

## **Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title:** Livestock out of place: exploring human-pig relationships outside the farm context

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**Project Supervisor:** Dr. Emma Roe [E.J.Roe@soton.ac.uk](mailto:E.J.Roe@soton.ac.uk)

**ERGO number:** 62629

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others, but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to confirm your consent before the interview.

### **What is the research about?**

This research is being undertaken by a student working towards a PhD. The project will aim to explore pig-keeping practices outside of traditional farming contexts. This research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council's South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership.

### **Why have I been asked to participate?**

You are being invited to participate in this study due to your experience of keeping pigs as companion animals.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

Should you decide to take part in the research, you will be invited to select an appropriate date and time for your interview. The interview itself will be an online video interview and will take place on Microsoft Teams or Zoom. It is expected to last roughly 1 hour. Interviews will be video and audio recorded for transcription and analysis purposes.

The interview aims to be similar to an informal conversation. Before your interview, the researcher will provide you with a copy of the 'interview guide' which will outline the topics to be discussed. The interviewer will ask some pre-established questions based on these topics, however, may ask you to elaborate on certain topics where necessary. During the interview, if you are uncomfortable at any point you are able to ask to move on from a topic or to terminate the interview.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There are unlikely to be any direct benefits to you as a participant in this study. However, the study aims to improve our current understanding of the lives of pet pigs and the challenges faced by owners and pigs alike. This may contribute to the improvement of pet pig care.

**Are there any risks involved?**

This is a low-risk study. You may be asked to recall potentially distressing experiences (for instance, regarding sick or injured animals). Where this is the case, every effort will be made by the researcher to approach these topics in a sensitive manner and to minimise the possibility of psychological discomfort or distress to you as a participant. You will be reminded that you are able to move on to another topic, to take a break or to terminate the interview at any point should you desire.

**What data will be collected?**

Interviews will be transcribed shortly after the interview takes place. Audio and visual recordings of your interview and transcripts will be stored on a password protected device and account with your name. The following section outlines who will have access to your data, how it will be kept secure and how long it will be kept.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team (such as the researcher and project supervisor) and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Any hard copies of signed consent forms will be scanned electronically and destroyed as soon as possible to be stored on a password protected device and account. Your contact details (such as your email address or phone number, which may have been used to invite you to the study initially) will also be secured on a password protected device and will not be shared beyond the research team. They may be used to invite you to consider participating in further research as part of this project. If you decide you do not want to be considered for any future participation in this research project, you may request for your contact details to be removed from the researcher's record at any time. You can do this by contacting Kate Goldie - [kg5g14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:kg5g14@soton.ac.uk)

Recordings of your interview will be transcribed as soon as possible after interview. Once transcripts are created, original audio and video recordings will be destroyed. Interview transcripts will be deposited in the University's institutional repository, in line with the University's Open Access Policy. These transcripts will not contain identifiable information about you. To reduce privacy risks, any reference to your interview data in outputs of this research will only include a brief description of you (e.g. pet pig owner/gender identity/age) and will not include your name. Only the research team will have access to identifiable data linked to you.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to verbally consent to participation prior to starting the interview to show you have agreed to take part. This will be recorded.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Please email the researcher, Kate Goldie, if you would like to withdraw at [kg5g14@soton.ac.uk](mailto:kg5g14@soton.ac.uk).

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any outputs of this project will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent. Outputs of this project may include written reports, articles published in academic journals or conference presentations.

Your name, the name of the organisation/charity you represent, and your contact details will not be published in any outputs of this research, unless permission is directly sought from you. Direct quotes from interview transcripts may be used. However, only a brief description of the participant will be used alongside these (e.g., pet pig owner/gender identity/age)

Every effort will be made to prevent the research data being linked to you, however, in some circumstances it may not be possible to guarantee this. For instance, the research may reference some of your experiences that may be unique to you. In this instance, the researcher will ensure details are kept as brief as possible (e.g., no real names will be used and geographical location will be kept vague, unless specific permission is sought from you to use this information).

In line with the university open access policy, research work submitted as a thesis for a higher degree as set out in the University's Higher Degree Regulations must be deposited and made

publicly available in the University's institutional repository. This will not contain any identifiable information about you.

### **Where can I get more information?**

If you would like any further information, please contact the research team. Contact details are listed at the top of this information sheet.

### **What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it

properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in the research. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the research team.**