

**CITY OF LOWELL  
PETITION**

**TO THE  
CITY COUNCIL**

David G. Nilane, Jr.  
70 Elm St.  
Lowell Ma.

Req to amend City  
Ordinance to allow  
residents to keep  
miniature pigs as  
house pets

In City Council

January 2019

Read and

Clerk

Kerry  
This was referred  
to Health Dept.  
not sure if you  
had a copy.

Kathy -  
Dugan

January 16, 2019

DEAR,

CITY COUNCIL I COME BEFORE YOU TO ASK THE CITY OF LOWELL TO CONSIDER TO AMEND CITY ORDANCE TO ALOW CITY RESIDENTS TO KEEP MINUTURE PIGS AS HOUSE PETS I AM AWARE IT WAS ON THE CITY COUNCIL FLOOR BACK IN MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2014 AND SENT TO THE LAW DEPT WERE NOTHING MORE WAS DONE TO ALLOW THE NEW ORDANACE

HERE I COME AS A CITAZIEN OF LOWELL BORN AND RAISED HERE AND I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A MINTURE PIG AS A PET SO PLEASE CAREFULLY READ ALL THE ATTACHMENTS IVE SENT IN WITH THIS LETTER

THANKYOU

DAVID ST.HILAIRE JR

70 Elm St

Lowell MA

978 848 8222

2019 JAN 16 PM 1:54

## Prospective resident wants Lowell council to allow miniature pig

By Lyle Moran, [lmoran@lowellsun.com](mailto:lmoran@lowellsun.com)

UPDATED: 05/07/2014 09:10:40 AM EDT



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LOWELL — Emily Perry said she was recently house-hunting in Lowell when she found "the house."

Perry said she was ready to move forward with the purchase, but forgot to think about whether she could bring her miniature pig with her to the Mill City.

"I put in an offer and I said, 'Oh crap, what about Bacon?' " Perry said, referring to her 20-pound mini pig, which is 1.

Perry told the story to the City Council Tuesday night, as she urged the body to consider amending a city ordinance to allow residents to keep miniature pigs as p

"I am coming here as a potential resident just trying to do my due diligence and be a good citizen and be in compliance with the current ordinance," said Perry, w

She recommended several restrictions be put in place along with an ordinance change, including that the mini pigs must be kept indoors and the pigs would hav

At City Councilor Bill Martin's recommendation, the City Council referred Perry's petition to the Law Department for a report and recommendation. Martin said

Last year, the City Council discussed amending a city ordinance to allow residents to keep backyard chickens.



Several subcommittee meetings were held on the topic, but the council decided not to move forward with the proposal.

In other business Tuesday, the council:

\* Voted 8-1 to approve a memorandum of understanding Local 2532 on a new contract that runs from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015. The agreement calls for a 1.1% agreement. Mayor Rodney Elliott was opposed.

\* Approved Dan Rourke's motion requesting City Manager Kevin Murphy to update the Council on the special permit status for 557 Varnum Ave. and any future

\* Approved John Leahy's motion requesting the city manager have the proper department meet with the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department to organize a m

\* Approved Leahy's motion requesting Murphy have the police and fire departments provide a report to the council regarding their annual fundraising efforts.

\* Approved Rita Mercier's motion to have the proper department synchronize the lights on Gorham and Highland streets to remain green 60 seconds longer fro

\* Voted unanimously to approve a zoning change extending the SMU zone to include 1422.1 and 1434.1 Gorham St.

Follow Moran on Twitter @lylemoran.





American Mini Pig Association  
Zoning Ordinance Packet

It's important, whenever possible, to take the initiative to approach your city's zoning council BEFORE you move in or bring a pet pig into the home. Once you have been found to be in violation of the law, it will be more difficult to convince the officials. That being said, it is never too late to take a stand for your pet. Be the voice.

1. If you already own a pet pig, make sure s/he is spayed/neutered, current on regular veterinary care, and housed responsibly with proper shelter and a fenced in yard or leashed while outside.
2. Read your city's zoning ordinance carefully to understand exactly what is and isn't allowed. Use this information to build your case to challenge the current ordinance.
3. Gather as much support and supportive documents as possible (listed below).
4. Contact your city. Tell them you would like to file an official request for an amendment in the zoning ordinance regarding mini pigs as pets. This part seems to vary from city to city. Some individuals have set this up through the City Secretary, the City Administrator, the City Manager, City Zoning and Planning Committee, or directly with City Council. Ask your point of contact to walk you through the steps required. They should schedule a meeting with City Council to review your proposal. Make sure are fully prepared before the set date!
5. Once City Council reviews your proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance, they will either approve or deny the change. If it is approved, you have won! Please share your story to be featured on the American Mini Pig Association website. Email your story, a photo of your pig, and any documentation you used to amend your city's zoning to [info@americanminipigassociation.com](mailto:info@americanminipigassociation.com). If the amendment is denied, ask for specific reasons why it was denied. Use this information to reassess your approach and strengthen your presentation.

### **Supporting Documents and Other Support**

The following may be useful in your proposal to change a city's zoning ordinance regarding keeping mini pigs as pets. Every proposal is different, every ordinance code is different, and every City Council is different. There is not a single approach that will work for all, and not every case will be won. The best you can do is put your heart into it and show them how much these special pets mean to you. Show them how your pig has changed your life and show them how responsible pet ownership will not burden or affect the neighborhood but will instead be an asset.

1. Use this packet courtesy of the American Mini Pig Association.
2. Print out The Facts of Mini Pigs As Pets courtesy of the American Mini Pig Association.
3. Register your mini pig as a pet at the American Mini Pig Association. Present your registration certificate in your proposal.

4. Gather letters of support from members of the community. Fellow pig parents, neighbors, professionals in the community, your veterinarian, animal trainers, and anyone else you can think of. If you have visited hospitals, schools, libraries, nursing homes, or any other community event, ask for letters of recommendation from those individuals as well.
5. Write a personal statement or short letter explaining why owning a pet pig is important to you.
6. If your pig is a registered Therapy Pet through a recognized organization such as your local Humane Society or the nationwide organization Pet Partners, include the paperwork and ask for a letter of recommendation.
7. If your pig is an Emotional Support Animal, include your letter of prescription from your doctor.
8. Gather & compile nearby city ordinances that allow pet pigs.
9. Gather and compile photos of your mini pig enjoying life as a beloved pet.
10. Record video of your mini pig doing tricks, following commands, or interacting with people.
11. Start a Change.org petition and ask all your friends, family, and fellow pig owners to sign in support.
12. Gather and compiled statistics of your city and neighboring cities of yearly dog bites vs yearly pet pig bites.
13. Visit Pet Pig Zone website and contact Rebecca DiNolfi, the pet pig zoning expert.
14. Contact a local attorney for help.

Date:

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for taking time to review this packet. I have included information about mini pigs as pets, examples of other city ordinances regarding pigs as pets, statements from friend, family, and neighbors. A petition was share and we received \_\_\_\_\_signatures of support. The statistics of dog complaints and bites vs. mini pig complaints for our city. The federal definition of livestock, facts of owning a mini pig as a pet, and a letter from my vet. My pigs AMPA pet registration certificate, as well as letters of support from the American Mini Pig Association and American Mini Pig Rescue. I hope the information will help clarify what makes a mini pig a pet and why they are so incredibly loved as such.

So a little bit about me.....

A little bit about my pig.....

With the popularity of these pets growing every year the ordinance change can encourage responsible pet pig ownership. It may prevent zoning violations that result in pigs being removed and landing in local shelters. These intelligent, sensitive animals do make extraordinary members of the family.

Thank you for your time,



# American Mini Pig Rescue Advocates

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing today to ask your city to consider an amendment to your animal zoning ordinances to allow pet mini pigs to live with their families.

The American Mini Pig Rescue Advocates is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advocating for pet mini pigs. Unfortunately, there has been a huge increase of pet pigs losing their homes due to outdated zoning ordinances. We ask you to join the many cities across the nation that have updated these ordinances to reflect the pet market of today while reducing unnecessary displacement and abandonment of pet mini pigs.

Many city ordinances across the nation were written prior to 1986 when Vietnamese Potbelly Pigs were first sold into the pet market in the United States. These original potbelly pigs averaged 250 pounds which were comparatively miniature to the 600-1,500 pound domestic swine that are raised as livestock. Today's mini pigs, as recognized and registered by the American Mini Pig Association, are a mix of several smaller breeds. These mixed mini pigs are referred to as American Mini Pigs, averaging 12-18 inches in height and 50 to 150 lbs. at maturity. These pet pigs have different temperament, genetics, size, and purpose from the large commercial farm pigs. American Mini Pigs are housed as pet animals, just like a dog or cat. They receive the same standard of veterinary care, training, healthy foods, and comfortable accommodations. Mini pigs often accompany their families on vacations or shopping trips.

If your city has any questions or concerns regarding allowing mini pigs as pets in your zoning ordinances, please contact us. We would be glad to help dispel the many myths and misconceptions of these wonderful pets.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephanie Matlock

American Mini Pig Rescue, President

[RescueAdvocates@AmericanMiniPigRescue.com](mailto:RescueAdvocates@AmericanMiniPigRescue.com)

References:

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/swine/vietnamesepotbelly> [www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com)

and [www.americanminipigrescue.com](http://www.americanminipigrescue.com)



To Whom It May Concern,

The American Mini Pig Association would like to thank you for taking the time to consider amending your zoning ordinance to allow pet mini pigs to live with their owners. Mini pig families are very passionate and dedicated to these pets.

On behalf of the American Mini Pig Association, I would like to formally recommend an amendment to your city's animal ordinance to allow mini pigs. This amendment may include the same regulations that are set forth for dogs or cats to encourage responsible ownership, including a pet limit per household, appropriate veterinary care, leash law, and/or registration. Please see supporting document "The Facts of Owning Pigs As Pets" to dispel many common misconceptions about these cherished pets.

Mini pigs are intelligent and sensitive pets. It causes a great hardship for the families to be separated from the pets they are bonded to. In addition, this separation due to zoning often results in displacing animals that end up putting a burden on local animal shelters or worse. These pets have great potential to increase welfare in the community as registered Therapy Animals volunteering at schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other community centers, or as Emotional Support Animals to help their owners at home through difficult times. The AMPA has a blog series dedicated to Mini Pig Heroes in the community showcasing the benefits they have brought to the people of their city.

The American Mini Pig Association has created a nationwide registry to document verifiable information on these mini pigs such as age, size, health, track pedigrees, promote responsible breeder, ownership, and veterinary care. AMPA Registered Breeders are required to follow a strict code of ethics. They must prove age and size of their mini pigs. These steps will ensure that consumers are not victims of fraud or deceived on size of their new pets. AMPA Registered mini pigs will have an official certificate verifying their pet status.

Visit the American Mini Pig Association website to learn the facts of mini pigs as pets. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be more than happy to discuss any issues your city may have. [www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com)

Sincerely,

Kimberly Chronister

American Mini Pig Association, Vice President [info@americanminipigassociation.com](mailto:info@americanminipigassociation.com)

EMERALD CITY  
EMERGENCY  CITY  
CLINIC

March 15, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, there have been numerous unfortunate situations involving covenants, city or county ordinances, pet miniature pigs, and citizens bonded to those pets.

It is time to re-visit the pet miniature pig. Miniature pigs, including potbellied pigs, Julianas, Kune Kunes, and small mixed pigs, are not livestock. They are smaller breeds of swine, growing up to 250 pounds, that are kept as house pets. They are well cared for, receive proper veterinary care, proper diet, leash, litter box, and trick training. They can live to be 15 or 16 years old, and are very affectionate with their people. These pigs and their people have a human/animal bond which benefits people and communities everywhere – it teaches compassion, instills a sense of responsibility, prevents loneliness, and provides comfort to those with conditions such as autism or PTSD.

Small breeds of pigs are used in schools, hospitals, and nursing homes to provide entertainment and comfort. They are recognized and registered as emotional support animals and it is only a matter of time before they will become eligible to be registered service animals.

Proactive changes to zoning laws and HOA rules will prevent future litigation related to the Americans With Disabilities Act. These changes will also prevent the civil actions and the adverse publicity that occur when the authorities remove a beloved pet from a home

Proactive steps should be used to make everyone's pig experience happier. Requirements for leash training, housing, noise restrictions, vaccinations, composting and waste removal, landscaping and fencing, sterilization, the number of pigs, and licensing can be established before a problem develops.

It is time to get ahead of the pet pig situation and to welcome them into our communities.

Please consider zoning FOR pet pigs at this time.

Thank you,

Cathy Corrigan, DVM

4102 Stone Way North • Seattle, Washington 98103  
Phone: (206) 634-9000 • Fax: (206) 634-9078



[www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com](http://www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com)

To whom it may concern:

We are writing in regards to the inclusion of mini pigs as pets in city animal ordinances. As veterinarians that treat family pets including cats, dogs, and mini pigs, we encourage you to include mini pigs in city or town zoning.

Mini pigs live as family pets. We recommend your city animal ordinance reflect this. Mini pigs are not a single breed such as potbellied pig, but rather a size classification of smaller sized pigs that are raised as clean and quiet pets. There are very clear distinctions between large breeds raised commercially as livestock and the miniature breeds of pets.

Mini pigs are not raised, housed, treated, or used for the purposes of livestock animals. They are not fed garbage or exposed to commercial hog farm diseases. There is a very low risk of zoonotic diseases with pet pigs. It is very unlikely for a person to become sick from a pet mini pig.

When mini pigs are kept as pets in residential areas, we recommend the following:

- Spay/neutered before 6 months of age
- Microchip placement as permanent identification
- Vaccinations as appropriate
- Annual checkup, routine parasite control, fecal & giardia test
- Appropriate housing and containment (mini pigs should not roam)

Respectfully,

Dr. Carrie Schneider, DVM at Barnyard Pet Vet

Seattle, Washington <http://barnyardpetvet.com/>

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member



[www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com](http://www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com)

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Respectfully,

Dr. Jyl Rubin, DVM at Dr. Jyl'd Mobile Vet Connection

Orangevale, California <http://www.drjyl.com/>

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member



[www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com](http://www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com)

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Respectfully,

Dr. Cathy Corrigan, DVM at Emerald City Emergency Clinic

Seattle, Washington <http://emeraldcity24hrvet.com/>

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member



[www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com](http://www.AmericanMiniPigAssociation.com)

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Respectfully,

Dr. Alison Meyer, DVM at Marymont Animal Clinic

Silver Spring, Maryland <http://marymontanimalhospitalinc.com/>

American Mini Pig Association Veterinary Member



## The Facts of Owning Pigs As Pets

Written by:

The American Mini Pig Association

Mini pigs have unfairly been excluded from city zoning ordinances across the United States. Most of these laws were put into place before the era of the pet mini pigs. The laws in place are often referring to livestock, as large hogs raised for meat purposes. Please consider the following to amend your local ordinance to allow pet mini pigs to live with their devoted families. There is no reason these pets should be excluded or singled out. Mini pigs offer a variety of benefits and challenges for their owners just as all other pets do. To learn more about mini pigs as pets please visit [www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com) or contact the American Mini Pig Association directly at [info@americanminipigassociation.com](mailto:info@americanminipigassociation.com). We would be glad to answer any questions you or your city council members might have.

### **Myth: Pigs are not pets**

We beg to differ! Pigs have been pets since the 1980s. A rapidly growing number of owners across the United States, Canada, and beyond, claim their dedication to pet mini pigs. The numbers continue to spike as more families fall in love with the charms and challenges of these unique pets. Follow the American Mini Pig Association on [Facebook](#) or view the massive educational [website](#) dedicated to mini pigs as family pets.

The American Mini Pig advocates for responsible owner, breeder, rescue, and veterinary practices. Mini pigs are being registered as pets through the official [AMPA registry](#).

Resource:

[www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com)

## **Myth: Pigs will make us sick**

Pet pigs present a very low zoonotic risk to humans. You are far more likely to get sick from your child's classmates or a stranger at the grocery store than from a pet pig. Pigs living as pets are not exposed to the conditions and diseases of commercial farm hogs.

The CDC states: "Almost all influenza cases in humans are caused by human flu viruses, not viruses from swine." and

"At this time, there are three main flu viruses that circulate in U.S. pigs: H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2. These viruses do not usually infect people and are genetically different from the H1N1 and H3N2 viruses that commonly circulate in people."

According to the North Carolina Swine Veterinary Group, even on commercial pig farms, people are more at risk from mechanical or electrical injury than microorganisms.

To further protect against zoonotic diseases, mini pigs should be vaccinated yearly against erysipelas and regularly dewormed with Ivermectin to prevent mange mites as recommended by the Merck Veterinary Manual. This is similar to the vaccine and parasite control routine that is standard for dogs, cats, and other pets. Some cities require a rabies vaccine in pet pigs as an added precaution.

Resources" [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org)

[www.ncsu.edu](http://www.ncsu.edu)

## **Myth: Pigs are HUGE!**

Mini pigs average in height from 12 to 18 inches tall at maturity. They are short and heavy. They are very similar in height to English Bulldogs or Cocker Spaniels. Mini pigs average 50-150 lbs in weight when full grown, very similar in weight to medium to large dogs but the pigs are much shorter in height than a dog with similar weight. A 70 pound mini pig will take up less space on the couch than his 70 pound Labrador Retriever brother!

### **Comparing pigs and dogs:**

#### **Mini Pigs**

12 to 18 inches average

50 to 150 pounds average

#### **English Mastiff dog**

30 inches MINIMUM according to the Mastiff Club

343 pounds on record

**Newfoundland dog**

36 inches tall on record

260 pounds on record

**Great Dane dog**

44 inches tall on record

230 pounds on record

**Neapolitan Mastiff dog**

31 inches according to AKC Breed Standard

200 pounds according to Dog Breed Info

**Irish Wolfhound dog**

34 inches according to AKC Breed Standard

120+ pounds according to AKC Breed Standard

**Saint Bernard**

35 inches inches according to Dog Guide

357 pounds on record

While no one can guarantee the size of any animal, choosing an AMPA Registered Breeder will ensure pet owners are not deceived. These breeders have been pre-screened, proven measurements of the breeding pigs, and signed a Code of Ethics to ensure happy, healthy, socialized mini pigs. AMPA Registered Breeders will make sure your neighborhood doesn't accidentally end up with an Esther sized pig!

Resources:

[www.AMPAbreeders.com](http://www.AMPAbreeders.com)

[www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com)

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

[www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

[www.ibtimes.com](http://www.ibtimes.com)

[www.dogbreedinfo.com](http://www.dogbreedinfo.com)

[www.dogguide.net](http://www.dogguide.net) [www.mcoamastiff.com](http://www.mcoamastiff.com)

[www.thehydrantblog.com](http://www.thehydrantblog.com)

[www.worldrecordacademy.com](http://www.worldrecordacademy.com)

## **Myth: All pigs are the same, or all pet pigs are potbellied pigs**

Pigs come in a variety of shapes and sizes, bred for different purposes. There are three distinctions of pigs: pets, livestock, and medical research.

**Pet Mini Pigs** are a miniature size of pig as recognized and registered by the American Mini Pig Association. These pigs are usually mixed with several breeds Juliana, Gottengin/Guttengin, African Pygmy, Yucatan Micro, Swedish White, and various mixes of these breeds. It is very rare to find a purebred Vietnamese potbellied pig. Instead, today's pet pigs are mixed breeds or "mutts" often referred to as American Mini Pigs. Mini pigs average in height from 12 to 18 inches and 50 to 150 pounds at maturity when they are 5 years old. Mini pigs are bred and sold as pets. Breeders focus on temperament, personality, size, and structural soundness avoiding genetic faults or aggression. These pigs are often used as Therapy Animals in hospitals, nursing homes and schools and as Emotional Support Animals (ESA) due to their intelligence and bonds with their owners/families. **The purpose of these animals is to be family companions as pets.**

**Livestock** are defined by Merriam-Webster as **farm animals kept for use and profit**. Pigs in terms of livestock are often referring to as "farm hogs" or "full size hogs". Common livestock breeds of swine are Landrace, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Tamworth, Red Wattle, Large Black, Large White, Mulefoot, Duroc, Guinea Hog, and Old Spot. These animals are raised as a food source on a small or large scale, both at farms and commercial facilities. Livestock farm hogs will typically grow in excess of 700-1,000 pounds when allowed to mature. However, the vast majority of farm hogs are slaughtered by the time they reach 250 pounds around 6 months of age. **The purpose of these animals is financial profit through food production.**

**Medical research** has long used swine in laboratories for medical advances to benefit human health care. According to the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, the most common miniature breeds available in the United States are the Hanford, Yucatan, Yucatan micro, Sinclair, and Göttingen (from largest to smallest). Swine have been an integral part of surgical training, pharmaceuticals and medicine development, testing the safety of medications, toxicology testing, organ transplantation, bioprosthetic organs, cardiovascular research, wound healing, burn victim treatments, and regenerative medicine. Swine have also been used in studies involving ulcers, cancers, diabetes, and alcoholism. Swine involved in medical research are bred, born, and raised in closed facilities that are highly regulated for genetic background and disease control.

Resources:

[American College of Veterinary Pathology](#)

[Göttingen Mini Pigs](#)

[National Anti-Vivisection Society](#)

[www.americanminipigassociation.com](http://www.americanminipigassociation.com)