



# INFORMATION PACKET REGARDING POTBELLIED PIGS

## CONTENTS:

- 1: PERSONAL STATEMENT
- 2: FACTS ABOUT POTBELLIED PIGS AS A HOUSEPET
- 6: ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION FROM CITIES SURROUNDING KC
- 6.5: CHANGE.ORG PETITION
- 7-21: PERSONAL STATEMENTS FROM NEIGHBORS, CITIZENS OF KANSAS CITY, FELLOW PIG OWNERS, AND A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
- 22: NEWS ARTICLE
- 22.5 DEFINITIONS

Dear City Council Members,

First and foremost I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this packet. I have tried to include information such as statements from former neighbors as well as citizens from Kansas City who support changing the ordinance. I have included topics I believe that public safety would be concerned about such as housing, human health, statistics on potbellied pig attacks/bites vs. dog attacks/bites (there are no reports from multiple animal controls on pig attacks/bites). There is a letter from a nurse practitioner-who fully supports pigs as pets-about human health and potbellied pigs. The emails and letters I have included are from former neighbors when I lived in Midtown, Kansas City. I feel as though these are the most potent forms of proof I have when it comes to the public and how they feel about potbellied pigs living in the city. I have never had a complaint about my own potbellied pig. It has been quite the contrary, I have had all positive reactions and many of my neighbors know my pig, Marlee, by name. Please read the emails, because I am certain they will open your eyes and hearts to what pet pigs truly are: clean, intelligent, calm, and sweet animals.

A little bit about myself: I have had Marlee, for 4.5 years. When I adopted her, in high school, I swore to my mother that I would take her with me to college, and when I moved 300 miles away to Midtown in Kansas City I started my life over with Marlee by my side. I now am a full time radiography student with plans to go to medical school. I work two jobs-one is a work study job for the President of my college campus, and the other is a retail job I have had for the past three years since I moved to Kansas City. I have made life-long friends in Kansas City and some of those people I met because they asked me about my pet pig. I would like to tell you how much I love Marlee but I believe my efforts to change the ordinance show that.

One of the things I am going to do if the ordinance is changed, is start a KC Potbelly Pig Association. My plan is to educate the public BEFORE they get a pet pig, and prepare them for what is to come. Just like you, I do not want irresponsible owners and my hope is to deter anyone who may not realize what having a pet pig is truly like. I have already put a group of people together in the Kansas City Metro area who are more than willing to assist me with the KC Potbelly Pig Association. We will provide a list of vaccinations, information on spaying and neutering, a list of veterinarians who treat potbellied pigs, and many resources for pig related help. One person in the group is in the process of building a rescue sanctuary. We can work with animal control and the shelters around Kansas City to ensure that potbellied pigs are safe and- if need be-have a place to go.

I have worked on changing the ordinance for the past nine months. If you support this change, I assure you that it will not be a mistake. There are thousands of people who support this as well (see petition). Potbellied pigs are sensitive and intelligent, and they deserve to be treated like the pets they are. When I was in high school I was in a very dark place. I wanted to drop out and work on a cruise ship. My mother knew I needed something to bring my spirits up so she allowed me to adopt Marlee. Marlee did more than bring my spirits up; she brought happiness and light to my life. When I moved to Kansas City from small town USA, Marlee was literally all I had. Many times I became overwhelmed and was tempted to go the easy route and just move back home. The desire to build a life for Marlee and I is what kept motivating me, and that's exactly what I have done. Potbellied pigs are not bacon; they are a best friend, a life saver, a reason to keep moving forward, and they are unconditional love. It is only fair that the good citizens of Kansas City get to (legally) experience the joy of a potbellied pig.

Thank You,  
Ann Varner  
Ann Varner



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Letter for pigs to councilman**

1 message

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**Alison** <alisonrw102787@gmail.com>  
To: Ann Varner <annvarner10@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 30, 2015 at 6:02 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Alison <alisonrw102787@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 30, 2015 at 5:27:29 PM CDT  
**To:** "alisonrw102787@gmail.com" <alisonrw102787@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Letter for pigs to councilman

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to tell you what it is like to live a life of owning a potbellied pig as a pet and our dedication to them and all of our pets. My (Alison) life has always consisted of dogs, cats and horses growing up in my family and my fiancé, Trey, has always had dogs and potbellied pigs. I haven't known Trey for about ten years so I had the pleasure of meeting his pet pig, Harry, back in high school. I thought a pig was a pretty cool pet but never thought I would own one in my life time. Years down the line Trey and I started dating. When we started dating I had 5 cats and 1 dog. 1 cat I've had for 16 years and my dog for 5, roommates left behind their cats and then they ended up just living with me. Trey had no pets after Harry had passed away. He had Harry for 15 1/2 years, in Leawood, Kansas of all places. After awhile of dating and living together Trey brought up getting his own pet and asked if it would be ok since it was my house he moved into. I said only if it is a rescue because years before I said that I would only get pets in need for the rest of my life. He then brought up the idea of another pig. Now I didn't know much about pigs so all I thought was aren't they dirty? Don't they smell? All the stuff anyone who doesn't know much about pigs would assume. After he told me more about them, telling me how intelligent and dedicated they are to their owners and much more I agreed on a pig. I looked online and found some information that said they could be in Kansas City. Of course, 2 1/2 years later I found that was not true. We now know not to trust everything you read online. I found a pig that needed to be rescued and we went to go pick her up. When we got there the living conditions were disgusting and saddening. We couldn't believe our eyes what we were seeing. Not only was this place a terrible place for pigs but their cats, dogs, rabbits and even their children should not have been living the way that they were. The status of the pigs were so bad that we couldn't bare to just take one. We had to take them all. We vowed that day to get them healthy, trained, fed properly and able to trust a person would never harm them again. We had no clue what we got ourselves into and how damaged these poor babies were. They were so scared, aggressive, mean, starved and so much more. It was so sad but we worked with them everyday for about 6 months. The most aggressive one was our biggest, and you could tell how much abuse he had suffered. He is now my gentle giant. In fact this morning

we snuggled on the couch and watched a movie. He weighs more than I do but he loves to lay next to "mom" and "dad" and we love them all too!

When animal control came to our house and gave us 14 days to surrender our pigs or move out of the city we knew surrendering the pigs was not an option in our life. Our pets are our family and they weren't going anywhere that we weren't going to be. We were very fortunate to be able to find a place in the allotted time, let alone approve us so quick, especially since we were having to break our lease due to this. We drained our bank account of thousands of dollars, and now have to commute an hour to and from work and live in a city we have never even heard of. All we care about is that we have all of our family, and that is what completes our life.

We would love to be able to have the option of moving back to Kansas City. To be around our family, friends and jobs and to have our pet family included. I have never felt that having a pig as a pet has lowered my class in society, placed anyone in danger with them being around, or lowered the property value of the area I am living. In this booklet my previous neighbors and friends have written to tell you what it is like living next to a family with pet pigs and being friends and visiting us with pet pigs.

Please consider allowing potbellied pigs in your city. They are very intelligent, clean and loving animals. No different than a dog or a cat in my opinion.

Thank you,

Alison Williams and Trey Hornbeck

Sent from my iPhone

## The Miniature Potbelly Pig as a Housepet: A Comparison with Cats and Dogs

The following discussion compares the suitability of keeping a particular breed of pig-the Miniature Potbellied Pig-as a housepet in residential (Kansas City) areas with the suitability of keeping cats or dogs for the same purpose in similar surroundings.

The criteria used for comparison are the size of animals, human health considerations in terms or risk to animal to human transmission of disease, disposition of the animals, shelter needs, exercise needs, and the role of these animals in human allergic syndromes.

In the United States, the miniature potbelly pig is commonly referred to as the Vietnamese Potbelly, the Chinese Potbelly, or the Asian Potbelly. Two difference scientific names are *used Sus scrofa jubatus Muller* or *Sus scrofa bittatus*.

### I. SIZE

A "farm hog", or non-domesticated pig, raised for food consumption, weighs in the range of 400 to 900 pounds. In comparison a full-grown potbelly will generally weigh at most 200 pounds. See picture to the right for a comparison of farm hogs vs. potbelly pigs.



The standard for the breed set by the North American Potbellied Pig Association for pigs is a maximum height of 18 inches at the shoulders and weigh about 95 pounds. An unusually large potbelly at full growth will be around 200 pounds, be about 20 inches at the withers and less than 40 inches long.

Clearly, the potbelly is larger than any domestic cat and smaller than the large to giant breed of dogs. Although their weight in numbers may be high, they are stocky and compact animals and generally do not look like the amount they weigh. The minimum standard height for the tallest dog breed, the Akita, is 32 inches and the average height is 30-40 inches. The weight of the heaviest dog, the Old English Mastiff, averages 240-340 pounds.

Because of the more compact body build of a potbelly pig, it is a fair comparison to say that the potbelly is smaller in stature than moderate to large dogs (Retrievers, Setters, Shepherds, and Collies) although they are equal to weight in some of the larger dog breeds. Perhaps the best overall comparison in size is to a large basset hound. Here is a picture of a full grown (4.5 year old potbelly pig) and Basset Hounds.



**Therefore, in comparison to dogs, the potbelly is equally suitable to be a housepet in a residential area by criterion of size.**

## II. Disposition

The pig is an animal of prey, whereas; dogs and cats are predators. Both cats and dogs will attack the other species of animals, including their own, as a part of their natural instinct. Pigs, as prey animals, are non-aggressive by nature. Their first instinct is to retreat rather than attack. Please see attached about reported pig issues vs. dog issues. There have been no reported issues with potbelly pig attacks or bites in multiple cities surrounding Kansas City who allow pigs within city limits. Potbelly pigs are a herd animal. They get along well with other potbelly pigs, other animals such as dogs, and are very good with children and people (some pigs vary, especially if they have been abused).



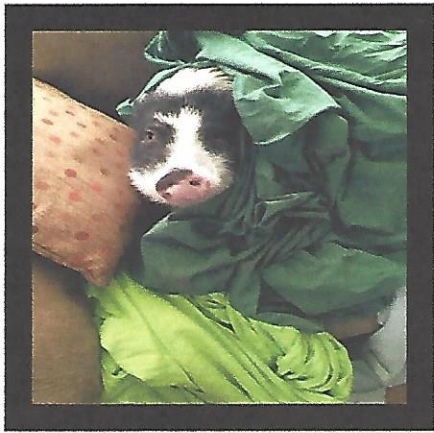
## III. Food

Cats and dogs are both carnivores whose diet consists of meat. The feces of both the cat and dog have a strong pungent odor. Pigs are omnivores, both vegetarians and meat eaters. The potbellied pig's diet, however, consists of grains and vegetables. Commercially manufactured feed is available. This feed is formulated to eliminate the smell of pig's feces. It is not recommended to feed meat to a potbellied pig.



## IV. Housing

Potbelly pigs, like dogs and cats, are housed inside. The new ordinance for Kansas City states that potbelly pigs must be housed inside but may go outside to graze and use the bathroom. Potbelly pigs can be litterbox trained using multiple types of litter and can also use "pee pads". The "hog farm smell" would not be pertinent as there would not be more than four potbelly pigs total and the potbelly pig would not be permanently dwelling outside. See pictures of pigs from Kansas City who are housed inside.



## V. Intelligence

The potbellied pig, or pigs in general are ranked number three in intelligence behind the ape and the dolphin. Because pigs are so intelligent, they are easily trained. Potbelly pigs can walk on a leash, do tricks, be potty trained (essentially exactly like dogs and cats). Potbelly pigs are smarter than dogs and cats, which means they are trained faster and easier than a typical dog and cat.



## VI. Human Health and Potbellied Pigs

### a. Role in Human Allergic Syndromes

Dogs and cats are allergenic due to their fur and dander. Potbellied pigs do not have fur or dander in the sense that dogs and cats do. Rather, a potbelly has hair and dandruff in the sense that people do.

### b. Mental Health

Potbellied pigs are able to be registered as an ESA (Emotional Support Animal). Due to their good nature, being hypoallergenic, and non-aggressive, they make wonderful, intelligent companions for many people. There are many cases where pigs, like dogs, have saved an owner. They are highly sensitive and feel emotions just as humans do.

### c. Diseases

The most common question about potbellied pigs as pets is “what about swine flu?” According to the Center of Disease Control, there are only 1 to 2 cases per year. Swine flu is very rare and if humans were to be infected, it would be because there are masses of pigs in small areas such as livestock barns, county fairs, ect.

There are very few, if any, documented cases of rabies in potbellied pigs. Pigs are not very susceptible to rabies. If a pig in Kansas City were to be bitten by a rabid animal, the owner would forfeit the pig to be euthanized.

Humans are not prone to catching diseases from potbellied pigs. Pet pigs do not live in masses, they are hygienic, and receive routine veterinary care as well as vaccines. In the new ordinance for Kansas City, all potbelly pigs are to be vaccinated and spayed or neutered.



## ANIMAL CONTROL INFORMATION FROM CITIES SURROUNDING KANSAS CITY WHERE POTBELLY PIGS ARE PERMITTED WITHIN CITY LIMITS

### Overland Park, KS

- **60 dog bites** in the last year
- **No potbelly pig bites or attacks ever**
- 1 call about a pig who was loose, but “was nice and cooperated with the help of an apple”

### St. Joseph, MO

- **No calls or complaints for potbelly pig bites or running at large ever**
- 100 aggressive dog calls in the past year
- **20 dog bites** since **January 2015**

### Shawnee, KS

- 1 call on a pig because it was loose, but it came to its name and “he was a pretty cool pig”
- **No issues with potbelly pigs ever**
- Not many aggressive dog issues or bites

### Grandview, MO

- **No issues with potbellied pigs ever. 1 incident because it was a full sized hog**
- About 3 **bites** as well as **aggressive** dog phone calls a month (**about 36 a year**)

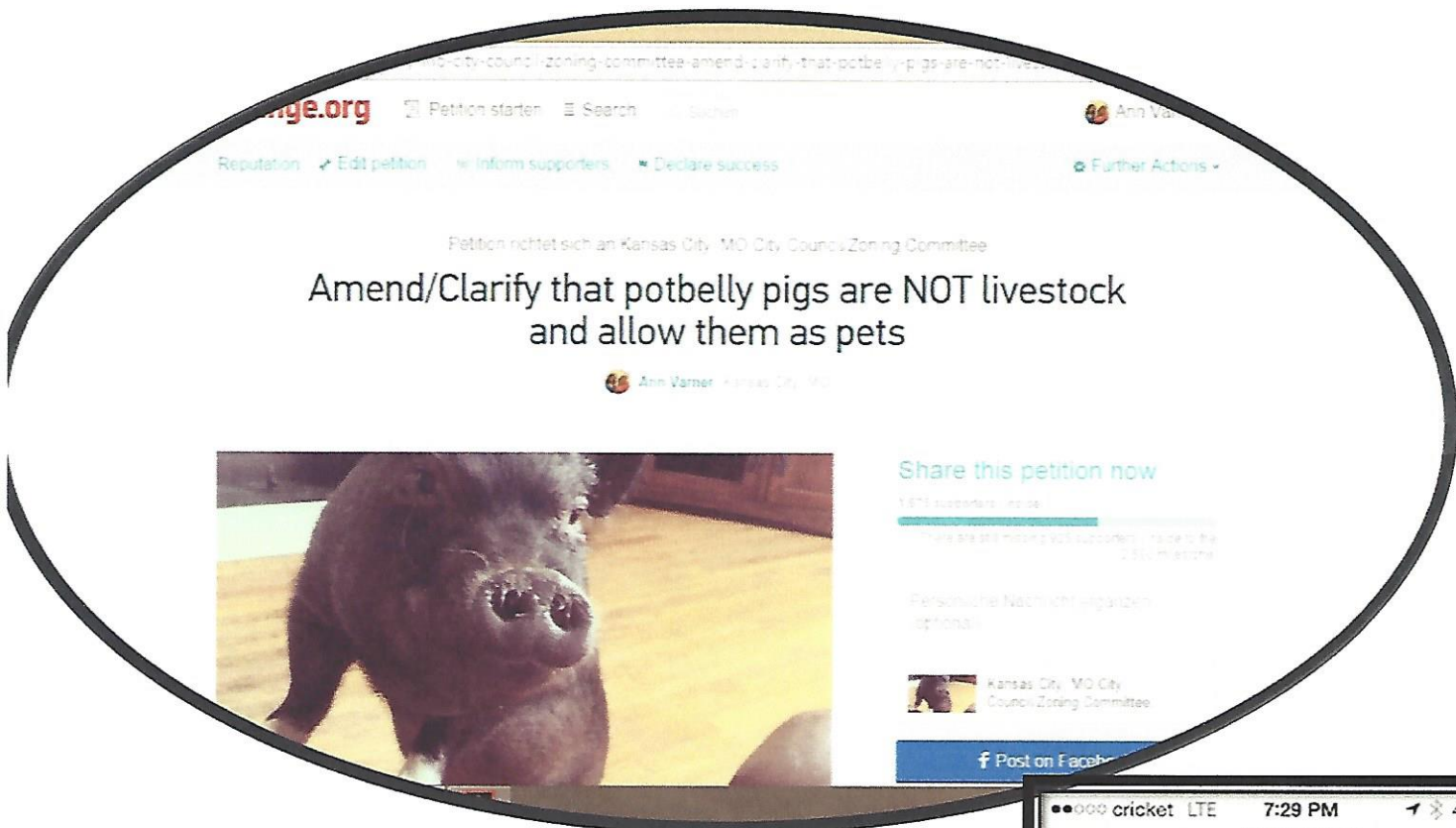
### Lawrence, KS

- Manager could only recall 2 phone calls ever. 1 to ask if the potbelly pig was legal (yes) and the other about a potbelly pig being at large
- **No potbelly pig attacks or bites ever**
- **11 dog bite** phone calls within the past month

### Olathe, KS

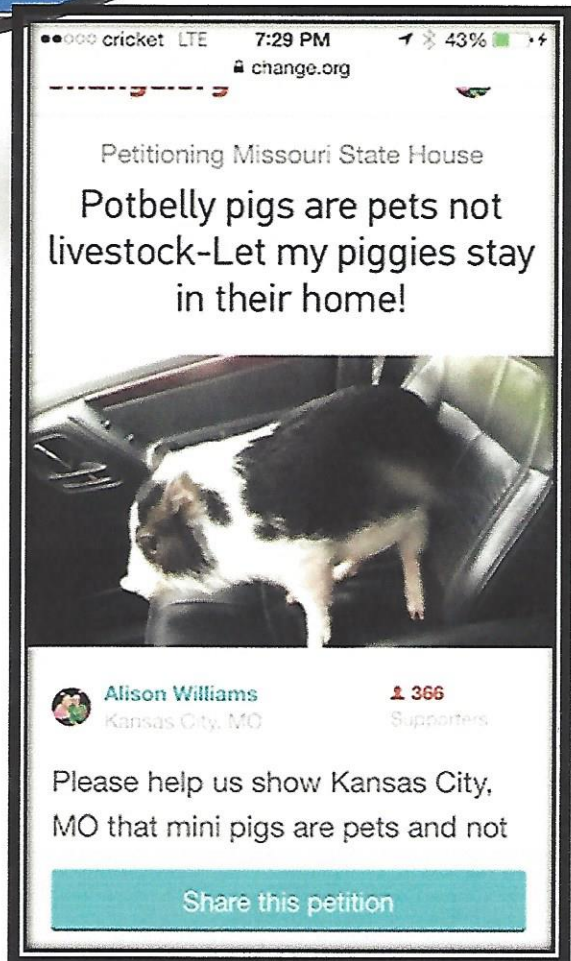
- **No potbelly pig attacks or bites -1 incident of running at large**
- In a 4 month quarter 120 **dog and cat bites (360 a year)**

To summarize, I called animal control from six of the many cities surrounding Kansas City who permit potbelly pigs as pets within city limits. None of the cities have had potbelly pig issues especially pertaining to bites or attacks. There have been a great number of dog and cat bites and or attacks, which goes to show that potbelly pigs are not going to cause the public any danger.



1,941

Kansas City Area  
Supporters



June 24, 2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jayna Monical I am a Family Nurse Practitioner in St. Joseph, MO. Currently Ann Varner and her beautiful sweet pig Marlee are staying with us. Ann is currently doing a medical clinical required for her schooling in St. Joseph, MO and was looking for a place to stay for 8 weeks closer to her clinical rotation. My daughter Aubrey was a pre-med student at UMKC and met Ann through work. Aubrey introduced our family to Ann really just via Facebook for a couple of years. When Ann was looking for a place to stay for 8 weeks with her pig Marlee we decided we would open our home to her. We had never physically met Ann or Marlee prior to the last few weeks. Ann brought Marlee to our home to meet us and our 4 basset hounds Izzy, Frank, Lilly and Oppey prior to moving in to make sure things would be ok with Marlee and the basset crew. I will have to say the dogs think Marlee is one of their own! They love her! Marlee I believe thinks she is now part dog as she has picked up some basset hound ways.

I have to admit prior to Ann and Marlee moving in we did worry a bit. Is she really crate trained? Is she potty trained? Will she damage anything in our home as they are staying in a part of our home we had just put new furniture in? Will she be loud? Is she clean? Does she smell?

I would like to answer the above questions. Marlee is very intelligent, she plays games that are puzzles and likes a challenging puzzle game! Marlee is very clean, she has absolutely no odor (now as for the basset hounds they require more upkeep on hygiene than Marlee) from what I have seen and learned pigs are by far cleaner than dogs! Marlee is a bit of a diva, she likes to sit on the couch with her blanket and love on her human mom while they watch TV. Marlee does not shed like many other animals. Marlee is crate trained and does well just as a dog would while her human mom is at school or work. Marlee is by far less destructive than a dog as she really just strolls around the house or yard and lays around just as one of our old basset hounds does. Marlee has taken walks with the basset hounds around our neighborhood meeting many people, she loves attention and loves for people to meet her and give her a pat. Marlee does make her own pig noises at times as I would expect but no louder than our dogs. Marlee has different noises I have noticed for different things such as I am hungry, I want to go outside or I am just a happy pig noise. We can see Marlee loves her human mommy as they snuggle together every day.

I will say things are going well for Ann and Marlee here and I am so happy our city has made it legal for pigs here so we could help Ann for her schooling and learn more about pet pigs. When the 8 weeks have passed and Marlee moves to a place she is legal (hopeful this will be Kansas City, MO.), I know the humans here and the basset hounds will miss them both.

I do hope you consider making it legal for your residents to have pet pigs as we have learned Marlee is much like our basset hounds she is although probably quite a bit smarter than the basset hound. As a healthcare provider I do not see any more risk having a pet pig than having a pet dog. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Jayna Monical

[jaynajeannede@gmail.com](mailto:jaynajeannede@gmail.com)



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

## Amending Livestock laws for Kansas City

1 message

Jennifer Watson &lt;jwatson@kcai.edu&gt;

Fri, Nov 21, 2014 at 11:40 AM

To: john.sharp@kcmo.org

Cc: annvarner10@gmail.com

Dear Councilman Sharp-

My name is Jennifer Watson and I was a neighbor of Ann's from 2011 to 2013. During that time, she had her pig, Marlee, living with her. It saddens me greatly to hear about recent events where the city has threatened to take Marlee away from Ann, because during all the time that I lived near them, they never caused any problems. In fact, I would argue that Ann and Marlee enriched my neighborhood because whenever they went out they made someone's day brighter. Almost every time that Ann takes Marlee for a walk she comes back with a story about someone they met.

I don't believe that Marlee is livestock. She is a potbelly pig, not the breed of pig usually raised to be slaughtered for meat. She's the pig equivalent of a toy poodle. She's no more dangerous than a dog, and I would say has much less potential to cause harm than a dog like a German Shepherd or a Pit Bull, and this city is home to many of those animals.

I believe Ann has been unfairly targeted by officials wanting to enforce this ordinance against livestock, because I know for a fact that there is a chicken coop on 31st street near Holmes. I pass it every day on my way to work. Why would one resident of the city get to keep chickens in his or her side yard a mere mile from downtown while Ann has had to relocate her pet pig for fear that she might be seized?

I do not believe that amending this ordinance would cause any sort of onslaught of "livestock" to be brought into the city, as most people have no interest in keeping "livestock" breeds as pets. I have learned from Ann that pigs require special care, and she has taken it upon herself to make sure and go the extra mile when it comes to Marlee's health and well-being. Marlee is more spoiled than most pets I know, and Ann is active in several groups of pig enthusiasts. I think that it is sufficient to hold pig owners to the same animal welfare standards as cat and dog owners.

I hope that you consider helping Ann and Marlee, because as an animal lover myself I could not bear it if someone told me that I couldn't have my cat any more. Pets become a part of a person's family, and I think that Marlee would also be a valuable part of Kansas City because of the happiness she spreads wherever she and Ann go.

Thank you for your time-  
Jennifer Watson



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Marlee letter**

1 message

**Smith, Sarina Elaine** <s322s288@ku.edu>

Mon, Sep 29, 2014 at 8:13 PM

To: "annvarner10@gmail.com" &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

Dear City Council Members,

Hello, our names are Allegra Durrant and Sarina Smith, we are writing this letter on behalf of one Ann Varner who will be appearing before the court on October 8th, 2014 with a case regarding her pet pig, Marlee. We lived in the Casero apartment complex on the corner of 43rd & McGee Street in Kansas City, Missouri as the neighbors of the woman and pig in question for more than a year and a half.

Ann is appearing today in hopes of convincing the court that her pet is, indeed, a pet and not a livestock animal as has been charged against her. As her neighbor for so long I can verify that not only is Marlee a very beloved pet but that she could not pass for livestock if she had to. Marlee is a trained and domestic animal. She is both litter box and leash trained, and Ann takes her for two walks a day at minimum. Not only does Ann walk her regularly, but she bathes her and trims and paints her hooves - a livestock animal would most certainly not let her do that. Marlee is also well mannered. She is sweet and children love to pet her when she is out on her walks. She has never bitten anyone or gotten out of control in any way.

Lastly, we would like to appeal to the court in this way, and we are sure you will realize this from Ann's nature, Marlee is Ann's best friend. Ann is known around the city for having Marlee as a pet but those of us that are closer to Ann know that Marlee has her heart. She has spent thousands of dollars on surgery for Marlee and we have stayed up very late with Ann to insure Marlee's good health. She thinks about her safety and happiness before her own which is why it is so important to Ann that Marlee be seen as the pet she is and be given allowance to continue to live with Ann within the city as she has been from day one. Pigs bond with one owner for life and Marlee chose Ann.

We urge that you recognize Marlee as the kind pet she is and allow her to continue to live here in our city with all those that love her.

Sincerely,

Allegra Durrant & Sarina Smith

Pigs. These creatures are extremely intellectual and social creatures that have suffered painful, inhumane treatment in the farming industry, resulting in terrorizing trauma. This trauma is associated with the demand of pork product consumption. Potbelly pig owners should be allowed to keep their pets because why is it more acceptable to have a cat, dog, bird, turtle, etc. than it is to have a pig as a pet? The answer...there is none. Pigs have been known to be extremely adaptable and trainable, being their intellectual ability is ranked below the intellect of a dolphin, thus allowing these pets to develop a connection with their owners. Pigs, like dogs, can sense danger or a potential threat, making them perfect candidates for pet ownership. Being vaccinated and hoof trimmed once a year, being hypoallergenic (reduced allergic reaction/response), very clean and generally odorless, overall a low physical maintenance, very affectionate, and the ability to live up to 20 years makes a pig an awesome pet. Pigs have been shown to be heroic in regards in waking a family in the middle of the night when a fire has started to the retrieval of the necessary help for a pet owner who is suffering a heart attack.

The last point to address is the H1N1 virus; commonly known as swine flu; derived from pigs. The H1N1 symptoms are similar in nature to the common seasonal flu, so the main, direct point is if you take precautions, such as, washing your hands periodically, avoid touching your face and mouth, eating clean, healthy foods, and getting a yearly vaccinated (as suggested by the CDC) a person can avoid becoming infected by the H1N1 virus, just the same as avoiding the common flu experienced by humans. So, in regards to the scare tactics of people towards potbelly pig owners of being infected by this virus a person is susceptible of dying from the common flu just the same as the H1N1 flu, so there should not be any more emphasis on the H1N1 flu than the common flu.

So in conclusion, by owning a potbelly pig does not affect Kansas City pessimistically, but in a more positive, optimistic impact being how compassionate these creatures are towards other animals and humans. Potbelly pigs are extremely lovable creatures and humans can learn a lot from these intellectual beings and should not be categorized as livestock considering the EPA considers the market weight to be 240 to 260 pounds and potbelly pigs grow on average between 120-150 pounds. Once more, and most importantly, pigs are inhumanely treated in the meat industry and that should be substantial enough for someone who wants to protect these creatures from slaughter to have them as pets.

Scyler Gransbury

ScylerG2015@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern,

June 22, 2015

I am writing in support of potbellied pig ownership within city limits. I had the pleasure to be neighbors whom had potbellied pigs for approximately 2 years. This is my account of my experience with these unique pets.

For a long time, I was unaware that my new neighbors even owned potbellied pigs. Occasionally, I would hear an animal sound that I could not attribute to a typical pet, such as a dog\* but this occurred rarely and was never an intrusive sound. Finally one day while in my back yard, I spied these adorable creatures. After that point, I was enraptured to watch them go about their little piggy day.

\*Dogs will often bark incessantly; you always know when your neighbors have a dog. Too often, they bark so long and loudly one cannot even go about yard work or relaxation in one's own yard due to noisy, intrusive dog neighbors. Unfortunately I have found this to be the case far too often. I've had neighbors' dog so vicious that guests would no longer visit me due to their threat; charging the fence, acting like they wanted to kill anyone they could see. Once one even jumped the fence and bit one of my guests. After that, I had to build a tall, privacy fence for safety, due to this public menace.

Such was never the case with my piggy neighbors, who were always a joy to behold. They were always very friendly and I found the sound of their little grunting and rare squeals to be quite charming. They would approach me near the fence, appearing to wish to be petted, quite dog-like. Many times, I witnessed their interaction with neighboring dogs whom were located on every side of their adjoining fences. These dogs treated these little pigs just as other dogs; they would run the length of the fence with them back and forth, engaging them in play. They never barked at the piggies, or otherwise seem to take them as foreign, unfamiliar animals and seemingly accepted them simply as other dogs.

Prior to having potbellied pigs as neighbor pets, I assumed all pigs fit the stereotype: filthy, smelly and potentially dangerous animals. I found that this couldn't be farther from the truth. These little pigs appeared almost meticulously clean; I never noticed any sort of odor from them or from their property. They seemed quite docile and neither myself or my minor child son ever felt threatened in any way.

I was very sad when our good neighbors with these charming little pigs moved away. These animals are neither a threat or a nuisance and are actually quite beneficial to the environment, eliminating the need for so much waste added to the landfills. They will happily eat produce [and other food] items we see as no longer fit for human consumption. I whole heartedly endorse legalizing potbellied pig ownership as pets within any city limits.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this issue if there are any questions or if any further information or statement is needed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Duncan (@ [Pamela.k.duncan@att.net](mailto:Pamela.k.duncan@att.net))

606 E 91<sup>st</sup> Street, K.C., MO 64131-2932

913-515-0894



To whom it may concern,

I personally believe it would inhumane and a violation of our civil rights to make Alison Williams get rid of her pet pigs. I myself have pet pigs in Texas and I can assure you that they are just as domesticated as a dog, if not sometimes more so than a dog.

Pigs can be potty trained, just like dogs, can learn to do basic commands, just like dogs, and can even learn more advance tricks, just like dogs. A pig is just a docile and domesticated as a dog. I can personally tell you that not only our pigs are potty trained, but they know sit, laydown, stay, and even high five. I even have one of my pigs almost trained to where I can put a treat on his nose and he not get it till I give the command to.

Not only that, if we as Americans have a property, we should be allowed to do whatever we want to said property and have whatever we want in said property as long as it does not bring down the property values of nearby residences. There is no way pet pigs can bring down the value of nearby residences, and if they did, well then that would mean so would dogs, cats, snakes, and any other docile pet you can think of.

I know Alison has had these pets for quite a long time, and loves them as if they were her own family. Making her get rid of these pets would be like making her get rid of a son or daughter she had just because you don't like her son or daughter living in her house that she has attained. That would be one of the most heartless things anyone can do. I know for a fact she takes care of all animals she has and there is no better place for her animals then residing with her and I know that no one wants to put these animals into a spot that would not be as beneficial to them as the one they already in so allowing them to stay is the only humane thing to do.

In conclusion, Pigs our as docile as dogs and can be trained just as good if not better sometimes. We as Americans have civil rights and as long as it is not bringing down the property value of nearby residences we should be allowed to have whatever we want and do whatever we want to the property we are residing in. No one wants to be torn away from family members, and pets do become members of the family like a son or daughter, and not just some pet, but a true companion, sometime better than human friends as well. Please, I encourage you to do the humane thing, and let Alison Williams animals stay at her residence.

Best Regards,

Ryen J Phipps

973.635.6797

Dear Kansas City Mo City Council Members,

It would be more than a shame to not legally allow Marlee to live at the Wiltshire. This would cause two phenomenal members of society – Ann Varner and Marlee to leave our residence.

I am a tenant at 4146 Warwick Kanas City, MO 64111 apt 101 – Ann and Marlee live directly across from where I live.

Marlee is a Joy to the neighborhood. She is clean, not loud, not a nuisance, not a health hazard, and a pet just like having a dog.

Ann is a great neighbor she is friendly, clean, quiet, and studious.

In conclusion I would be extremely disappointed to see her move – please allow them to stay.

Sincerely,

- Erica Joy

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Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

## Potbelly Pig Law

1 message

Jennifer &lt;jenilou56@yahoo.com&gt;

Thu, Nov 20, 2014 at 11:23 PM

Reply-To: Jennifer &lt;jenilou56@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "john.sharp@kcmo.org" &lt;john.sharp@kcmo.org&gt;

Cc: "annvarner10@gmail.com" &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

Councilman John A. Sharp  
City Hall, 22nd Floor  
414 E. 12th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Mr. Sharp,

I am a single mother of three children. My family lives in the Greater Kansas City area. Amending the law to allow potbelly pigs as pets is fully supported by myself and my children. The particular pig in question (Marlee) is a very mild and tame pig. My youngest son has a few learning disabilities and is very hyper, even for an eight year old. He has been around Marlee for well over a year now and she has helped him become more patient when it comes to any pets.

When my children met Marlee, they all fell in love with her. They each took turns (with Ms. Varner's help) taking Marlee for a walk. My youngest has even painted her hooves. She is just like any other pet that a person would have. She is litterbox trained like a cat and gets walked like a dog. She even cuddles like a "typical pet", because to some people a potbelly pig is a "typical pet".

Honestly, if my home were bigger and we didn't already have a pet, I would consider getting a potbelly pig for my children. They are wonderful creatures and anyone who chooses to have one as a pet should be allowed without criticism.

Please feel free to pass this on to whomever necessary to get this law amended. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Jennifer C. Moore 🌹



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Letter to keep pigs**

1 message

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**Alison** <alisonrw102787@gmail.com>  
To: Ann Varner <annvarner10@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 27, 2015 at 3:25 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jess <Beautimiss25@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** November 21, 2014 at 11:20:28 AM CST  
**To:** "AlisonRW102787@gmail.com" <AlisonRW102787@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Letter to keep pigs

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to ask that you please allow Alison Williams and Trey Hornbeck to keep the pigs that have become so much a part of their family. These two are true animal lovers, and not only love their pets, but take excellent care of them as well. I cannot imagine these pigs being taken away from their home, and how negatively it would affect both them and their owners. They are trained, well fed, and fully vetted. When there are so many animals struggling to find a loving home, it doesn't make any sense that you would take these two out of one where they are treated so well. Pigs are very intelligent, ranking only 2 species away from the intelligence of humans! Only the monkey/ape families, and dolphin/whale families are more intelligent than them, they have clear personalities, sometimes sensitive even. Which means they would most definitely be traumatized if taken away from the people and environment that they have grown to love, trust, and become so accustomed to. I hope that you will consider letting Alison and Trey continue to provide the best care possible for these two, as it is clearly the best thing for everyone involved. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Kingsley

Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my opinion on how Kansas City, MO should allow potbelly pigs to be legal as exotic pets. I do not own potbelly pigs myself, but I have lived next to Trey Hornbeck and Alison Williams and their 4 pigs. I have never felt that they are any different than living next to a home owner with dogs. Their pigs have never made me feel like I am in danger or have a need to be afraid of them being next door to me. Living next door to them, I am constantly laughing and smiling because of how smart they are. Watching them swim in their pools, eat their fruits and vegetables, give their "mom" and "dad" kisses and sunbathe makes my day so delightful. It has even crossed my mind to get one for myself. As a neighbor to pigs, I have never felt that it will lower the property value or class of my area. They are very gentle pets. I have seen neighborhood kids feed them treats and pet them and they have never shown any sign that I should be worried about anyone's well being. Hearing all the stories of potbelly pigs, watching videos, seeing pictures I have come to learn how great of an animal and pet they are. I feel that allowing potbelly pigs to be legal in Kansas City, MO would not in any way compromise the value or integrity of any neighborhood.

Rick and Karen Crume

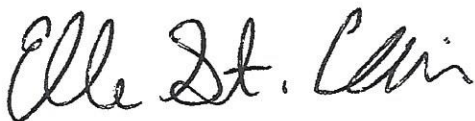
Karen Crume  
Rick Crume

June 23, 2015

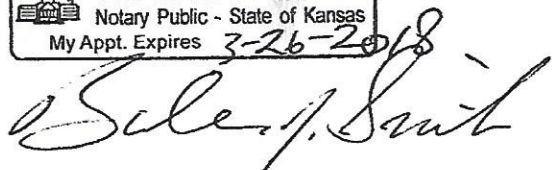
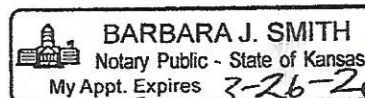
To whom it may concern,

I believe that Pigs should be legal in the Kansas City area. I have never felt any type of harm from pigs. If my neighbors had pigs they would not be any type of nuisance to myself, animals, or children. Pigs are caring animals. They are loveable and they are trainable. I have witnessed pigs being raised from the age of a piglet. It was a pleasure to see them grow and become extremely intelligent animals. Please take the zoning laws in consideration for these wonderful and lovable animals. I believe that allowing these animals to live in the Kansas City area could bring happiness to many people. These pigs deserve a home just like any cat or dog. There are many people that would love adopt a pig as a pet. But because of the zoning laws these pigs are unable to be adopted. Again, please take this in consideration so we can give these joyful animals a warm loving home.

Sincerely,



Ms. Elle St.Clair  
8571 Holmes Rd  
Kansas City MO, 64131



June 22, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

Regarding: Pigs being allowed to live within Kansas City

Pigs are extremely intelligent and gentle creatures. They do not affect property values, they have been used as therapy animals, and they are playful much like children.

I have been a pig parent for the last 13 years and have worked with rescue groups to help find homes for those in need. I have personally rescued pigs in horrific situations, and when they have been abandoned. Despite their horrible circumstances at the hands of people, they were still loving and gentle.

Pigs get shots just like dogs and cats do. They do not need to live in the country. Pigs are very good in all types of communities. They can be taught amazing difficult tricks, they can live inside or out, they can be housebroken or use litterboxes, and are extremely clean animals.

Please consider pigs being allowed to live in Kansas City.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Midgley  
[upatdawn@aol.com](mailto:upatdawn@aol.com)



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: The argument of potbellied pigs as pets in KC**

1 message

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**Alison** <alisonrw102787@gmail.com>  
To: Ann Varner <annvarner10@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 24, 2015 at 7:48 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tony Verrilli <tony.thebassplayer@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 23, 2015 at 11:40:48 PM CDT  
**To:** alisonrw102787@gmail.com  
**Subject:** The argument of potbellied pigs as pets in KC

Dear Sir or Madam,

I understand the Kansas City is in the process of deciding if potbellied pigs should be allowed to live within its city limits. Allow me the opportunity to express my opinion that there is no reason why pigs should not be welcomed.

I have owned potbellies for over a decade, and I can attest to their suitability as domestic pets. They are affectionate, charming and extremely intelligent. Housebreaking was easy - in fact, easier than any dog I have owned.

My pigs have stayed in large chain hotels on many trips, and they understood fully how to behave in that environment. And no, they didn't need to stay in carriers or crates.. they walked like gentlemen on their leads through the lobby. They are similar to cats and dogs in their domestication - with a key advantage that they don't have fur - so they are hypoallergenic. They also can learn very complex tasks and commands. They are loving and gentle, and can adapt to a wide variety of living situations - again, much like dogs and cats.

I have interacted with many pigs kept as domestic pets, and I would be completely comfortable having a pet pig as a neighbor - whether in the country, the suburbs or in an apartment in the city.

Please consider allowing pigs as pets in Kansas City. .





Ann Varner <annvarner10@gmail.com>

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## Pigs as Pets

1 message

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**Teal Sather** <teal.sather@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 24, 2014 at 2:08 AM

To: john.sharp@kcmo.org

Cc: annvarner10@gmail.com

Good evening, my name is Teal Sather and I am a former neighbor of Ann Varner, who owns a small pet pig named Marlee. I would like to say that Ann has my full support in her decision to house and care for this pig as a pet. In the time when I lived in the apartment directly above hers, there was never any issue with noise or anything else. Pigs are fun, sweet and smart animal companions and they should be allowed as pets.

-Teal



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Marlee the piggy !!!**

1 message

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**Katharine Ahrens** <katharine.ahrens@hotmail.com>

Mon, Nov 24, 2014 at 11:48 AM

To: "john.sharp@kcmo.org" &lt;john.sharp@kcmo.org&gt;

Cc: "annvarner10@gmail.com" &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

Hello mr.sharp , my name is Katharine Ahrens . I lived at the warwick last year and Ann and Marlee were some of my neighbors . Ann and I became friends immediately. And Marlee and i became friends before Ann and I did . I remember I told my boyfriend I think there's a pig outside . He was stunned , and I ran outside just so I could pet her . My son , who is 1 , even loves Marlee . Ann is the best mom ever for Marlee , and Marlee is a spoiled , loving , sassy pet . They both complete each other . It would be absolutely awesome if you could support this . Even Miley Cyrus has a pet pig !!! Thanks for your time

Sent from my iPhone



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**I support pigs as pets**

1 message

Sun, Nov 23, 2014 at 11:19 PM

**Jessica Mundwiller** <jmm65300@ucmo.edu>

To: john.sharp@kcmo.org

Cc: annvarner10@gmail.com

Good evening Mr. Sharp. My name is Jessica. I am from Washington, MO, a small town in the saint Louis area. A couple years ago, I moved to the Kansas City area. It was a huge culture shock, but I have grown to love the city!

I'm writing to you tonight in support of my friend Ann who has been working very hard to keep her pet, Marlee. Growing up where I did, I do not find this unusual at all. Pigs make great pets and I do not consider them I always be simply livestock. I've been around pet pigs before and they can be just as loving as any other house pet.

Ann takes great care of Marlee, and Marlee is a wonderful companion. She is well behaved and, in a lot of ways, just like having a pet dog. I 100 percent support Ann and Marlee, and I thank you for taking her case into consideration!

Thanks

Jessica Mundwiller



Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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**Pig ordinance**

1 message

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**Amber McKinney** <ambermckinney@live.com>

Thu, Nov 20, 2014 at 10:21 PM

To: "john.sharp@kcmo.org" &lt;john.sharp@kcmo.org&gt;

Cc: "annvarner10@gmail.com" &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

Mr. John Sharp

As a proud citizen of Kansas City and a future pig owner, I am very disappointed to learn that pigs are not considered pets. However, chickens are. There are many other owners around the Kansas City metropolitan area that have pigs as pets, however my friend Ann is not allowed to have hers. I'm not sure about you, I know I would not like to have someone to take away my dog due to sudden changes. (This is like allowing owners to have cats and not dogs vs chickens and pigs). Pigs are very smart and very well trained, look it up! (Very entertaining!). So just imagine having your pet being taken away from you over night. How would you feel? Please think long and hard about this question, and support fellow Kansas City residents.

Kindest regards,  
Amber McKinney  
Sent from my iPhone



Ann Varner <annvarner10@gmail.com>

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## Change The Ordinance

1 message

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**Andrew Forbeck** <andrewforbeck@icloud.com>

Fri, Nov 21, 2014 at 11:23 AM

To: "john.sharp@kcmo.org" <john.sharp@kcmo.org>

Cc: "annvarner10@gmail.com" <annvarner10@gmail.com>

Councilmen Sharp,

I live in Kansas City and I have known Ann and Marley for quite a while. I fully support changing this ordinance that pot belly pigs are not livestock but pets! They are amazing animals. Please change this. Thank you!

Andrew M Forbeck  
Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jeremy Fiest and I am a young professional living in Olathe, KS with my two sons and pet potbelly pig, Gatsby. As this letter is in reference to the consideration of allowing potbelly pigs in the Kansas City area, I will do my best to detail my experience as an owner and self-proclaimed parent of one of these wonderful animals.

I purchased Gatsby two years ago last April, and before that day, I had never been around a pig in my life. I have owned dogs and cats throughout my life but after reading about what great pets potbelly pigs make, I decided to give it a shot.

Gatsby is easily the smartest and loving animal with which I have ever come in contact. He was potty trained on the day I brought him home at 6 weeks old. I littered trained him that day and he knew what to do from then on. I've never seen a dog learn that quickly. He can also do about a dozen tricks, all of which he learned within a handful of tries and never forgot. Potbelly pigs are very motivated by food and it doesn't take them long to learn something if there's a reward to be had.

Gatsby is also the safest and friendliest animal a parent could want. Last year I took him to my son's show-and-tell and he stood there happily while dozens of children surrounded him and petted him. This made my son the coolest kid among his peers that day and he couldn't have been more proud.

Potbelly pigs are also very quiet animals. He spends a great deal of time in the back yard but the only neighbors who know I own a pig are those who have spotted us out for a walk. The only time pigs are loud is when they are in danger, which should be almost never while in a loving home. Aside from that, he has almost no odor whatsoever and doesn't need a bath very often. Pigs don't sweat and have bristle hair rather than fur so they don't have much of a smell. The lack of fur also makes them hypoallergenic and a great pet option for those allergic to cats and dogs.

Potbelly pigs are herd animals and it is in their nature to belong to a community or family. Gatsby relies on us for love and affection as much as we rely on him. I believe pigs are perceived as experiencing very little emotion because they are not as physically expressive as one sees with dogs or cats, but I would argue they are closer to humans in their emotional complexity than they are to other animals.

In closing, these animals deserve to loving homes. Pig owners become great advocates for these animals because once you have one in your life, it's impossible to imagine it without them. These are not farm animals. They typically stay around 100lbs on a proper diet and remain about the size of a bulldog. There is no reason these loving, life-changing animals should be denied a home in Kansas City.

Thanks for your attention to this matter,

Jeremy Fiest  
Olathe, KS

Jeremy Kiwi

821 92<sup>nd</sup> st'

Kansas City MO 64131

30<sup>th</sup> Jun 2015

IN SUPPORT OF HAVING PIG PETS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

Pigs are very intelligent animals and have been kept as pets in Asian cultures in centuries. They are socially advance and easy to train. Not aggressive like other pets and very easy to maintain.

Having pigs as pets helps eliminate food waste and doesn't hurt anyone property value or make noise to the neighbors. In fact they are much easier to keep than other pets. Please help make it legal!

Respectfully ,

-Jeremy

Thu 11 Sep,2014 00:33

To whom it may concern,

I am a tenant in the apartment building located at 4144-4146 Warwick blvd. Kansas City, Mo. It has come to my attention that animal control has some concerns about Ann Varners pet potbellied pig. I have heard of no complaints from my fellow neighbors, and quite to the contrary; everyone I have spoken with is quite enchanted with Marley. I feel there are much more important issues in Kansas City to worry about than a responsible pet owner and her beloved pet. Why not concentrate on puppy mills and vicious and neglected animals in the city, Marley is neither. Calling potbellied pigs livestock is ludicrous, no livestock farmer would ever consider these animals as livestock.

Thank you

Kevin Nesbit,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin L. Nesbit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.





Ann Varner &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

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## In Support of Ann Varner and Marlee the Pig Amend/Clarify that potbelly pigs are NOT livestock and allow them as pets

1 message

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david Robertson <rdavid0@yahoo.com>

Thu, Nov 20, 2014 at 9:44 PM

Reply-To: david Robertson &lt;rdavid0@yahoo.com&gt;

To: "john.sharp@kcmo.org" &lt;john.sharp@kcmo.org&gt;, "annvarner10@gmail.com" &lt;annvarner10@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Mr. Sharp,

As and an animal lover who wants the freedom and right to enjoy having the pets of my choice, I am writing to ask for your support on behalf of the Ann Varner and her pet Pig Marlee, an extremely important member of her family. Please grant Ms. Varner permission to keep her pet pig, Marlee, at home with her and consider changing your ordinance to allow others to enjoy these sweet, smart, and loving pets. It is a rare occasion to find a pet owner so responsible and respectful of their community as Ms. Varner, educating others about the value of a pet. Mini Pigs are NOT livestock so you should allow them as pets!

Research tells us pigs are very intelligent animals and are a great alternative to having a dog as a pet with many of the same characteristics. Pigs do not shed as most dogs and cats do, which makes them a perfect pet for those that have allergies to pet hair! Its my opinion that few of the thousands of dog and cat owners in the city are willing to make an effort to train their pets. My own neighborhood has homes you can't walk by without dogs barking and charging at you through a fence and owners who can't be bothered to stop them. Cats are allowed to roam freely, leaving their "foot prints" or "markings" on neighborhood automobiles and doors.

Valued pets can bring us so much love and adoration; therefore it would be a travesty to prevent Ms. Varner and Marlee from staying together or forcing them to leave Kansas City, all together taking with her the willingness to work for a better community .

Pigs are being kept as pets more and more all over our country and become beloved family members, as is the case with Marlee. I urge you to recognize the difference between pigs as livestock raised to be slaughtered and pigs as pets raised by responsible people who value and love them. The [Wikipedia](#) definition of Livestock:

Livestock are domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce commodities such as food, fiber and labor.

Please grant Ms. Varner a permit to allow Marlee to stay with the only family she has ever known, in the home where she has been raised. It is important to grant this permit and change any existing laws in Kansas City concerning these pets, as it will be positive for the community. Granting this permit will be a shining example of Kansas City's diversity, as there are many Kansas City citizens and others following this story.

Thank you for reading my letter, I hope you will support a permit allowing the Ms. Varner to continue enjoying her freedom to live in Kansas City with her beloved pet.

Sincerely,

David Robertson  
[rdavid0@yahoo.com](mailto:rdavid0@yahoo.com)

June 23, 2015

My name is Richard Hornbeck. I live in Leawood and have lived here almost 30 years. When my kids were small they got a Pot Belly Pig who weighed 6 lbs and became a great pet. My kids and the neighbor kids would go outside just to play with him to pet him and listen to him snort instead of bark. He was the topic of a lot of school papers that the kids would write about him. Just like a dog the kids had to feed him daily, which taught them responsibility.

One day the dog catcher said we couldn't have a pig in Leawood so my son went up and down the neighborhood to get neighbors signatures and to find out if they objected in any way for us to keep the pig. Everyone was fine with it and he went to a City Council meeting and they gave him a permit that allowed us to keep "Harry" the pig. Harry lived for 15 1/2 years in our back yard and all the kids in the neighborhood knew and loved him.

He did not affect the value of our house or neighborhood. Houses are valued between several hundred thousand dollars to two million dollars within three houses of where Harry lived. Owning a Pig as a pet is an experience that I wish more people could be able to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Richard E Hornbeck III

# Council says boy's pig can stay

**Neighbors signed petition for pot-belly.**

By CHRISTI L. GIPSON  
Staff Writer

Trey Hornbeck will get to keep Harry.

The Leawood City Council Monday night approved the 8-year-old boy's request to keep his Vietnamese pot-bellied pig.

Trey, who will be a third-grader at Corinth Elementary, presented pictures, a petition and veterinarian records to the council. The petition stated that many of the Hornbecks' neighbors did not object to having Harry in their neighborhood.

Harry is nearly one year old and is expected to stay under 80 or 90 pounds. Hornbeck said he liked animals and has had a number of them, including two dogs, frogs, fish, crabs, an iguana and a tarantula.

A permit was required to have the pet.

Hornbeck didn't say much during the process but nodded



Trey Hornbeck holds Harry, his Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, while the boy's father, Richard Hornbeck, looks on.

in agreement when council members asked questions. He nodded that Harry had been vaccinated and was house-trained.

"I wish all pet owners were as conscientious," said council member Ron LaHue.

The permit was approved unanimously.

# thefreedictionary.com

## potbellied pig

*n.*

A small domesticated pig native to Vietnam, often raised as a house pet, having a saddle-shaped back and usually dark coloration.

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## Livestock

live·stock (līv'·stōk')

*n.*

Domestic animals, such as cattle or horses, raised for home use or for profit, especially on a farm.

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livestock ('laɪv, stɒk)

*n.*

1. (Agriculture) (*functioning as singular or plural*) cattle, horses, poultry, and similar animals kept for domestic use but not as pets, esp on a farm or ranch

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live·stock ('laɪv, stɒk)

*n. (used with a sing. or pl. v.)*

the horses, cattle, sheep, and other useful animals kept or raised on a farm or ranch.

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# HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!

