Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the New Year. I hope this finds you well and anxious to read about what is new with all of the pigs here at Ironwood.

This past year has been particularly taxing to the many rescue groups who have worked so hard to save so many animals. This has made me think about why do those of us in the rescue business work so hard to save these imperiled animals. Franklin McMillan, D.V.M., who is one of our supporters, sent me a copy of his book Unlocking the Animal Mind. He said, and I quote, “We do it for one reason only: animal feelings. If animals did not have feelings, every one of these animals could simply be ignored. No feelings, no suffering. But we don’t ignore them. We know that the brains of these imperiled animals are generating very powerful feelings of fear and distress, and we cannot simply leave them to suffer.” It is this powerful feeling of our own to not leave these animals to suffer that pushes us, sometimes until we are overwhelmed with stress and stretched beyond our ability, to save another animal, in our case a pig, from suffering.

It is a tightrope we walk between trying to maintain some balance in our own lives and picking up the next pig who has been abandoned in a back yard or on the street, or whose owner has passed away and it is in need of someone who can, in a few short moments, whisk it away to a safe, nurturing environment and end its fear and distress. I am ever mindful of my responsibilities and know from my own experiences and those of others around me how easily and quickly things can become unraveled. But we have the support of many great folks like yourself that help me believe that things will not become unraveled and our decision to pick up Sam Sam and the others featured in this issue was the right thing to do, because their suffering matters. We at Ironwood will continue to do our part and we hope that you will continue to believe in us and do yours and together we can end some of the suffering in the world.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Schanz
President and Co-Founder

P. S. We were extremely gratified by the year-end support we got for our pigs even in the face of so many other groups who were in need of support. Thank you!
Saying Goodbye.....

n the past four months we have said goodbye to many dear pigs. For many different reasons we’ve had to make the hard decision for the well-being of each pig; rest assured that each one crossed on to their next journey with all the love from the staff. Bella and Sassy lived with Rudy, Squeaky and Whitey (our pygmy goat) behind the Visitor Center. For all of you that have visited us here you may have met them at some point. Louise, beloved friend of Bob, was a sweet old girl who lived in our North field. Hazel lived in our Special Needs field. She had her own doghouse with a ramp and shaded “porch” for the hot summer days. Wheezie(1) from our East field, had numerous health problems after recovering from what we thought was a seizure, was a gentle girl. Oprah, beloved friend of Pearl, who lived in our Assisted Living Phase I field, always greeted us with a smile. Wheezie(2) was only with us a few short months but crossed after complications from her uterine tumor surgery. Lily was a rescue that was only with us overnight, but was in dire need of our help. She died the next day during surgery to remove a huge tumor. Milton originally lived in our Special Needs field until we moved him to the A pens to make him more comfortable for his final days. And Dewey, who lived in our Main field with his brothers Huey and Louie.

All of our pigs are special to us in different ways. Sometimes it’s just the way they grunt when you walk past them or the way they drop at your feet for a belly rub. In some way we become attached to them and when they are gone, we miss them dearly. For those of you who sponsored one of the pigs that crossed or whether you were just a visitor passing through, all of your love and good intentions are Blessings for all of the pigs here at Ironwood and it is your love that has carried their spirit into the next journey.

--- Michelle
Outreach Saves Lives!

Our outreach program saves lives and gives comfort to pigs. Outreach continues to be an ongoing and important part of Ironwood. This year we have seen many happy endings because of those efforts. We have set up mini rescues around the state that enable us to take in more pigs without continuing to overwhelm the sanctuary. These kind people have taken from 5 to 11 of our pigs, many of which would have had no hope of being adopted elsewhere and many who are disabled and need additional care and attention. We help to ease their burden by supplying some of the meds, but they have accepted a great deal of the responsibility for which we are very grateful.

We were able to place 13 of 15 babies that resulted from a rescue in Kingman, which meant only a net gain of two babies to the original 11 rescued pigs.

We continue to build shelters and fences and supply igloos, which are often donated by our supporters or the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, to help those who help us by adopting some of our pigs.

We have built many shelters this winter and supplied blankets and bedding hay to a rescue near Phoenix to whom we continue to supply the monthly feed. We have also neutered two of her boars recently and hope to continue to neuter others as time and finances allow.

You make it possible for us to reach out beyond our boundaries. We thank you and I know all the pigs who are warm and cozy in their shelters tonight with hay and blankets thank you.

---Mary

Ducky came to us from St. Matilda’s sanctuary July 4th, 2004 when they were not able to continue. She has a very colorful personality. One minute she wants to bite you, so watch out, but the next minute she wants a belly rub. Go figure!
This is Sam Sam

This is our Sam Sam. An e-mail came to us from a woman in California who said her 81-year-old mother had gone into the hospital near Benson and she would be released to a nursing home and not be returning to her home. Sam Sam and the four dogs on the property were in need of a home. He had been abandoned at her mother’s many years ago and she did not know a lot about how to care for him. I called to tell her daughter that we would help her but not immediately since we were in the middle of our Open House. The next e-mail we received said she had called animal control and they would come for him. I called her immediately and she said they had not yet come for him, so our good volunteer, Bob, and Ben headed to Benson. We knew he was large, but this large was a shock! Poor Sam Sam. He yelled all the way home. He was terrified and unable to stand up either in his carrier or in his pen once we got him to Ironwood. Even though he had plenty of food and water available to him at his home, he was pretty immobile and unable to reach it and was thus dehydrated.

We had to hold his food and water for him and he was unable to get up without our aid. He would lie on his side and scream in fear until we were able to help him up, then he would settle down immediately. Over the weeks he has become much more relaxed and far less stressed. He got a good foot trim, a lot of the crusty debris was removed from his face and he has been put on joint support and sinus relief. Michelle gave him a nice long pillow donated by one of our supporters that makes a wedge under him. With that he is better able to lift himself up. He now goes, slowly of course, for walks in our exercise field. He lies in the sun and I have a real sense that he enjoys himself and all the attention he is getting. Sam Sam has his forever home and I don’t have any nightmares about what would have happened to him had Darlene not contacted us. A happy ending for all concerned.

While we don’t have all the answers by any means, please feel free to call us if you have questions or problems with the care of your pig or pigs. Because of time constraints we may not always be able to come to your assistance to trim your pig or help you, but we may be able to refer you to a vet or give you advice on what to do. By far the two biggest problems we see with pet pigs who are released to us is obesity and untrimmed hooves. These two problems greatly reduce the quality of your pig’s life.

---Mary
Some of Our Newcomers

John Paul Jones: The evening of Dec. 12th as I was preparing to head home from the sanctuary, I got a call from a local veterinary clinic. They said one of their clients had just called and said he went out to pick up his mail and the neighbor asked him if he had lost his pig who had just wandered into their yard on John Paul Jones Street. The little guy was not his, but he took him in and called for help. I loaded up and headed for his place. He has now been neutered and what a friendly boy he is!! He is so social. I am sure he had a good home, but our ad in the paper and listing at the Humane Society has not reunited him with his family so he would sure like a new family.

Molly: On our way to deliver Gene Simmons, featured in our last newsletter, to his new home, we got a call from a family in Scottsdale who had found a pig laying in the middle of their road one evening and they said the coyotes were literally beginning to circle her. She was obese and no doubt exhausted and would not or could not move. With a great deal of effort, water and treats, they were able to get her to their home. We stopped to see her and later Bob and Ben picked her up and brought her to Ironwood. She is losing weight and becoming very mobile. Although she is still living in one of our pens until she reaches a better weight and can see better, we let her roam the property and she really enjoys herself.

Ringo is a very lively boy about 2 1/2 years old who came to us from Payson from a nice lady, Holly, and her brother. During the Rodeo fire two summers ago a very tiny Ringo escaped while his family was loading their cattle as the fire approached their farm. Holly’s brother and a friend knew that he had escaped and they were able to catch him. He was injured during the escape and has a large scar on his back. The family moved on to Texas, so Ringo was never able to be reunited with his family. Holly and her brother are unable to keep him but they have spoiled him with a lot of love, so he is very social and would love a kind family to adopt him.

All three of these pigs were saved because local people cared enough to take the time and effort to help them. Thank goodness we have people like this who are willing not to turn away from these helpless animals. Keep in mind when you see a stray animal of any kind running loose it may be an inconvenience for you to stop, but it may save the life of that animal.
**eScrip**

**Donations can be made to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary at NO cost to you!**

**John Paul Jones:** The evening of

**It’s easy.** Just sign up for eScrip and the merchants you shop at will make a donation to Ironwood at no cost to you. This service is available all across the country.

**What is eScrip?**

eScrip is a hassle-free way for individuals that support charities to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants.

**How Does it Work?**
eScrip and over 150 merchant partners have created a system that rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to your chosen group. You shop the way you like to shop. It’s simple and convenient, all you need to do is register your grocery club card(s) and your debit/credit card(s).

**Who Has Signed Up?**

Over 6% of our supporters have signed up for eScrip. These supporters average almost $10 per year in donations to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary by way of eScrip. If all of our supporters signed up, we would receive over 15% of our total budget through eScrip.

How about giving it a try? It is simple and easy.

**Simple Registration:**

1) Log on to www.eScrip.com and go to “sign up”.

2) Designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to receive contributions. Our Group ID number is: 150540842

3) Register your grocery club card(s) from participating merchants and your debit/credit card(s).

If you don’t have access to the Internet, please call or write us for an application that you can fill out and send in.

We accept donations with the following credit or debit cards for your convenience.
I would like to extend a warm welcome to all who have joined our family of sponsors from the Annex (the former Pigs-A-Lot). It has been wonderful to see such a great response since the feature of the Annex in our last newsletter.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for your continued support and care for the pigs! From all the pigs and staff here at Ironwood - we thank you!!

— Michelle
Thank you to all of you who donated to the raffle to make it a big success! Please see the raffle winners page for details.

The Open House was a big success again this year and so many folks helped us out. Thanks to Anne, Cerise, Bob, Janet, Faith and her daughter, Terri, Vicki, Holly and Anthony and others for baking, helping with our information tables and sales, petitioning for the Humane Farming Initiative, cleaning and lots and lots of raking. Maura Dobbins came on Friday before the Open House with the Eastside Vet Science group of kids and moms and they went like a tornado through the fields in a few hours. We sure hope they can come back next year!

Avery special thanks goes to Francie and John Harvey who Francie was hostess with the help of Vicki, Anne and others while we took our visitors to see our pigs. It would simply not be possible to do this event without their help.

I would also like to thank all the staff, Michelle, Alex, Grant, Karen, Kristie and Angie and Pamala who came from the Annex, who worked so hard to make our big day a great success.

Donna and Bob can be seen weekly in the fields with the tools of the trade: pooper-scoopers and rakes in hand along with our trusty ATV and wagon donated last summer by John Lilly. Donna also comes back to help us on regular workdays since we have been short on staff. Thanks Donna and no training necessary!

We also have had the help of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on several Saturdays, and Yoga Oasis and the Vegetarian Resource Group of Tucson helped us do our winterizing to keep our piggies warm for the winter. Julia and her mom helped with so many things while working for her Eagle scouts hours. William has been bringing produce to the Annex for many years now, so the Annex pigs get many treats our others don’t get. And thanks to Eleanor who comes out regularly to visit the pigs and never comes empty handed.

Annie Clark from New Mexico and Vicki Oglesbee from Washington State came to visit and volunteer this fall and winter. They were both very helpful. Have you considered a working/volunteering vacation?

Many of you are familiar with Barbara and Anne who write to you regularly to thank you for your much needed and appreciated donations. They are a very essential part of our team and I am so grateful for their help.

And I don’t want to forget Community 301 who spends two days each quarter putting return envelopes into our newsletters.

And last but not least, I would like to thank Albertson on Riggs Road in Chandler for 5 large boxes of pumpkins and Andy’s Pumpkin Patch in Tucson for truck loads of pumpkins for Halloween.

All of these folks, together with our staff and your support, work together to provide our pigs a fine happy home.

---Mary
Welcome Dr. Curtis

We are happy to say that Dr. Maria Curtis who recently opened her own clinic, Eastside Spay and Neuter Pet Clinic at 7036 E. Broadway, is now doing many of our surgeries. Prior to having her own clinic, she worked at the Humane Society and spayed many of our pigs during the time she worked there. However, she has now taken on many of our challenging surgeries and is a welcome addition to the overall care of our pigs.

Since we have such a large number of pigs, many of which are aging and many others who come to us in a severely compromised condition, the burden on the busy practice of Dr. Barbara Page and Dr. Christine Staten was becoming overwhelming.

We would like to extend a welcome to Dr. Curtis and a thank you to Dr. Page and Dr. Staten for helping us with the care of our many pigs. It is a huge challenge and we could not do it without them.

Our sincere thanks to all of our great vets.

--- Mary

Arizonans for Humane Farms

LANDMARK ARIZONA BALLOT MEASURE LAUNCHED TO BAN ABUSIVE FACTORY FARMING PRACTICES

Signature Gatherers URGENTLY Needed

www.yesforhumanefarms.org

A groundbreaking ballot initiative is now underway in Arizona, to outlaw the cruel and intensive confinement of pregnant pigs and veal calves on industrialized factory farms. Volunteers must gather 200,000 signatures to place a measure on the 2006 November ballot. **Your help is needed!** Please call or e-mail today to get your petition to help give these poor animals a chance to live a more humane life. Life in a two foot pen is a horrible example of animal cruelty and should not be tolerated. You can do it!!

www.ironwoodpigsanctuary.org  ironwoodpigs@starband.net
Hey! It’s Still Cold Out There!

We have had a warmer than normal fall and winter here in Arizona, which was nice for the pigs. They still had their Bermuda hay bedding, blankets, carpet doors on their shelters, along with any friends they could snuggle up with. I noticed the other day in our local newspaper that in Tucson the record low for that date was 16 degrees, even though our higher than normal lows were around 42 degrees. So we always need to be prepared for a cold snap. I am also aware that many parts of the country are very cold, much colder than Arizona.

Blankets! Pigs LOVE their blankets! Always make sure your pig has at least one blanket. They will nest and burrow down inside their blanket or just roll themselves up in it completely. We’ve seen pigs carry their blankets out into the sun during the day then drag them back into the shelters at night. So just remember these three things as you winterize your pig’s home: cozy shelter, bedding and blankets.

So don’t forget that it is still cold out there and all your outdoor critters will enjoy a warm, dry shelter this winter.

Our Wish List

THINGS WE CAN ALWAYS USE:

* Water Hoses
* Desitin Creamy Ointment
* Stamps (39 cents)
* Small Wading Pools & Turtle Sandboxes
* Shade Cloth (Black Preferred)
* Many Used Blankets
* Doghouses & Igloo Shelters (Large Preferred)
* Gift Card to Home Depot, Target, Walgreens, Lowes, Wal-Mart
* Vet Wrap

SHELTER MATERIALS:

* 1/2 Inch 5 ply, 4 ft x 8 ft Plywood
* 8 foot 2 x 4’s
* Kool Coat

REALLY BIG TICKET ITEMS:

* Clinic/Recovery Building
* Tractor with Backhoe
* Recent version of QuarkXpress (MAC / PC)
* 5th Wheel, RV or Travel Trailer

OTHER

* Running Vehicles in safe condition that

**Sammy and Annie** are brother and sister. Their original owners were going to kill them, but luckily they were rescued by a young couple. Initially, Annie was separated from the unneutered Sammy and shared a pen with a chicken. The roof was so low that Annie could barely stand up. After Sammy was neutered by Ironwood as part of our outreach program, they were both kept in a small pen. Their only shelter was an enclosed set of steps where each one had to sleep on one step. Luckily the owners released them to us where they now spend their days enjoying their freedom in our Main field.
Open House!

Our fourth annual Open House was a great success. We enjoyed meeting our many supporters and friends and they all enjoyed the great weather and meeting all our pigs. All the pigs that wanted attention, and there are many, received as much as they wanted with pets, belly rubs, and snacks. Our pigs enjoyed the day.

Stephanie and Mia Martinez traveled all the way from Santa Barbara, California, to attend the Open House. It was a two-day trip each way and they tell us that it was worth it. We sure enjoyed meeting them in person for the first time and showing them the sanctuary. They have been great supporters.

We enjoy meeting all of our supporters and friends and we are proud to show them the sanctuary and what we have accomplished since our opening in 2001.

So if you were not able to attend this Open House, just keep in mind our next one, which will be in early November 2006.

How Many Pigs Do We Have?

I am happy to report that, for the first time in our short history, Ironwood has seen the number of pigs drop from our high of 451 to the 429 pigs we have today. We started 2005 with 436 pigs and peaked at 451. Happily, of the 62 pigs that either were released to us, picked up as strays or abandoned, or Eve’s babies who were born on site when she came to us pregnant last summer, 50 of them have found new homes. Unhappily 19 of our dear friends have crossed over. This has been a very difficult year since many of our old-timers who have been with us from the opening of Ironwood have passed on this year. Some others came to us in such debilitated condition that they were with us only long enough to have a safe and humane passing from this life and a place to be respectfully buried.

We continue to struggle with who comes in to Ironwood and who does not. At this time we continue to take strays and abandoned or abused animals, and animals where family illness or death has caused them to be left homeless, but can no longer take a pig whose owner simply does not want it any longer. The calls continue to come and it reminds me once again that the single most important thing that anyone can do to stop this steady stream of homelessness is DON’T BREED. I am happy to report there are very few ads for baby pigs in Tucson and each time we hear of a baby, we try to track the original home down and neuter the male. This is not the case in Phoenix. I have had many calls from people wishing to adopt and when I tell them our adoption policy of doing a yard check and the requirements, I never hear from them again. I often find they have found a baby in the paper when I call them again. Sadly we will get a call to take many of those babies, probably none of which will have been spayed or neutered, and most of which we will not be able to take. We are hopeful that one day or one year there will be no more homeless pigs.

—Mary
RAFFLE WINNERS!!!

Our raffle was a great success! We had many donated items, from a week’s use of a condo at any RCI resort in the world, a weekend at the Thousand Islands area in upstate New York, a handmade pig theme lap quilt, an 18 ct gold chain, a psychic reading, a new HP printer, special pig earrings, and many more special gifts. I hope that everyone had a good time and the winners liked their gifts, and don’t forget - the pigs were the winners. The drawings were done by our Community 301 group. Each client had the opportunity to select a winner.


Special thanks to all those who contributed prizes: Jane Neuman - RCI time share, Jodi Cortez - Sojourn Cottage weekend, Judith Kruger - handmade lap quilt, pig theme, Karen Osterhoudt - complete handmade doll outfit including the doll, Jessica Monroe - set of very nice candle holders and accessories, Sherry Conlee - 2 framed pieces of prose, a jade pig necklace and pig earrings, polished stone pig necklace and earrings and bracelet, assorted polished stones and crystals, Walt Stein - psychic reading, Sharon May - 14 ct gold earrings and necklace, 18 ct gold chair, 14 ct gold baby bracelet, herringbone chain, 16-18 inch chain, earrings, 3 nice watches, 14 ct gold and crystal earrings and necklace, and many other items, Sue Gibbs - nice handmade coral beaded necklace, Sue Sefscik - a nice brooch, Josephine Fleming - a very unique cat brooch and Australian crystal birthstones.
This past Oct 14, 15, and 16th Ben and I attended our 1st Pot Bellied Pig Symposium in Knoxville, TN, which included a tour of Shepherd’s Green Sanctuary near Cooksville, TN, which was a real treat. We were left to dream of what it must be like to have grass and trees for the pigs to frolic in. Pigs As Pets Association, Shepherd’s Green and the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine sponsored the conference.

Many wonderful veterinarians attended and gave lectures. We were able to learn a lot in those few days. One of the lectures was on Health Problems of Geriatric Pet Pigs and I would like to summarize one part of that lecture.

Arthritis is extremely common and likely will become the number one reason to euthanize an otherwise healthy older pig. It is not only the most common reason we have to euthanize pigs here at Ironwood, but also requires a great deal of money for medications, and time and labor administering the medications.

At necropsy one of the vets found 100% of pot bellied pigs over the age of 5 years have had moderate to marked, disseminated degenerative joint disease. Even a normal pig carries a large amount of weight on short, thin legs. Nutrition can play a role, with deficiencies and/or obesity resulting from inappropriate diet.

Insufficient hoof care, previous traumatic injury, or slippery surfaces can exacerbate the problem. Assume arthritis is in the future of any pet pig and keep your pig on the appropriate diet, exercise, weight management, hoof care, and dietary supplements such as glucosamine.

Anti-inflammatories such as Rimadyl, ibuprofen, Etogesic can be helpful, and tramadol may be useful for pain. Glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulfate with MSM are believed to slow the arthritic process and are best utilized at an early age. Some pigs can be managed well for years, but others see little improvement and their quality of life is very poor. At Ironwood we have used some of these drugs, but have not had experience with all of them. We have tried many different products with varying success and continue to experiment with new ones. Just as with people, what works for one pig may not be very useful for another. There is no cure for arthritis. We can only offer support and pain relief for our pigs. We hope that if you have a pig with arthritis, you will seek help for your pig, since many can have more years of a quality life with your support.

---Mary
MISSION STATEMENT

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and 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.

Dear Mary and Ironwood Angels,

Mom said we are celebrating my birthday this coming week because she thinks I was born when I came to them.

She said I need to have pictures taken and I get a special treat. That's okay with me.

Dad and I have worked really hard on building a sprinkler system. I helped with the trench digging and later filled in the trench. Dad said I was a BIG HELP!

Mom went back to work in July for a charter school, so she's only home in the evening for my oatmeal snack. But she and dad bought me a manna ball which keeps me fit.

Mostly, I help dad outside and try not to bite my sister, Rose, inside. Anyway, she's really old and grey so I usually leave her alone. Mom said I'm good that way. Rose stays in her yard on the other side of the house or is sleeping on the bed. She's not a worker like me.

Mom is enclosing some pictures of me now that I'm older. You have a nice Thanksgiving.

Peggy Sue
Return Service Requested

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

JEANNIE & LAVERN