

Dear fellow Homeowners,

My name is Missy, and like you, I received the HOA survey in the mail yesterday asking how we all felt about being able to have a potbelly pig as a household pet. I believe the wording of the survey was confusing and misleading at best.

1. The survey states that all potbellied pigs are considered swine animals and that all swine animals are considered livestock, therefore potbellied pigs must also be considered livestock and must not be allowed in our homes. If we were to use this logic, then we would argue that tigers are feline animals and feline animals are domestic cats, therefore tigers are domestic cats and we can keep them in our homes. This kind of thinking is obviously dangerous and wrong. The reality is that miniature potbelly pigs, like cats and dogs are raised strictly as pets. They are sold in the state of Texas as pets, purchased from reputable breeders, vaccinated, neutered and TAXED as pets.
2. The USDA, contrary to what the survey states, does **not** consider potbelly pigs to be livestock. I quote a few lines from one of the documents we obtained where the United States Animal and Plant Health Department of Agriculture Inspection says *“USDA only considers potbellied pigs “livestock” if the animal is to be imported from a country that has a swine disease status that could be detrimental to the swine industry in the United States if the pig being imported was infected. Pot bellied pigs that **are private pets are classified as pets not livestock**. If further clarification is needed, Please call this office at (301) 734-4972 Sincerely Steve Smith Animal Health Technician Animal Care”*.

All that Wilbur does is bring joy to our family and some of our neighbors kids too... He does not hurt anyone. He was bred as a pet in the USA and has been in our household since last Christmas. If you didn't know about Wilbur, it is because he is a very quiet pet. He lives inside with us and weighs only 60 pounds (he is a miniature potbellied pig). Wilbur only goes out in the backyard as our dog does and we clean up after him as we do for our dog. Unlike many dogs, he does not smell (he has no sweat glands) or bark to passing strangers.

Any homeowners that have more than two dogs or cats, or that have a pet turtle (I had one as a kid and loved it) do you realize that the HOA can make you go through the same anguish my family and I are going through right now? If this happens, what will you do?

Lastly, know that the information the HOA obtains from the survey is not “binding” which means if they don't like your vote, it won't be used. Don't you think this is wrong? If you are confused or feel misled, than either do not sign the survey, or write your vote by hand, together with any concerns so that it is clear what you're voting for.

You are welcome to come and meet Wilbur in person (bring your kids too) so you can see that he is not “livestock” or a farm animal, but a beloved domesticated household pet.

Thank you,
The Sardo Family
3419 Fir Forest Drive