

5 TIPS FOR LEASH TRAINING *success!*

With an Introduction to Cooperative Care



SATX PET PIGS
PORCINE PET SHOP

QUICK TIPS

harness training

1

Use the Right Gear

Select a properly fitted harness designed for pigs. Avoid using collars as they can be uncomfortable for pigs and may cause neck injuries.

2

Make Gradual Introductions

Introduce the harness and leash gradually. Allow your pig to sniff and investigate the gear before attempting to put it on.

3

Use Positive Reinforcement & Verbal cues

Use treats and verbal praise to reward your pig for putting on the harness and leash. Positive reinforcement creates a positive association with the process.

4

Start Indoors

Begin the training in a familiar, enclosed indoor space with fewer distractions for your pig. This will help them feel safe and secure before embarking on the outdoors.

5

Patience & Consistency

Be patient with your pig during the training process. Consistent, short training sessions are more effective than long ones. The more you train, the more your pig becomes accustomed to the process.

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COOPERATIVE CARE & PIG HIERARCHY

Simply put, cooperative care is training and caring for your pet pig in a way that prioritizes building a relationship of trust and mutual respect between you and your pig.

Cooperative care for pigs is a lot like obedience training for dogs -

It involves specific commands and desired behaviors, but it goes beyond that.

It's about establishing a deeper, more meaningful connection between you and your pet pig.

In nature, pigs are social animals living in hierarchical structures with clear leaders and followers.

When you bring a pig into your home, you become a part of their social group. They instinctively look to you for guidance and leadership.

Why is Cooperative Care So Important When it Comes to Pet Pig Training and Obedience ?

By setting clear boundaries and expectations, you establish yourself as a reliable leader in your pet pig's eyes.

When your pig respects these boundaries, they learn to respect you. They will follow your lead, resulting in a well-behaved and cooperative pig.

Since a pig's natural tendency is to always fight for the position of leader (or "top hog"), you must stand firm as their owner to not let this happen.

Using the method of cooperative care will help you establish yourself as their leader. If your pet pig doesn't view you as a dependable leader, they might challenge you, leading to aggressive and bossy behavior.

Sadly, unwanted or "bad" behavior is the number one reason pig owners decide to rehome their pet pigs.

Cooperative care and training equip you with the tools to instill the manners in your pet pig that promote a harmonious, lasting living environment.

Enrichment through training is a vital aspect of ensuring the happiness of these intelligent animals, which directly translates to happy and satisfied owners.

Loving and caring for your pet pig through cooperative care ensures you will be a lifelong caregiver to your beloved pet pig.

“By adopting a cooperative approach to training, we acknowledge and respect the pig's natural instinct to seek a leader while avoiding their natural instinct to become top hog.”

tip # 1

First things first - you **MUST** be using the right equipment.

It's crucial to highlight the significance of not using gear designed for dogs on your pet pig. Even though dogs and pigs share some similarities, they have distinct anatomical differences that require specialized equipment.

Using a harness made for dogs on pigs can lead to discomfort, restriction of movement, and even potential injuries.

Pigs have a unique body shape, including a broader and more barrel-shaped chest than dogs. **A harness designed for pigs ensures a proper fit around their body and, more importantly, where the pressure distribution is applied.**



“Never use a dog collar on your pet pig.”

It's important to know that the pull/pressure of the harness should be placed behind their front legs and around their body, not around the neck.

So remember, choose the correct harness designed specifically for your pet pig.

Doing so lets you prioritize their comfort, safety, and happiness during your cooperative care training journey together.

tip #2

Make A Gradual Introduction With the Harness & Leash

A gradual introduction to the harness and leash is essential in ensuring a positive and stress-free experience for your pet pig.

Just like with any new thing, unfamiliar gear can be intimidating for your piggy pal. **Taking it slow and allowing them to sniff, chew and investigate first builds trust and creates a positive association with the equipment.**

“Allow them to walk around with the leash dragging before applying pressure, and never fully restrain them.”

After they explore the harness, next you can glide and rub it against the side of their body. Brushing it against their body will get them used to the sensation of having something there.

Finally, moving at their pace, you can attempt to fasten the harness onto them.

The same goes for the addition of the leash. Allow them to walk around with the leash dragging before applying pressure, and never fully restrain them.

We have many helpful videos on our [Instagram feed](#) and [YouTube](#) to help you out!



tip # 3

Use Positive Reinforcement & Verbal Cues

Treats are a pig's best friend during training sessions! Use their favorite treats to motivate them to approach the harness and let you put it on willingly.

Reward them with a treat each time they show curiosity or allow you to handle the leash. This reinforces that good things happen when the harness and leash are involved.

If they approach the harness, offer a treat; if they let you drape it over their back, another treat; and when they wear it without resistance, shower them with praise and extra goodies. This progressive approach builds their confidence and trust in you!

“Pigs respond well to positive reinforcement through kind words and an affectionate tone.”

Alongside treats, use your voice to provide verbal praise and encouragement.

Speak to your pig cheerfully and enthusiastically, letting them know they're doing great. Pigs respond well to positive reinforcement through kind words and an affectionate tone.

During walks, use treats and praise to reward your pig for walking calmly and following your cues.



tip

#

4

Start Indoors or in an Enclosed Area

Indoors, your pig feels secure in their familiar environment, which can reduce anxiety and stress during training. This sense of comfort encourages them to be more receptive to learning and trying new things.

This is particularly important during the early stages of harness and leash introduction when your pig is still getting used to the gear. An enclosed space minimizes the risk of escape and provides you with better control during the training process.

“Starting indoors allows you to gradually expose your pig to the harness and leash in a less overwhelming manner. You can let them explore the gear at their own pace, making the introduction a positive and stress-free experience.”

Remember, every pig is unique; some might take longer to adjust to the harness and leash. Being patient and starting indoors allows you to work at your pig's pace, creating a solid foundation for cooperative care training.

As you progress together, you'll witness the positive impact of this approach, forging a deeper bond and ensuring a joyful and fulfilling training journey with your cherished piggy companion.



tip # 5

Use Patience & Consistency

Patience and consistency are vital when using cooperative care methods to train your pet pig.

Embracing these qualities will lead to successful training and strengthen the bond between you and your pig, fostering a positive and rewarding experience for both of you.

Training can be a fun and rewarding experience, but it's essential to avoid becoming frustrated or impatient.

Your pig can sense your emotions, and staying calm and composed during training promotes a positive atmosphere. If you encounter challenges, take a break and return to it with a fresh mindset.

“By being patient and consistent with your pig during training, you show them that learning is a positive experience.”

This builds their trust in you as a caring and reliable leader, leading to a deeper connection and cooperation in future training endeavors.

With a patient and consistent approach, you'll pave the way for a fulfilling and harmonious relationship with your beloved piggy pal.





I N C O N C L U S I O N

Remember, training is a journey, and every step forward is progress. Embrace the learning process, and don't be discouraged by occasional setbacks.

Celebrate the moments of success, and be patient as you and your pig grow together in your understanding and communication.

By being patient and consistent with your pig during training, you show them that learning is a positive experience.

This builds their trust in you as a caring and reliable leader, leading to a deeper connection and cooperation in future training endeavors.

BONUSS TIPS

harness training

1

Use Short & Sweet Sessions

Pigs have shorter attention spans than other animals, so short training sessions are more effective.

Aim for multiple, brief sessions throughout the day rather than one long session. This approach keeps your pig engaged and prevents them from becoming bored or overwhelmed.

2

Celebrate Small Wins

During training, celebrate every small achievement your pig makes, whether wearing the harness and leash without resistance or learning something new. Praise and reward them for their efforts.

Acknowledging their progress reinforces their confidence and encourages them to keep trying.

3

Training = Bonding + Relationship Building

Remember, positive reinforcement creates a happy and willing learner in your pig. By associating the harness and leash with treats, praise, and positive experiences, you'll find that your pig becomes more eager to participate in training sessions and walks.

The power of positive reinforcement not only makes training enjoyable but also deepens your bond, creating a harmonious and cooperative relationship with your beloved piggy companion. Happy training and rewarding adventures await you both!



COFOUNDERS OF SATX PET PIGS | PORCINE PET SHOP

We aim to bring joy and happiness to pig parents through the bonding process of pet pig ownership.

Our mission is to provide educational resources and guidance to pig owners like you to help foster a relationship of trust and cooperation between you and your pet pig through cooperative care.

We have served the pet pig community since 2019.

[READ OUR STORY](#)

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RESOURCES



How to Introduce the
Harness to Your Pet Pig
VIDEO

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It can take several training sessions
before your pet pig willingly
accepts the harness.
Watch this video to see how
quickly they learn.

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leash training our pet pigs.



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