IRONWOOD

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JANUARY 2020

Sedona

PIG SANCTUARY
Dear Supporter,

I would like to begin the New Year by thanking everyone at Ironwood for the tremendous amount of work they do every day caring for 600 plus pigs. It is a daunting task and there is never a moment that one can be off their game. Just dealing with the medical issues can be full time for one, two or sometimes three of us. A sick or disabled pig will be called in over the radio and someone is dispatched to the field to bring him or her to a pen at which time they will be evaluated. If it is considered an emergency, Adobe Vet Clinic will quickly be called and we will begin to load the sick or injured pig and head for the clinic. I always instruct everyone I train to stand and look at every pig during feeding time to make sure the behavior of all the pigs looks normal. The pigs in the outer reaches of the sanctuary may only get a thorough look once a day due to having so many fields and pigs to care for, so we rely on any information we get from that observation.

For anyone visiting or volunteering, they will witness the almost constant chatter on the radios during our communication with each other. Feeding goes on for several hours as does the watering, followed by the myriad of tasks and chores required every afternoon. Many are routine such as stocking hay and grain at the feeding stations, cleaning the fields and pens, going to the dump, rotating the pigs in pens out for their exercise turns, cleaning carriers, cutting carpet floors, folding and sorting the donations that arrive for the pigs... the list is endless. There are also tasks that are not so routine. Some of these include cutting and feeding pumpkins, making seasonal changes for the pigs that includes putting hundreds of blankets into more than 450 shelters and cutting and hanging carpet doors on all shelters for the winter. Also for the cold months, the shades must be rolled back so the pigs can enjoy the warmth of the winter sun then rolled back out in the spring and replaced as necessary. This is just a sampling of all that must be done here each day.

You are the ones who make this hubbub possible every day with your very generous donations. The staff are the ones who turn your donations into work and care for the 600 plus pig residents. We are a team and one would not be possible without the other.

Happy Healthy New Year and thank you so much for making Ironwood the beautiful place that it is.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder
Every month or so one of the vets from the Adobe Vet Center will come out to the sanctuary to spend several hours doing exams, minor medical procedures and answering questions (we always have a list). This past fall Dr. Staten (vet), Joni (vet tech) and Kennedy (intern) arrived mid morning to begin rounds. The first stop was Eleanor, one of our large hog breeds. She had a crack on her front left hoof that occasionally causes her to limp. Eleanor is not a belly rub kind of gal so examining her involves following her around and trying to get her to stand still for a back scratch long enough to get a good look at her foot. Dr. Staten saw that the crack was horizontal, which if you’re going to have a cracked hoof, that’s the best kind to have because it should move down the hoof as it grows out then can be trimmed off. Eleanor has to be lightly anesthetized to work on her hooves, so that will be done during cooler weather. By then the hoof will have grown out and the crack will be at the point where it can be trimmed off. The hogs are too large and strong to safely trim without anesthesia as we have learned from experience.  

Next stop is Little Pig who has been losing weight and looking a bit down. She needed to have some blood drawn for testing... easier said than done on a pig. Joseph came over to get Little Pig over on her back. Joni, the veterinary technician, is great with blood draws, so she stepped in to take care of that. (Later results did not show anything significant. It was suggested to repeat the blood work during December’s visit.)

Jack, over in the West Field, has chronic problems with skin cancer. We normally do all the cryo surgery onsite ourselves but occasionally have one that needs to be handled by the vet. We walked over to have a look at a bad spot on Jack’s hip. Dr. Staten agreed that it was one she needed to do at the clinic. She would also do a punch biopsy on another area of scaly skin that Jack was dealing with. While examining Jack who, for the record, is a perfect patient that stands very still and lets us do whatever we need to do, Cornelius wandered over and sort of threw himself at Joni’s feet for a belly rub. And lo and behold, there was this weird lump on his lower left belly perfectly exposed for Dr. Staten to get a good feel. She thought it was soft tissue damage from a bite wound and suggested just monitoring it for changes or problems. It was not causing any notable pain for Cornelius. (Over time it has slowly dissolved and is barely noticeable these days.) Just one of those “extra opportunities” that tend to crop up while we’re doing rounds.

That was it for exams out in the fields. Next we headed over to the individual holding pens where several pigs were waiting to be seen. Slater has an outer section of his hoof that cracks deeply and flips up. He was cooperative and
Iris’ conjunctiva was redder than normal and wanted that checked. The two lazy girls just continued to lie down inside their shelter while Dr. Staten leaned in to do her exam. Iris’ lower lids are rolled out a bit, most likely caused by lack of use due to her being so overweight. Both girls came here in August, very obese, and have been on diets since. Hopefully, as Iris continues to lose weight and the fat rolls above her eyes decrease in size, her eyesight will improve and the lids will naturally fall back into a more normal position. After that Hero was given his sedation injection and was left for that to take effect. Then it was back to Big Charlotte who was groggy enough to mask down for some anesthesia. She was still active enough that we needed to board her into a corner to be masked.

Dr. Staten worked on the problem hooves on the front feet while Joseph trimmed the back feet. The procedure didn’t take long and we were soon on our way back to Hero. Another staff member stayed with Big Charlotte to watch over her as she came out of the anesthesia.

Hero was sedated enough that Dr. Staten was able to work on him without anesthesia. He had previously had surgery to remove an infected lower tusk. The hole had to be cleaned then repacked with antibiotics and gauze once weekly until it filled in. The vet flushed the hole which was much shallower this time then cleaned and repacked it. Hero was healing up just fine and looking good.

In the pen next door was Ryan, a sweet little guy who had been badly attacked by a dog. He flopped right over for a belly rub and let Dr. Staten do a thorough exam of his previously treated wounds. Everything was healing great and he was taken off the antibiotics. In the meantime, Petrulla had been sedated by Joni and was ready to be anesthetized. Three weeks prior she had been to the clinic for surgery because
the poor girl was born without an anus. She can only pass stool through her vagina and needed to have a larger opening created to make that easier. Today Dr. Staten was removing the sutures and checking the status of the recovery. Petrulla had healed up nicely although she still has some difficulty passing stool but there is nothing else that can be done surgically. She will be on stool softeners the rest of her life.

Our last stop was with K.B. who had been viciously attacked by the neighbor’s dogs at his previous home. Both ears were torn completely off and he had been seen at the clinic for those wounds. Now he had formed a lump near his eye on the side where his ear canal had completely closed. Dr. Staten said the bulge felt bony. His blink response was normal but because of the previous injuries to his head, she wanted him brought to the clinic for x-rays. (Those were done later in the month. There was no infection or fluid buildup. The lump was aspirated and only fat was found so all is well. K.B. is doing fantastic these days and is a total sweetheart.)

The group then settled in at the Visitor Center to discuss scheduling pigs for the next week’s clinic day as well as questions and concerns about other pigs. We went over how to improve communication between the sanctuary and clinic via the forms that are sent back and forth with surgery pigs. It was a good day and a lot got accomplished. None of this would have been possible without your support. Because of you, many pigs received necessary medical care today and the sanctuary staff learned information that will improve the lives of those pigs as well as others in the future. Thanks for being part of Ironwood’s team!

---Donna

Don’t Forget....!
An easy way to support Ironwood is for Arizona residents who shop at Fry’s Food Stores. Each time you shop at Fry’s and use your Fry’s VIP card, you can help the pigs! Just go to Fry’s Food.com, click on “Save” and scroll down to Fry’s Community Rewards. Follow the prompts to designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. There are 78 households currently signed up and Ironwood earned $218.43 for the last quarter. *Remember, you must renew your charity of choice every year. It only takes a few minutes to renew then you are able to help the pigs for a full year every time you shop at Fry’s.
I know it’s not very original, but I have always been called Piggy and it’s what I answer to. My parents tried to take good care of me. They got me neutered at a young age… always a smart move. The problem was they moved into a rental home that was in an area not zoned for pigs. The landlord was not happy about that and sadly, I had to go. It turned out okay though. I have lived at Ironwood for over 2.5 years and my life is very different now but in a good way.

When I first came here I was pretty chunky. I mean, look at this early photo of me. I had fat rolls above my eyes and on top of my head. My shoulders were super wide. How embarrassing! I used to sleep like, all the time. Walking around for even a short time just wore me out. I was put on a diet right away while I was living in the holding pens where the new pigs stay. Later I got moved out to the Lil’ East Field. A small pen was built just for me where I can eat my meals to help me stay on my diet. They even put my name on the pen… Piggy, that’s me! Having that pen really helps me stay in control of the food thing. They don’t let me out until the other pigs in the herd have finished the food in the troughs. Every day I always check the troughs just in case, but nope, not a thing is left behind! It took a long time for the weight to come off but, hey, check out my physique now!

You know what else helped me get in shape? Jogging! That’s right, I jog! I admit I don’t do it every single day but most days I get up really early and do laps around the field. I didn’t start doing that until about a year ago when I was about halfway to my goal weight. Suddenly I had all this energy and felt like moving! I hadn’t felt that way since I was a baby. Let me tell you the secret to making jogging more fun. Like I said, I get up really early… I’m talking like before the sun is even up good. I warm up by walking then when I see some other pigs still sleeping under the trees (this was in the summer), I start running and just when I get up to them I bark real loud to scare them then keep going. It’s hilarious! They all jump up snorting and looking around. Cracks me up every time, I’m telling you! I even jump inside of shelters to bark at the pigs sleeping in there then keep on running. They’re all like, what was that?! Yep, Fitness Piggy strikes again! My fun sort of gets spoiled during the winter though
because nobody sleeps outside anymore and all the houses have carpet doors on them now. That makes it harder to dart in and scare everyone when I have to slow down enough to push in and out of the door. Oh well, come spring the other pigs will start sleeping outside again. In the meantime, I plan to keep jogging to stay in shape.

I live with a herd of 41 pigs. Because I was raised in a home as an only child for 2.5 years, it was sort of hard for me to make friends at first. Even though I do hang out with my buddies now, I still need time to myself and usually sleep in a pigloo on my own. My closest pals are Quincy and Shaq. Quincy is really sweet and sometimes she’ll come sleep right at the door of my house. We’ll chat for a while about stuff we did that morning or maybe what we saw other pigs doing which is totally not the same as gossiping. It’s just merely staying on top of what’s going on in the neighborhood, you know, for safety purposes or whatever. Quincy and I are two of the oldest pigs in the herd and we’re just looking out for the youngsters.

Sometimes I’ll go out for a stroll later in the day and just see what’s going on. During the summer there will be lots of pigs hanging out under the shade where my favorite pigloo is. We have two pools and a huge mud wallow where we can splash and play to keep cool. I LOVE sitting in the pool! A few times I sat there so long that I accidentally fell asleep in the water. Now that it has turned cold everybody sleeps out in the sun on the nicer days or huddled up in their blankets in the houses.

Besides getting all slim and in shape, another thing I like about living at Ironwood is the people. They stop and talk to all of us. They give us belly rubs and back scratches. Sometimes someone will rub behind my ears and oh my, that feels so good! On Saturdays, big groups of visitors come to take a tour of the sanctuary. The last stop is Lil’ East Field where I live. A bunch of us get up and go hang out with the people to get some extra attention and pose for pictures. It’s pretty cool, actually. Some of these people have never petted pigs before, so they want to pet us a lot, especially since we’re the last stop. It’s like, last chance to hang with pigs, hurry and pet us all! Well, except my buddy Shaq. He’s kind of weird about being petted. He likes it but only 2 or 3 pats and then he’s done. I mean really done...he’ll snap at people to make them stop. I would never, ever do that! Just keep it coming! If you ever come here to visit the pigs, be sure to stop by Lil’ East and look me up. I might be resting from my latest workout but wake me up. We’ll spend some time together. It’ll be fun.

Love ya!
Piggy
Make your New Year’s Resolution right here! Vow to support a pig with a monthly donation of $30 to help cover the basic daily care. In exchange you will receive a letter and photos with your piggy’s information. Later in the year an update with new pictures will arrive to keep you connected to your pig’s life.

My mom was arrested and the sheriff got me and my family placed at Ironwood. Good thing too because we weren’t safe there and some of us got sold to be eaten. Yikes!

I have been here after my owners split and moved to a smaller place. Living here in a field with other pigs.

My brother and I lived in a 6x7 foot pen and our owner couldn’t afford to feed us. After I came here I needed 6 surgeries for all my medical problems, but I’m doing great now!

My brother and I had a rental home. They were mad because we were running out, so they didn’t want us! We like it here!

Have a safe and happy New Year!
Donna

Jelly Bean & Donna

www.ironwoodpigs.org   ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
I had been used as breeding stock before my owner left town to go help her sick dad. Thank goodness I won’t be having babies anymore! That was wearing me out!

The new people got here for almost a year and then sold their home and ended up in a smaller place. I like this field with a bunch of other pigs.

My owner moved away and didn’t want to take me. I was really fat then but have been on a diet for six months. Being that heavy made my feet grow crooked.

My owner was disabled and ended up in a wheelchair, unable to take care of me very well. I am disabled, too, with weak joints and can’t stand up for very long.

The new people got the home and ended up in a smaller place. I like this field with a bunch of other pigs.

I came with my siblings from a breeder who got in trouble for not being zoned for pigs. That made everyone at Ironwood happy…one less breeder in action!

My owner was disabled and ended up in a wheelchair, unable to take care of me very well. I am disabled, too, with weak joints and can’t stand up for very long.

www.ironwoodpigs.org

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Expanding Our Impact
By Working With Others

Over the past year or more I have mentioned a couple other organizations that we have worked with to help more pigs in our communities. I am personally very excited about the opportunities we now have to help so many more pigs in AZ because of these alliances. I would like to tell you a few stories about how more pigs have found homes or foster homes through working together.

I am expressing my opinion of how the synergy between three organizations, each contributing their own unique expertise and available resources, has helped many more pigs in AZ than could be done independently.

Carrie has developed a very large number of contacts through adoptapigca@gmail.com and adoptapigaz@gmail.com that has given us access to people who will foster, transport, adopt pigs and often rescue them. Recently, through her contacts and those of others, a group went quite a distance and on two attempts were able to rescue two young stray boars who were at risk of being shot. The pigs are in a foster home now and Ironwood provided the neuters.

Danielle and Dwight of Better Piggies Rescue work very well on social media and are able to post many young pigs and offer adoption tours at their place. Most of the young pigs Ironwood gets requests to take in are now passed on to either Carrie or Better Piggies. Danielle will often take them to her place when space allows or both Carrie and she will begin to network for foster or permanent homes. Danielle and Dwight have been available to quickly load up and leave to pick up a pig or pigs in an emergency in Phoenix or surrounding areas that are out of reach for us.

Danielle writes: “We at Better Piggies Rescue think that cooperation and collaboration with other rescues is essential to get pigs rescued, rehabilitated, and in the right forever homes - whether at a sanctuary, foster, or private home/family. Our relationships grow stronger when we communicate needs and important information to help all of these abused and abandoned pigs - keeping each other in the loop. Working with Ironwood (Mary, Ben, Donna Scoggin) and having a liaison in Carrie has been a very big relief in an effort that feels never ending. We love the piggy community and appreciate each and every thing that Ironwood and Carrie do.”

At Ironwood we get calls and emails almost daily to take more pigs. Carrie and I talk or email most days and try to work out a plan for the pigs in need before I agree to take them here. We try to bring the older and less adoptable pigs or those with medical needs to Ironwood. I believe by working together on so many of the pig issues that arise, we are able to achieve so much more for pigs throughout AZ than we could by working alone. It has been such a huge relief to me to not have to shoulder the burden of all the calls and emails alone.

Ironwood recently received a $25,000 grant from the Albert Schweitzer Animal Welfare Fund to help us with spaying, neutering and medical bills for smaller rescues and those who have helped with fostering in the Phoenix area. We have been able to help in Chino Valley, Prescott Valley, Wittmann and many in the Greater Phoenix area where people are willing to foster for us since we are able to cover the cost of spays, neuters and medical care. The pigs featured here are but a few examples of the pigs who have benefited from our cooperating together.
Hope - Ironwood received a call in the evening about an emergency in Camp Verde at a neighbor’s. We called Better Piggies since they are a lot closer to the pig’s home. The pig was viciously attacked by a dog and the owner didn’t care about Hope’s well-being, choosing to let her die or shoot her instead of getting medical help. Carrie did all of the coordination for the pickup. Better Piggies responded quickly, getting the pig out of the situation and into medical care that night. Hope has become an inspiration because of her will to survive and the quick action of Ironwood, Carrie, and Better Piggies.

Rio Rico Babies - Just before our Open House on November 9th, we got a call from the Department of Agriculture in Rio Rico. An officer said there were 6 stray pigs that a couple had managed to get into their yard and could we take them. Carrie agreed to pick them up on November 8th. Bill and Sherri were attending our Open House and agreed to take them to a foster home that Carrie had been able to locate for the pigs. It turned out they were all babies, four about 8 weeks old and two girls about 6 to 8 months old. How lucky they were to get to a safe home and not be eaten by coyotes or dogs.

Chase - The owners of this big Kunekune male called Ironwood hoping to surrender him to us. He was in a small area and the owners weren’t equipped to care for him properly. Carrie found Kristen, a foster/adopter. We had Chase neutered along with a tusk trim. He is happy now in a nice large area.

Ponyo - This tiny girl was the sole survivor of a 2 week old litter of piglets. Carrie placed her in foster care with Robin where she’s growing, healthy and very strong. With our assistance she’ll be spayed then placed for adoption when she’s big enough.

Fred - This guy was a stray boar taken in by a family in Phoenix. Carrie found him a foster home with Bill and Sherri. We had him neutered along with a tusk trim and are now looking for his forever home. Fred is an especially sweet pig.

Dodge - This young boar lived in a crate and was fed nothing but bananas and oatmeal. Carrie placed him in foster care with Robin who started him on proper food and meds. When he was healthy we had him neutered. Dodge is currently up for adoption.
Princess - A Tucson family was unable to keep her. She was an only pig, destructive and what they described as aggressive with some of the family members. Carrie placed her in foster care with Bill and Sherri. She was put on a healthy diet and as soon as she lost weight she was spayed. After seeing the trauma Princess went through just from being sent to the vet to be spayed, Bill and Sherri adopted her so she’d never have to adjust to a new home again.

Chubs - He was purchased by a fraternity at the University of Arizona. They quickly realized that wasn’t a good idea. We picked him up and had him neutered. Chubs is currently living with his forever family and two piggy siblings.

Nelson – One evening Ironwood got a call from two women who spotted a pig trying to get out of an irrigation ditch. A policeman stopped to help get him out. I called Carrie for help and she was able to get Bill and Sherri in Phoenix to pick him up. He was taken to the vet the next morning and treated for dehydration and many dog bites. He is mostly recovered now and may stay with Bill and Sherri.

Prescott Valley Piglets - Eight piglets were taken in by a fellow rescuer, Amy Ogden, to save them from being neutered farm style and adopted without proper vetting. Ironwood paid for spaying all the females and Amy paid for the males to be neutered. We are currently vetting interested adopters while the pigs are living in Prescott Valley. Two have already found homes.

Otis and Wilbur – These boys were living with a lady with three large dogs. She called with some concern about the dogs and the pigs and was told to separate them. The very next day she called to say little Otis had been badly attacked. Ironwood agreed to cover the vet cost while Lauren from Adopt-a-Pig picked him up and took him to the vet. Two days later Lauren went back for Wilbur. Otis is still recovering from his injuries. They have been moved to Better Piggies Rescue and will be ready for adoption depending on Otis’ recovery.
My Favorite Pig

Trying to choose my favorite pig from over 620 pigs was really difficult for me! I have been at Ironwood for over 18 years and there are so many pigs that I just love so much, a favorite in every field and special care area. After a lot of thought, I finally decided on Louis, not only because of how I feel about him, but he loves me too! He always comes over to say hello when he hears my voice. This guy is so gentle and lovable. I really enjoy taking time to visit with Louis. I pet him and he nuzzles me right back. What a sweetie!

—Donna

**Used Blankets are needed year round.**

- Omeprazole Acid Reducer
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Boost Breeze Nutritional Drink (Orange Only)
- Probiotic Capsules
- Utility Knives
- Cranberry Capsules
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg

**Gift Cards**

Master Card
Discover Card
Fry’s
Home Depot
Lowes
Office Max
Office Depot
Staples
Walmart
Amazon
Walgreen’s
Ironwood’s annual Open House was a beautiful day with perfect weather for touring the sanctuary and visiting with the pigs. There were just over 600 visitors from Arizona and many other states. Many people were making their first trip to Ironwood while others were familiar faces coming back for more fun. Visitors took tours of the sanctuary meeting the pigs up close and personal. Lots of petting and belly rubs were given and enjoyed!

Visitors were greeted by Aspen, Durango, Drake, Nani, Koa, K.B. and Byron who took turns being the “mascots” hanging out up front to greet guests and pose for pictures. There was lots of great vegan food prepared by staff and volunteers. There were games to play, knick knacks for sale and plenty of Ironwood gear...hats, shirts, calendars, puzzles and more.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make the day a huge success. A huge thank you also goes out to all of you visitors, supporters and sponsors who brought donations and enjoyment to all our pigs!

More visiting opportunities:
If you were unable to make it to Open House, there are tours every Saturday now through mid May. Visit our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org to sign up and get directions. You must register ahead of time.
Sedona and her 19 companions arrived at Ironwood on May 26, 2007 from Tularosa, New Mexico. They came here through the cooperation of many others involved with networking to get help for them, getting them safely contained, being neutered and finally transported to us. It was a very hot day when they arrived and we quickly ushered them to safety in their new home.

The pigs were from a rescue gone bad where the lady was an alcoholic and drug addict. Her pigs kept escaping their enclosure and were being shot by the sheriff. They were feral pigs and feral pig mixes with long snouts and long legs. They were quite unusual and beautiful to us.

Sedona was nursing babies, so we put some of the other babies with her to raise. Unlike most of her family, she became social while she was in a pen with the babies.

Several of the babies were adopted. Sedona and her remaining companions were released into a large field made especially for them. Over the years some of the adopted babies came back to us, but the adults all remained together in their own field. There are only five left, all in their teens, but they remain a tight knit group. Sedona is still social with us and the most trusting of her group.

Billy and Cookie joined us in September of 2017. Their owner was evicted and was in desperate need to find a home for his two pigs. But, as is usually the case when a male and female come to join us, the female is almost always pregnant and this was true of Cookie as well. He said there had been litters in the past. Once they were spayed and neutered, Cookie and Billy were released to the large Main Field together. They adjusted to their new companions and were settled in, but Billy had some serious issues with his feet. He was becoming more and more lame over time. He is such a lover and we just could not continue to see him trying to get around in such a large field as his lameness progressed.

In the meantime, we had decided to make a small field for a few pigs disabled due to either broken bones, spinal surgery or congenital issues. Like Billy, they were not able to live in a large herd because they may get injured. So Billy, Shakey, Finn, Christopher, Miley and Drummer were put in this small field together. However, Cookie was left behind in the Main Field and really had not made new friends. We decided to bring her to Shakey’s Field to join her companion Billy. That was for sure the right decision. As you can see, they are glad to be reunited and enjoy their time together as well as with the others.
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Cookie & Billy

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