

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

February 2017

I hope you are settled into the New Year and doing well. A common resolution many people make is to be a better friend or to make new friends. Friendship is important to pigs too. They are social animals and enjoy the company of other pigs. Sometimes we get siblings or



Sunstar & Antaris

larger family groups released to Ironwood. Many times those family members remain in close relationships like the sisters, Antaris and Sunstar or the brothers, John Wayne and Squealy Dan. Other times they will go their separate ways and form new friendships. That is what Frank did. He came here with two brothers but drifted off on



Ellie & Peaches

his own and met Wilbur. The two boys have been best buddies for over twelve years! Izzy

and Moe are young brothers who are still best friends but have been joined by Mushu who came here alone. The three pigs have grown up together here and love each other very much.

Many pigs come here as an “only child” and must learn how to make friends. For some it is easy like Logan and Chatty Cathy who fell in love almost the moment they met. Polly & Wilbert, Piggy & Ginny and Oompa & Pinky are other examples of lasting love at first sight. Henry Bien was lucky to meet six pigs that have become his family.

They share their homes with one another and love cuddling up for naps in the shade together.



Piggy & Ginny

Sometimes a pig will stay alone for a long time before being emotionally able to make the step toward a relationship. Skittles shares an area with two other pigs but it was a year before he began sleeping with them. Lovesick Louise stalked Rupert from house

to house for months before the loner relented and let her in. Now the two are almost always together! Whether it's one solid pair like

Wrinkles and Mr. Ebony or a group like Patches, Peaches, Stallone, Lydia, Corgi and Moody,



Louise & Rupert

pigs love their friends. Even the independent piggies want time to cuddle and snuggle with others. YOU give us the ability to provide these



Major & Flapjack

pigs a place to call home with the opportunity to meet others of their kind and form lasting, loving relationships. Thank you for sharing your kindness and generosity with the pigs of Ironwood!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Hooray Huratio!

Huratio is one of our Frat Boys, a group of brothers with a genetic weakness in their bones and joints. They live in a small field of their own called the Frat House to prevent other pigs from hurting them. One morning this past fall Huratio was acting strange, slightly disoriented and would not eat. We moved him to a holding pen for observation. Later that day he threw up a massive amount, enough that we knew something was terribly wrong. Huratio was rushed to the vet clinic with the fear that his intestines were blocked or twisted.



Luckily x-rays showed that a blockage was not the cause of Huratio's distress. However, he was severely dehydrated. The plan was to keep him at the clinic overnight to receive IV fluids then get additional x-rays the next morning. Three days later Huratio was still at the clinic. He had not defecated the entire time he was there. The x-rays were still showing clear intestines and he continued to get IV fluids throughout each day. The third



morning he was up, acting happy to see the clinic staff and was actually hungry! Huratio devoured several small meals that day. The vet decided that he needed to get home where he had more space and felt more comfortable. He was given an enema and sent back to the sanctuary late that afternoon.

The first thing Huratio did after getting out of the carrier and going into the holding pen where he would stay during his recovery was to produce a nice pile of stool. Yippee! (We get real excited by pig poop when it's



from someone who has been "backlogged" for days!) The next few days went well for Huratio. He was active, hungry and drinking plenty of water and juice. We still gave him IV fluids to ensure he was staying well hydrated. Once Huratio had several days of normal behavior, a good appetite and was defecating with no problems, we took him back to the Frat House to join his brothers. He has had no further health issues and is doing fantastic these days. Hooray for Huratio!



---Donna

If you would like to help with Huratio's medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his x-rays, medications and 3 day stay at the vet clinic was \$2,235.23. Huratio and everyone here appreciate all your support! Thank you!

The Amazing Amber

If there was ever a pig with a reason to fear dogs and humans, it would be Amber. Yet she is one of the gentlest, happiest, easygoing gals around! In the fall of 2012 Amber arrived at the sanctuary after having been viciously attacked by a dog two weeks prior. Her face, head and ears were a solid mass of scabs and infected wounds. We immediately rushed her to the vet clinic for the first of many visits. Puncture wounds penetrated her



every few days. It was a struggle, but we were determined to give this beautiful four month old baby a chance at life.

Amber made an astounding recovery that took weeks of being uncomfortably handled as we cleaned and medicated her wounds. You would think that

Field along with a herd of 20 pigs. Everyone gets along just great with her and she spends a lot of time hanging out with different groups. One of the latest residents to join the herd has become a very good friend. Amber and Oscar Hoo are now sharing a shelter and forming a close relationship.

There are permanent scars on Amber's face. The damage to her eyes caused bothersome oozing for nearly two years but is no longer an issue. Amber's spirit and friendliness definitely overshadow any disfigurement. To see her today as she interacts with people and other pigs, you would never guess the trauma she endured. Amber is an amazing girl and we all love her dearly.

---Donna

PS: You can read more about Amber's early ordeal on our web site in the newsletters from January, March and July of 2013.



skull, half an ear was missing, the majority of the skin on her snout and face was simply gone and the tear ducts in her eyes were damaged. She became known as the "mummy pig," spending weeks in bandages that had to be changed while under anesthesia



would turn her against us but not our Amber! More than four years later Amber is a total sweetheart. She loves people and never turns down a good petting session or belly rub. There is never any hesitation even if approached by a complete stranger. Amber is always happy to meet new people.

Amber lives in our Northeast



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UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Shiloh, Bertha & Erin