Dear Supporter,

We are going to devote a portion of this newsletter to the problem of overpopulation of pot belly pigs due to the now raging “micro mini” pig fad. Many of you may have seen an article in your local paper by Sue Manning of The Associated Press, July 22nd. You can search “Pet Porkers Pack Rescues as Trendy Teacup Pigs Fatten Up.” It is a good article and I hope many of you have or will read it to help you appreciate the problem all sanctuaries are facing across the country trying to cope with unwanted pigs because breeders continue to lie and people continue to believe them.

This is truly a crisis for these pigs. The e-mails and phone calls come in almost daily and some parts of the country are getting even more calls than we are here at Ironwood. We have taken in more young pigs this past year than ever before, many of them strays. This past week within 4 days of each other we got calls to take two little stray girls who were abandoned in a desert park in Gilbert, AZ. A nice couple caught one with a fish net and the Park Service spent 4 days trying before they caught the second one. We are sure they are sisters and only about 6 to 8 months old. Were there others that were not found?

The young pigs that people are dumping are taking up space from people with a true need to place their pig in a rescue. Since most will not be adopted we at Ironwood are looking at 15 to 18 years of care which is very expensive. They have to be spayed or neutered and integrated into a field which is time consuming and stressful for pigs and people alike. Many already have issues at a young age since they are so inbred.

Can we say no? Of course we can, but where would Amelia and Jeni mentioned above end up? It is the pigs whose lives are at stake.

What can you do? First and foremost DO NOT buy a pig. Spread the word. Go on all social media available to you and tell people not to buy a pig. Don’t shop in any feed store, pet store or any other facility that sells or breeds pigs, and if you see some place that is selling them go in and tell them why you would never give them your business. Pass this newsletter on to them. If you care about these animals please help to spread the word. The breeders will only continue if there is a market. We all must work to kill that market and put every last breeder in this country out of business.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder

PS Pictured here with me is Piglet. A “micro mini” pig from a breeder in Texas. She lived in a small room in a house and spent most of her time in a wire cage. She was truly crazed when she arrived.
How many of us remember following the ice cream truck as children? After more years than I care to mention, I had the opportunity to relive those memories here at Ironwood working with Joan.

Joan is a very loving sponsor parent. Her special pig is EVERYONE. Joan let me know this, while we walked out to her pickup truck which held 187 bags of cookies! She explained to me that she couldn’t pick out just one pig, so once a year, Joan brings a truck full of cookies to distribute to all of them....yes, enough cookies so each pig can receive a handful. This year, during a winter escape from the east coast snow belt, I had the privilege of being able to help Joan with this special endeavor. Together, we would drag a wagon full of cookies through the sanctuary.

The cookie deliveries started off quite well. Outside of my incessant worry about the condition of their teeth and their short/long term health (Was anyone going to vomit from excessive cookies? Is it possible to die from eating too many animal crackers?), it was obvious that this was like Christmas morning for the pigs. Heck, it was like a Mardi Gras parade and the Pied Piper combined as Joan and I, the spreaders of all wealth, would toss handfuls of cookies out to both sides as we walked through the fields. Hoards of pigs followed our every move and ate the cookies regardless of where they landed. Although, Wilbur wanted to lift his head completely up towards the sky and have us drop cookies into his mouth like a beer dispenser at a college frat party, it made him happy - so we did it. Cookie after cookie after cookie.

It wasn’t long before we realized, that with almost 600 pigs and only two of us, this was going to take a long, long time. We decided, in order to complete the mission in a timely manner, it would be best to separate and go different directions. Joan took as many bags of cookies as she could hold and headed left from the cookie wagon. I headed right. Yes, we were sure to cover the fields faster this way and reach more pigs sooner.

After handing out many cookies to the Main Field pigs, I thought we would start to see some illness. However, we noticed the cookies seemed to be having an unexpected startling effect:

- Slow pigs became fast moving pigs
- Passive pigs became assertive pigs
- Gentle pigs became aggressive pigs
- Pigs who always diligently waited in the same spot for Tim to deliver their peanut butter medication sandwiches, disappeared completely, as they followed the cookie wagon.

It was like the Seinfeld episode where George decided to do the opposite of everything he normally does. The sanctuary had turned into a Seinfeld episode and then it got even more eventful.

I dragged the wagon down the center of the Main Field, pigs following my every step.
they tired? Aren’t those little feet aching from all of this chasing after the cookie wagon? Do their tummies hurt from eating so many animal crackers? The answers to those were no, no, and no. So, the cookie wagon and I were followed by a parade of pigs to the closed gate into North Field. Okay, one last toss of cookies will make the little stalkers happy I thought. I grabbed a handful of the animal crackers, and like Glinda in the Wizard of Oz, I used my hand as the wand and cookies flew everywhere. I was pleased with this grand finale in the Main Field.

It was now time to move to the next field. The gate into North Field had not only the regular locking system that included an “S” hook, but also a strap wrapped around the fence. This appeared to be an extra internal control for any pigs who wanted to enter a field other than their own. Hindsight is 20/20 - maybe that should have been my first clue regarding what was to happen next.

While the Main Field pigs were busy going at the cookies that had just landed on the ground I decided to make my escape into the North Field. It was going to be a perfect maneuver. I took the strap off first, then took the S hook out, lifted up the latch and opened the gate. Happily I dragged the wagon into North Field as all the pigs gathered around knowing they were next in line for the cookies. It gave me great pleasure to be the bearer of these exquisite gifts. Pleased to finally make it to the other side of the gate I took a sigh, opened another bag of cookies .................and BAM! Just like that a sneaky, sly, black pig slithered out the gate to join the lucky pigs who already had cookies on the ground.

“Oh My Gosh!” I said to myself, “Heavens! I need to get him back in!” What did I do at this important juncture? What would anyone do? Leave their post at the cookie wagon, run out the open gate, leave the gate open, and try to convince the sly, black pig to come back! By God, I had my eye on him the whole time.

Unfortunately, another black pig from North Field did too - and decided to do the same thing. Out the open gate he went.

“Hey, Hey!” I hollered at them, “You have to come back!” I had no luck in being listened to. I ran over to the gate and closed it, slipped in the S hook and looked back up.....I realized at this point I hadn’t kept my eyes on them the whole time and had no idea which two black pigs belonged in the North Field.

That’s it! I knew I needed help. Glad to have a radio attached to my hip, I called in for backup with a very clear description of the escapees.

“Um.....um.....two black pigs just escaped from North Field to Main Field......um....help.” Yeah, that should be enough to go on, a perfect and very detailed description. (Hey, I never said I worked for the police department.)

And in the same number of seconds it took the pigs to escape, Donna, Tim, Taryn, and Andy appeared before my very eyes. Taryn took one look at the huge group of black pigs all standing by waiting for more cookies in the Main Field and immediately shouted, “Ethel and Charlotte! Let’s go home!”

What? Taryn, like a mother who could find her own children in any crowd, immediately knew which pigs were attempting to camouflage themselves in the cookie eating crowd. Unbelievable.
Sigh of relief. Everyone was home and my role as Joan’s partner Pied Piper was coming to a close. The pigs slowly started making their way back into their houses as the sun would be going down soon. We finished up handing out the last of the bags of animal crackers to the final field and dragged ourselves back to the Visitor Center.

And like parents who go to bed exhausted on the night of December 25th, we too went to bed exhausted from having a full day. But isn’t exhaustion a great feeling when you know all the kids had a spectacular time?

Thank you Joan (munch, munch, munch...) from all the piggies!

---Julia

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**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

- Postage Stamps (Forever, 49, 34, 2 cents) Other denominations can also be used
- Used Blankets are always welcome
- Sheets but not pillow cases
- Duct Tape
- Sunscreen Lotion **spf 50** (No Spray)
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Vitamin B Complex
- Vitamin E, 400 IU only
- Acid Reducer, Ranitidine 150mg
- Dillweed Oil, Capsules Only
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Benefiber (Not Flavored)
- 8ft X 10ft Heavy Duty Tarp
- Paper Towels

**GIFT CARDS**

- Walgreen’s
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Discover
- MasterCard
- Office Max
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Target
- Office Depot
- Fry’s
- Staples

We have a wish list on Smile.Amazon.com. They offer free shipping on many items if you sign up for Amazon Prime.

**DONATION DROP OFFS**

It’s still hot out here but we are planning ahead for winter and need to continue collecting and storing blankets. For supporters in the Phoenix and Tucson areas there are four drop off locations for your convenience to save on shipping charges for blankets and other items from our wish list. Please note that no monetary donations can be accepted here. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated.

For the Phoenix area you may drop donations off at Susan’s in North Phoenix near E Union Hills Dr and N Cave Creek Rd. Call her at **602-339-6213** for directions. Also Carolyn’s in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. You may call **480-981-8069** for directions. For the Tucson area you may drop items off at Sherry’s in Southeast Tucson near Swan Rd and 22nd St. Call her at **520-622-6304** for directions. Also Ben’s in Northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call him at **520-631-6015** for directions.

We appreciate all your support!
We are often asked if pigs and dogs get along. We do not recommend it but yes, it is possible for them to cohabitate. However, it’s a natural instinct for a dog to want to attack a pig. This is especially true if the pig is acting scared, is annoying the dog or making squealing noises which might excite the dog. Once instinct kicks in for the dog it can mean trouble for the pig. 

Pigs are naturally prey to dogs. It’s important that there is a careful and supervised introduction process. We recommend that they are never left unsupervised together even after they’ve been introduced and seem to get along. People will often think that their dog would never do something such as attack a pig. This is how accidents happen and it can even end up fatal for a pig. 

We picked him up that night and got him to the vet on the next business day. His ears were a little damaged and he had some bites on his legs that we had to monitor. He did heal well and has made his way into our Sunset Field.

When a pig is attacked by a dog they can suffer numerous injuries, the most common being ears torn or even ripped off. We have several pigs here missing their ears, having lost them in an attack. There are a few that also have facial scars and teeth that are permanently exposed after they have healed and scarred. One of the worst we have had come to us after an attack was Amber. 

Many of you will remember our Amber. She came to us after having her face attacked by a dog. She spent many weeks wrapped up so that she could heal. It was a long process but Amber has made an almost full recovery. She will still have issues with a draining eye from time to time but is otherwise well. Since taking in Amber we have had many more
come in that have been attacked by dogs. Some of our recent ones include Elroy.

Elroy was a stray in southern Tucson that had been hanging around a woman’s house for some time. One day he was attacked by loose dogs. He survived the attack and from then on stayed under the woman’s house out of fear, hardly even coming out to eat. We were contacted to help seize Elroy.

Staff from Ironwood were able to go catch Elroy and bring him to the sanctuary. It was clear that his ears were infected and would need medical attention. We contacted our vet upon his arrival and made an appointment for him. After getting cleaned up and treated Elroy healed quickly. He has since been neutered and is enjoying his free time in the mud. He will have his torn ears as a reminder of what damage dogs can cause. After going after the ears and face the tail is probably the next most common place to grab.

Louie is a recent intake that has a history with dogs. Back in 2013 he was attacked and now he no longer has any sign of ever having had a tail. When Louie would be wagging his tail you can see movement on his bottom. While Louie is our only pig to be missing his entire tail from a dog attack, others like Zelda and Baldwin have lost the majority of their tail. Rupert is another one of our boys that has faced a dog attack. It was the family dog and Rupert ended up losing an ear and got his remaining ear torn up pretty well. While these boys are of course adorable and their scars give them character it is a traumatic and painful experience that can be avoided.

Aside from the pigs that we are personally contacted about, I also see many on Facebook that have been attacked by the family dog. There seems to have been a lot recently for whatever reason. I keep seeing images of bloody pigs with their ears torn. Often families aren’t able to keep the pig or the dog because of aggression issues. We’ve also heard about people losing their family pig to an attack by their family dog. It’s a really sad situation that a lot of people don’t expect or think can happen.

As it may not be recommended to keep pigs with dogs we always suggest keeping pigs with pigs. We adopt out in pairs, as pigs do like companions and often seek that from other pigs. It’s healthy for them to interact with other pigs. It can also help prevent behavior issues that pigs can often develop. Pigs know how to work things out amongst each other whereas dogs and pigs together may not handle each other’s actions well.

---Taryn
I was part of a big rescue many years ago so I’ve been living here for a long time. I’ve always dreamed of having a sponsor. Please help my dream come true!

Griffin

My owner passed away so my brother and I came to live here. I had a sponsor for a short time but am once again on the lookout for a new one.

Mary Helen

I was the “Cover Girl” for the Ironwood newsletter of 2003. Oh, to be that young again! But here I am in my old age and now I’ve lost my sponsor. Help me!

Latasha

I was part of a big rescue many years ago so I’ve been living here for a long time. I’ve always dreamed of having a sponsor. Please help my dream come true!

Lacey

There are so many pigs that need your support. Some are recent arrivals, some have been here for years and others were adopted from us then returned. A $30 monthly donation will help cover the basic needs for your pig. In return you will receive a letter with your pig’s background along with photos. Later in the year you’ll get an update with new pictures to keep you connected to your pig. Please join our family of sponsors and become a “pig parent” today!

---Donna

I came here when I was a baby then got adopted. A few months later I was returned then adopted again. Six years later I’m back and now it’s forever.

Lacey

www.ironwoodpigs.org ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
I came here when I was just a baby then got adopted. A few months later I was returned then adopted again. Six years later I'm back again but this time it’s forever.

I was the “Cover Girl” for the newsletter back in May to be that young I am in my old age I have lost my home!

My parents moved away and didn’t take me with them. I had been attacked by a dog when I was young and lost a piece of my lip and have scars on my snout.

I had been living on the streets for almost a year when I was badly attacked by three dogs. A nice lady helped me get here so I could get medical help.

I was born at the Humane Society in Yuma, AZ then brought here with the rest of the litter. I was adopted but my family recently moved and wouldn’t take me along.

I lived with Herbie and Otis for six years but now we call Ironwood our home. We are the Three Musketeers and all need a sponsor now that our family left us.
Here at Ironwood we have been very careful and completely successful at never having any pig get pregnant at our facility in the 14+ years that we’ve been open. There are way more than enough unwanted pigs out there without us bringing more into the world. During the past year and a half we have had 31 pigs released to us that were under 2 years of age. In that same time period we have taken in 2 pregnant females who gave birth to a total of 17 babies. Then this June another momma arrived with 8 five week old piglets. The breeding is still going on like mad with the breeders trying to produce smaller pigs which leads to more genetically weakened pigs because of the inbreeding. Our population is now around 585 pigs and the calls just keep coming.

We know there is a huge and continuing problem with unwanted pigs and it’s not just in the state of Arizona. We don’t sugarcoat the issue or hide it. The message is there loud and clear in our newsletters, our web site and on FaceBook. We don’t encourage or support breeding in any capacity. Yet we still get inquiries like this recent email from Tia: “I raise pot belly pigs. I am wondering if you have any male pot belly pigs that are not fixed. We are looking to add a new bloodline to our breeding.” Can you believe that someone would have the gall to ask a rescue organization something like that?! As if we would want this person to be breeding more! It’s very discouraging and frustrating to say the least.

We totally understand the magnetism of babies. I mean, who can resist oohing and ahhing over a cute little baby anything? But without proper education new pet pig owners more often than not end up in situations they did not expect and invariably cannot handle. Rather than take the time and effort to resolve the problems they’re experiencing, they often take the easy way out and “dump” their pig with us.

You probably read about Jezebel in our July newsletter. She was a stray rescued in California but was unable to be placed in a home. She came to Ironwood very pregnant and soon gave birth to nine babies, three of which quickly passed away. The remaining six are adorable and so much fun to watch growing up, but did we need them? NO!

Chantilly and Jessica, two of the baby girls both have deformities with their feet. Chantilly needed surgery to correct her problem. Jessica required a splint on her leg to help straighten up her leg and foot with its missing toes. The splint had to be changed or replaced almost daily for weeks. These are just two examples of how the babies are time and money consuming.

Just 13 days after Jezebel’s babies
were born we got a mom named Polly who came with a litter of 8 five week old babies. She was yet another stray that had been running with several other pigs. A woman managed to lure Polly into her yard but the others in her group were shot and killed by the Game and Fish Dept. It was at this woman’s home that Polly gave birth to 9 piglets but lost one before coming to Ironwood. Someone had to have been breeding that group of pigs then simply let them loose in a rural area to fend for themselves.

Those two litters of babies meant 4 more neuters and 10 more spays; 12 if you include the moms. We are already behind trying to get all our females spayed and this will back it up even more. Our vets are working with us to get these surgeries done but sometimes we feel like we’re just chasing our tails. Every time we turn around there’s another one coming in.

We have gone for years at a time with no babies at Ironwood but in just the past year we’ve had 3 litters. I hope this is not a sign of what’s to come. If you know of anyone thinking of getting a pig, please discourage them from buying from a breeder. If you know someone who is breeding, please talk to them about Ironwood and the plight of so many unwanted pigs. It really needs to end because there aren’t enough Ironwoods out there to handle all these pigs.

---Donna

PS: I don’t mean to sound so negative about the babies and breeding, but it is really a cause for alarm in the world of animal rescue. Your support for the nearly 600 pigs in our care is very important to us. But we also need your help to discourage breeding in your area. Anything you can do to help spread the word and open people’s eyes to the issues of pig overpopulation and abandonment would be much appreciated.

Open House

November 14, 2015 From 11 AM to 3 PM

This year’s Open House promises to be another fun filled day! It’s going to be on Saturday, November 14th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You are all welcome to attend and don’t hesitate to bring your friends and family along! We will have snacks and drinks available. There is no admission fee. You can have a tour of the Sanctuary, visit with pigs, purchase t-shirts, hats and knickknacks then relax at the Visitor Center.

You should receive an invitation with a map in the mail. If you don’t, you are still invited. Please get directions from our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.
Those Lovely Days of Summer

When summer in the desert rolls around the pigs start to roll around in the mud. Then their hair begins to fall out clump by clump. Soon the majority of them are bald and mud streaked. Pretty!
Thank you for using Smile.Amazon.com to send us many items that we need. And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping which is particularly helpful when you are sending something heavy or large. Sometimes Amazon has something that they don’t want to send to our Post Office Box and will ask for another address. You can give them our site address where we receive packages but NOT regular postal mail since we are so far from town. The address is: 34656 E Crystal Visions Rd, Marana, AZ 85658.

Log on to Smile.Amazon.com/ch/86-0999483 using the same log-in information that you use for your Amazon.com account. At the top of the page you will see Supporting: Mary C Schanz Foundation. The Foundation is our parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. By using Smile.Amazon we will receive a donation of 0.5% from Amazon for all of your purchases, not just the ones you send to us.

All your packages are a great help and much appreciated!

Double Your Donation!
You can double your donation if you work for or are retired from a matching gift company.

PayPal Donations
You can make secure One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit card by going to the SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Or if you have a PayPal account you can make a donation directly by using our e-mail address ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary In Your Will
The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from many generous supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetimes but decided to link themselves with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

The Mary C Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names (although it is okay if you’ve already used only the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary name), the post office address from the back cover and this tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-0999483. Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the almost 600 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.
Lydia is a rather unusual looking lady and the circumstances of how she arrived at Ironwood are rather unusual as well and as it turned out, expensive. We had to go undercover in order to save her and her companions Exene and Wolfgang. Donna from our satellite facility in Maricopa called us back in February of 2008 to say there were three pot belly pigs posted for sale in her feed store, one male and two females. Not wanting them to get in the hands of anyone who would begin breeding them, Ben called right away to tell them we would take them, but they refused to let them go to a sanctuary. So we asked Tim if he would go undercover and call them as an ordinary citizen and say he wanted to buy them.

They agreed to sell them but then called to say they would only sell the girls and he would have to meet them at a convenience store and so it was arranged. They arrived with the girls in the back of a truck and nearly lost the first one when they quickly opened the carrier before Tim was prepared to transfer her to our carrier. Once the transaction was completed Tim paid them $125 in cash and never got a release form or a real name from anyone.

A day later they decided they would also sell the male pig and once again would make arrangements to meet at a gas station for the transfer. This went on for a few days while they finally decided to meet Tim again and Little Wolfgang was purchased for $75.00 cash by the same person with a different name. After the deal was done the man asked Tim if he wanted to buy a buffalo! Strange indeed. It seems the area where they said they lived, that we were never invited to, is an area known for heavy drug trafficking. We will never know the whole story behind this very strange release of three young pot belly pigs, but it certainly was the most unusual situation we have ever seen with the many hundreds we have picked up. And look at her now, a proud cover girl!!
MISSION STATEMENT

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot-bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and other sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

* Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.
* The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Hello, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary! Thank you for “July 2015” newsletter!

The “pig” stories and their arrival to Ironwood, are so “touching” - and far too often their journey has been difficult.

I’ll continue to marvel at your care for all of them - “day in” and “day out”, in very hot and cold weather to keep them fed and as healthy as possible. ---- The plight of Inky’s terrible ordeal of botched neutering and his suffering break my heart ---thank goodness for “all of you”, caring, cleaning, and trips to a vet. To allow him to heal. I hope he continues to improve and can live a healthy life. Every story including Calif Rescue is so worthy of “hope” for their future at Ironwood. All the best for everyone.

Marilyn and Paul

It is my feeling it also left them predisposed to illnesses that are not generally experienced by pigs of their younger age. Sadly we have lost 3 of the adults and 3 of the 4 babies that were returned to us as adults. A variety of cancers and kidney disease took their lives.

For those that remain their lives will be as they have been for the past 8 years. Kwinna, Kohanna, Sedona, Rami, Richard, Apache and Kwili will have a peaceful life and their needs will be met as they have been since May 26th of 2007. The terrible saga is long since behind them.

In her own boat cuz she’s special or a trouble maker??
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