

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary 34656 E. Crystal Visions Road Marana, AZ 85658

November 1, 2007

Dear Supporter,

I would like to wish you heartfelt warm wishes for the holiday season that is now nearly upon us. During our rough times here at Ironwood I am able to prevail because I am surrounded by our supporters and I draw my strength and ability to sustain from you. For over six years now our sanctuary has grown and we have been able to save so many hundreds of pigs because we have your help and your encouragement. Your donations, notes, letters and pictures are a constant reminder that we don't fight this battle alone here in Arizona but are one part of a web of goodwill and compassion that is nationwide.

There are so many ways in which one can have a positive impact on the world around us. One of our ways has been to give as many pigs as we are able the gift of life. By being one of our supporters you have joined us in this gift. You may not think of it quite like that when you choose to support us. However, if you come to visit our sanctuary and witness all of our pigs in their daily activities and contentedly wagging their little tails, you will know that this is one way you have made a positive impact.

Another important way to make a positive impact on the world is to refrain from breeding your own animal and to adopt, not buy, any animal you may be considering for a companion this holiday. Thank you for your support and thank you for giving the gift of life. There can be no better gift.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

Mary Schang-

President

PS: Have a safe happy holiday season with those you love and we will see you here next year!



Why We Love Our Pigs

am the proud owner of nine pot-bellied pigs. I love my pigs dearly. They are loyal, friendly, sweet and each has its own personality. First came Priscilla Presley at two days of age needing a mom because the rest of her litter had been trampled, drowned or smothered by her real mother. Then a few days later, her half brother Percy arrived with spinal and nerve damage from being stepped on by his mother. I had agreed to foster them and bottle feed them until they were weaned then they would be put up for adoption. They both celebrated their seventh birthday with me this summer. I couldn't help it! I fell in love with them and there was no turning back. When I moved into my new home two years ago, I adopted Navajo, Gorby, Janie, Precious and Tai San from Ironwood. A few months later along came Marilyn from a neighbor who was getting a divorce and was overwhelmed with animals and kids. Then my husband gave me Tinkerbell for our anniversary (also adopted from Ironwood).

I enjoy spending time with my pigs. It is my way of relaxing at the end of the workday. I like to lie down on the ground using Navajo as my pillow, with Tinkerbell snuggled beside me to get a belly rub. As I relax, I'll tell them about my day or talk about how special they are to me. Janie

loves to get beauty treatments and will let me clean her eyes and ears and those cute creases on her forehead. Even the chores of raking, watering and scrubbing their pools is a part of my routine



Donna With Some of Her Animals

that I find comforting. There are always stops in between for belly rubs and petting along with chats about how their day was. I talk to my pigs all the time and they will answer me with soft little grunts and groans. I can unload my worries to them, make up silly songs about them or tell them my deepest thoughts and they will listen intently, adding a few comments here and there. You can't ask for a better listener than a pig! I love to watch them after feeding time while they relax, stretching out for a nap or taking a dip in the pool. I find the sounds of them munching on hay or slurping water very soothing.

My husband, Justin, and I spend our weekends giving hoof and tusk trims to pigs. Sundays are usually reserved for trimming at Ironwood or at the Annex. Saturdays we travel to pig owners' homes.

I asked some of our clients why they got a pig as a pet and what they enjoy about having a pig. Laura and Mark were replacing their daughter's bird and told her she could pick three animals and they would narrow it down to one. She decided on a pig, a snake or a tarantula. Mom was pretty quick in getting it down to a pig! So along came Harry. The family loves him so much that they chose their new home with Harry in mind. It has irrigation in the backyard and lots of grass for him. They find Harry easy to care for and enjoy his personality. Their daughter sits in Harry's pig house and reads books to him.



Mark & Harry

When Pam was deciding on a new pet she did her research and discovered what intelligent animals pigs are and that they are easy to take care of. She and her husband, Alan, have three pigs named Molly, Jason and Cakes. Pam says her pigs are always there for her and never seem to be moody. Jason will perform tricks



Pam & Molly

such as sit, follow, shake and wave. She will hide a treat in her hand and ask the pigs to guess which hand it's in. So far, they've never missed!

Stephanie and her husband had a friend with a pig and decided they wanted one too, so after a trip to Ironwood they came home with Cecil and Peanut. They like how



Peanut

independent the pigs are and find that they are not as needy as dogs. Peanut prefers being alone and spends his time outdoors where Stephanie will talk to him while cleaning his area. He is becoming tamer and will now take treats by hand. Cecil is a baby and spends a lot of his time in the house to bond with Stephanie. She enjoys spending quiet time with him, grooming his eyes and ears

and giving him belly rubs.

Suzi, the proud owner of Napolean and Nestor, has always had a thing for pigs. Her mother remembers her collecting pig items as a child. Her first pig was given to her as a Christmas present from her daughter and the second was adopted from Ironwood as his companion. Suzi says her pigs are always there to greet her each evening when she gets home. She enjoys

walking them on leashes and getting double takes from passersby. Her pigs come indoors and like to lie on the floor with her to watch TV. They make great pillows for Suzi!

Holly had a friend who had rescued Maggie, but he had a Rottweiler dog and things weren't working out with the two of them. Holly did extensive research about pigs before deciding that she would take Maggie in. Later, Holly and her husband, Anthony, were at Ironwood's Open House and ended up adopting Pudgy, Dillon and Ranger. Unable to stop there, they adopted Noah and Raymond during another visit to Last of all came Ironwood. Sylvester, also an Ironwood adoptee. Holly and Anthony find

that their pigs are very easy to care for and love their individual personalities. Each day they provide personal time for each pig along with belly rubs and treats. Anthony enjoys listening to the sounds of the pigs eating. Holly



Holly, Anthony & Their Pigs

finds it interesting how the pigs communicate with one another. It seems as if they are carrying on conversations with the grunts, squeals, etc.

Pigs make very special, unique and loyal pets. Before getting a pig as a pet, do your research. First, find out if pigs are allowed in your neighborhood. Second, visit with pigs either at someone's home or at the sanctuary to make sure that you and pigs are compatible. Then make sure you have everything necessary to make a pig safe and comfortable (Ironwood's staff will be happy to provide information on this). You can look forward to many wonderful years with your pig!

----Donna

Thank You For Your Support!

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Use Your Credit or Debit Card to Make a Monthly Donation

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5,\$10,\$25 or \$100, or any amount you choose, will be 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 animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring.

Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Through Your Estate Plan

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from a number of generous 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. The fair market value of a bequest is deductible in determining a taxable estate for estate tax purposes.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund portfolio, a piece of real estate, 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.

Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the 480 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.

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WASTERCARD

Everyone Wants a Baby

he purpose of this article is to let you know that nearly everyone who calls us to adopt wants a baby. Here are some of those babies that everyone wanted and their stories. It was a close call but these babies all had happy endings.

This is little Tyson and this is his story. On July 2nd Kathy from



Pinal County Animal Control called us and said she had a tiny baby pig who was near death from starvation. He had been abandoned and she needed to bring him to us right away or he would soon be dead. After months of care and love he is now living in his new adoptive home with Susie Q, Poke-Mon and Weda. These four



youngsters have been adopted by one of my previous employees. She came back and worked at Ironwood for several weeks to pay for setting up their new home with her. It took a great deal of work for her and many, many hours of volunteer work from Ironwood staff to provide a great home for these babies. They have the best of both worlds: human care and attention but also each other to play with, fight with, bond with, and keep each other warm on the chilly nights ahead.

On August 15th we got a call from a woman who said she had a baby pig she didn't want. Her cousin had purchased her at a pet store for \$600.00 in July and she no longer wanted her so she passed her on to her cousin. Cute little Susie Q was now in her second home where she was not wanted in her short little life, so Cindy, one of our volunteers, picked her up for us



and brought her to Ironwood. Poke-Mon came to us from the Humane Society of Phoenix on July 25th. The Humane Society

told us a young couple turned him in. The couple said he was a stray and they had taken him in but their landlord said they could not keep him. He was a tiny little boy and very friendly and so full of himself and he still is. He sort of rules the "gang" of four now.



Weda was living with her family in a community governed by a homeowner's association and they were served a notice that they had



until August 2nd to "get rid of" their pig or they would receive large daily fines. After a short trial at a new home where she did not fit in she was delivered to us at Ironwood. She was a cute fat little thing, too fat as a matter of fact. We had her spayed and now she

has a good home with the "gang." Little Tyson just loves her and follows her everywhere.

This little girl was found on the streets of Florence at 2 to 3 days old. Her umbilical cord was still attached. Someone took her to a nearby veterinarian and she in turn contacted Kim, who had recently adopted two of our New Mexico



rescue babies. Kim called us and she delivered this tiny baby to us. Lucky for us Mario and George were able to pick her immediately and used their expertise in fostering tiny babies to save her precious life. She now weighs 13 pounds and will soon be going to her new home and living with her friend Bella, and of course her mom and dad. Thanks so much to Mario and George who fed her every hour on the hour 24/7 until she was old enough and healthy enough to begin feeding her less often so they could finally get a little sleep.

In addition to these tiny babies, 18 others have come to us in the past few months. Some have been adopted, others fostered, and others will live with us here at Ironwood since they were already too old and wild to become good companion animals.

Everybody Wants a Baby

Baby pigs, like most baby animals, are indeed adorable, but there are many pitfalls to owning a baby pig. Unlike cats and dogs, pigs, who are prey animals, are difficult to socialize. They need constant contact with people starting at a young age. Many pigs from breeders have had no socialization and are wild and are difficult to socialize. They are almost never spayed or neutered, which presents another set of problems, particularly for the male. They are often quickly given up because they are not the companion animal people expected them to be.

Here is a list of some of the pitfalls with owning a baby piglet that we have learned from our experience with owning and operating our sanctuary for over six years now:

- 1. Baby pigs are very demanding and require a lot more time and attention than the prospective buyer was aware.
- 2. People purchase a baby as a gift and the person does not want the piglet or is soon bored with it.
- 3. Piglets grow to a size much larger than they were told by the breeder.
- 4. Unneutered males can be incorrigible and they develop a bad odor, and females who are not spayed can be very pesky when in heat.
- 5. A single pig will often become aggressive near the age of 2 or 3 years old, and we often get a call to take pigs at that age.

- 6. Owners whose property is not zoned for pigs and they have to give them up.
- 7. It is very difficult to place a pig in a new good home because of zoning issues and because not many people want pigs, especially adult pigs.
- 8. There are very few veterinarians willing or able to treat pigs.
- 9. Most often people want one piglet not two, and having lived with pigs for over six years now, I know first hand what social animals they are and how strongly they bond with one another.
- 10. Ben and I suffer greatly on a daily basis because we are now receiving far more calls and emails to take a pig than we have the capacity to handle and the fate of these poor animals is often nothing short of hideous. Therefore, I have a very personal reason to want the absolute end to breeding.

When considering a companion animal, think long and hard about what species you adopt, what is its lifespan, can he or she move with you, can you place him or her in a good home should you find yourself in a situation that requires you to rehome him or her? This is the holiday season. Please think about the life of these sensitive animals and what are the long term needs of the animal you are planning to make part of your family. ---Marv



easy for me if I had to move to the big Ironwood sanctuary. I would be scared.

All my friends on these pages and I would love to be sponsored. There are many others not listed here that would like to have a sponsor as well. Many of our friends are sponsored and we wonder why not us?

If you sponsor one of us, you will receive pictures of your selected pig throughout your sponsorship. A contribution of \$30 a month will cover all your pig's expenses including food and health care. Listed are just a few of the pigs needing your help. Choose one of them or send Mary a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and she will send you a picture with background information.

Thank you for making a difference!

---Arnie



Dreams Do Come True

any pigs come to us who will never leave Ironwood because by the time we get them they are special needs pigs, are too obese, have other behavioral problems or are not social enough to adopt and there are few good homes for adult pigs. However, there are those

a home of their own. It is so gratifying when we get pigs into new homes where we feel they will have a good life. Here are a few that recently got adopted. Every good home opens a spot at Ironwood to save another life in need.



Mayballine and Annabelle on Their Arrival From the Livestock Auction

Annabelle and Mayballine are shown here after they just arrived at Ironwood from the livestock auction with their tags still attached. After getting them



who come that really need Mayballine, Jeanie, and Annabelle

settled and on a good diet and spayed we were able to find them a good home in New Mexico.

What a change in their lives! They are such sweet girls and really deserve their new home and lucky for them no more hot AZ summers. Gertie, Jeanie's other pig, and Mayballine are having some issues, but new pigs always take some time to adapt to one another.

Zoey also went to New Mexico where she is living with her new family and her new pig friend



Zoey with Daphne

Hello Mary,

I was just thinking about you on Thursday and I was going to email. Everything is going very well. I am very surprised with how well they have taken to each other!

I was expecting them to fight and the most they have done is poke each other with their noses.

I have been leaving Zoey's pen open for her to have free access of the yard and I have found them on 3 different occasions laying back to back in the sun!!

Zoey is such a sweetheart and I absolutely love her to death....

She seems to be adjusting very well. She even lets me walk up and pet her whenever I want to....

It took her about 3 days to trust me and now she will come up to me when she hears me come out.

I am sorry that you miss her, and now that I know her I can really understand why. She is wonderful and has such a sweet personality.

I am so happy to have her here with us! Thank you so much for bringing her into my life!!

---Angel

Thank You

As always I want to extend a thank you to everyone who continues to make Ironwood the great sanctuary it is by helping us in so many ways. It is the holiday season again and Ben and I and all of our pig family here at Ironwood have so much to be grateful for. Often times when we are grinding through the day-to-day work in the eternal heat and another crisis of some sort has just occurred, I have a hard time remembering what we have really



Sue Scrubbing Pools

been able to do with all of your help. But when I have time to

catch my breath and look around, I know how important your help is. All of your help is welcome: raking, watering, office help, thank you notes, donations of all kinds. sponsorships sustainers. Again I want to thank our staff, who are the backbone who keep the pigs fed, watered and cared for. Ten hours a day in the hot Arizona sun is no easy task. You all become the whole that make it possible for Ironwood to exist. ---Mary

Dreams cont.

Squeaker. Zoey is such a sweet pig and I had grown so attached to her and her soft little grunts I really had a hard time making the decision to let her go, but I knew with everything else I have to attend to, she deserved better. Please see the letter from her new mom, Angel. This letter assured



Joanne With Susie Q and Danny With Poke-Mon

me that I had made the right decision.

Danny and Joanne adopted Tyson, Susie Q, Poke-Mon, and Weda. They have a great home and their pictures and stories have been featured in our article on babies. Our little old Jesse, featured in our last newsletter, was also adopted by Danny and Joanne and she has her own little field next to but separate from the rambunctious "kids," so she can rest in her old age and have company but no competition.

Sometimes dreams do come true.





Meet Our Pigs

n July 29th we got an all too familiar call about an abandoned pig. owner had been evicted and had been gone at least two weeks. The caller was a neighbor and we later received calls from two other neighbors, all of which really cared about this sweet pig and were concerned about his welfare. We felt we could not remove him from the property without the consent of someone, so we notified the Animal Cruelty Task Force. Several days passed, but the neighbors were seeing to Wilbur's needs, and by the second week in August, the owner returned and called to tell us we could take his pig.



So this sweet young boar, now neutered, arrived at Ironwood on August 11th. Wilbur likes to chat so you need to have a couple extra minutes when you pass by him. He also likes to get out of his pen and roam around the property. He was a star on Channel 3 News

Phoenix recently. He would sure like to go home with someone who would not abandon him again.



Peanut is one old girl, as you can see from this picture of her. It is sort of like seeing the picture of a 90- or 100-year old person. She is thin and crippled, but none the less she shows up for breakfast every morning and also for dinner. We are trying hard to put some weight on her but at her age it may not be possible. She is with us because a Livestock Officer from Northern Arizona could not bear to take this poor old girl to the livestock auction. Simply put, he cared about her. She was released to the Bullhead City Animal Control at 17 years of age, and like many Animal Control facilities, they in turn call the livestock board and the pigs are taken to the livestock auction. So on May 10th of this year she arrived at Ironwood in the evening. She was hot and cramped and jumped right into a pool as soon as she was free of the carrier, but she soon recovered and is living comfortably in her own large pen with her own shelter and wallow. I told the Officer that at her advanced age she won't have long with us, but her passing will be a humane one with those who love her.

Stallone is the picture of health and vigor. He and his two lady friends, Winnie and Vivian, also were victims of abandonment and had been picked up by a Livestock Officer in Mayer, Arizona. Unlike Peanut, these are three young healthy pigs who were being bred and their babies were being sold, but when the house went into foreclosure the pigs were left behind. We got the call with a plea to take them and they said the boar would come also if he was not too aggressive. Stallone is not at all aggressive, but he has no socialization, so once he has waited his full quarantine period, he will be released to one of our large fields and will, in time, make friends and find his place in the herd. His days with his lady friends are now behind him.



Open House!

come to the lease Ironwood Pig Sanctuary's fifth Open House on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You won't be disappointed. It is a nice experience seeing our sanctuary and visiting all of the pigs. We didn't have an Open House last year because of time commitments, but we missed meeting all of our supporters and wanted to have one this year. Everyone had a great time during the last Open House touring the facilities, visiting with the pigs and relaxing in the Visitor Center. I think the pigs had the best time of all! They certainly

enjoyed all the company and attention including the petting and belly rubs. Let's make this year's annual Open House an even bigger success! Invite your



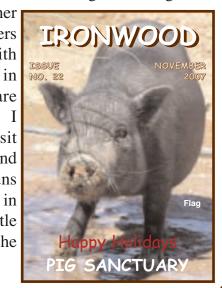
Mary With One of Her Tours

friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to come on out and enjoy a day at the sanctuary. You should have received an invite with a map in the mail. If you didn't please call Ben at 520-631-6015 e-mail Ben ironwoodpigs@starband.net for Mapping programs direction. such as MapQuest are not correct. We will be conducting tours all day so don't miss visiting the pigs. If you were at the last Open House you will be surprised at all of the changes and the increased number of pigs. Ironwood 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 vour calendar and come out for a good time.

COVER

Little Flag was part of the family that we featured in our May issue who were rescued at the livestock auction after having been picked up as strays in Mayer, Arizona. Miss Bliss, our August cover girl is

her mom. She and her mom and dad and sisters are happily living with Donna Scoggin in Maricopa. They are fostered there and I recently went to visit them. She is so cute and plump now and she runs around with her tail up in the air and waves the little white-tipped flag as she goes.



Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Stamps (41, 26, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Home Depot, Lowes, Wal-Mart, Walgreens or Target
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin plus MSM
- * Desitin Cream
- * Children's Chewable Vitamins
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * New, Industrial Water Hoses

Progress at the Annex

s most of you are aware, the Ironwood Pig the Annex and the pigs there have called it home for many years.

Sanctuary has an Annex with about 90 pigs in the Avra Valley near Tucson. This is the sanctuary where Mary and I started with pot-bellied pigs when volunteered there over 8 years ago. At the time, sanctuary had over 200 pigs and calls continued to come in to take more.



Pamala With Her Pigs

Mary and I quickly realized that a new larger sanctuary was needed. Two years later we started Ironwood. In the meantime the original sanctuary went into foreclosure and we purchased the property in the foreclosure sale in order to preserve the home of the 105 pigs that remained. We had taken 75 pigs to Ironwood before the sale in order to help out.

The problem with the Annex that has been discussed in previous articles is that the existing zoning limits the number of pigs to a total of 2! We have about 90 there at this time. Our main sanctuary in Pinal County is zoned for pigs and there is no limit to the number of pigs we can have there. We did not want to move the pigs from the Annex to Ironwood because the infrastructure was in place at

At the end of September the county approved a new ordinance **allowing** for the first time sanctuaries to exist in the county where the number of animals exceeds the existing zoning laws. It has been a long process and a struggle to get this zoning through.

We are not finished yet because the new ordinance requires that a sanctuary obtain a Conditional Use Permit which requires that the sanctuary demonstrate to the Hearing Officer that the number of animals on the property are reasonable. We believe that we can demonstrate that the 90 pigs we have is a reasonable number for the 2-acre Annex.

Our 90 Annex pigs are not at risk because as a last resort we can

move them to Ironwood. We have the space but would have to add fencing, a watering system, shelters, shade and wallow ramadas. Additional employees may be required to take care of these additional numbers at Ironwood.

The first step has been successful. We will keep you informed on our progress.

View the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary From Space!

Google has a great program called Google Earth. This program gives you a satellite view of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and its Annex. Type in the following coordinates for the location.

For Ironwood 32 34 39.5N 111 11 50.5W

For the Annex 32 20 23.5N 111 11 55.5W

If you put in the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary for the location it will give you the incorrect position because the data base all mapping programs use for the area of the sanctuary is incorrect.

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.

Our Supporters Write:

Just a note and check.

I really appreciated the thank you note. My dog (10 years ago) fell in love with a pot bellied pig. The place where I took my dog to be bathed was in the country. She was a big dog and I couldn't lift her into the bath tub. And she didn't like water. She was a stray - so I found this place that bathes dogs. And when my dog met her pot bellied pig - it was love at 1st sight. My dog let the woman bath her as long as she could see the pig. She played with the pig for about an hour and didn;'t want to leave the pig. It was so cute. Animals are so smart and loving.

Sincerely - Emma Thomas



Romeo, 7 Years, & Lanie 9 Weeks



Hi Mary,

I so enjoyed the Ironwood issues. What a wonderful sanctuary.

We kept this pot belly for a summer for a friend. And fell totally in love with her. She loved to go outdoors with me while I worked in our garden. (She was a champion at pruning our rows of lettuce!)

I always placed this turkey roaster nearby for drinking water.

She had a better idea. Keep up the good work. I visit our daughter in Phoenix often, perhaps I'll get to meet you one day.

Sincerely, Judy Koch, Iowa

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NOVEMBER 2007

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