Interview with Carmen (pseudonym) ex pet pig keeper.

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Researcher = [K]

K: Why did you decide to have a pet pig?

P: Lots of people have asked me that question, to be honest I'm not 100% sure why. It was lockdown, they looked so cute, piglets are so cute. I never wanted a dog or cat. My wife works a lot and the boys are at school and I just thought it would be nice to have some company in the house. I work as a childminder but in lockdown, my whole business died and I wasn’t really doing anything. I just thought it would be nice. I did a lot of research before I got him, before he was even born when I had the idea. So, when I was doing all my research and reading about places that sold minipigs, I liked the sound of what I read about [the breeder]. I just felt it was the best and I had lots of phone conversations with them and email asking everything that I wanted to know.

K: Why pigs in particular?

P: I don’t really know. I just thought they looked cute and I know they are really intelligent and I just thought... we haven’t got a massive house but we’ve got a big enough house to have an animal in it. We’ve got a garden. We've got countryside on our doorstep. I thought it would be fine, he can live in the house and have access to outside, plenty of green spaces where I can walk him.

K: What enticed you about [the breeder]?

P: It just sounded really genuine. It didn’t feel like... I mean there is [another breeder] in London which is much closer for me but I don’t know, something about [the breeder ] made me feel really safe and secure. All the information they told me, they never made it out to say the piglet would never grow. They made it quite clear that it would grow to be about the size of a Labrador. They said that when the phrase minipig was coined in the 90s, they were the first to do this minipig thing. The pig I brought was a 13th-generation bred down pig, so I knew 100% that he was a mini pig. They don’t like to sell the pigs one at a time, they prefer to sell them in pairs or more because they’re social animals. I did a lot of research, pigs are very intelligent, and they don’t like to be solitary, they like to be in a group. There’s a hierarchy in a group and I did only get one, but I explained to them I worked at home as a childminder so I'd be at home all the time, I've got two boys, so he would like... I just envisaged him coming along and being part of the family. We did have a lot of talk to and fro, and I satisfied them that they were happy that he’d get all the stimulation and company that he would need, albeit from me and not another animal. You can get some unscrupulous, I've discovered there are a lot of unscrupulous people that will sell a piglet claiming that it is a mini pig but, a piglet is a piglet and they all start off the same size. When people discover that they are 10-tonne Tessy, they don’t want them, and they abandon them or get rid of them. I’ve discovered there’s like a massive... when I needed to rehome [Charlie], I found I couldn’t get anywhere, no sanctuary, they’re all full. A lot of the unscrupulous sellers say to people, just don’t feed them much and they won’t grow that much. That’s awful, you’re starving it. Pigs are pigs for a reason.

K: How long did you have [Charlie] for?

P: So, when I got him, he was 9 weeks old, so I think he was 14 months when he got rehomed on the 4th of January this year. He was this little, tiny thing I could hold in one hand, we welcomed him into the family and probably like you’d do with any puppy or kitten we were gentle with him and had to get the children to be calm and let him find his feet, as it were. Erm, but yeah, he settled in quickly, he was very friendly once he got used to us. He loved to be cuddled. For the first night, we decided it would be best for him to sleep in our room because I didn’t want to go downstairs all the time if he was crying, but he slept all night. The playroom then kind of turned into [Charlie]’s room, as far as I'm aware he never woke up in the night at all. As he got older and bigger, we got a pig harness for him. At first, he was happy staying inside and just loved sunbathing. He would stand up and go in a trance in the sun, or just lay down and having his belly rubbed. He liked running around in the garden. Very playful creatures, like a dog would like to play games, it wasn’t the same thing like he wouldn’t fetch a ball but if you had one of those bag for life things and you held one handle and he held the other, he would like shake his head and try and take it from you and play. He’d race around the garden at top speed, play hide and seek. Just a really playful character, very nice-natured. Very, very affectionate, loving to be cuddled. In the evening he would sit on the sofa with us and he liked to get in as close as he could and stuff his snout under your armpit, and be tucked in as much as possible. Or, put his head up on your shoulder and if you would talk to him like a little baby in a coo-ey high pitched voice, if you talked to him like that he would respond with a high pitched little voice too. So still needing to be cared for, he would imprint me as his mother. That’s all he knows now, me. So, he used to look for affection a lot from me. One of the things he would do a lot, mainly to my leg would be rubbing and nudging with his snout and it’s a way of self-soothing and obviously, what they do when they’re born, they nudge at their mothers teats to bring the milk. But I read about it, it’s the equivalent of a baby sucking his thumb and getting comfort. He would do that to me really until, as long as I had him. In the end, he wasn’t massive, and his size wasn’t a problem for me, that wasn’t the reason that I rehomed him, but as he grew older, he was maybe the size of a, the height of a springer spaniel but much stockier and heavier. When he was still doing that to me at that size, it hurt. He wasn’t trying to hurt me but he was just very, very strong. When he was still small and light enough, I used to carry him upstairs once a week and bathe him and he’d love it. He’d stand there having a bubble bath and enjoy that and getting dried and moisturised because naturally they do that with mud don’t they? So, yeah he was quite pampered. Then he reached like a size and weight where I could no longer carry him up and down the stairs. So, kind of got one of them portable dog showers and got it in the garden but he didn’t like that.

K: And what were the reasons that led to you rehoming him?

P: so, the main reason was his behaviour changed. Being completely happy and content at home and enjoying being taken out for walks. He would either be walked and stay on the lead the whole time and he would choose the way the walk would go, either dead slow standing around rooting for acorns or whatever in the woods, or he’d want to go for a proper walk and have a run. I’d take him over the field and let him off the lead and I would be walking at a brisk pace for about an hour and he would run. They can run very fast. When we got home he would be worn out and lay down and sleep. Towards the end of the year, I noticed his behaviour was changing and when we’d been out, he wouldn’t want to come in but I couldn’t stand around for hours for him. My childminding started picking up so I was getting busier and I was very aware that I was putting him second. If I say he was becoming an inconvenience to me, that sounds really nasty, but I just knew I wasn’t giving him what he needed. In my heart, I knew he wasn’t happy a while before I let my head realise he wasn’t happy. His behaviour changed, he became aggressive, not to anyone else, but he became aggressive to me and that was really all to do with food and to do with being outside. We’d be outside, done whatever it was we were going to do and then when I needed to go in, that is the point I would say to him “We’re going in” or just leave him in and that’s the point when he would turn and bite me. He can bite really hard on my legs because that’s the closest thing to him. It just got to the point where I knew he was so frustrated that he couldn’t do what he wanted to do. So, his behaviour changed and although he was still really affectionate and would want to cuddle up on the sofa and be stroked and rubbed and have his trotters massaged, all the things he loved, he still did that and was showing me he was frustrated and bored. He just, it just wasn’t right for him anymore. Although we have a back garden, in Winter, I didn’t let him out there because he would have churned the whole thing up. He couldn’t just go in and out like he could in Summer. So, there’s a local dog walker... well first of all I called around the sanctuaries and thought of local things like schools with farms attached, agricultural colleges and people that have got land with animals. Got nowhere with that. Then one of the local dog walkers I was talking to, because I feel like I know every dog walker here now, that pig was famous around here. So, I mentioned something to her and she put something on her business page. I ideally wanted for him to stay local because we loved him and didn’t really want him to go off and never know anything about him again. Anyway, right at the end of the year this person got in touch with me and someone had replied to the message. This person was interested in him for his sister. I was like “hmm, well how old is you sister?” and she said she was thirteen. I was like, well it’s not gonna be for your sister it’s gonna be your mum who will look after him. I said, "what does your mum think? You know, your sisters life is gonna change so much in a couple of years and she will wanna be going out and doing things”, I said I don’t want [Charlie] to end up in the situation he’s in now. So, I wasn’t comfortable with that. A day or two later, the dog walker got in contact with me again and said someone else, her and her partner had been thinking about it and they think he’s so cute and they were interested in him. We got talking and she showed me pictures of where she lives, only 40 minutes away. Her garden, his garden now is the equivalent of a field. She’s got four horses, two dogs, she hand reared a fox, an abandoned fox, she’d hand reared a jackdaw and both of which when they decided to go back and live in nature, she didn’t keep them. So I knew she was a caring, animal-orientated person. One of the horses she has used to be owned by travellers and was just so mistreated and left for dead on the side of the road. The vet thought of her and contacted her and she’s got him back to health and he competes in events. So, I liked what I heard about her and her partner. They both work from home, they obviously know about animals and animal welfare, they’ve got a vet, they’re not... money isn’t an issue if you know what I mean. I knew that anything he needed, if he needed a vet, a vet would be called. So, when I met them, the mental list I had in my head for everything I wanted for [Charlie], all of those were ticked plus more. Yeah, so they took him.

K: Sounds perfect.

P: It was amazing

K: So before you got him, what did you do in preparing to take him home?

P: I had to get a CPH number, county parish holding number for him, had to register with DEFRA, get his ear tagged... which I wasn’t 100% clear about, if I knew I had to do that myself I would have asked [the breeder] to do that for me before I got him because it wasn’t really something I wanted to do. He was 5 or 6 months old when it was done, I think it has to be before they are 1. it was a nightmare. I mean, luckily I know a friend who is a vet but it was horrible to do. We did that, I had to apply for a walking license for him so I think it was with DEFRA and had to submit maps of my local area and where I wanted to walk him. They needed to be satisfied it wouldn’t be near any kitchens or that sort of thing. I applied to be able to take him to the beach, but they said no. So, there was that, you had to make sure you followed the strict guidelines on how you prepared their food. You’re not supposed to do it in your own kitchen, but I'm not really sure where else to do it. You’re not allowed to feed them scraps or anything. So my local pet shop sells pig food so I found the correct pig food he needed, I got the dry pellets and he had them in the morning and in the evening, and he had like a Haribo tub size full of vegetables and fruit at lunch time. Plus, he would be eating grass pretty much nonstop outside.

K: And where did he spend most of his time?

P: So, he never attempted to climb the stairs, so he was downstairs. If I was home, he would have the free run of downstairs. If I was out and no one was at home, we could shut the playroom and he stayed in there. That’s kind of what he did. I think most of the time when he was alone, he just went to sleep in his bed.

K: Is there anything that surprised you about having a pet pig?

P: Erm, I kind of was surprised at his playful nature. I didn’t realise they could be playful like that, like deliberately playful. He was participating and initiating it rather than just being chased, do you know what I mean? He loved going in his paddling pool in the summer. I was surprised at how on the snout part, it feels like velvet. So soft. The older her got, the hairier the inside of his ears got. They were silky on the outside but on the inside, they got really soft and hairy. Lots of people were surprised that his tail wasn’t curly, and he curled it up when he went to the toilet. I knew they were clean, but he really was clean, he would never wee or poo near where he ate. When it was the summer, and he was in the garden there was one specific area where he pooed. He’d go specifically to that area and do what he needed to do. They walk very daintily, almost like they are on their tip toes. So, we just live on a housing estate it’s quite urban, a lot of people were interested and stopped their car to stroke him, or do a double take, just fascinated by him. A lot of people didn’t seem to know anything about pigs and were fascinated. I noticed a lot of the people interested were men, like workmen would come over and say “can I take a picture my girlfriend will love that” or they just start talking about what they knew about pigs and how they turned vegan or whatever, a lot of people, we live near a school, a special needs school and they often take the kids out for a walk past my house and one day I was just out the front doing some garden work. I saw some kids and they wanted to pet him, I looked up the road and I saw the whole school had come out for a walk. They all lined up single file and every kid who wanted to stroked him. I don’t regret getting him at all, he has brought so many people so much pleasure and so much like, people who had never seen a pig or touched a pig before. He brought a lot of people a lot of happiness. When I brought [Charlie], or when I was thinking about getting him, I never thought about giving him up. I never thought I would be the kind of person to get a pet and then go “nah” and give him away, and I felt really bad. I also knew their life expectancy would be 15-16 years so I was quite prepared. I fully expected to have him for his whole life. He was neutered before I got him so I hadn’t expected him to get the testosterone or anything. I know what I did was best for [Charlie]. I could have kept him but it would have been a messed up and unhappy pigs. I know now he is happy, and the new owners want us to stay in touch and send us photos and videos of him. It’s nice to see what he’s doing now and that he is happy. He’s well looked after and very well loved. We haven’t visited yet but we are going to go end of February. He’s got human company and animal company all the time. Yesterday she sent me some pictures and they got some goats and he made some friends with goats. Their neighbours are going to rehome pigs too and she said they will get a pig friend for him as well. I mean, he’s definitely landed on his trotters! I couldn’t imagine him in a better place. My boys, the youngest one is 8 and he is the one that was mostly besotted with [Charlie], the other one was more tech, he loved him but when he felt like it. But he found not having [Charlie] really difficult, so this has helped so much being able to show him the pictures and videos and let him see [Charlie] is okay and know we will be able to visit soon. It’s been helpful for all of us.

K: That’s how you cope as a family?

P: Yeah I think we would have found it really hard if he had just gone and we didn’t know where he was. It would have been really hard. It was hard enough doing it like this but it’s bearable.

K: How much did you know about pigs before you got [Charlie]?

P: I hadn’t met pigs and I didn’t know much about pigs until I started doing research on mini pigs and having a mini pig as a house pig. Really, what I read about it and what I asked and got told from [the breeder] was all pretty positive. Like any animal, you set the boundaries and are firm with them, what they can and can’t do. That’s what we did and like I said he didn’t destroy the house, it didn’t smell. When he was young he had some wee accidents but that’s what babies do. Once he got the hang of life, he didn’t wee in the house. He hadn’t wrecked anything, also that’s a sign of boredom if they do. It’s like with a child if they have the same old toys it’s like, seen that... what’s next? And he did start to get like that. He would do things that he deliberately knew he shouldn’t do. He would make sure you’re looking at him and then do something like pulling the kids’ books off the shelf. That was part of the change in behaviour, he didn’t used to do that. After once of being told no, he used to stop. But he would try and assert himself and it was like “i’m gonna do what I want”. So, part of me it’s wrong to sell them as house pets. I don’t regret getting him but I wouldn’t do it again. Just because I consider our house with our garden to be quite big, I don’t know how long it is but this house was built in the 50s and I’m on a minipig group and see posts from other people who have like sectioned off an area of their garden for the pig or pigs. Quite a lot of people on there have more than one pig. If they only have one they have dogs and they seem to get along and be nice company for each other, but it’s still not enough room. If you don’t have an area where you can walk them and that bit of sectioned-off garden is where they are, even if they come in the house, it’s not enough for them. Knowing how fast they love to run and seeing what I’ve seen of him, I don’t think it’s right and I just think as much as I loved [the breeder] and all I learned about them and the information I had and how satisfied I was, I still feel it’s not 100% right to sell these pigs as house pets. Ultimately, I mean unless, I know all people are different and maybe all pigs are different, not everyone has the same experience as me, but I don’t see why I would have been the only one. He was really well loved, affectionate, handled every day. As I say, he’d love nothing more than snuggling up. It wasn’t like he hated me, I knew he loved me because he showed me he did.

K: Would more accessible information about having a house pig have helped you made a more informed decision?  
  
P: Yeah, if someone approached me and said they were thinking of having a house pig I’d probably talk through my experience with them and say if you haven’t got somebody in mind or somebody that’s agreed and gonna be a long-term person in your life and will look after it when you can’t, like if you want to go out for the day or on holiday. If you don’t have that in place, then don’t. I think I did go into it too naively, none of my family wanted me to do it. The more they said no, the more I thought they don’t know anything about pigs and I am going to do it and I will be able to look after him. If life had stayed locked down forever it would have been fine. But like in Summer you suddenly get a message saying “do you want to go down to the beach tomorrow with the kids?”. Well yeah, but what am I going to do with [Charlie]? I can’t leave him all day. Erm, and it’s things like that where you’re torn, you’ve got to do the best for your children, but you’ve got to do the best for your animal as well. I did manage to find a couple of people locally who were happy to look after him when I needed to. Last summer, last August, I took [Charlie] camping with us. He did enjoy it, but he had to be tethered and on his lead the whole time. I just think it’s a massive responsibility that you might not realise if you’ve never had an animal before. I naively thought it would be like having a cat or dog. You go away, you just put them wherever they’re going to be looked after. I know you can’t just put a pig anywhere or just with other pigs, there is a hierarchy, risk of infection, contamination, blah blah blah. So, I did find that difficult as well and I think if someone said they were gonna get one, I would err on the side of no. If you don’t have any other animals, you’re happy with never going on holiday again or you don’t have somebody that’s 100% certain forever to look after them, don’t get one because it’s not fair. I remember one woman on the group had a pig and she had a baby and she was worried about the aggression of the pig. I had a 20-month-old baby when I had [Charlie] one day a week for my childminding and I couldn’t have them in the same room just because I could not risk it. You can’t look after a baby and a pig and care for them both. I mean it did trouble me at first when I didn’t have him, like is it selfish to have them as a house pet? Not everyone who has a mini pig has them as a house pet, some live outside, but is it selfish? I don’t know.

K: What are your thoughts?

P: I think for my position, yeah it was selfish. It was not 100% understood the needs of a pig when it grew older, even though he was still young. I just thought if I loved him and gave him all I could give him and he would be part of the family, that would be enough for him, and it would be fine. Like a dog is fine as part of the family. It doesn’t matter if there’s only one of them, as long as they are loved. At the end of the day, he is a pig with natural instincts, and he showed his natural instincts, you know, when were out he knew how to forage and root and wallow. He’d never seen other pigs doing that he just knew. So, in hindsight I think it was selfish for me to get him, but also, I wouldn’t have been able to cope with two of them. I think probably what happened with [Charlie]’s behaviour, it would have happened with two because even though they would have company, they would still need to come in when I needed them to.

K: Do you think the naivety going into it was misunderstanding the expectations or the lack of quality information?

P: I think it was a bit of both, as much as I'm not gonna slag [the breeder] off, I think with hindsight... it’s like a petting farm and they’ve got other animals, but the person in charge of pig care, she answered all my questions but she doesn’t know what it’s like to have a mini pig as a pet. They’re in a farm environment there, so maybe the questions weren’t answered correctly. They sell these piglets for £600 plus each and there’s a very long waiting list to have one. They are all accounted for before they are born and they obviously make a lot of money from it, so it did cross my mind to get in contact with them and tell them what’s happened... you know, it’s really not such a great idea selling these piglets as house pigs. I thought, they’re not going to listen. They’re not going to stop their business because I said that so I didn’t bother.

K: But you think something should change?  
  
P: I think unless you’re like the family who have got him now, the people who live in suburbia shouldn’t have them as a house pet.

K: And how has having [Charlie] changed your perception of pigs?

P: Well, I don’t really know if it’s changed my perception and everything I've just said regarding the fact in hindsight it was selfish and wasn’t the right environment, I think [Charlie] and every single other pig that is as a pet pig, house or garden, are the luckiest things in the world compared to the conditions that so many poor animals round the world are kept in, that so many pigs and sows are... I don’t eat meat and I haven’t eaten meat in a long time, but you can’t say that anyone has got a pet pig keeps them in a bad condition compared to what society and the world is willing to accept as so many animals are kept in horrible conditions and that’s fine in the eyes of the law and the RSPCA and DEFRA and whoever says it’s fine to keep sows in confinement. So, in that respect it’s not wrong, they are free, and they are loved. In terms of if it was an ideal world then everywhere in the world would keep them in a large outdoor woodland, then perhaps you could say it was wrong to confine them to a garden or a house. But compared to what pigs are normally kept in, even free-range pigs with like pig arcs, they are still churned up because there are so many pigs just walking on the land and it’s just mud. I still don’t think that’s very nice either, but better than never seeing the light of day.

K: You’re vegetarian, are you?

P: Yeah. So I'm 48 and I stopped eating meat when I was 11 or 12.

K: What made you do that?

P: At school, they showed us a video of everything that happens to a chicken from when it’s hatched out of it’s egg and it’s on your plate. I thought it was horrible, I went home to my mum and said I'm never eating meat again. It’s just horrible.

K: I did the same thing when I was young.

P: Yeah, that’s an impressionable age and probably early to mid-80s, give it a few years on so like end 80s when i was a teenager and becoming aware of the world, the body shop was a really big thing at that time, so bringing the awareness of animal testing to the public. There were always people around with petitions to sign. Something that is really sad, I remember signing something years ago to ban the confinement of sows, it’s still online now. Nothing has changed, how is that still allowed? It’s good though, the last Queen’s speech the bill was passed to stop the export of live animals for slaughter, but can you believe that in that last speech, they’ve only just been recognised as sentient beings.

K: Yes, in UK law.

P: But yeah, I think as hard as it is to say, I was selfish in my decision to get him and I don’t think mini pigs should be sold as house pets, unless you can show you’ve got acres of land and the pigs can be free range, show natural instincts and behaviors, and that you’d be prepared to have two as a minimum. I think that would be okay because they are lovely. I think if I had 2 or 3 pigs and a space like what [Charlie] is in now, we wouldn’t be having this conversation, or we’d be having a very different one. [Charlie] still sleeps inside, he’s got the freedom to go in and out with like a utility room. So, I know he still goes into sleep. But I knew he wanted to be outside more, and she told me that she is loving it and had become more of an outdoor pig now.

K: Did he ever have any health problems?

P: No, not any problems, a couple of accidents. I used to be able to carry him up the stairs. He wriggled once when I did it and his dewclaw got caught on my jumper, I didn’t notice at first then I realised there was blood everywhere and he was pacing. It had half ripped out, it was horrible. He was alright in himself but I obviously needed to try and stop it bleeding but he didn’t let me get hold of him. This took more than an hour and I managed to see it was more than half off, but he was fine as long as he wasn’t touching it. I thought as long as I can get the nail trimmers and I pulled it off, once I did that it was fine. I cared for it and made sure it was clean. It did kind of regrow a bit like with a nailbed. When he was... I can’t remember, but one of his teeth got caught in my jumper and pulled out which didn’t really cause him any pain, he didn’t squeal. But he had a mouth full of saliva, like a drooling dog, that went on for about a week. He did get attached by a staffy type of dog not on a lead, the person who’s dog it was, I knew her, [Charlie]’s is an extendable lead and he tried to run away and the dog was chasing him, I couldn’t reel him in. Eventually, I managed to get him in, it cut my skin. In the end, I got him close enough and threw myself on him to protect him and she managed to get the dog and put it in the car. But when a pig isn’t happy they squeal to high heaven. He was so scared though, he didn’t make a sound. By nature, they’re prey so he tried to get away. I made like a bridge over him to keep him safe. The dog didn’t bit a chunk or anything, but one of his ears was grazed. I had a look and I noticed it hadn’t punctured but there was a mark. I phoned the vet and they said it was best to bring him down and he got a tetanus shot. That was a nightmare. At first, he was all inquisitive and eager. Once he realised what was going to happen he just wanted to get out. The first needle bent and we had this whole palaver of how to keep him still.

K: Were you happy with how the vet handled it?

P: yeah. I mean again it was like a celebrity being there, all the vets wanted to come and see him. Other people there with their animals wanted to see and stroke him. But yeah, it was fine.

K: When you registered with DEFRA did you get much information about biosecurity?

P: Oh yeah, if I was gonna go up to Devon and visit family I'd have to log his movements, I think I would have had to contact DEFRA of have a booklet or something with the date, time, blah blah blah, where we went to, where we stopped. It didn’t apply, didn’t do that.

K: What kind of information do you know about the diseases pigs can get?

P: Swine flu, don’t know any others.

K: Have you seen anything about African Swine Fever recently?

P: No, I've heard about bird flu going around again, but not about that. So what’s African Swine Fever?

P: It causes hemorrhaging and it’s got a really high mortality rate. It’s been detected in Europe.

K: Yeah, so although we don’t have any other animals, we do live kind of near the countryside and lots of people walk their dogs past. It was interesting to see the reactions of the dogs to [Charlie], the dogs could notice [Charlie] so much sooner than the owners, you can see their ears perk up. When they see him, they would either freeze and stare or go crazy and bark. [Charlie] would just be eating grass. The dogs would be so perplexed, like eyebrows up. But [Charlie] didn’t pay any notice. Then I noticed when the same dog would go by, [Charlie] would recognize the scent of the dog and if there wasn’t a problem and the dog was calm, [Charlie] would be more than happy to let the dog sniff [Charlie]’s backside and all the way round, sometimes they would rub noses. One of my friends dogs was a spaniel and he was quite calm but he’d try so hard to make [Charlie] interact with him and do something with him. Once he realised he wasn’t going to do anything he was like not going to bother. There was one dog who lived a couple doors up, Labrador I think, he’s never done anything to him and [Charlie] took an instant dislike to him and even if he hadn’t seen him yet, he’d get whiff he was going out for a walk and he would be off. He hated it.

K: It’s funny isn’t it, we don’t know what they’re thinking.

P: There was another one who just laid down when he saw [Charlie] and their owner could not make them move, it just wanted to watch him. It was definitely interesting how the dogs interacted, 99% of them had furrowed brows, bemusement kind of expression.

K: is there anything you’d like to add about pet pigs?

P: I don’t think so. I mean some people on this mini pig group have got quite big pigs and had them for years and seem happy in the house, but that’s only a picture, isn’t it? You don’t know what’s gone on before and after. Erm, so I don’t know if some pigs are totally happy. All I know is about him.