



## RUNNING THE ADOPTION OBSTACLE COURSE AT MY PIG FILLED LIFE

So you think you want to adopt a pig? Less than 10% of pigs at My Pig Filled Life will ever be adopted, in large part because we're picky--even demanding--with potential adopters. All of our rescues have suffered the emotional trauma of being rehomed at least once; many have suffered far greater physical or emotional injury. When they came to us, we promised them an amazing life, and our process and requirements will test whether you too can deliver the promise we made. Those who prove persistent and successful have the opportunity of a life made richer by the companionship of one of our vaccinated, microchipped, altered, vetted, socialized mini pigs!

### Requirements

Before starting the application process, you should understand the basics.

- MPFL is a Texas-based rescue that adopts to Texas residents. We make rare exceptions for applicants in neighboring states with no rescue organizations/adoptable pigs.
- We offer only pigs who are at least 12 weeks old, weigh at least 15 lbs, and are altered.
- We do not transport or ship pigs nor allow third party transport of adopted pigs to their new homes. Adopters must come and pick up their new family members.

**Property requirements are rigorous;** they are crucial to ensuring the health and well-being of your new pig. Minimum requirements include both outdoor **and** indoor areas. Even if you anticipate your pig will reside outdoors, indoor space is essential for confinement that may be necessary because of visitors, convalescence, or sleep, for example.

**Indoor space** should address your pig's desire for its own "turf", as well as safety from intrusion by other pets or visitors. Specifically, your indoor space must be sufficiently large to permit your pig to turn around completely and comfortably. We recommend a 4'x6' stall mat fastened to a portable 32" dog fence, padded with old sheets and blankets. This safe space is only large enough for those times when the pig must be penned up for sleep or for visitors.

**Outdoor space** must include a shelter that is windproof and waterproof, with multiple exits for homes with multiple pigs. The landscape must be accommodating as well; pigs root, dig up plants, and make mud holes. Pigs require space for this natural and necessary behavior.

Finally, your outdoor space must be secure and safe. This requires fencing that is strong and inescapable; we recommend hog panel. Remember that fencing security has two components: keeping your pig in; and keeping predators out. Pig safety also necessitates that your outdoor space must be free of [poisonous plants](#). Oak trees, for example, pose a serious problem as acorns can be highly toxic to pigs.



If you're still on course, it's time to start the process!

**Come Visit Us!** In this setting, surrounded by almost 300 mini pigs, you will get an eye-opening look at the diversity of mini pig sizes, shapes, colors and personalities, as well as a deeper understanding of life with a pig. A 90-minute education session with our founder, Melanie Moreau, will ensure you know what you're getting into, with hands on demonstrations.

An adoptive family's willingness to make the journey to the rescue and invest their time in learning helps to ensure their future success as a pig parent, or make the decision to postpone or even forgo pig adoption.

**Complete the [Application](#).** The application itself is perhaps the biggest hurdle for many applicants and can be completed after or prior to the first visit. It's rigorous, time consuming, and a means of screening applicants. Some of the more challenging application sections:

- Vet reference. Every pig adopter must have a good vet with experience caring for mini pigs. If you don't have a vet, [click here](#) for a list of pig-friendly veterinarians. We can assist with screening the vet for the proper knowledge and experience.
- Zoning documentation: Applicants residing within city limits MUST provide verification that their zoning allows mini pigs to be kept as pets on their property. We'll follow up with phone calls to your animal control office, your HOA and your county.

**Home Visit.** A home visit is a requirement but can be conducted virtually via Facetime or other live technology. Still photos cannot replace a live or virtual visit, which will ensure that space for the adopted pig is adequate and that the prospective parents are ready for their new charge.

The optimal adoption process includes three visits--the second visit focused primarily on your questions and pig selection, and the third allowing for time to interact. Selecting one or more pigs from almost 300 is challenging at best, and the longer your visit the greater your chance of finding the perfect pig for you. Time invested in the relationship with the pig has shown to have an impact on the integration of the pig into its new household.

**Finish Line!** With everything set, MPFL will collect a non-refundable adoption fee, and you'll collect your adopted pig. The fee of \$175 partially offsets the costs (veterinary, neutering, microchipping, housing, and feeding) we incur rescuing every pig. The fee includes sales tax required by the state of Texas.

As we say at My Pig Filled Life, we can't save them all but we're trying. Are you in the 10 percent who will help us by making the world better for one pig, and helping us to make room for yet another pig in need?