

Twisted A Farm

Kune Kune Care & Tips

HOUSING & SPACE



- Kunekunes are hardier than commercial pigs and generally prefer living outside.
- A dry, draft-free shelter (like a 4x6 hut or "pigloo") is essential, with plenty of straw for dry bedding.
- When it gets hot outside they need a mud wallow or a shallow kiddy pool for cooling off, as they cannot sweat.
- Sturdy fencing is required, such as cattle panels or electric netting, as they can be destructive when they want out of a pen.
- You will want a good sized pen if they aren't let out to graze daily.
- They will typically cuddle together in a pig pile to sleep so a structure with room for friends is always a good idea.

- Kunekunes are unique because they are grazing pigs, relying heavily on grass, clover, and dandelions. Free grazing is best but if that isn't available make sure to feed 2lbs of hay several times a week.
- Provide a 12%-16% protein pig pellet on days without hay, especially in winter or when pasture is scarce. During these times we feed 1lb per pig per day.
- Fruits and vegetables are a wonderful addition to a kune diet but avoid overfeeding, as they can easily become overweight.
- Ensure constant access to clean, fresh water, as they drink frequently. They love to knock over water bowls so we use a lik-sit nozzle on a hose bib for automatic water.



SOCIALIZATION



- Kunekunes are highly intelligent and food-motivated, making them easy to train with treats.
- Start early getting them comfortable with being touched (especially belly scratches) to make check-ups easier.
- They are a herd animal and highly social; always keep them in pairs or small groups.

- If you choose to breed your Kunekunes you will need a clean, dry isolated area for them to farrow.
- Provide straw or rice hay for them to build a nest before farrowing.
- Gestation is 112-116 days.
- Kunes are very good mothers and usually do not mind you handling the piglets at all.
- They have between 3-14 piglets.
- You will want to keep sow and piglets separated from the herd for the first 8-12 weeks.
- The sows food intake should double during lactation.



HEALTH & MAINTENANCE



- Trim hooves occasionally to prevent mobility issues, particularly in older pigs. We roll the pigs on to their backs to immobilize them and then use garden shears to trim hooves.
- Brush regularly to remove dead hair and apply oil (coconut/olive) if their skin becomes dry. You can easily bath them on warm days with dawn soap, water, brush and a garden hose.
- Worming every six months is recommended. We recommend alternating between Ivermectin and Safeguard paste.
- Annual vaccinations can be given if you choose.