



Teacup Pigs Selling Like Hotcakes

At birth, tiny teacup pigs weigh just 9 oz. and easily fit inside a small cup. The little porkers were bred down from potbelly and other small domestic breeds.

Joyce Wells is a teacup breeder in Florida who had an explosion of interest after her mini pigs were featured on the Today Show in October.

"I went from 6,000 hits a month to 37,000 hits a day on my website - www.teacuppiggy.com," Wells says.

Wells is the police chief of Bushnell, Florida. She started raising mini pigs at her rural home a couple years ago. Her breeder pigs live outside in little structures that look like dog houses. The second bathroom of her home is the piggy nursery. Wells worms, socializes, litter trains and gets the pigs on a pellet feed before sending them to their new homes at 7 to 8 weeks.

After a few weeks, the pigs graduate from the litter box to going to the door to be let outside to do their business. Wells adds that mini pigs that will be indoors pets must also be spayed or neutered to eliminate odor and other problems.

"Pigs are really smart and easily trained," Wells says. "They like a lot of attention. They seem to be at a 2-year-old child's level permanently. They need something to play with and devise ways to amuse themselves. They will follow you all over the house and push their nose on your leg for attention."

The pigs are food-driven and want to eat all the time. Though full-grown pigs are smaller than a cocker spaniel, they will easily gain too much weight if they're fed too much. To keep them less than 55 lbs., Wells feeds babies cup of pellet food twice a day. Adults receive one cup twice a day. She feeds them vegetables and some fruit snacks in between.

Exercise is key. They like to go on a leash for daily walks.

Because of their short legs - 6 in. or less - a ramp may be needed if there are steps.

Where To Buy Parts For Japanese Mini Trucks

"Off-road" mini trucks from Japan have caught on fast since they were first imported 7 or 8 years ago. New dealers and importers have sprung up in many areas.

Buyers like the price, But finding parts can sometimes be a problem.

Jimmy Johnson of MacTown Mini Trucks in McLeansboro, Ill., recently called FARM SHOW to say his company specializes in new, used and rebuilt parts for mini trucks including models such as Honda, Daihatsu, Mitsubishi, Mazda, Suzuki, and Subaru. They even manufacture some of the parts.

"We've been selling parts for Japanese mini trucks for 7 or 8 years and offer a wider selection of parts than almost anyone else," says Johnson. "One problem with getting parts for these trucks is they weren't built for export to North America. As a result, the parts numbers for them aren't of any help when you go to Auto Zone or Napa.

"I hear every day from people who couldn't get parts anywhere else, and they're elated when they find we can help them. We've gained a lot of knowledge about these little trucks over the years and are willing to share what we've learned with our customers. We also offer workshop manuals (in English) for sale on our website for anyone who needs them."

Some companies sell parts for Japanese mini trucks, says Johnson. "However, most of them ask you to fill out a parts request form, which is then reviewed and sent off to Japan to see if the part is available and what it's priced at. It can take two weeks to get a reply. Then the company calls you back and quotes you a price. As a result, it can take a month or more before you finally get the part. We'll probably already have the part you need in stock. But if we don't, we can usually get it within 7 to 10 business days."

Check for zoning requirements also, Wells says. Some communities consider them to be livestock and don't allow them as pets.

"I just caution people to be absolutely sure they want a pig," Wells emphasizes. "It's a commitment for about 18 years. They are mischievous. So many end up going to rescue shelters."

Wells sells her mini pigs starting at \$350. Customers usually prefer spots and color instead of plain black pigs. She is currently



MacTown Mini Trucks specializes in new, used and rebuilt parts for mini trucks from Japan. Items for sale include "Camoclad" camouflage kits.

Mactown Mini Trucks stocks a wide selection of engine parts including engine rebuild kits, transmissions, hydraulic pumps, starters, alternators, water pumps, fan belts, bearings, oil seals, voltage regulators, manifolds, mufflers, clutches, steering shafts, ignition switches, brake pads & shoes, filters and more, says Johnson. They also sell windshields, struts, doors, and CV axles & rebuild kits.

Other items for sale include "Camoclad" camouflage kits, which consist of permanent "peel-off" vinyl that adheres to the pickup's surface to form a new camouflage skin for the truck. The company also manufactures and sells lift kits for 1988 to 2010 models. They also sell new and used trucks, wheels and tires, and bolt-on or weld-on bumpers with 2-in. receivers, as well as Blackline snowplows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MacTown Mini Trucks, 100 S. Heard, P.O. Box 156, McLeansboro, Ill. 62859 (ph 618 643-3373; jjohnson@hamiltoncom.net; www.MactownMiniTrucks.com).

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sold out, but purchased more breeding animals so she will have more litters in the near future.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Angel Enterprise Farm, P.O. Box 1814, Bushnell, Florida 33513 (ph 352 303-8371; www.teacuppiggy.com).