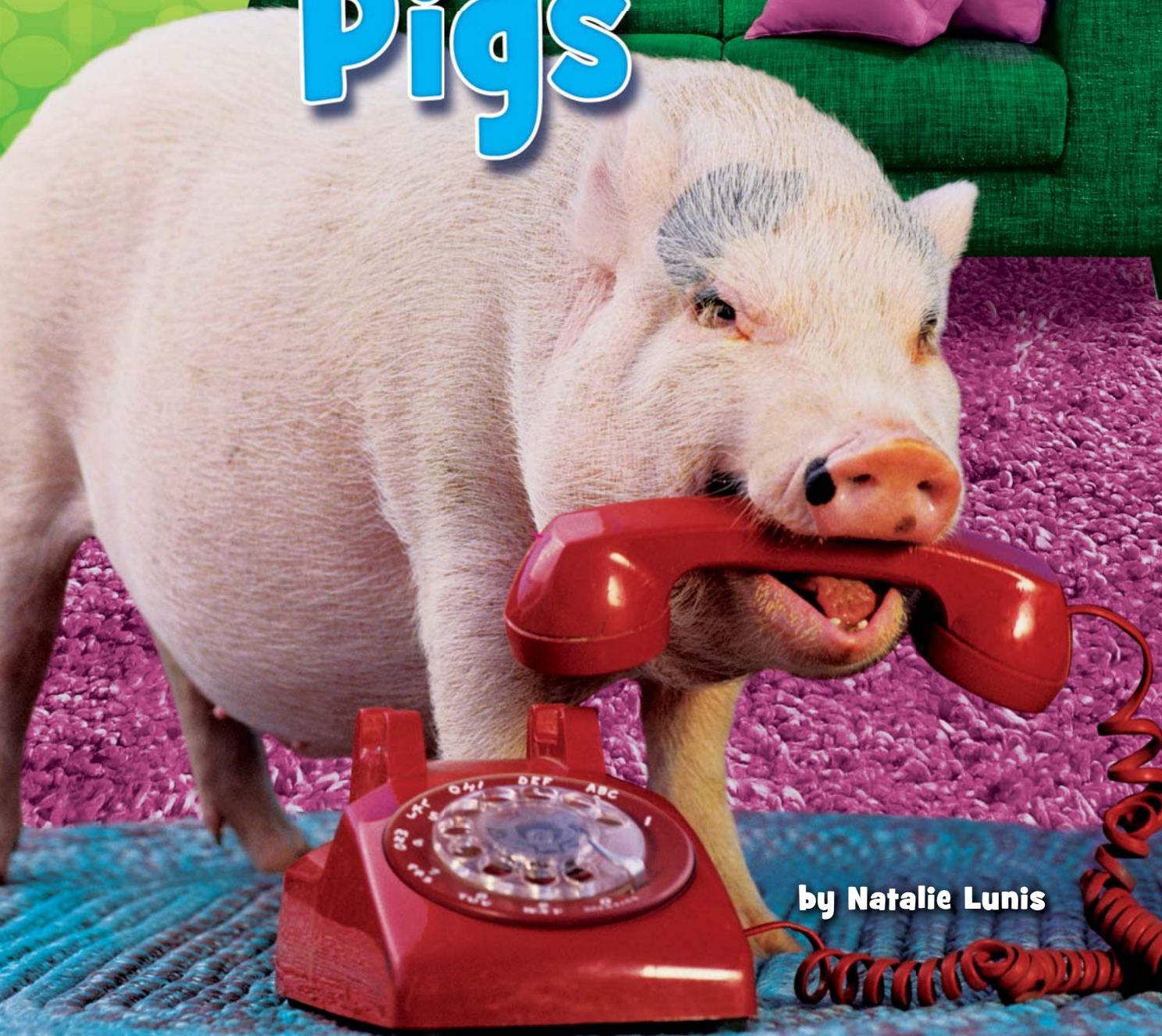


PECULIAR
PETS

Potbellied Pigs



by Natalie Lunis

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Consultant: Nancy Shepherd, Owner
Pig O' My Heart Potbellies

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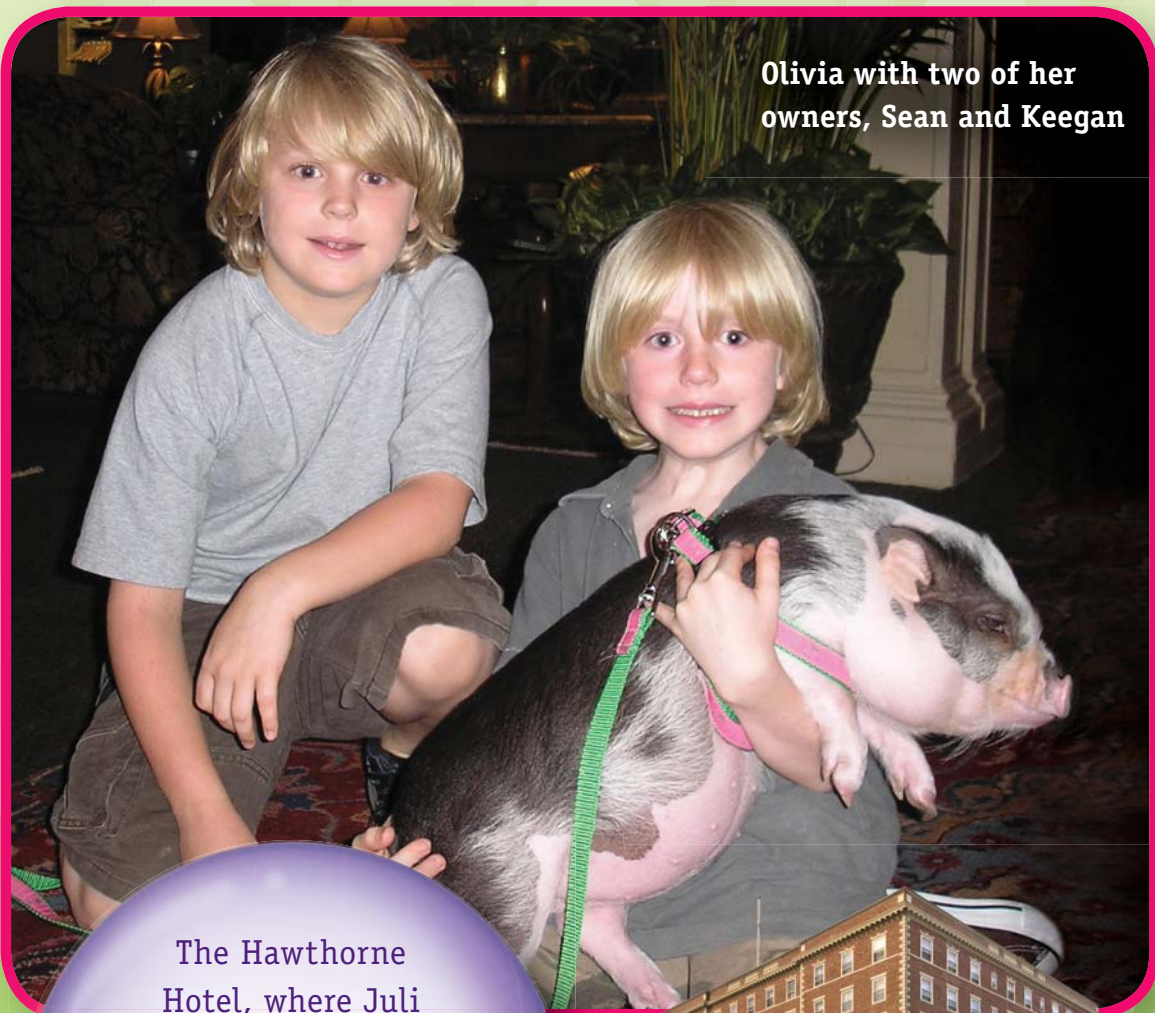
A Surprising Guest

Few things could surprise Juli Lederhaus. As a hotel manager in Salem, Massachusetts, she had met people from all over the United States. Yet she had never seen a guest like the one who came into the lobby one afternoon in August of 2008. This guest was a pig—a real pig.

**This unusual visitor stayed ▼
with her owners at the
Hawthorne Hotel in 2008.**



Salem's latest visitor was no farm animal, though. Instead, she was a family pet. Her name was Olivia, and she was a three-and-a-half-month-old potbellied pig. Olivia and her owners had arrived from Rhode Island for a short vacation. For the next few days, they would stay in the hotel and tour the town together.



Olivia with two of her owners, Sean and Keegan

The Hawthorne Hotel, where Juli works, is “pet-friendly.” Usually, that means that people can bring a dog or a cat to stay with them—not a pig.



▲ **The Hawthorne Hotel**

Mini-Pigs

Potbellied pigs like Olivia are also called Vietnamese potbellied pigs and **miniature** pet pigs. These longer names tell something about their size and where they came from.

In 1985, a zookeeper in Canada **imported** 16 potbellied pigs from Vietnam. The **offspring** from these pigs were placed in zoos in the United States. Some of the people who saw them thought they would make good pets. Why?

Where Potbellied Pigs Came From



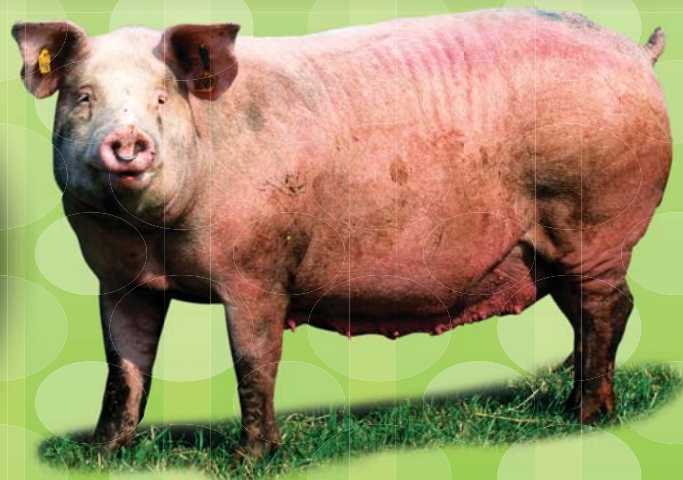
◀ Otis is a potbellied pig that lives at the Central Park Zoo in New York City.

When fully grown, potbellied pigs weigh only from 60 to 175 pounds (27 to 79 kg) and measure about two feet (.6 m) high at the shoulder. A farm pig, however, weighs at least 600 pounds (272 kg) and can be at least three feet (1 m) high. Potbellied pigs are sized more like medium-size dogs than hogs—just the right size for a pet.



This potbellied pig lives with two dogs in New Jersey.

Farmers use the word *hog* to mean a large farm pig. The biggest ones can weigh more than 1,000 pounds (454 kg).



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Read More

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Learn More Online

To learn more about potbellied pigs, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/PeculiarPets

About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many nonfiction books for children.
She lives in the Hudson River Valley, just north of New York City.

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Potbellied Pigs

Thinking about getting a new pet? How about a potbellied pig? These clever creatures make the perfect pet—for the right kind of owner. Look inside to find out what these friendly, fun-loving animals eat as well as what kind of living space, training, and care they need. Along the way you'll also discover what all potbellied pig owners know—that the world of pets is a lot bigger than just cats and dogs.



Furry Ferrets
Green Iguanas
Miniature Horses
Potbellied Pigs

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