

Sent By

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Message

Having “micro pigs” as pets is becoming increasingly popular.

‘Micro’ pigs have been selectively bred over generations to create a smaller pig than other breeds. Micro pigs weigh around 9oz at birth. When they are fully grown at two years, they are expected to only weigh up to 65lb and stand at about 14in, but there is no guarantee they will stop growing. They can live for up to 18 years.

As Christmas approaches, people wanting to buy a ‘micro’ pig as a gift must think ahead to ensure they meet the same record-keeping requirements, animal welfare rules, and stringent disease control measures as their bulkier farm counterparts.

Registering and getting a CPH (County Parish Holding) number from the RPA (Rural Payments Agency) is a vital first step before taking on a ‘micro’ pig. The RPA have advised that it can take about 15 days to register a new customer and issue a CPH number. People will also have to apply for a walking licence from their local Animal Health office, and are only allowed to follow designated routes agreed by Animal Health vets. A walking licence can only be issued where the owner has a CPH number.

Failure to comply with the regulations could lead to a fine, a ban from keeping animals or even imprisonment.

Some frequently asked questions about CPH numbers can be found at www.rpa.gov.uk – select the ‘customer registration’ option from the right hand side. The RPA can also be contacted on 08456 037777

Animal Health (for walking licences) can be contacted on 01737 242242

Expiry Date

25/12/10

The normal period for validity of messages will be seven days

Distribution

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Signed

Sue Harvey

Date

25/11/10