

## Owner-Assessed Quality of Life Factors for Pigs

### Purpose

To develop an owner-assessed quality of life instrument for mini pigs

### Background

Virginia Tech is recruiting pig owners for a survey-based research study to better understand what owners consider as important indicators to their pig's quality of life (i.e. your pig's overall enjoyment of life). The study has been reviewed by the Virginia Tech IRB (protocol #21-126). During your pig's appointment, you would be provided a consent sheet and asked to complete a single 15-minute paper questionnaire during your pig's appointment. The quality of your pig's care during the appointment will not be impacted whether you choose to participate or not.

This study is funded by the **Mazuri Exotic Animal Nutrition**.

### Eligibility

- Mini pigs 12 months of age or older who present to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital or field service as part of a routine veterinary exam

### Exclusion Criteria

- Pigs with serious systemic illnesses or cancers

### Study Design

Pigs will be enrolled during routine veterinary visits (e.g. vaccines, hoof and dental care). Pig body weight will be measured using a scale, and two veterinarians will assess the pig's body condition score. You will be asked to write 5 indicators you believe most represent or influence your potbelly pig's quality of life, then you will be asked to rank the factors based on importance.

### Compensation

The appointment fee will be subsidized (\$60 savings) for participants. The cost of any non-study treatments or diagnostic procedures undertaken for your pig during the visit are not covered by the study.

### Contact

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