Happy Holidays

PIG SANCTUARY

Blitzen
Dear Supporter,

As another year draws to an end we would like to thank you for making it possible for us to continue our mission by continuing your support for our pigs. I looked out my window yesterday and saw two little tails wagging and wagging as Ashley and Pebbles were finishing their breakfast. They were two little tick ridden skinny pigs when we took them in recently. They were part of an abuse case that the Humane Society in Phoenix was called in to handle. A smile came to my face and a feeling of calm knowing they were now safe with us. By the time you read this letter they will both be spayed and ready for a good home if one can be found.

This November newsletter has been dedicated mostly to a rescue we have been involved with from Apache Junction, Arizona and most of the pictures you will see in this issue are pigs who have come to us from this rescue. You will read the challenges we face as we try to give these pigs a better life. These challenges can only be met with your support, our commitment and determination to help these animals, and the dedicated work of the Ironwood staff to help bring them back to health and make them feel safe and secure in their new home. We are only part way there, but I am determined in these next few months to bring the remaining pigs to Ironwood.

It is the Holiday Season. All of us at Ironwood would like to wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful and most of all compassionate season. If you bring a new companion into your home this season, adopt don’t buy, don’t breed or support breeding, and think carefully before you act because their life depends on you. Don’t make them depend on whether or not a sanctuary such as ours has room for them.

“Life is life’s greatest gift. Guard the life of another creature as you would your own because it is your own. On life’s scale of values, the smallest is no less precious to the creature who owns it than the largest...” Lloyd Biggle Jr. “The Light That Never Was”

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS: These two precious girls are here because you made it so. Thank you so much. Happy Holidays.
Apache Junction Rescue

We are in the process of a long overdue rescue from Apache Junction which, when complete, will add nearly 40 pigs to our family. With generous donations from Mario Lanning and George Luis, Mary Headley and Julie Smith and a grant from NAVS (National Anti-Vivisection Society) for surgeries, we were able to build a new field where the pigs could finally be free of their small pens and have room to roam and enjoy wallows and shade in small herds. However, as in years past when their rescue was put off, all the pigs have yet to come to us.

So far we have been able to take in 17 of the nearly forty in need of rescue. We will continue to bring in the others as time and money allows. Already we have grown to love them and have learned so many of their personalities.

Pens at Apache Junction

Pigs at the “sanctuary” in Apache Junction was to bring them to Ironwood. But each time there has been a reason to put it off. In 2003 we bought the property that is now our Annex, formerly Pigs*A*Lot, where we began our association with pigs. That increased our numbers by about 105 pigs. In 2004 we took 46 pigs from St. Matilda's rescue in Queen Creek when they closed their doors. In 2008 we rescued 45 pigs from Peoria in a dire situation where none were spayed or neutered and their situation was dismal. And there were many smaller rescues along the way. Not to mention of course the hundreds of individual pigs that have come to Ironwood during these years.

So instead of taking in all the pigs from this rescue, we have attempted to help from afar until now. In 2002 we took 19 of her pigs to help lessen her burden. We have neutered many of her males over the years. In 2004 we built pens and shelters. Since then we have provided bedding hay, blankets, pools and shade cloth. Since September of 2005 we have provided all the feed so we were comforted to know that they had food and shelter.

However, the well-being of these pigs has always concerned us. The pigs were confined to pens that were much too small for a good quality of life, although some were in small herds in larger areas. This past year we were informed by a friend that although the pigs had food and shelter, none of the animals at this facility were receiving any medical care. Knowing that most, if not all, of her pigs were aging and probably experiencing medical problems that could cause months or years of suffering we decided to offer to take her pigs.

Ironwood’s New Field

Boar in His Small Pen at Apache Junction

Continued on next page--
The Medical Issues

We have slowed the rescue down because, as we suspected, we are encountering many medical problems that are time consuming and expensive. We want to resolve the problems in the first group of 17 before taking in more pigs.

Miss Piggy was the first to come to us with an extremely painful problem in her mouth. She could not eat and would scream with pain. She had developed a huge ulcer in her mouth and each time she tried to eat she would bite on her ulcerated mouth. After three trips to our vet that finally resulted in removing nearly all her teeth, her mouth healed and now she is pain free. She will have to remain on soft foods forever but now is enjoying a comfortable life here at Ironwood.

Spike had a huge abscess in his head and our vet had to euthanize him the day after he arrived.

The two unneutered males, Blitzen and Noodles, that we have taken so far had testicular tumors. Blitzen’s was enormous and he developed some complications from which he has recovered. You can see him after his recovery on our cover.

Two other males, Pegasus and Doppers are having difficulty urinating due to possible kidney stones, so they have both been put on a diet and meds to acidify their urine and on an antispasmodic drug when they are experiencing difficulty. For now they are both maintaining well.

One of the females, Squeakers, did not eat when she arrived and after a couple of days of hanging back and not eating we observed that she was bleeding vaginally. We quickly had her spayed. Her uterus was filled with blood and tumors and her recovery took time, but she is now a part of the herd and other than some arthritis she is doing well. Juicy Fruit and Denise both had discharge and were found to have pyometra and uterine tumors when they were spayed.

Others have been put on meds for arthritis and one male had a tusk growing into his gum and could not eat. All the pigs were in need of hoof and tusk trimmings.

These are all problems that are normally encountered as pigs age. But they must be dealt with or the animals will suffer a great deal. Abscesses, dental problems, urinary tract problems, tumors in all locations, blockages and many others are all part of our daily life as so many of our pigs grow old. By dealing with all these medical issues with these pigs from Apache Junction, many lives have been saved but maybe more importantly their quality of life has been greatly improved by getting the proper medical care.

---Mary
Their Forever Home

The area we chose for the Apache Junction pigs to live is called the Princess Field. This name was chosen to honor a very special pig named Princess who lives with two of our long time supporters, George and Mario. They funded much of the materials needed to complete the field which was already fenced with chain link. Additional hog panels were needed to divide the field. More shelters and feed troughs had to be built, water lines laid, hose bibs and automatic waters put in and shade ramadas erected. There are a few large palo verde trees in the field providing some natural shade (a rarity in the desert). Mud wallows were dug and pools, water bowls and feed bowls were all in place before the pigs arrived.

Life in the Princess Field at Ironwood is much different for these pigs. Many had lived alone in small pens or in groups of 3-4 in larger pens. Now they have just under half an acre where they can all live together. Since all of these pigs are middle-aged to geriatric, they do not need a lot of “running space.” There are a variety of shelters for them to choose from; some that can house small groups, some for couples and others for individuals. Lily and Pegasus claimed a nice place just big enough for the two of them. They spend almost all of their time together there. Putty Rose has not yet made a close friend, but she picked a cute house that easily has room for another pig when the time comes. Juicy Fruit and Squeakers are two females that became friends after moving here. They have been seen sharing a shelter and relaxing together under the shade ramada. Govinda splits his time in two different shelters that are next door to one another. One he shares with his brother, Dopplers and the other with his new friend, Ganesha. A group of five (Baby Troubles, Avalanche, Denise, Big Trouble and Charles) chose a large shade ramada with wallows and pools as their regular hangout.

Most of the pigs eat their pig pellets from troughs and bowls spread around the field. Several of the pigs need to be fed separately for various reasons, so we built individual feeding pens to be used during meals. Dopppers and Pegasus both require a specialized food for their urinary tract problems. Lily needs to eat a soft mash. Ganesha eats very slowly (actually she does everything in slow motion!) and needs extra time to finish her breakfast. Juicy Fruit just wasn’t comfortable competing with the other pigs in the troughs and wasn’t getting enough to eat. Now each of these pigs knows which feeding pen is theirs and will wait by the gate to go in to eat. Their individualized nutritional needs are met and they are very happy with the results.

Continued on page 14
Finding a good friend can be hard for anyone, human or animal. Arriving at a new place with hundreds of others around you can be quite intimidating. Who will you hang out with? Where will you sleep? Who will stay with you when you’re feeling under the weather? Of course the pigs here enjoy the human interactions they have and do form special bonds with certain people. However, there is nothing like seeing pigs form relationships with each other and observe them spending time together.

When looking at the pigs here at Ironwood we can see that most of them enjoy the company of other pigs. Whether they came with others or not, they usually find another pig or group that they feel comfortable with and will spend most of their time with them. Even if a pig doesn’t necessarily want to be snuggled up next to another pig they typically like to be in the same area of the field as their chosen friend or group. Two of our pigs, Charlotte and Reggie, are an excellent example of this.

Charlotte and Reggie did not come to Ironwood together and it took a while for them to become friends, but they have become quite the pair. Though you might not always see these two together during the day you will always find them together for bedtime. Charlotte was recently taken out of the field to have surgery. During this time we noticed that Reggie would not sleep in the shelter that the two normally sleep in. Instead Reggie moved to the other side of the field. Once Charlotte recovered from her surgery she was brought back to her field. That night Charlotte and Reggie were found back in their shelter cuddling, just like they used to. It’s really something to see pigs come back together after having been separated. If we ever wondered if they missed each other I think we got our answer.

Another example of a pair that didn’t start off as friends are Frank and Wilbur. Frank and Wilbur have lived in the same field for years and have had other pig friends in the past. Frank actually arrived with his brothers, though he would usually hang out with other pigs. Somehow as time passed Frank and Wilbur found their way to each other. Nowadays it’s rare to see one of them without the other nearby. They sleep in the same shelter, hang out in wallows together and even come up for treats together. Sometimes Frank will venture out and spend his time grazing but will always go back to Wilbur when the day is done. Just by looking at them you can tell that they truly enjoy each other’s company.
Pretty Girl and Mrs. Pigglesworth have lived in our Assisted Living field for quite some time now. Years went by where these two were mere field mates. Like Frank and Wilbur they knew each other but never really hung out together. As of recently these ladies have been found sharing the same shelter and sunbathing together. They are both older girls and becoming more lame, so they cannot get around much. It’s nice to see them have a companion while they lay low. Occasionally they will even want to stay together for breakfast. Some people might think that once a pig is a loner they will stay that way. These two have shown us that maybe that’s not always the case and that even in old age it’s nice to have a good friend to spend your time with. We have seen this with other pigs too.

Regina has lived in our Special Needs field for a while now. She has had many close friends that she would hang out with but as the years would go by her friends would pass on. After each death Regina was sure to find another friend as she didn’t want to be alone. Regina’s current friend is Molly. Regina and Molly are inseparable. If we are doctoring one the other is close by to make sure everything is okay. When it’s time for breakfast they go into the same feeding pen together. When the temperatures drop they lay side by side to keep warm. It’s quite adorable to see these two together as Regina is about half the size of Molly. Regina’s desire for a companion is clear.

Aside from the pigs that find new friendships at Ironwood we also have pairs or groups of pigs that arrive together and stay together. Sometimes they are related and sometimes not. Louie and Huey are an example of one of our related pairs that have stayed together since their arrival. Louie and Huey are brothers that came to Ironwood together. They have had an amazing bond since they arrived that is as strong as ever. Louie and Huey can often be seen grazing in our Main field. During the day these two also hang out by wallows and pools together, if one moves the other follows. Even though these two are large boys they will cram into a shelter together and lay as close as they can. Seeing brothers be so close and wanting to be around each other so much is really heartwarming. Mamacita and Bonita are another related pair that really show attachment at its best.

Mamacita and Bonita are a mother and daughter pair that live in our West field. They can often be found lounging under one of the low shelters in the field with about 6 other pigs. All the other pigs they hang out with are boys, so Mamacita and Bonita can have all the attention. It didn’t start off this way though. Mamacita and Bonita arrived at Ironwood in 2002 from the Apache Junction Sanctuary (see page 3) with 17 other pigs. They stayed on the north side of the field by themselves for years.

Continued on page 14
I don’t know how I ended up with this name. I’m only practicing the skills I learned at assertiveness school. I thought I was doing a good job! I guess if you’re looking for trouble, I’m your man.

I was in the first group of pigs brought to Ironwood from Apache Junction. We were lucky mostly because we got first dibs on the shelters and shade ramadas at the new place! That was sweet!

I am one of the grannies of this group. Now I can spend my retirement years in comfort with the love of my life, my dearest Pegasus. We have a lovely home here and couldn’t be happier!

I love it here! I get a special kind of food to help keep me clear of urinary stones. Let me tell you, those things hurt! But now I’m getting the care that I need to keep me healthy. Now I need a sponsor to help pay for my special meals.

I had a shaky start here involving a spay surgery with complications. After a rough recovery, I’m feeling great and loving life!

I know you’re thinking, hey, Doppers and Govinda look like the same pig. Look closely, I have a black mark on my nose. (Plus, I’m much more handsome than my brother!) So, if you can’t decide which pig to sponsor, remember... Go With Govinda!

I don’t know this name! This is the best I could do. I learned those skills I learned at assertiveness school. Good job, me! I’ll keep practicing!
I am amazed at all the space we have here! I went from living in a small pen by myself to this big field with other pigs. All I can say is... \textit{WOW!}

I was so glad to get here! I had really long tusks that were poking holes in my upper lip and making it hard to eat. Those were trimmed off and man, does it feel better! Thank you Ironwood!

I don’t know how I ended up with this name. I’m only practicing the skills I learned at assertiveness school. I thought I was doing a good job! I guess if you’re looking for trouble, I’m your man.

I am amazed at all the space we have here! I went from living in a small pen by myself to this big field with other pigs. All I can say is.....WOW!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

All the pigs featured here, including the two cuties with me, are from the Apache Junction rescue. They are sweet piggies in need of a sponsor parent. For a $30 monthly donation you can provide for all of one pig’s needs as well as their share of sanctuary expenses. You may pick one pictured here or I can choose another for you. I will send you a letter and pictures of your pig as well as periodic updates throughout the year.

--- Donna
Errol’s Visit

There is a very kind man named Errol Beavers who became a supporter of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary through our sponsor program over eight years ago. He started with a black pig named Inky. Later he added two brothers, Iggy and Izzy. Over the years Errol has lost some of his sponsored pigs but always chooses another needy pig or two. His “herd” now consists of five pigs.

Errol paid a visit to the sanctuary back in 2004 to meet his pigs and get a tour of the place. He arrived loaded down with donated items for all the pigs as well as special treats for his babies. In August of 2010, Errol was able to come see us again and get the chance to meet his new sponsored pigs. He shared pears with all of them as well as with other pigs he met along the way and even fed pieces to Charmin, our resident chicken.

We were amazed at the car load of goodies Errol arrived with. He stocked us up with peanut butter, juice, oatmeal, Ensure, animal crackers, joint support supplements, fiber powder, fig newtons, dried fruit, blankets, vegetable oil and boxes of fresh watermelons, apples and pears. It was like Christmas around here!

As Errol and I walked around the sanctuary, he noted all the changes that had taken place since his first visit six years ago. Our field area had expanded by five acres. There are a lot more shade ramadas now than there used to be in the “old days.” And of course, there are many more pigs than we ever imagined there would be. We even stopped by one of our three cemeteries to visit the grave of Errol’s first sponsored pig, Inky.

Errol is just one of many sponsors who have made the journey down the dirt roads to the sanctuary to come meet their special pig or pigs. I love getting to know our sponsors and being able to show them our place. Seeing people meet their pig face to face, taking pictures, feeding treats, discovering where their pig likes to hang out and who their friends are always gives me great pleasure. I love all these pigs so much and being able to share that with someone who cares for them too means a lot to me.

---Donna

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.
Become A Sanctuary Sustainer

You can become a Sanctuary Sustainer by making a monthly contribution of $5, $10, $25, $100, or any amount you choose which is charged to your credit or debit card each month. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution or go to the Support page of our web site and make your donation by PayPal.

Remember The Sanctuary In Your Will

Bequests can be a percentage of your estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

The Mary C. Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names, the post office address and the following tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-0999483. Thank you for your support.

Apply For A Sanctuary Credit Card

Share your passion for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and make donations with your everyday purchases. Just use our custom credit card and 2% of gas and grocery purchases and 1% of all other purchases made with the card will be donated to the Sanctuary. Plus, Ironwood will get a $50 bonus donation when you make your first purchase. Apply today by visiting www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary

e-Scrip: Donating Money the Easy Way!

Every time you make a purchase from an eScrip member merchant, the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will receive a donation from the merchant up to 5% of your purchase at no cost to you. Please sign up by visiting www.escrip.com. Our Group ID is: 150540842. Everyone can join, so tell all of your family and friends. Thank you!

You can make secure One-Time, Sponsor, or multiple Sponsor donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal using your credit card by going to the SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.
Front and Back Cover
Blitzen came to us from the Apache Junction rescue. He was a boar and had a huge testicular tumor as seen in the picture in the medical issues article on page 4. I have no history on him, but I do know he lived in a small pen by himself and now that he has been neutered and has recovered he is roaming free with the others in his new field. What a handsome woolly boy he is and much healthier now that his huge tumor has been removed. He is very shy but I have seen him lying in the company of other pigs, so I think his life will no longer be lonely.

Back Cover
Ganesha and Govinda are two others who came as part of the Apache Junction rescue. Again I have no history on either pig but several in this group are becoming friends and are often seen snoozing together. Ganesha is a large friendly girl who moves at a very slow pace. It seems that she was someone’s pet at one time since she is socialized. Govinda and his brother Doppers spend most of their time together, but it is nice to see new relationships being fostered.

Our Wish List
* Gift Card to Fry’s, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, or PetsMart are an easy way to give.
* The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
* VISA gift cards that can be used anywhere
* Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)
* Used Blankets and Sheets are always welcome
* Prilosec
* Veggie Laxative
* Children’s Multi Vitamins -NO IRON
* Mucinex or Equivalent
* Large or Giant Igloo Shelters

Special Wish
We would like to have an air compressor of at least 150 psi in order to pump up our water truck tires that require a pressure of 120 psi. Our 125 psi compressor just doesn’t make it.

Aerial View of Ironwood
Those who have internet access can get a great aerial view of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Go to www.googlemaps.com and type in Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, Tucson, AZ and zoom in to the Sanctuary. This is a spring/summer view with many pools in view. However, a lot of the pools can’t be seen because they are under the shade ramadas. The depressions near the pools are wallows. The black objects are shade ramadas and the white objects are shelters and barns.
Ironwood’s Open House!

After shutting down the Sanctuary last year due to the H1N1 virus scare we are once again having our Open House this year.

You are all welcome to come to the Open House on Saturday, November 13, 2010 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You won’t be disappointed. Everyone had a great time during the last Open House touring the Sanctuary, visiting with the pigs and relaxing around the Visitor Center. We will have snacks and drinks and there is no admission charge. Come on out and enjoy a day at the Sanctuary.

You should receive an invite with a map in the mail. If you don’t please call Ben at 520-631-6015 or send an e-mail to ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com for directions. If you want to use a mapping program, MapQuest works best.

We will be conducting tours all day so don’t miss visiting your favorite pig.

Mary’s Tour at Ironwood’s Grand Opening

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a special place and we are sure that you will enjoy the serenity of being away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Please mark your calendar and come out for a good time.

Blanket Drop Off Points In Tucson

Those in the Tucson area that want to donate blankets and don’t want to make the long drive to the Sanctuary can use two drop off points. One is the Tucson Pet Cemetery on the East side of town and one is on the Northwest part of town. Give Ben a call at 520-631-6015 for the address of the drop off point nearest to you. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

BYOB/BYOPB

Bring Your Own Blanket Or Peanut Butter

If you are coming to the Open House or just visiting the Sanctuary please consider bringing a used blanket to keep one of our pigs warm this winter. We always need blankets and never have too many. You can’t believe how the pigs love them! Or bring a big jar of Creamy Peanut Butter. We use about 30# a week making meds for our sick pigs.
Taking these pigs that had either been alone or with 2 or 3 other pigs and putting them all together was not an easy task for us or for them. Being herd animals, a hierarchy had to be established once they were all together. Fights occurred, minor wounds inflicted and feelings were hurt. Some wounds required antibiotics and/or daily cleanings and treatments to speed the healing process, both entailing more time and effort on our part. The end result, however, is well worth the effort. When looking back on the conditions these pigs came from and the medical issues that were not being addressed, we can feel proud of the life we are providing for them now. These piggies are happy and comfortable. They have the freedom to wander about, change houses if they want, go visit a different shade ramada or hang out under the trees in the wash. This winter they will be warm and cozy with plenty of bedding, blankets and carpets. Their senior years will be their comfortable years!

You can help support one of these precious pigs by becoming a sponsor. The pigs featured in this article as well as those on the Sponsor Pages are from the Apache Junction rescue and all need a sponsor.

---Donna

For some reason they decided to make the transition to the south side and hang out with some boys. They can always be spotted laying together in the center of all of them. Way to go girls! Through the years Mamacita has lost her teeth. Due to this she needs to eat soft food in a feeding pen. In the morning she’ll make her way to her pen and when she’s done she will head back to spend the rest of the day with Bonita. It’s wonderful to see a mother and daughter stick together the way these two do.

---Taryn

We like to encourage people to adopt two pigs for the reasons and examples shown above. By watching the pigs it’s clear to see that most prefer having at least one close companion over being alone. Whether they arrive alone or with others, they seem to find a friend or group that they like to stay with. These friendships are visibly very important to them.

---Taryn

Ever since I first started working at Ironwood I wanted to do more to spread the word about the Sanctuary. I first started a blog at http://ironwoodpigs.blogspot.com/ I also decided that since I’m on facebook a lot I would start an Ironwood facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary. I update about new pigs, surgeries, things we are doing at the Sanctuary and more! I do update the facebook page more frequently than I do the blog. Through these we have gained more supporters and sponsors for our pigs. It’s nice to see people so interested in our pigs and wanting to learn about us. Many of our supporters monitor the facebook page, sometimes daily, in order to keep in touch with the Sanctuary.

---Taryn

www.ironwoodpigs.org ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
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.

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**Dear Ironwood Pig Sanctuary,**

Enclosed are a few blankets and a bottle of Glucosamine Chondroitin pills. I hope they are of use to you and the lovely pigs at your Sanctuary. I really appreciate the work you are doing; It is truly heart-warming.

Non-profit organizations like yours are inspiring and vital to our society. Thanks again for all the work you are doing. People like you make this world a better place for animals and humans alike!

Thanks,
Hailey
Safety Harbor, Florida

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Mary Headley Feeding Norman a Dandelion Leaf

Norman Back in His “Produce Market House and Pen” After Being in the Barn for the Winter

Aerial View of Ironwood - See Page 12
IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

Ganesha & Govinda

Return Service Requested
Published at the above address regularly.