

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

August 1, 2008

Dear Supporter,

As we went to press for our 7th Anniversary May issue we already had rescued the 33 pigs, 11 boars, 20 females, and two babies from Peoria, which is the primary topic of this Issue. The details of this rescue and nearly every pig picture featured, including all new sponsor pigs, are from the Peoria rescue. As you look through the newsletter and look at the innocent faces on these pages I hope you can understand why we had to rescue these pigs even though it has overburdened our resources and consumed our energy.

It was a mere 72 hours from the time we finally got the call that we could take the animals to when we were home at Ironwood with them. Chutes had to be built in order to worm and quickly lutalyze the females, pens had to be readied for the mom who had two remaining babies and the three moms who were about to deliver, one of which had babies only days after arrival. Surgeries had to be scheduled with our vets and grants written by Donna to acquire money to help with all the neuters and spays. A new 1.2 acre field is being readied to soon house all these newcomers. All of this activity is in addition to taking care of the many hundreds of pigs who already call Ironwood home.

This all happened because one well-meaning lady rescued one unneutered male, now know as Tank, and two unspayed females and did not bother to separate them. The resultant 33 pigs should have been a few hundred over the two to three years she had them, but countless numbers of babies died from exposure or predation.

All of that is behind us now. The moms had a safe secure place to raise their babies, the adults and juveniles will soon be reunited in their new large field and the babies who are not adopted will rejoin their moms and extended families in the field. There will be no more generations. Tank's family line is over.

Sincerely,

Mary Scharz

PS Look closely at the innocent faces in this issue. Their lives have been saved and the suffering of countless babies who will now not be conceived and born to die has been avoided because of your belief in us. Thank you for making this possible.

Cindy, Diamond & Shiloh, Three of the Mothers

Peoria Rescue

ou never know what you are going to get into when you answer the sanctuary phone. The following call from a woman who had an injured pig resulted in a major rescue where we took in 31 adults and juveniles and pregnant females and 2 babies resulting in a final total of 45 pigs.



Picture From Our First Visit

November 11, 2007, I received a call from a woman in Peoria, Arizona. She had an injured potbellied pig and was having trouble finding help. She thought that her dog might have bitten the pig because it was dragging a foot. She had the pig safe in an empty water tank. She said that she had called the Humane Society and they wanted \$600 to \$900 to put it down. As we talked about her pig she casually mentioned that she had a lot of pigs, somewhere between 20 and 30! She said that she had rescued a male and two females a while ago and their breeding had resulted in the 20-30 she now had. I asked if the males were separated from the females, she said that she was "getting that taken care of." She agreed with me that many of the females are probably pregnant.

Oh, my god, I thought. We have a serious situation here! I told her that I would talk with Mary and see how we could help out.

Mary and I talked and decided that we needed to move ahead as fast as possible with some sort of rescue. We figured that she had somewhere

between 10 and 15 females and that in a few months her herd could go from the 20-30 to 100-150!!!

Mary and I decided that even with all the pigs we had at the time and no place to put more pigs, we had to do something. I called her back the next day and left a message. I made repeated calls but she did not answer the phone. During this wait I tried to

find her address so that I could go and check things out. I did a reverse search on her phone number to no avail. During her original call she mentioned that she had her horses confiscated due to animal abuse. I checked with animal control agencies in the area and couldn't find anything about



Directing the Pigs From the Temporary Corral Into the Carriers



Danyelle and Matt Taking Pigs to the Truck for Loading

her. I even called an agency in a different area that we had worked with rescuing 12 pigs. I asked if they had some means to find out where she lived so that I could contact her. None of this worked in finding her.

She finally called me back January 30, almost 3 months from the original call. During this call she told me that she was being charged with 28 counts of animal cruelty and neglect. I wanted to see her pigs firsthand and talk to her about the situation. She agreed to allow Bob and I to visit, which we did on February 5th.

When Bob and I arrived we were escorted into their 3/4-acre yard where she kept her pigs. I noticed immediately that there were no shelters or reliable water and little shade. The only water was a mud puddle under an abandoned car from a recent rain. The only shade was either under the two abandoned autos or alongside the storage building, depending on the direction of the sun. With the hot summer coming I was concerned for the safety of all of these pigs.



Matt, Ben & Donna Loading Pigs in Carriers Into the Truck

Since almost 3 months had passed from our original conversation I asked what happened to all the babies that I'm sure were born during this period. She said that yes, there were babies born, but she said that predators had taken them, as she pointed to a hawk sitting on a local telephone pole. She said that hawks, owls, and a coyote that dug a hole under her fence had taken the babies.

We had talked originally about the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary helping her to separate the sexes by bringing hog panel and making two separate pens. We also wanted to



On Our Way to Tucson With Our Precious Cargo

lutalyze the females to avoid any more babies. However, during our visit she mentioned that the prosecuting attorney had offered her a plea bargain. The charges would be dropped if she gave up all of her animals, including her dogs in the house, a parrot, the 31 pigs, and 5 goats. She wanted us to take her pigs if she agreed to take the plea. In the meantime she didn't mind us separating the sexes but didn't want us to lutalyze the females.

Bob took a number of pictures, some of which you see here in this article.



Boys in Their New Home Looking For Food

Mary and I felt that it was critical to the rescue to lutalyze the females. We just couldn't deal with 100-plus babies. The owner felt otherwise and delayed in doing anything for another 2 1/2 months. Finally she called April 12th and said that she wanted to give up the pigs. Three days later we were on our way to Peoria with a caravan of volunteers, staff from Ironwood, a large rental truck and every carrier that we owned. We had originally planned on taking the females first but we had a big enough truck and enough carriers so we decided to take all the pigs.

We arrived about 10am and started building a holding area and a chute so that we could direct each pig into a carrier. There were three babies, one of which was dying when we arrived. We tried to save it, but a few hours later it died. We were well organized and as each pig entered a carrier, we marked the carrier with its sex. We didn't want to mix up any of the sexes because we had separate holding areas at Ironwood for each sex. We now had control of the situation and didn't want to make any mistakes.

We arrived late in the day at Ironwood. The drive from Peoria was about 2 1/2 hours. We had a small field ready for the females inside our 6-acre field. We put the males in a pen that was outside of our main field just in case one of them got out of the pen. We didn't want a boar loose in a field with unspayed females.

We had prepared both fields with plenty of water and shade and plenty of shelters. The 11 males crowded into a 4ft by 8ft shelter that first night. This was the first time that most of them had ever had a shelter. From that day, for the rest of their lives, they will always be fed on a regular basis and never want for water, shade, or a shelter.



Girls Getting a Treat in Their New Temporary Field

We needed to neuter the males as soon as possible because they had a 45-day wait after neutering before they could be with the females. We were able to schedule the two largest males with Dr. Page. Luckily for us Dr. Curtis agreed to neuter the 9 remaining males.

We lutalyze the females except for three that were near delivery. As it turned out, within 2 weeks the three



Some of the Mamas

had delivered a total of 13 babies. We put each mother and their babies in three adjacent pens. We tried putting the mothers together but they would fight with each other among the babies. We were afraid that the babies would get hurt. The first time we put the mothers and all the babies in the exercise yard they had a great time, particularly the babies. When we



Brian Wiring the Fence for the Pig's New Forever Field

brought them all back to their pens we were not sure which baby went with which mother. I think it was Matt who had the great idea of cutting a hole between the pens just large enough for the babies. The idea was to let the babies figure out for themselves who their mother is. It worked just great! From then on the babies were all over the three pens but when it was time to nurse they didn't waste any time getting back to their own mother.

Last year we built a new 6-acre field for future growth. The first section of this field was used for Phase IV of our Assisted Living fields. The next 1-acre section we called our Sunset Field. With the recent addition of 10 pigs, the field is just about full.

For the Peoria pigs and their babies we are preparing the next section of a 1.2-acre field. They will have all the space they need with plenty of shade and wallows and shelters. Since the Peoria herd started with one male and two females they are all related. They will be able to live out their lives as one big family.

In order to help with the cost of spaying the 20 females and the 6 female babies and to neuter the 11 males and the 8 male babies, Donna wrote a number of grants requesting money to pay for the expensive procedures. We were very fortunate in receiving four grants that will cover all the veterinary expenses including all the spaying and neutering. would like to thank the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS). Petsmart Charities, On Shore Foundation, and Petco for their generous grants.



Some of the Papas

The grants will cover the medical costs but your help will provide for the Peoria pigs as they live out their lives all together in one of our new fields. Some of the babies will be adopted to good homes but the majority will spend the balance of their lives with their mother, father, aunts, uncles and siblings.



am sponsored by beautiful pig named Knatahlee Renee and her mom, Carmella. So far, I am the only pig from the Peoria Rescue that has a sponsor. You can join our family of sponsors choosing any of the Peoria pigs featured throughout this newsletter (that includes all pigs except those in "Piggy Pleasures."

Pig Pleasures

fter reading about all of our woes with the Peoria rescue I thought you might enjoy some pleasurable relief. To that end I have included many pictures of pigs around the sanctuary and at Donna Scoggin's, one of our satellites, doing what makes pigs happy.

What do pigs enjoy most? They love their treats and they love eating like our old Blind Arnold eating his watermelon and our new Gertrude feeding in one of the troughs. Nothing feels better baths. than mud wallows. swimming pools and a big snout to root in the mud on these scorching hot days in AZ; like Fatty, Spike, Hamilton, Floyd, and Arnold. Just look at how proud Arnold is with that perfectly muddy nose. Pigs love to root. It is part of their innate behavior and there is nothing like a mud wallow to better satisfy that need.

They really enjoy belly rubs and would love for you to spend all afternoon rubbing their bellies and scratching them behind the ears. Pigs know exactly how to get their blankets and dogie beds just right like Cookie and Old Man Arnold, and they spend a great deal of time rearranging things to get them perfect. No one could have fixed those blankets and dog beds for them the way they did it.

Arnold loves his time in the yard

and pushes the wagons around and jumps on and goes for a ride sometimes. He is into everything and anything he can find on his trips around the yard including paint buckets on occasion, much to our dismay!!

And last but not least, there is nothing like their friends and family. Tyson and Eegee, Tank and his family,

as well as all the pictures of the Peoria pigs and the moms and babies leave no doubt in my mind that companionship is one of the most important things in a piggy's life.

This all sounds familiar, doesn't it? Hmmmmm



Like All the Pigs Floyd Enjoys Sitting in His Pool on a Hot Day



Fatty Meeting Her New Neighbors at Donna Scoggin's



Cookie Loves Her Blankets!



Best Friends Tyson and Eegee Sure Love Their Friendship



Spike Enjoying one of the Many Wallows

Hamilton Loves His

Mud Bath



Emily Enjoys Her Belly Rub From Stefanie



Arnold, AL Field, Loves to Test the Mud With His Snout



Arnold Loves His Wagon Rides



Blind Arnie Enjoying His Watermelon



Old Man Arnold Loves His Blanket! He Covers Himself



Tank & Some of His Sons

Sponso

My name is Neil. I'm the second oldest male in the group and answer only to Tank. The two of us are best buddies. I'm quite curious about people even though I'm not sure about being touched. I'll always come up to check you out but just don't try to pet me. I'll back off every time!

Neil



I'm Gertrude, one of the older females of the group. Most of us ladies are pretty skittish around ladies are



Hey, my name is Tof the smallest out eleven guys from don't let that bother in the middle of evhappening so that I thing!

PLEASE JOIN OUR FAMILY

We are just a few of the pigs rescued from Peoria. We each need a sponsor as do all the others in our group. A \$30 monthly donation will provide for our basic care. In return, you



will receive periodic letters and pictures from Donna to update you on the life of your pig.



Our Sweet Pigs



Simmy. I am one of the bunch of Peoria. But I me! I'm right erything that's don't miss a

My name is Sabra. Tam of younger females in the group. I have not gotten brave enough to let anybody touch me yet but I've been watching everyone and thinking about it. I'm distinguishable because of my fuzzy hairdo, pink nose and white chin. Donna says I'm pretty darn cute!

My name is Tempest. I truly love our new home with all the shade ramadas, pools and mud wallows! A pig can really keep comfortable here despite the desert heat. All my aunts, sisters, cousins and I are enjoying relaxing together near the water.

Tempest



I am the patriarch of the Peoria group. (Yes, that means that I started the whole breeding problem, but hey, I was just being a normal pig, doing what pigs do! Not my fault!) Now things are different. The boys and I are calming down after "the surgery" and soon we'll be joining the female part of the family out in the field and live happily ever after.



Hi, my
name is
Brazil. I
am very
tame and
love to

interact with people. The rest of the pigs think I'm crazy, but I enjoy the attention! I'm easy to find the cause there are only three of us that are white and I'm taller than my friends, Erin and Cindy, who are other moms.

Do Your Homework

any people call us with an interest in adopting The first pig. recommendation we make is to come visit our sanctuary to see how pigs live and what they need and how big a full grown potbellied pig really is. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to do your homework before adopting a pig. Nothing you can read on the Internet will educate you as much as a visit to the sanctuary. People buy pot-bellied pigs all the time from breeders, county fairs, feed stores, pet stores, neighbors, etc., and the people buying these poor animals have no idea what they are getting themselves in for. None of these animals are spayed or neutered and months or sometimes just days or weeks later we get the call to take their pig. This is so very sad.

The two things that we feel are most important when we speak with a person about adopting a pig are: PIGS HAVE TO BE PIGS AND THEY NEED COM-PANIONSHIP. They are not dogs, cats, or little humans. They behavioral have many characteristics that are inherent to them, and to have a happy companion pig these characteristics should be allowed for in their environment and they should not be treated as if they are bad animals when they do destructive things like rooting up your flower bed. This is normal pig behavior.

They have an insatiable curiosity and extensive exploratory behavior. Pigs need an environment that allows pigs to express these behavior traits.

Secondly, pigs are herd animals and they form strong bonds with one another. Over the years we have put a policy in place to no longer adopt out a single pig unless the adoptee has another pig or the pig being adopted is older and has lived alone all of its life and adjusting to a new pig would be difficult. This decision has not



Babee was so aggressive that her family considered euthanizing her but couldn't find an available vet. Instead they gave her to us. Once we put her in a field with other pigs she settled down and is now a very sweet pig. Tucker is her friend.

been made only for the pig but for the family as well. Being herd animals they often become aggressive in an effort to establish dominance over the family. If there is a companion pig, they tend to work these dominance issues out among themselves. We begin to get calls to take pigs



Sprinkles was bought at 6 weeks of age to be a house pig. She was a terror in the house and was kept in the bathroom. At 9 weeks of age the frustrated owner gave her to us. She is now a happy outdoor pig. She loves her wallow as you can see above.

around the age of 2 or 3 because the sweet little baby they once had is now mature and attacking their children, grandchildren or visitors in an effort to establish dominance.

We love all of our pigs and they make wonderful pets for the right families, but don't get a pig on impulse. Remember, there are few if any homes for these animals, so if your impulse pig doesn't work out, you might have difficulty finding a home for your And it is the animal who pig. suffers. Whatever you decide about a companion pig PLEASE DO NOT BUY ONE FROM A BREEDER AND ENABLE THIS WHOLE PROCESS OF HOME-LESS PIGS TO CONTINUE.

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. 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.

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 costs.

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 lifetime, 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.



Babies, Babies, Babies

he last thing we want or need is pigs having babies. There are certainly too many homeless piggies already. Yet, that is what happened exactly Ironwood in April. When we arrived in Peoria for the pig rescue, there were two babies of different ages but both were less than a week old. The owners had no idea which of the females the babies belonged to or what had happened to the rest of the litters.



Bonnie & Baby Virgil

Within a couple of weeks after their arrival here at the Sanctuary, three more females gave birth to their own litters for a total of 19 piglets. Not all of them survived. The moms were not in the best of shape when they got here, plus the fact that they themselves were still so young. We ended up losing five of the babies, but the 14 survivors, including Virgil, are all very healthy and active.

The first reaction upon seeing the babies is "Oh, how cute and what fun to have babies!" Well, they



Mama Cindy

are adorable and they are a lot of fun to watch as they run and play with one another. But when you consider the 540 pigs we already have and those that we continuously get calls about, babies are the last thing we need.

First, we set up four of our holding pens, one for each mom and her children. Each pen was "baby proofed" so the little ones couldn't escape through the



Shiloh & Babies

fencing. Precautions were taken with pools and water bowls to prevent accidental drownings. The mothers had to have extra meals that included fruits and vegetables.

Then, as the babies got older, special feeding areas were built inside each pen so that the piglets could be fed special food that the moms couldn't reach because being pigs, they would just gobble it all up themselves. The babies required a feed that had to be special ordered, as none of the local feed stores carried it. They also needed daily vitamin



Babies in Their Wallow

supplements. "Baby doors" were cut out of the fencing of the four connecting pens so that the babies could mingle and socialize with each other. This was particularly important for the oldest boy who was the only one left of his litter.

Next, when the babies were old enough, they were put out into the exercise yard which had to be "baby proofed" as well so there would be no escapes. This time out in the yard was very beneficial for moms and babies alike. The piglets all ran together as one little herd so the moms were able to take breaks while they took turns baby sitting. The running,

playing in the mud, play fights and squabbles were all important for the babies' physical wellbeing as well as their social



Moms & Babies in the Exercise Yard

growth. Their interactions among their own littermates and those of the other litters helped them to develop into strong pigs who would adjust easily to life in a herd here at the Sanctuary.



Cindy Nursing Her Babies

Another issue to deal with was socializing these babies with people so that they were adoptable and would make good pets. It is very difficult to tame a baby when it is running with a herd of 14 other babies. A lot of effort is involved in spending time individually with each and every baby. It needs to be done every

day, several times a day for the pigs to become tame. One of the staff built a "play pen" where a person could sit with one pig at a time to touch, hold, talk to and get them used to people. Volunteers came and helped with the socializing but it wasn't every day that someone was available.

Not all of these babies are going to get adopted. The ones remaining will stay here at the Sanctuary and join their mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles in a new field we are creating for them. They will have to learn the necessary skills that they need to become a healthy herd member.

Some families will adopt babies that they will love and cherish for many years. But there are still so many pigs living here at Ironwood like Luke, Hamilton, Belle and Fatty that want a home to go to. Life in a herd is not what they are used to and while most pigs that come to the Sanctuary adjust to herd living, some like these four have a very difficult time with it and really need to be adopted.

Please, get involved in your community. If you notice baby pigs being sold in the newspaper, at feed stores, in flea markets, etc., try to find out who is breeding. Educate them to the ever-growing problem of too many pigs. Let them know there are spaying and neutering options available. Tell them about Ironwood and

other sanctuaries that are overloaded with pigs and get these people to realize that they are contributing to the problem. Maybe it's a situation similar to



Alan Socializing One of the Babies

the one in Peoria where your neighbor could be breeding simply because they don't know any better. If a neighbor or friend had intervened sooner, it would not have grown into such a problem. We just ask that you be alert and remember that you can make a difference!

Baby piggies are cute, but enough is enough!!!



Mothers & Babies in the Exercise Yard

THANK YOU ALL

would like to thank all those who quickly rallied in such a very short time to help make the Peoria rescue a success. Volunteers, staff and Ben and I all came together quickly to make it happen and happen without a flaw.

I also want to thank all the staff for their hard work during these very hot weeks and months of summer in Arizona. The summers are brutal at best and when one is outside 8 to 10 hours a day it is really very stressful. We have changed our hours beginning at 5:00am to beat the heat and everyone has been willing to make the change. Thank you all. The pigs are depending on you and so am I.

A special thanks to Stefanie seen giving Emily a belly rub in this newsletter. She has visited and volunteered for two years now from New York City. This is quite a dramatic change from the Big City to the Arizona desert. Thanks for all your hard work, Stefanie.

And finally we would like to thank Newsletters Ink of Murray, Utah for donating the publishing of this issue of our newsletter. Thank you to Sophie Hanson, Publisher, and her great staff.

--- Mary

Web Site: Check out our updated web site at: www.ironwoodpigs.org for all our latest newsletters.

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.



Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Stamps (42, 27, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, or Walgreens
- * Children's Chewable Vitamins
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * New, Industrial Water Hoses
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- * Flax Seed Capsules 1000mg
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM

Sanctuary Visits

We are sorry to say that will not he we conducting tours of the Sanctuary during the summer months. stress of the heat is too much for staff, visitors and piggies alike. We want your visit to be a pleasant experience and for you to actually be able to see and interact with the pigs. Once the summer is over please contact us for reservations.

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 Friends at Ironwood ~ Re the latest newsletter,

- 1) Cover boy Abner is just too cute! His little teeth and stick up mane are enchanting.
- 2) Who could resist Hawkeye, with his perpetual grin and "Yoda" ears? (He even looks sorta like Alan Alda!)
- 3) How funny is baby boar Wolfgang ~ what attitude, doing "show dog" stance and showing his pearly choppers!

The piggies always "make my day"!

Love to everyone ~ Ann Latham



In Memory of Glenda's Penelope

Dear Caretakers of the darling Ironwood Pigs,

I just wanted to complement you on your newsletter, and your 7 years of continued success.

I've spent several years as a Newsletter editor for a small neighborhood association. When we first went to color I was opposed on account of the cost. Well, as you mentioned in yours, the cost was actually negligible. The readers were just crazy about the color, so it all worked out even better than I'd hope.

Yours is looking just great, especially the portraits of the pigs. I always enjoy reading about them -- your newsletter is so positive. I'm so glad you don't emphasize the tragedy or abuse of many of the pigs you rescue.

I wish I could adopt a pig. But for now I can't.

I wish I could contribute more. But for now I can't. What I can do is send some small token of the appreciation and gratitude I feel for the wonderful work you do, and to wish you a future that continues to flourish and prosper for you and the piggies.

All the best, Kathryn Hunley

PERMIT NO. 2216 TUCSON, AZ PAID **JOATSOR SU** NON PROFIT ORG.

800S TSUƏUA





gro. sgiqboownori.www moo.oonsy@sgiqboownori

TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

POST OFFICE BOX 35490

250-631-6015



