

Stonehouse Farm Guide to Raising KuneKune Pigs

Everything a Beginner Needs to Know for Happy, Healthy Homestead Hogs

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction to KuneKunes
- 2. Why KuneKunes? Meat vs. Pets
- 3. Housing & Fencing
- 4. Feeding & Grazing
- 5. Health & Wellness
- 6. Breeding Basics
- 7. Breeding Quality Checklist
- 8. Processing & Butchering Considerations
- 9. KuneKune Glossary
- 10. Our Favorite Resources
- 11. Stonehouse Farm Breeding Program

1. Introduction to KuneKunes

KuneKune pigs (pronounced 'koo-nee koo-nee') are a small, heritage breed originally from New Zealand. Their name means 'fat and round' in Maori. These pigs are beloved for their docile temperament, charming appearance, and ability to thrive on pasture alone.

KuneKunes are excellent for small-scale homesteads due to their smaller size, friendly nature, and efficient grazing habits. They are known for forming strong bonds with humans and are often seen more as companions than traditional livestock.

2. Why KuneKunes? Meat vs. Pets

As Meat Pigs:

- High-quality, marbled pork with deep flavor
- Excellent fat-to-meat ratio; ideal for charcuterie
- Graze efficiently on pasture, lowering feed costs
- Slower growers, typically butchered between 12–18 months

As Pets:

- Gentle and social—enjoy human interaction
- Smaller size (100–250 lbs) makes them manageable
- Can be house-trained and coexist with other animals
- Require strong boundaries—they're still pigs, after all!

3. Housing & Fencing

- Shelter: Dry, draft-free housing with ample bedding (straw or shavings)
- Space: At least 600–800 sq ft per pig on pasture
- Fencing: Strong perimeter fencing (woven wire or electric)
- Protection: Shade in summer, windbreak in winter

4. Feeding & Grazing

- Pasture: Fresh grass is ideal—KuneKunes are natural grazers
- Feed: Balanced pig feed or grain mix to supplement as needed
- Scraps: Kitchen scraps (no meat, mold, or heavily salted items)
- Water: Fresh, clean water at all times

5. Health & Wellness

- Routine Care: Deworming 2–3x/year, hoof trimming as needed
- Vaccinations: Consult a local livestock vet for recommendations
- Observation: Watch for weight loss, limping, coughing, or listlessness
- Parasite Control: Clean living areas and rotate pasture

6. Breeding Basics

- Age of Breeding: 8–12 months
- Gestation: 114 days (3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days)
- Litter Size: 5–10 piglets
- Boar vs. Sow: Sows are generally calm; boars can be very gentle if socialized early

7. Breeding Quality Checklist

- ☒ Strong conformation: straight legs, good feet, and level topline
- ☒ Proper head shape and facial features typical of the breed
- ☒ Wattles present if required by registry standards
- ☒ Balanced proportions and solid body condition
- ☒ Calm temperament and good mothering instinct (for gilts/sows)
- ☒ Healthy reproductive organs with no signs of deformity
- ☒ Documented lineage and genetic diversity to avoid inbreeding
- ☒ No disqualifying faults such as hernias, extreme undersize/oversize, or poor teat structure

8. Processing & Butchering Considerations

- Ideal Weight: 150–200 lbs live weight
- Timeline: Ready at 12–18 months for rich flavor and fat content
- Processing: Work with a USDA butcher familiar with KuneKune fat structure
- Cuts & Use: Incredible bacon, shoulder roasts, ribs, and lard

9. KuneKune Glossary

- Wattles: Fleshy “tassels” under their chins
- Trough Training: Teaching pigs to come to a feeding trough
- Tusk Trimming: Occasionally necessary for boars
- Pasture Rotation: Moving pigs to reduce parasite load

10. Our Favorite Resources

- International KuneKune Hog Registry: <https://www.ikkhr.com>
- 'The Homestead Pig' by Sue Weaver
- Contact Stonehouse Farm for help and piglets!

11. Stonehouse Farm Breeding Program

We raise registered KuneKunes with a focus on temperament, meat quality, and manageability. Our piglets are handled daily, vaccinated, and ready for responsible homes.

2025 Pricing is as follows:

- Piglets: \$400–\$600
- Select Breeding Stock (4–6+ months old): \$800–\$1,200

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a piglet.