

# pignic rules and etiquette.

**Pens are for pigs, not people.** Please stay out of the pens. People stepping into the pens pose a huge risk of injury to the pigs. You should be able to reach into the pens to retrieve guinea pigs if needed. We've indicated which pens are for girls and boys, so please double-check which pen your pigs should be in!

**Keep chairs and stuff a few feet away from the pens.** The less clutter around the pens, the less likely an accident will happen. And on that thought....

**If you are next to the pens: kneel or sit.** Keeping low while next to the pens allows everyone to have a clear view, and minimizes the risk of tripping over the walls of the pens.

**Pigs do not always play well with others.** Observe your pig(s) throughout the Pignic. Aggressive piggies should be kept separate from the main pens. Please alert people to mounting or aggressive behavior.

**Don't be afraid to ask questions.** There is a wealth of knowledge at the Pignic. Chat with someone new, and have fun!

**Handle piggies with care.** First, ask before you pick up another person's pig. If you are a novice, have someone show you how to pick up a pig. Guinea pigs have different personalities and can bite if they are handled incorrectly. Even worse, startled pigs can (and many do!) jump out of laps.

## **While handling pigs: keep these tips in mind:**

Use towels to pick up and hold pigs. Using a towel to pick up and wrap them up will give you a better handle on the pig, and give the pig a little more security. Sometimes sounds (like car horns or the train coming by) will startle pigs, causing them to either bolt or hunker down in your lap.

Do not hold a boar next to the sows' pen, or vice versa. The scent of the opposite sex can cause stress, or worse-- fights!

Finally, keep handling to a minimum. Children can get excited about holding pigs, and often try to pick up many pigs during a Pignic. Try to be gentle, calm, and aware that Pignics are for relaxation - for piggies and people alike!

**Look for Pig Patrol people for help.**

*updated June 2011. Suggestions for this document? Email Tammy at [tammy@cavymadness.com](mailto:tammy@cavymadness.com).*

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