

# Alternative Pig Fencing

By Kathy Petersen of Virginia KuneKunes

Our herd grew much bigger than we expected and extra fencing was needed. In talking with breeders one day, a gentleman told me a piece of advice that I did not forget. He said, "Put up the best, strongest fence that you can afford". Great advice!

Fencing can be expensive. Not only do you need the fence, but the poles, insulators, etc. All of that adds up quickly when you are doing a fairly big area. I must give total credit to my husband, who came up with fencing using pallets. They are strong and tough. It creates a very rustic look and it appealed to me, as we are surrounded by woods and are in the country.

(We put up our fencing in the fall, so please excuse the lack of paint which will be done in the spring. Once these pallets are painted with a barn red, I think they will look great.)



KuneKunes graze of course, so pastureland is excellent for them. They also like the woods as well where they forage for acorns, plants, leaves and stems like other grazing livestock. We used short and uglier pallets all through the woods as they are not seen well anyway. We used the natural surroundings by using the trees as our post. We have to add very few poles and they were trees that we may have cut down for some reason. We tried to use the better pallets in the more visible areas.

My husband works near a building supply company and he stopped by one day to ask what they did with all their pallets. Can you please they disposed of them and broke them down. He asked if he could come take them off their hands and they happily agreed. All the pallets were totally free! That was a deal too good to say no to.



We quickly learned when using chain link, you need to put it into the ground or the kunes would get under them. When using chain link fencing or even cattle or field fencing that can be avoided by nailing logs or wood to the bottom and attaching them to your fence post (if they are wooden). It works wonderfully.

Another thing that you can do with the pallets is building piggy houses with them. Of course, you must put plywood over to keep the drafts out but, they make a strong house. We put a roof on it and then cover it with a tarp as well.

I hope that you have gotten some new creative ideas for fencing and even housing your kunekunes in a less expensive manner from this article. Happy building and fencing to you.