

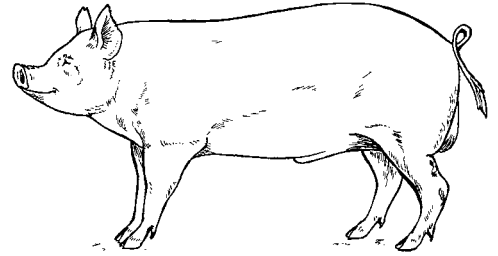
Pig factsheet

Name: Pig

Male: Boar **Female:** Sow or gilt **Baby:** Piglet

Lifespan:

Naturally pigs live for about 10 to 15 years.
Pigs bred for their meat are slaughtered at around five to six months.



Natural behaviour:

Pigs are very intelligent animals. They still behave like their wild ancestors in many ways:

- they like to explore their environment and look for food by rooting around with their snouts.
- sows like to build a nest in which to give birth to their piglets

How many pigs are there?

Nearly 10 million* are reared in the UK each year – mainly in East Anglia, Eastern Scotland and Yorkshire.

What's the point of keeping them as farm animals?

For meat – pork, bacon, ham and pork sausages.

How are pigs kept on farms?

Breeding:

About 58 per cent* of pigs reared for meat in the UK are born indoors. Pregnant sows are moved into crates up to a week before they give birth and stay there until the piglets are weaned at around 4 weeks of age. Although the crates are designed to protect the piglets from being rolled on and crushed by the sow, they restrict her movement so she cannot turn around. Over 40 per cent of sows are kept outdoors in fields. Again they are housed together in groups when pregnant, but are then given individual huts with plenty of straw in which to give birth. The sows can leave these huts whenever they want to explore the outdoor area.

Fattening pigs:

Very few pigs are reared outside in fields. Most pigs are reared indoors. This means that, even if the pigs are born on outdoor units, they will spend more than half of their lives indoors. Only three per cent will spend their entire lives outdoors.

Several different types of indoor farms:

A large number of indoor-rearing farms have slatted floors with little or no straw for the pigs to root around in. The slatted floor is uncomfortable for pigs to lie down on and can damage their feet.

Some indoor farms have large straw yards so that the pigs can root around, choose a comfortable place to rest and sleep and choose where to go to the toilet.

Did you know?

Pigs can't sweat, except from the tip of their snout – they cool themselves down by wallowing in mud.

* information correct as of 2015.