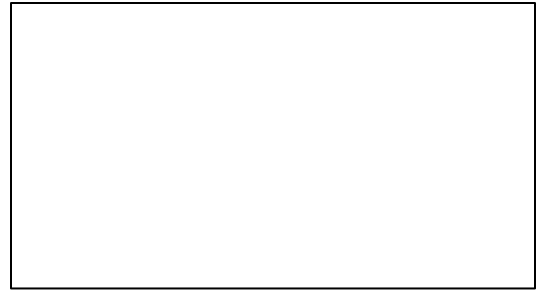




Optional: Insert EMC, VTH or ACCRC logo here
Address: [Company Address]
Phone: [Company Phone]



Clinical Research Project Client Consent Form

Study Title: Owner-Assessed Quality of Life Factors for Pigs
Principal Investigator: Megan Shepherd
540-231-6041; meshephe@vt.edu

One of the missions of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is to create, disseminate and apply medical knowledge through discovery, learning, and engagement. You are invited to participate in this mission by enrolling your animal in a clinical research study. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw your pig from the study prior to submitting the quality of life survey. There is no penalty if you choose not to participate.

Study Purpose:

Pig health is influenced by the owner (aka. caregiver, parent) and veterinarian / veterinary team. Preventative health care efforts are most effective when there is good collaboration between owner and veterinarian. Owner-perceived quality of life is an important for veterinarians to consider. However, to date, no study has characterized owner-assessed indicators of their pig's quality of life. Therefore, this study seeks to characterize owner-assessed indicators that best reflect their pig's quality of life.

Study Design/Procedures:

For this study, your pig's body weight and body condition score (BCS) will be evaluated. Your pig's body weight will be measured by platform scale. Your pig's body condition score will be evaluated using a 5-point scale, using the American MiniPig BCS chart on a following page. All data will be anonymous and stored on a secure Virginia Tech computer. Pig owners will be asked to complete a quality of life survey.

Risks and Benefits:

The benefit of this study is that, by participating in this study, you and your pig will benefit others by characterized owner perceptions of their pig's quality of life.

Potential risks of this study are ...

1. Pigs sometimes become stressed during and/or when they travel to/from a veterinary appointment.
2. Body weight measurement involves your pig stepping onto and standing on a platform scale; the process only takes about 1 minute to complete and is a routine part of a physical exam.
3. Body condition scoring involves minimal manual palpation that some pigs may resist. However, the process only takes about 1 minute to complete and is a routine part of a physical exam.

Study Costs and Compensation:

The only cost to you, the pig owner, is time needed to complete the quality of life survey. Participants will receive a \$100 discount off the cost of their appointment. The cost of any additional non-study treatments or diagnostic procedures undertaken for your pig during the visit are not covered by the study.

Confidentiality:

The data collected in the course of this study is confidential. In any publication or presentation of the study data, we will not include information that would make it possible to identify a research participant. Research records will be kept in a secure location; only researchers will have access to the records. The sponsor will not have access to the study data.

Statement of Consent:

In giving my consent by signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been informed of the purpose and nature of this study and its associated procedures, as well as any possible side effects.

I have read and understood the above information. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers, and I consent to participate in the study. I further certify that I am the owner (or duly authorized agent of the owner) of

_____ (Animal's name).

Owner or Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner or Agent Printed Name: _____

Attending Clinician Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attending Clinician Printed Name: _____

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this study.

The research and procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Tech Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC-20-227), Institutional Review Board (IRB-21-126) and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Clinical Research Review Committee.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, please contact:

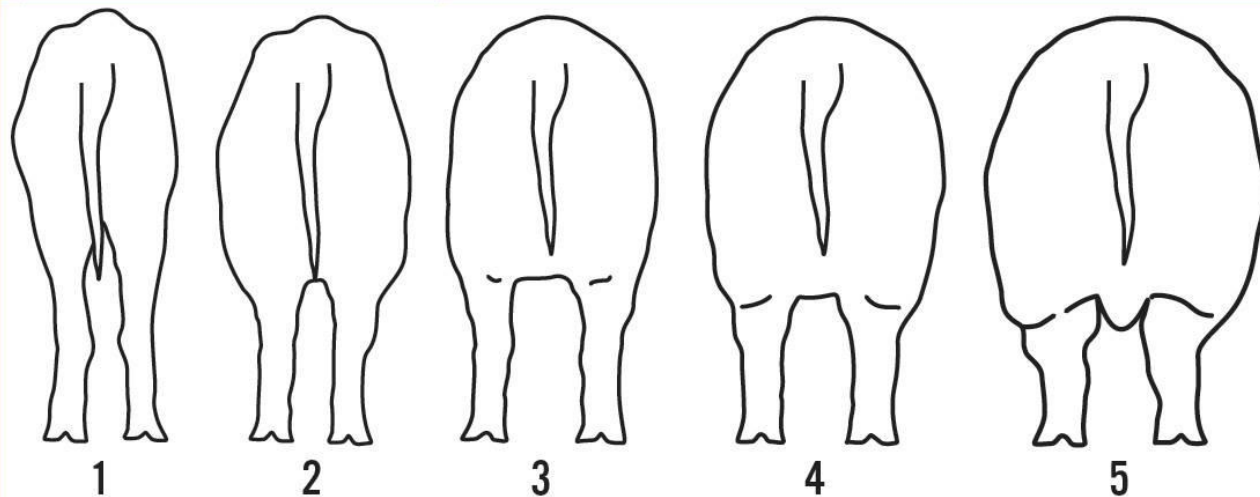
Hospital Director,
Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Address: 245 Duck Pond Dr.,
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0443
Phone: 540.231.4621

You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.



All for the love of the pigs

www.americanminipigassociation.com



SCORE	LAST RIB/ FAT DEPTH (MM)	CONDITION	BODY SHAPE
1	<15	Emaciated	Hips, spine predominant to the eye
2	15-18	Thin	Hips, spine easily felt without pressure
3	18-20	Ideal	Hips, spine felt only with firm pressure
4	20-23	Fat	Hips, spine can not be felt
5	>23	Obese	Hips, spine heavily fat covered