

What is an American Mini Pig?

The most genetically diverse breed in the world.

Pigs have been domesticated for thousands of years, yet the idea of having a pig as a pet is a relatively new one. 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, 1,000 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.



When the use for biomedical research pigs began to decline, the majority of facilities eliminated their programs altogether 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, depending on the ratio of the genetics on that individual.

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. Differences are clearly seen with 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. 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 the American Mini Pig breed was developed. Due to the varied history of these animals, build and coloration can vary widely. 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. As the American Mini Pig Association collects information and data through the registration of breeding herds and pet pigs, we can further separate today's American Mini Pigs from their purebred ancestors. While most pet pigs today are American Mini Pigs, mixed from other breeds over time, these animals do stand apart from any one of the individual breeds/breed types that went into their development.

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 Julianas and American Mini Pigs. Things have gone full circle with these amazing creatures.

Learn more at AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com





Misleading Advertising Terms

Mini pigs come in a variety of shapes, colors, patterns, and sizes. They are considered full grown at 5 years old. A large percentage of their growth occurs between 1 and 5 years old. Mini pigs should be expected to grow to 15 inches + and 60 lbs +. Any breeder promising lower heights or weights is setting up unrealistic expectations. Responsible breeders will not use misleading terms or offer unrealistic sizes.

Labels such as teacup, micro, micro mini, extreme micro, nano, and pixie are misleading marketing terms. These are not descriptions of size or breeds of pig. These labels will not offer you a smaller pig; they are only used to give a false impression of smaller size. Don't be fooled! Say NO to micro! Teacup pigs do not exist!

American Mini Pig Breed Standard as of 9/2017

The American Mini Pig is a breed that has been developed over the years by combining a variety of breeds from around the world. Health and temperament are the most important aspects of the breed since American Mini Pigs have been developed for the sole purpose of being raised as pets/companions. A compact, sturdy size of 15-20 inches gives the American Mini Pig a smaller stature than other breeds, that is suitable for indoor/outdoor homes. The perfect size for a pet pig. Weight varies based on the body condition of the pig, with focus on a healthy, robust, athletic build where the pig is able to move and run freely with clear vision. Due to the variety of breeds that contribute to the genetics of the American Mini Pig, this breed is one of the most varied in color and markings.

SIZE: Measuring 15-20 inches at top of shoulders at maturity of 5 years old.

BODY CONDITION: The overall weight of the American Mini Pig should fit its stature as such that the pig is comfortable and able to run and move freely.

HEAD: Proportional to body. Eyes should be open with vision unobstructed. Forehead slopes to snouts of varying length. Mouth and teeth should be healthy, proportional, and free of defect.

EARS: Ears should be erect and relatively small.

NECK: Neck should be proportionate to the body without excessive jowls or rolls of fat.

BODY: Body should be compact and well balanced. A strong, athletic build.

BACK: Back should be straight without a prominent sway.

TAIL: Tail should be natural, straight, with a tassel at the end.

LEGS & FEET: Strong, proportionate, straight, well set legs. Toes should be even and forward facing.

HAIR: Healthy, coarse hair that changes length and thickness with seasons.

COLOR: American Mini Pigs exhibit any variety of colors and markings including but not limited to solid, spots, stripes as an immature color, and agouti as a mature color.

SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS: Females should have at least 12 evenly spaced teats. Males should have two evenly sized, palpable testicles set in the scrotum.

TEMPERAMENT: Even temperament, friendly disposition, intelligent and highly trainable.

DISQUALIFICATION FROM BREEDING STOCK or UNDESIRABLE TRAITS: Cryptorchidism, hernia, atresia ani, entropion, wattles, mule foot, heavy wrinkling, swayed back, severe over/under bite affecting eating.

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