**Why we no longer allow visitors…**

**Our vet has greatly stressed & recommend to not to allow visitors.** The main reason behind this is **exposure & health risks**. Baby pigs start vaccination rounds the day they are born.**Like human babies, baby pigs are highly susceptible to certain diseases & illnesses being carried in on them. These can be carried in on your clothing, hands, even shoes! Something as simple as a cold or stomach bug, you or a member of your family have picked up from the grocery store or school, can be deadly to baby pigs under 3wks of age!** Baby pigs are far more likely to contract something from humans, than humans are contracting something from pigs. So our concern is not your health because the chances of you getting sick from them are basically ZERO! It is the health of our babies! The last thing we want to do is ignore the recommendations of our vet & allow something to be carried in on them that could potentially be deadly, especially during flu season! This is one of the most dangerous times for babies under 3wks of age. **This is why proper sanitation techniques & cleanliness such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer & disinfecting & cleaning your pigs area is stressed to new pig owners when purchasing a baby less than 6 wks of age.**In almost all cases (99%) of a human contracting something from a pig, has to do with consumption. The only recorded contractions from pet pigs to humans is internal parasites. The same parasites (round worms, hook worms, nodular worms, etc) that can be passed from a dog or cat to a human & again, most of these cases these have to do with the consumption of pork.

 **The other reason is pigs are not like puppies & kittens. They are not going to be happy to see you when you arrive and crowd around you wanting you to pet & play with them. They start their bond very early in life and bond with the people that care for them & interact with them daily. There isn’t going to be one that takes to you right off the bat, this will never happen because of a pigs chemical makeup in their brain. Every one of them is going to want to run away and hide from you because they do not know you. You will never know how any pig is going to be with your family until you get it to your home and settled into the new environment, which usually takes 3-7 days.** Every time new people are introduced to a "pig family" it possesses a massive amount of stress to them. When the babies become stressed, the Mom becomes angry and the **natural instinct of all Mothers kicks into "protection mode"! Once this mode kicks in, extreme liability risks become present to the breeder/farm owner because extreme danger can become present to the visitors. We absolutely do not want someone to get bit because we have a sow doing what her natural instincts are telling her to do, which is to protect her babies.** Imagine taking your 2yr into a big room full of people, setting him down, and walking away. After just a few moments, hysteria mode sets in. This is exactly what happens to baby pigs when families come to visit them, except their Mother is right there. So in all reality, despite what you may think, it is much better for all parties involved, for the buyer to pick a baby, or even narrow it down to a few babies and get with the breeder away from the rest of their litter & mom. **We will be happy to provide references of clients that have purchased from us, as well as photos of the parents & also discuss your concerns either at the time of pick up or prior to pick up by having a phone or email conference ahead of time to make sure all your questions & concerns are covered.** Also, if you are concerned that you may possibly get one you’re not happy with, which is a possibility for anyone, we do offer an exchange policy. If for any reason you are not happy with your pigs progress since you have brought them home, or just don’t think your pig is a good match for your family, we will exchange your pig for one of equal or lesser value at no additional cost to you within a reasonable amount of time, no questions asked! The standard time frame is 10 days, however if you purchase an older pig or a pig for someone with special needs, that time frame will be extended.

We do understand that not being able to meet the babies is a big detour in purchase for some & we do apologize. There are a few breeders in FL with smaller farms & fewer pigs than what we have that used to allow visitors. I am not sure if they still do, but if you need to visit before purchasing, it would defiantly be worth looking in to. We do however hope that you are able to understand why we have chosen to no longer allow visitors & we will still be happy to assist in every way possible during your purchasing process & afterwards, regardless of where you purchase from.

Thank You for taking the time to check out our website!