

Vietnamese Potbelly Pig

Sus scrofa domestica

Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Artiodactyla*

Family: *Suidae*

Characteristics:

The Vietnamese potbelly (also known as potbellied) pig has black skin with sparse hair which doesn't shed much. Their skin is loose as indicated by their wrinkles. They have a distended belly. A purebred potbelly will have a straight tail. They usually weigh 100 pounds, are 3 feet long and 15 inches tall at the shoulders (pigs intended for meat usually weigh 600 – 1500 pounds). All pigs have a rostral bone to support the rostral disc (aka flat snout). They also have a [carpal gland](#) (a gland located on the back of the front hooves), which is thought to serve for marking territory ([Isuagcenter.com](#) & [Oklahoma State University](#)).

Behavior:

Pigs are highly intelligent animals and potbellies can be trained much as you would a dog. They are quite devoted companion animals ([CPPA](#)). Spayed or neutered Potbelly pigs are relatively docile, clean animals. Fertile females can be moody (PMS) while unneutered male pigs (boars) produce foul smells and can become aggressive in the presence of females. They will often rut with their snout among leaves and dirt for food items such as insects and roots ([Oklahoma State University](#)).

Reproduction:

A neutered male is called a "barrow," an intact male is a "boar," a female that has never had babies is called a "gilt" and a female that has given birth is a "sow." Females are polyestrus, with an average menstrual cycle of 21 days with ovulation occurring on the latter end of the cycle. Gestation lasts approximately 114 days and will produce an average of six piglets. These piglets are sexually mature by five to seven months ([Oklahoma State University](#), [Sea World](#), and [Isuagcenter.com](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Plant material, vegetables, fruits, fungi
Zoo: Hog chow, apples, carrots, greens, hay

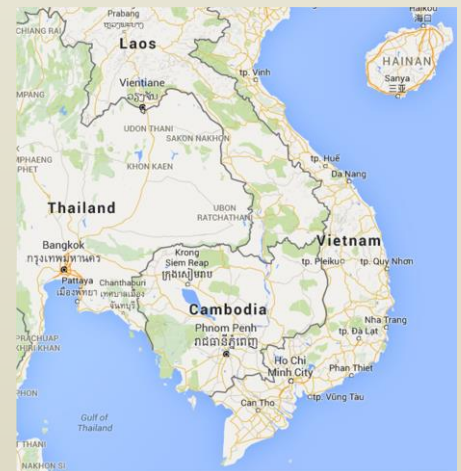
Conservation: None. Most commonly bred for pets and zoological collections.

FYI: The first large wave of potbelly pigs into the United States came when they were imported from Europe for North American zoos in the mid-1980s ([National Geographic](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Found worldwide as pets, in zoos and some on farms



Lifespan: up to 20 years in captivity, 12-15 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Bred to be a pet, they are often smaller than the common pig.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Not Evaluated: Domesticated

