

---

# AKKPS Educational E-Blast

May 2022

*Great Articles Posted to The AKKPS Face Book  
Page*

---

AKKPS

## Over Weight Pigs

The latest updates

The word Kunekune literally means "fat and round" in the Maori language but that doesn't mean your kunekune pig should be overweight. This lard breed pig can easily be overfed and become obese. Take care to watch your kunekune pig's weight and adjust their diet and exercise accordingly. Here is a great article about helping overweight pig's lose weight.

<https://morningchores.com/overweight-pig/>

An AKKPS member was able to share some pictures of an overweight sow she purchased and rehabbed. This sow is clearly overweight, her belly almost touches the ground, her weight has caused her pasterns to break down and she is almost fat blind. She was able to reduce her weight and she went on to have a successful farrowing!



References: Homegrown Pork by Sue Weaver, the pig site



Overweight Pigs

Brittney Malvitz

## Salt Toxicity in Pigs

Pigs can be susceptible to salt toxicity, also referred to as salt poisoning and water deprivation. Salt toxicity occurs more commonly when pigs don't drink enough water over actually ingesting too much salt. The normal salt content in their feed can become toxic when pigs don't have access to fresh water to drink. Early symptoms of salt toxicity include increased thirst, constipation, and extreme itching. As the pig's condition worsens, the nervous system begins to be affected. The pig will act like it is in a drunken state and can become uncoordinated. They may act blind, deaf, refuse feed and water, display dog sitting, and have seizures. Death can occur from within several hours to several days from the beginning of symptoms without fresh water. If salt toxicity is suspected, pigs need to be rehydrated slowly with water and electrolytes. Too much water too fast can be a shock to the pig's system. If severe symptoms have started, treatment is best done under the direction of a veterinarian. Pigs with nervous system symptoms should be placed in a darkened area with bedding to prevent injuries.

Salt toxicity is very preventable in your Kunekune herd. Be sure to always have fresh, clean water available at all times. During warmer weather be sure to keep water in the shade since pigs tend to not drink water that is hot. Water can be kept cool by freezing water jugs and putting it in the water source. If possible, conduct multiple water checks daily. Avoid salty foods or other farm animal feed that has a higher salt content. Commercial dog and cat foods have a high salt content and should never be given to pigs. Lastly, it is vital to have a veterinarian that is able to treat your Kunekunes and assist you with any issues that arise.

AKKPS

## Can Pigs Eat Potatoes?

by Mark Earle | Pet Pig FAQ

It is often recommended that pigs are fed vegetables, but there are often questions whether some vegetables, like potatoes, really are safe for swine.

Are pigs allowed to eat potatoes? Pigs can eat potatoes and can use it as a good source of energy. However, potatoes fed to pigs would either have to be cooked or dried. Otherwise, it can potentially cause some stomach issues.

Because potatoes have its fair share of benefits to your pig's diet, it's important to find out how you can maximize it while minimizing the risks at the same time.

Why Some People Discourage the Use of Potatoes as Pig Food

Why do some people say that potatoes are not good for pigs?

It's actually normal for potatoes to be fed raw to livestock. But while the stomachs of cattle and sheep are able to digest potatoes easily, pigs have a harder time doing it. Potatoes are 70% starch, something that a pig's stomach cannot process in huge amounts. But when cooked or dried, the potatoes become much easier to process. Aside from that, potatoes also have high water and energy content, but low in fiber and protein. The high water content may affect the amount of feed that the pig eats. The low fiber content will also mean that some additional roughage would have to be added.

Green potatoes are even more dangerous. This is a signal of a toxic substance called solanine being formed.

Solanine isn't only found in potatoes, but in tomatoes and eggplants as well. It can also be present in tubers, leaves, and some fruits. The more that potatoes are exposed to sunlight, the more that potatoes produce it.

What does solanine do?

Solanine can damage the cell membranes inside a pig's intestines, affecting its ability to process food properly. It can also get in the way of the production of different enzymes that pigs need.

You should also know that solanine is more abundant in the potato's skin. Although a few may not harm your pig, too much of it will eventually hurt its stomach.

To stay safe, always check potatoes for any greening. This is a visible sign of solanine formation. These greenish parts would usually develop around potato spores first.

## Pigs & Eating Eggs

Here is a great article on feeding pigs eggs. We often see lots of questions about how and how often to feed eggs. This article has all the answers!

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmhouseguide.com%2Fcan-pigs-eat-eggs-and-eggshells%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1bD9J1fmNT9b-olaKbImiTCLELn7aPHAD6ivoTWQANfHFEAAiaKDKHk&h=AT2qcrkob0x9uoGwVIUmglVm1EAUFByHWQ0tVB-g\\_Uo7ovjtoCPgMYHEL\\_Obq6ArsHmc-9nqfqQsooVevrVmAXLx9reQ6l1JwxWhPlloK-wzNpjdVIC\\_Z0cCUIdyqB\\_mRA&\\_m=-UK-R&cl0l=AT0AbbmMewGHCtQ6g9pQbyeRige5sjWeu pX2Eh5l-7OcT3ogk6suD1aZfn4CxBbVebnL\\_NCzY7h2ldJkks5ohK-ULEhs-fklCgg4HKWVE0J\\_5C1i3R360AySZz84K96d\\_IpBHCn11RjccZuAo1JWaqoCwP9ixISvGu7YxXbWosAgc](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ffarmhouseguide.com%2Fcan-pigs-eat-eggs-and-eggshells%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1bD9J1fmNT9b-olaKbImiTCLELn7aPHAD6ivoTWQANfHFEAAiaKDKHk&h=AT2qcrkob0x9uoGwVIUmglVm1EAUFByHWQ0tVB-g_Uo7ovjtoCPgMYHEL_Obq6ArsHmc-9nqfqQsooVevrVmAXLx9reQ6l1JwxWhPlloK-wzNpjdVIC_Z0cCUIdyqB_mRA&_m=-UK-R&cl0l=AT0AbbmMewGHCtQ6g9pQbyeRige5sjWeu pX2Eh5l-7OcT3ogk6suD1aZfn4CxBbVebnL_NCzY7h2ldJkks5ohK-ULEhs-fklCgg4HKWVE0J_5C1i3R360AySZz84K96d_IpBHCn11RjccZuAo1JWaqoCwP9ixISvGu7YxXbWosAgc)

