Dear Supporter,

Every year as our Anniversary approaches I take time to reflect on what it means to run a large sanctuary. For seven years now we have rescued many hundreds of pot-bellied pigs with the hope to stem the tide of unwanted pigs here in Arizona. While we have been very successful in providing a good safe home for many hundreds of pigs, I have come to the realization that the tide continues to rise. This year has seen several multiple rescues here at Ironwood, all of which have averted a large number of unwanted babies being born. But for every rescue we are able to do, we know now that there are many more we were not able to do.

Our efforts, with all of your support, have certainly not been in vain. Hundreds of pigs have been rescued and slowly did recover from the depression of losing their family or from abuses instilled on them from abusive, neglectful or uncaring people. They build new lives with us and make new friends, primarily pig friends, and soon we feel they are content and happy with us.

Unlike the first years that we were open when we took every pig in need, now seven years later, we must choose very carefully as the calls continue to come in daily. I never could have anticipated this. In the early years we were hopeful that one day there would not be a need for our services. Now we know that we can only do what is in the limits of our capabilities.

Please know that we will continue to do all that we can do as we enter our eighth year, but please help us do our job by refusing to buy a pig from a breeder or at a feed store or at a county fair where many are now appearing. California, I am told, has made the first progressive move toward banning breeding of animals. Maybe this will open the doors to other states making this ever important progressive step and we will see more hopeful years ahead.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

PS: You may recognize Suzi who is seen on our return envelope when she was a baby. She was back to visit us for two weeks and is doing very well. She came to us on April 25th, 2002. She was adopted in May of 2002 and was the sixth pig to be adopted from our sanctuary. She and her companion, Gretel, had a good time with us this March.
The Joy of sanctuary work is not lived in that brief bittersweet rescue moment but in the years of caring that follows.” Peggy Couey, Shepherd’s Green Sanctuary. This quote is so very true. It is the years of getting to know each one, what they enjoy, where they choose to live in the field and with whom they bond, and yes, finally how their lives will end, hopefully, but not always, with time to experience love and care from those of us whose hands they will pass through. For seven years now we have watched them come to us, often as a single pig who may not have seen another pig his or her whole lifetime since they were an infant piglet. They quickly recognize their own and soon begin conversations with their own species. Others come as pairs or families or even larger groups. As they are released from the holding pens to our large fields they begin to explore their new surroundings and to make new friends after the initial period of fighting and finding their position in the herd. Some pairs and families stick like glue and are rarely seen apart, while others go off to bond with completely different companions, often unlikely pairs, like Jeannie and old Laverne, Claire and Dixie Lee, or Spike and Collie and of course our lifelong friends Loretta and Owen.

Nearly two hundred pigs have been adopted to new homes and eighty-four have passed on to what we hope is a peaceful, better world. Our 2nd adoption was Petunia on 2/21/02 to Nancy and Glen Feuerbacher. She is pictured here six years later happily grazing in her back yard with her bunny friend. What a lucky piggy! Kizzy, now Piglet, with whom many of you are familiar, was the 7th pig to be adopted from our sanctuary. The years have passed quickly and we have seen so many grow up or grow old, not unlike ourselves and our own family and friends. Many caregivers have come and gone, and the world outside of theirs has changed dramatically, but their care has been consistent, and never a morning has been missed when their morning meal did not arrive on time. It is with our sincere gratitude to all of you who support us that we have been able to be a secure, stable force in their lives. For many it has been the entire seven years since we opened and for others who arrived very young it has been the only place that was really ever home.

---Mary
Our beautiful blue-eyed Abner arrived at Ironwood on June 14th, 2002 from the AZ Humane Society in Phoenix, just one year after we opened our doors. He was eight years old at that time so now he is 14 and still doing very well. What a gentle boy he is. Every picture we have of him you can see his hair is way up in the air and he is ready for a belly rub. How anyone could have given this beautiful fellow to the Humane Society is beyond me, but we have been blessed with him all these years.

I would like to remind everyone, particularly our new supporters, to not worry about the cost of our full color newsletter. Because of the number of newsletters we print each quarter, the cost of color is slightly more than black and white and the upgrade in paper did not cost us anything. In addition, the savings in postage due to mailing the newsletter folded more than paid for any cost due to color. We always make sure the maximum amount of your donations goes to take care of the animals.

Newsletters Ink, Murray, UT has made a very generous donation of printing and mailing services for the next 4 issues of our newsletter. The agreement we have with Sophie Hanson, Publisher, is that we will use the savings to build a much needed modest recovery building for our many female pigs needing spays. Newsletters Ink shares their profits with their employees so the donation is something all of their employees have made. If you are able, please thank Sophie and her team by placing your next printing order with them.
Your Support Makes the Difference!

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Ironwood’s Sustainer program will benefit our wonderful pigs by providing a regular monthly income that will go directly to where it is needed most at the Sanctuary.

By joining as a Sanctuary Sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it $5, $10, $25, $100, or any amount you choose, can be charged to your credit or debit card each month. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a year’s supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals.

To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

The costs involved in maintaining a safe and healthy pot-bellied pig Sanctuary are significant. Food and hay, medicines, medical care, supplements for arthritis and other ailments, shelter and fencing, and maintaining living areas are but some of the cost.

Thank You For Caring.

Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetimes, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Bequests can be a percentage of the 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.

We accept donations with the four listed credit cards for your convenience.

www.ironwoodpigs.org  ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
My Favorite Job

Sometimes it seems like yesterday that Ben, Mary and I were just getting the ball rolling to open Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Other times, it seems that we’ve been taking care of pigs for ages. Either way, it has involved a lot of hard work, many heartaches and a large amount of pleasure. I never imagined the extent that these potbellied pigs could reach into my life. What I feel for them is sometimes overwhelming. And now, after seven years, there are so many pigs living here that need our help and attention as well as the continuous influx of more needy pigs. None of this would have been possible without the help of all our sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and adopters.

I was looking back over the records from the first year after opening Ironwood when we began the Sponsor Program as a source to help finance the care of the pigs. It pleased me immensely to see that there are still 20 sponsors that have been with us since the beginning 6-7 years ago! Fourteen of those twenty still sponsor their original pig. Others have changed pigs because of death or adoption. Seven people have added one or more pigs to their sponsorship. We truly appreciate your continued faith and trust in the work we are doing here and welcome others to join you.

I took a little break from running the sponsor program but started back up in late November of 2007. Spending time wandering through the fields taking pictures of the pigs enables me to not only visit and play with my piggy friends but also allows me quality time to notice any possible health issues or differences in behavior. It opens up another avenue of caring for the pigs.

It sounds simple, just walk around and take pictures of pigs. Not always so! Imagine going through the East Field with 55 pigs, all of them black and looking very much like one another, trying to find one in particular. If it’s too warm, they’ll all be in their shelters. If it’s too cold, they’ll all be in their shelters. Do you know where Chester, for example, sleeps? Once you find him, will he even come out so you can take his picture? Or will he look at you like you’re nuts when you ask him to step outside for a photo shoot? Can you find Rosalyn who looks exactly like at least 12 other pigs in her field but has a small knot of scar tissue in her right ear? How many of those look-alikes will let you feel their ears to see if they are Rosalyn?

But then again, many of the pigs are easy. There are those that will come when you call their name. They love the attention and will do whatever is necessary to get it. Pigs like Miss Saigon in our Main Field are very photogenic and always strike the perfect pose (even if I’m trying to take a picture of the pig next to her!). Abner, also in our Main Field, always makes a great shot because of his magnificent mane. Then there are those we call the die-hard eaters. They graze 12

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hours a day, constantly scrounging for scraps of hay, feed or whatever else they imagine might taste good. They seldom look up from their foraging no matter how goofy I talk to them or how many times I snap my fingers or how many times I beg them to glance up for just a second. Georgia’s sponsor must wonder what her face really looks like!

Regardless of the work involved, the sponsor program has always been my favorite job at the sanctuary. I love spending time with the pigs and I love sharing their stories with all of you. Many of you respond with emails, notes and letters of thanks and encouragement. This means a lot to me and to the work we do here at Ironwood. I hope to have a lot more years of sharing letters and photos of the many personable and lovable pigs with those of you that are members of our family of sponsors. Many, many thanks for all of your love and support for the pigs!

---Donna Norton

The Sponsor Program

The sponsor program has grown dramatically over the years and has become an important source of financial support for the sanctuary. As we strive to increase our mailing list through reaching out to new supporters, new sponsors come forth. This is what enables us to continue what we do! It cannot be done without you and we love you for it! Some of you apologize for only being able to sponsor a pig for 3 months or so. Don’t! Everything counts and everything is important to the future of the sanctuary. Your support is invaluable! Recently, a young girl celebrated her 12th birthday by having a pig party to raise money to sponsor a pig named Mexico. In lieu of gifts, she asked that her friends and family give money to help support her pig. That is just one example of the sacrifices our supporters make for the benefit of the pigs here. It is truly amazing and gratifying to hear stories like that.

---Donna Norton

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-682-4686 or e-mail at hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.

Donna trimming Navajo, one of her Pigs.
I am one of two pigs named Pearl that live here at the sanctuary. Get this, I used to live at a rescue shelter for cats! Can you imagine me and tons of cats? It really wasn’t bad, but the owner had to move all the cats and transporting a pig was just too much. What I’m looking for in a sponsor is someone who will be here ALL the time to pet me and feed me grapes. Just kidding, but hey, wouldn’t that be something to write the cats about!

**PEARL**: single black female

Hello, everybody! I’m Angie and I live at the Annex. I am looking for a companion interested in sharing a life with a sweet lovable pig. I enjoy stargazing, eating, naps, eating, mud baths in the summer, eating and sharing long romantic meals at the local feed trough.

**ANGIE**: single gray female

Hey, my name is Reggie and I am just different looking. I get teased by the other pigs who say I have a wattle like a turkey, but Donna says I’m just unique. I’m a very polite guy who is looking for friendship with a sponsor who will walk in the field, sunset strawberry picnics.

**REGGIE**: single black male

These are just a few of the many pigs still needing a sponsor. A monthly contribution of $30 will cover your pig’s expenses including food and health care. As a member of our family, you will receive a history and pictures of your pig as well as periodic updates with new photos.

**PLEASE JOIN OUR FAMILY**

Thank you for all of your support!

**Donna Norton**
SQUIGGY: single black and white male

My name is Squiggy and I’m named for their friend Squiggy, the short guy. Some say we have more in common than just our name, but I’ll let you be the judge of that. Anyway, I am looking for a sponsor. I’m not real picky, just want someone to love me that I can love in return! Anybody interested?

HAWKEYE: single white male

My name is Hawkeye and I live at Ironwood’s Annex. I was abandoned at Animal Control when I was a little baby. I have overcome my issues with that and am ready for that perfect relationship! I am always happy and smiling, so I’m looking for someone with a great sense of humor who just enjoys all that life has to offer.

BALDWIN: divorced black male

My name is Baldwin and I’ve got a history as the wild and adventurous type! I led my mate and 4 children across many dangers in the desert to find haven at a ranch where to my surprise we weren’t welcome! I am wiser and more settled now (most days!), but searching for someone who still enjoys life on the wild side blended with good, steady companionship.

REGGIE: single black and white male

Hey, my name is Reggie. I’m sort of teased by the other pigs for having a wattle like a turkey, but Donna says I’m just unique. I’m a very nice polite guy who is looking for a special friendship with a sponsor. I love quiet walks in the field, sunsets, belly rubs and strawberry picnics.

ZENA: single black and white female

I am the heroine, Zena, Warrior Princess! Okay, so our name is not spelled the same and I don’t have her figure and I can’t carry a sword, but we do both have black hair! Somewhere out there is a future sponsor who dreams of defeating the ruthless and changing the universe for the better. We can make those dreams come true together (or at least here in my corner of the Special Needs Field!).

www.ironwoodpigs.org
Medical Care For Our Pigs

Medical care is one of the most important, time consuming, and expensive parts of our sanctuary business. With the help and instruction from our vets and my many years of working as a medical technologist in hospital laboratories, we are able to handle many of the simple procedures ourselves. Each morning after feeding we do medical rounds which involves two or three staff members for up to an hour or more. It is often very difficult to corner a pig living in a large field for treatment, especially if they are not socialized. We clean wounds from fights, lance, clean and flush abscesses, give shots, collect specimens for cultures, worm and vaccinate, irrigate plugged sinuses, investigate more serious conditions that require a call and often a trip to our vet, among many other small problems. When a pig goes off its feed, that is a sign that something could be seriously wrong. We have to bring the pig into a pen, which usually means getting it into a carrier for transportation, for observation to see if it is urinating, defecating, or straining in any way. We also obtain a temperature before calling our vet.

In addition to the medical rounds, one person spends up to two hours each morning preparing medications for the 80 to 90 pigs that we have on antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, or supplements for infections, arthritis, or other ailments. Also we make up the many special foods we prepare for the older thin pigs that need additional calories to try and maintain their weight and the sick pigs on special diets.

Dr. Page makes monthly visits to the sanctuary at which time she sees a number of pigs in need of more serious medical attention such as sonograms, x-rays, or blood work. Since we have an anesthesia machine she can do minor surgeries on site like freezing or removing very common skin cancers, taking off small tumors, repairing seriously cracked hooves, or other things requiring anesthesia.

In addition, we have to transport many of our pigs to the clinic to be seen by Dr. Staten or Dr. Page either because they are very seriously ill or they need surgery or more sophisticated equipment to make a diagnosis. Pictured here are some of our more serious patients. Arnold was found in shock and nearly dead in a wallow at the Annex. He was throwing up and had severe diarrhea. He had a severe gastroenteritis and/or enterotoxin and with antibiotics and fluids given at the clinic and at our home he soon recovered and continues to do well.

Wilbur, 4, developed a very serious cystitis and later a blocked urethra. A tube cystotomy was performed on him which required major surgery. He had a Foley catheter in for a few days after surgery which allowed him to urinate through a tube in his side. He recovered at our home and we are hopeful his prognosis will be good. Piggy Sue was spayed and she recovered at our home after a large uterine tumor was removed, and Tiffany had a mastectomy to remove a large cancerous tumor and was spayed at the same time, so her recovery was prolonged. Piggy Sue and Tiffany are both totally well now. All of these pigs
required intensive care for a period of time. We are hopeful that we will one day have a temperature-controlled recovery room so our pigs can recover on site.

Considerations for our medical decisions are based on a favorable prognosis, likelihood of a continued good quality of life, sometimes age depending on the condition, and our vets’ professional opinion. We try to do all that we can for our pigs without continuing their suffering when there is no hope of recovery. These decisions are never easy and they are very painful since we often don’t know what is the exact cause of their illness. Do we continue treatment only to find they suffer longer and die of their illness anyway or do we decide to euthanize and occasionally find they had a condition that may have been resolved? Each time, the decision is heart wrenching and each time I wonder if there was something else I could have done differently. But I know that they have had the best possible life with us and their friends and I have to have the courage to let them go when their time has come.

---Mary

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**Spaying Considerations**

The single most important medical thing you can do for your female pig is to have her spayed and at a young age. We have learned over the seven years that we have been a sanctuary that 80 to 85% of unspayed females will develop uterine tumors of some kind that will claim their lives, often years before they would die had they been spayed.

In our early years we felt neutering all the males was sufficient because this stopped all unwanted births, and for several years our vet was mobile only, so our ability to spay other than emergencies was limited. Over the years we have spayed about 150 of our females, many of which have been adopted, but we have many more who are in need of being spayed, both young and old. This is difficult for many reasons including time and staff for transporting, recovery and after care, extreme weather conditions relating to after care, and financial constraints. With all of these considerations, our most pressing need right now is the availability of a veterinarian with the time to spay the large numbers that are in need of surgery. We are trying to work with our Humane Society and our vet to schedule some off-hour surgery time, but we are even considering an appeal to out-of-state veterinary schools for assistance. If any of you have suggestions, we are happy to consider them.

Please check locally in your town or city to see if there is a vet available who is willing and able to spay your new friend before she becomes your new friend, and what the cost may be, which varies dramatically from vet to vet.
Ironwood History

From volunteers to Sanctuary Owners: a Short History

In December of 1998 my husband, Ben, and I saw an article in our local paper by Carla McClain which featured a potbellied pig sanctuary, Pigs*A*Lot, in need of volunteers. That was the beginning of our being hooked on pigs. We became very involved and in the summer of 2000 we realized that the sanctuary was quickly outgrowing the 2 acres that over 200 pigs called home. More calls were coming in every day to take additional pigs and we, along with the owner, were scrambling to accommodate them.

After much discussion Ben and I decided to open a new pot-bellied pig sanctuary. We began a property search and found a parcel in Pinal County. At the same time we spoke with a long-time volunteer, Donna Norton, who had just quit her teaching career of 18 years to look for a job more to her liking. We asked her if she would be willing to be the manager at our new sanctuary in exchange for a place to live. She accepted our offer immediately. We began in earnest to make our plans.

We sold a property we owned in California to help us get started on our new, and what has become a gigantic project. We purchased raw land with no water, power, sewer or facilities of any kind. Ben made a heroic effort to get us up and running. And lo and behold we ended up right in the middle of the hot AZ summer building our sanctuary!!! We had our first pens ready in June of 2001 and took in our first two pigs, Claire and Popeye, on June 11th. We now have 200 pigs with about 90 of them coming from Pigs*A*Lot and another sanctuary in Phoenix [We eventually purchased Pigs*A*Lot and now have 500 pigs-editor]. The others are owner released and from Humane Societies, Animal Control facilities all over AZ, and many stray desert rescues.

This has been a major change in our lives and a decision that was hard to make. We are both retired and are committed to helping animals, but for me it is questionable whether the time, energy, and money needed to build and run a sanctuary is a good trade-off to putting that effort into the bigger picture of helping animals through legislation or other programs. But we have chosen this path because, after working with the pigs for nearly four years now, we have learned to love them too much to abandon their cause. It is my hope that we can stop the suffering of pot-bellied pigs here in AZ, and with continued neutering and education, some day we may eliminate the need for pig sanctuaries. Many of the pigs at Pigs*A*Lot had become my good friends. Their quality of life would be compromised if the owner had to continue to take more and more pigs and yet these new pigs needed a safe place to be also. How could we not make the decision we have made?

Mary Schanz
From Volunteer to President, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

We have come a long way since Mary wrote this article for our first newsletter in September of 2002.

We eventually absorbed the Pigs*A*Lot property and all of their pigs which we now call our Annex along with the pigs from St Matilda’s when they could no longer provide for the 46 pigs in their care.

We have grown rapidly to the 500 pigs we have today with calls coming in every day with requests to take in another pig.
Meet Our Pigs

Patches and Peaches. These two little girls came as two of six from Mayer, AZ. Sandy from the livestock board experienced Mr. Toad’s wild ride to capture these little critters. There were two other girls and two little boys.

The two little black girls got a wonderful new home since they quickly calmed down and were eager for attention. They were all strays and difficult to catch. Patches was found with a harness that was too tight and rubbing her skin raw so she must have had a home at one time. They are both living in our Sunset field now and have plenty of room to scamper around and many new friends to meet.

Wolfgang is a little boar that will soon be neutered. He and his two companions, Lydia and Exene were actually purchased by us to avoid a plan to sell the litters that Lydia and Exene would produce. It was a disaster waiting to happen since the previous owner claimed that the pigs were young and could produce many litters that could be sold, as they had planned to do. They decided they no longer wanted them since they were unable to contain them and the neighbors were already complaining. It took a lot of undercover work and patience on the part of one of our employees to bring these youngsters to a safe place where there would be no breeding or sale of piglets. Once little Wolfgang is neutered he will once again join Lydia and Exene in their field.

As you can see from this picture this little guy is full of himself and ready to do a lot of living. These little boars never slow down.

Luke and Yoda are two exceptions that we made in taking in more pigs because their story was so compelling. We got a call from a man whose stepfather had recently passed away and his mother had tried to commit suicide and had been admitted to a psychiatric hospital. He said he was overwhelmed with the responsibilities of all that was happening in his life and he lived a distance too far from his mother’s home to properly care for the pigs. He admitted he had only been there twice to feed them the previous week. He didn’t even know their names. So after looking at Yoda with his large ears I thought that would be a good name for him and it seemed to follow that our sweet-natured Luke should be the name of his companion. Yoda is quite shy but Luke is very social and sweet. These kinds of situations make us happy to be here for pigs and people alike.
Our Supporters' Page

GARDENER PIG
by
Barbara Bustetter Falk

GARDENER PIG tells the story of a proud and happy pig whose life and happiness revolve around his beautiful garden. Fate takes over, however, when a crowd of over-eager fans accidentally ruin all he has grown. Disheartened, Gardener Pig becomes a recluse, disdaining the company of all pigs. A fierce storm leads him to discover the wonders of friendship. A spring-like color spectrum is used to reflect the changing mood of the story.


Dear Ironwood Pig Sanctuary,

Anabelle has been e-mailing you about sponsoring Mexico the pig. She had a “Pink Pig Party” and raised $250 for Mexico. This event was her 12th b-day and Anabelle decided to give to charity this year instead of receiving b-day gifts.

PS: We told everyone to dress in pink and tan/brown for our party.

www.ironwoodpigs.org

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
Hi There,

I am a spoiled and very loved pot-bellied pig. I am three years old and my Mom and Dad take very good care of me. I am sending you this donation to help my brothers and sisters. Wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for me.

“Shuey”

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.

Our Supporters Write:

Dear Piggies,

We moved and we miss your newsletter! New address enclosed.

Hope all is well. We are busy fighting city hall to amend an ordinance against pigs in the city limits. Voting is the 17th to designate potbellied pigs as household pets. Wish us luck! Of course this made our small town paper. Romeo is still making news! He also attended a ceremony at a local elementary school and did his tricks. I answered lots of pig questions from the kids. His human sister is now 15 months old and loves to play with and antagonize him. He is very patient with her. Happy Holidays - Kit

Dear Ironwood,

I receive more request for donations than I can fulfill. Yours touched my heart. Simple blankets, stamps or gift certificates, things I could do. A reality I could accept, simple giving, simple love. No address labels, tee shirts or tote bags. Not asking for $100, $200 or more.

Honest needs ~ not greed. I am happy to help.

With Compassion -
“Mama”
Linda

Dear Piggies,

Hi There,

I am a spoiled and very loved pot-bellied pig. I am three years old and my Mom and Dad take very good care of me. I am sending you this donation to help my brothers and sisters. Wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for me.

“Shuey”
Annex: Friends Telling Secrets