

豬朋狗友

zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3

Dogs are man's best friend. Pigs are generally loathed, but some people keep them as pets too. Mexico is catching onto the "pet pig" craze. These specially bred mini-pigs are a status symbol there, selling for US\$2,500 (HK\$19,500) each. Apparently, their owners see them just as much a best friend as a dog.

An idiom that springs to mind is “豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*). “豬” (*zhu1*) is “pig,” “朋” (*peng2*) “a friend,” “狗” (*gou3*) “a dog” and “友” (*you3*) also “a friend.” Literally, “豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*) is “pig friend, dog friend,” “friends that are pigs and dogs.”

“豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*) are friends and associates that are evil, disreputable or at least a bad influence. It is a rather common derogatory expression that a wife would use to call her husband's friends whom she doesn't like, especially when she has to clean up the mess

Idiom by Lon Yan

they left after watching a football match in the living room.

Husbands don't usually call their wife's friends “豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*), probably because women are generally more discriminating in choosing friends.

Dogs and pigs that are like your friends are literally “豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*), but you don't call them that. But if you have friends that are like pigs and dogs, they are “豬朋狗友” (*zhu1 peng2 gou3 you3*). It would be wise to distance yourself from “豬朋狗友,” even if only for the sake of keeping your wife happy.

Terms containing the character “豬” (*zhu1*) include:

豬肉 (*zhu1 rou4*) – pork

乳豬 (*ru3 zhu1*) – suckling pig

豬舍 (*zhu1 she4*) – pigsty

豬腳 (*zhu1 jiao3*) – pork knuckle