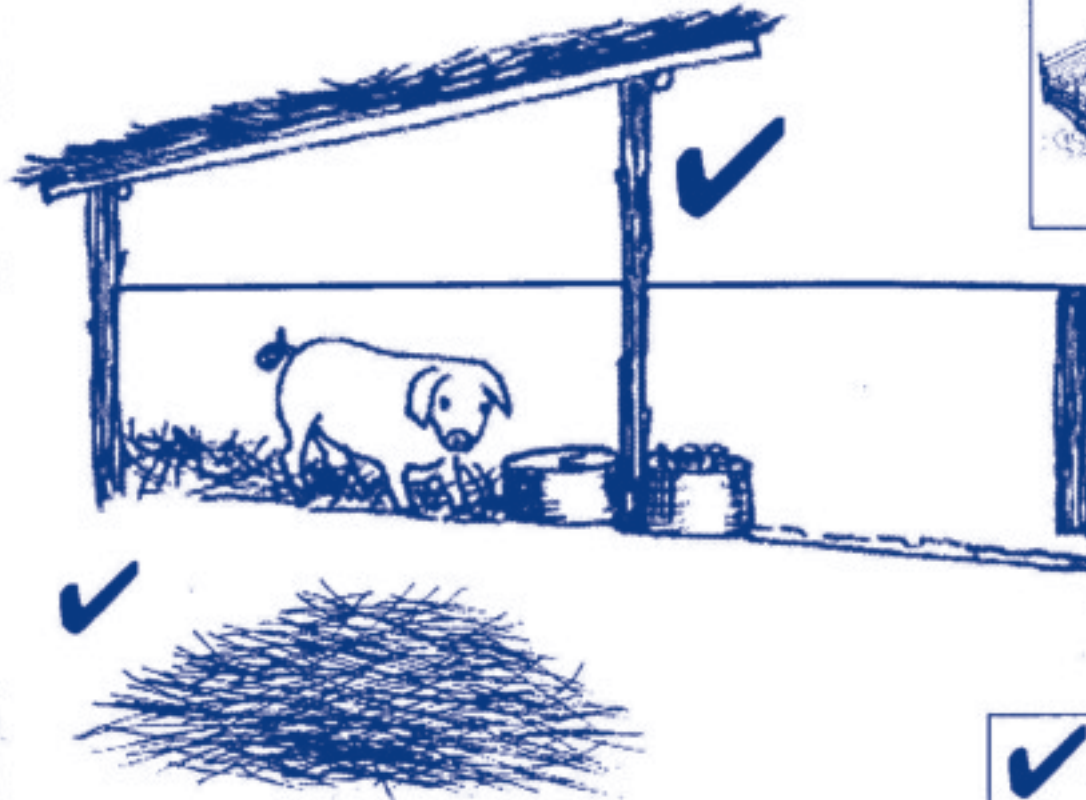




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# SPCA says...

## TAKE CARE OF YOUR PIGS



- Young or baby pigs are called **PIGLETS**.
- Adult female pigs are called **SOWS**.
- Adult uncastrated male pigs are called **BOARS**.

## **WATER**

- Pigs must always have clean, fresh water to drink.
- One pig needs at least 5-10 litres of water every day.
- When they are feeding young, sows need to drink more water because they need to produce milk.
- Put the water in the shade to stop it from getting hot.
- It is very important to make sure that the pigs can't push the water container over. Tie it to a post or pole in the ground.

## **FEED**

- Pigs have only one stomach and need to eat two or three meals a day.
- Don't feed your pigs only once a day because once they have eaten and are full they will play with the rest of the food, stand in it and make it dirty. This food is then wasted and the pigs will be hungry.
- Divide the food into two portions, feed the pigs half in the morning and half in the evening.
- Pigs must not be fed rubbish or plastic.
- Pigs can eat mixtures of scraps, or leftover food like mealie pap, bread, vegetables, fruit and pig pellets. Proper pig pellets are the best thing to feed pigs.
- Don't only feed one vegetable (like cabbage). Pigs need a mixed diet to stay healthy.
- Cutting grass (especially green grass) and feeding this in small amounts will help to supplement the pigs' diet.
- It is important that small or weak pigs are fed separately from the bigger pigs or else the bigger, stronger pigs will eat all the food.
- If you have more than four adult pigs then food should be divided into two containers, so that every animal can have a share.

## **BREEDING**

- Pigs are pregnant for about 4 months and can have as many as 10 young at one time.
- It is best to keep pigs of the same size together. If big and small pigs are mixed, there will be fighting and bullying of the smaller or weaker ones.
- Don't keep adult boars together or they may fight.
- A sow must be kept in a separate area when she is going to have babies. This area must be clean, dry and warm.
- Put some grass on the floor so that the sow can make a nest. This will help keep the babies warm and close to their mother.
- A sow with babies must have clean water all the time and a lot of good, fresh food at least twice a day.

## **SHELTER**

- Many pigs are pink and their skins go red and burn if they are left in the sun. Black or brown pigs have skins that don't burn as easily.
- Pigs do not have much hair on their bodies to protect them from the cold or insulate them against heat. Pigs suffer if they get too cold or too hot.
- Many pigs die from pneumonia if left in the cold, wind or rain. Pigs can also die from heatstroke after being left in the sun with no shelter or water.
- Even if the pigs do not die they will not be as healthy and strong as they should be.
- Pigs must have a warm, dry sleeping area.
- Pigs must be able to lie in the shade away from the sun. Part of the pen must have a roof to provide enough shade for all the pigs.
- If the roof is metal, it must be covered with grass or branches to keep it cool.

## **DRAINAGE AND HYGIENE**

- Many people think that pigs like to be in dirty pens with only mud to stand in. This is wrong. This may make the pigs sick or unhealthy.
- Pigs roll in mud to protect themselves from the sun and extreme temperatures and against parasites like flies.
- It is not necessary for pigs to have mud if they have shelter and their pens are kept clean to discourage flies and other parasites.
- It is important that floor of the pen is sloped so that excess water can run off, and so that the pen can keep dry.
- If water does collect in the pen, it is important to dig a furrow or ditch leading out of the pen so that the water can drain out.
- Pigs always dung in the same place. Make sure that the dung is cleaned out at least twice a week, or else the pen will be dirty and there will be more risk from disease.
- Food and water bowls must be washed out properly at least twice a week.

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