

KuneKune Pigs – What makes them so special?

KuneKunes are gaining in popularity all across the country. No more is the rare breed that was near extinction that they once were. These little multi-purpose pigs are being used in more and more niche markets from pets, to breeding stock to pork production for small scale farming operations that want a friendly, docile little pig that is easy for the first time pig buyers to handle. They are used as therapy animals in nursing homes and emotional support animals as well as petting zoos.

KuneKunes are wonderful pets and are trust worthy with children. If you have ever been around big commercial breeds you may not feel this is honest but, it is. KuneKunes are a smaller breed of pig that come up to your knee or just above if you are short like I am. They are short and fat! Thus the name the Maori tribes in New Zealand named them – KuneKune which means short and fat.

They have an amazing personality and are affectionate, curious, happy and humorous little creatures. What makes them so very special is they are able to graze and not destroy the land. They do not want to tear up the grass they want to eat it! They also are not prone to test fencing or be hard on fencing like the bigger breeds. They are also easy to handle, allow you to watch babies be born, interact with the babies and even a full intact boar is as docile as a puppy. It truly is amazing and it provides such a great learning environment for children.

KuneKunes are low maintenance as they are a very hardy breed that do well in warm and cold temperatures. They do not require much in the way of feed as they are true grazers and can fatten on grass alone if the pasture is rich enough. We give our pigs 2 cups of grain twice a day more because we choose to then we have to. Piglets growing during their first year will of course need grain but, after that they can maintain their weight on pasture. They have a short upturned snout which is why they are efficient grazers.