

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

April 2020

Your financial support and material donations are what enable the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to provide a permanent home and proper care to 600+ needy pigs. The monetary donations branch out in many directions to cover various areas. Prescription medications for arthritis, infections and other ailments are a constant need. The daily meds are tucked into peanut butter sandwiches or, for the picky few, fig



newtons or cereal bars. Weekly we go through 100-110 loaves of bread to accommodate this need. Your donations cover that. Special meals are provided to pigs with suppressed appetites or those needing to gain weight. We add cottage cheese, yogurt, scrambled eggs or cream cheese to many meals. Your support of cash or gift cards allows us to purchase those items. An annual grant from the AHIMSA Foundation covers 3 months worth of the grain that makes up the bulk of the pigs' diet, but we depend on your donations to cover the other 9 months as well as the alfalfa hay that supplements their meals with roughage.

Feeding and medicating the pigs is only a portion of what your support does. We have been lucky to have vehicles donated to the sanctuary, but those ATVs, vans and trucks require insurance, gas and regular maintenance to keep on running. The ATVs carry grain and hay to the many feed stations in the fields, haul supplies out for building or repairs and even move pigs in carriers from one area to another as



needed. The two vans transport pigs back and forth to the vet or from places they are being



released from to come to Ironwood. The two trucks pick up building supplies, produce, blankets and other items. They also take loads of refuse to the local dump. None of the above can be handled without your generosity.

The pigs at Ironwood are blessed to have comfortable shelters to protect them from the weather and provide



a place where they can relax and feel safe. Because of you, we can build those houses as well as keep the pigs enclosed inside secure fencing where they are safe from predators. Having 600+ pigs means lots of water bowls and wading pools as well as the pipes, hose bibs and hoses to get that water to them. You make that happen. I could go on and on with details of how your generosity works in keeping the sanctuary running. Please know that we appreciate the love and kindness that you show to the pigs through the blessings of your donations.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator

City Pigs

A lot of Ironwood's pigs arrive with names given to them by their previous owners. Those coming in as strays are opportunities for staff to name pigs after family members or friends. Some are favorite snacks, cartoon characters, musicians, actors or characters from books. Last year a few incoming pigs ended up named after cities or towns. The first of these was a young boy



Benson

who had been called PigPig by his family who was moving across the country. He came from Benson, AZ. We felt he deserved something more unique than PigPig and thought Benson would be a great name. It fits this cutie very well.

A few days later along came a stray, a young adult male found wandering through the town of Douglas, AZ. He and his female companion had been picked up and held at the county animal shelter for several months before coming here after surprising the staff at the shelter



Douglas

with a litter of babies. Douglas seemed an appropriate name for this handsome young father.

Closer to home a trio of pigs had apparently been dumped in a rural area near Red Rock, AZ where they were seen by a former employee passing by. Repeated attempts to rescue the pigs resulted in the capture of two later dubbed Aspen and Durango. Sadly, the youngster we called Denver disappeared. The spot where they were sighted was near a permanent water supply with



Aspen

Durango

vegetation so thick it was difficult to track them. We felt bad about eventually giving up on Denver, but at least Aspen and Durango are safe.

The last of the city pigs was another young boy that had been appearing in a neighborhood in Duncan, AZ off and on for weeks. People would feed him, but he was a wanderer and kept on the move. At some point he had been attacked by dogs or coyotes and has a large scar on his right shoulder. One lady finally lured him into her yard but found that no one was willing to keep "Wilbur" as they all called him.

Knowing he needed to be in a safe, secure place, Ironwood was asked to take him in. Not



Duncan

really wanting yet another "Wilbur" on the records, we took to calling him Duncan.

Because of your generosity, we were able to take these piggies in, get them spayed or neutered, give them medical care as needed and provide a place where they can safely live out the rest of their lives. Thank you for caring and for helping us to carry out the mission of protecting these wonderful pigs.

—Donna

K.B.

K.B. arrived in August 2019. His owners loved him and took good care of him. The problem was the neighbor's dogs jumping the fence and attacking the poor guy. One vicious attack had K.B. losing both ears with deep lacerations across his face. He was taken to a vet but at that point the owners knew they could not keep him safe. They took him to their son's house but later decided he was not receiving proper care there. That is when Ironwood



would allow fluid drainage and prevent buildup problems. Dr. Staten also cleaned small abscesses that had formed on the right side of K.B.'s face. She said those were not related to his ear but were from the other bite wounds. His face had been severely traumatized during the dog attack and may continue to have issues for months. K.B. returned to the clinic later to have the cannula removed. The vet was pleased with the results. Time will tell if the opening remains clear or if scar tissue will form to close it



corner of that eye. His second trip to the clinic included x-rays which showed no fluid buildup. The lump was aspirated and found to be nothing but fatty tissue, so no worries there. The vets had so far had no luck finding a surgeon who had "built" an ear canal on a pig, so they began to toss around ideas of their own.

stepped in. K.B.'s wounds were still rather fresh, so he was taken to our vet for an evaluation. The lacerations were healing well. The right ear canal was completely closed while the left had a small opening that needed debris flushed from it. We continued to medicate the remaining scabs. The worry was that the right ear canal may hold fluid and become infected over time. Research began on how to create an opening for drainage.

In October K.B. developed a lump above his right eye while a frothy fluid began to form in the

An experimental plan was developed for K.B.'s surgery and off he went to the clinic with prayers and crossed fingers. On January 8, 2020 the vet inserted a cannula and stitched it down in hopes that an opening would remain after it was removed. This



Surgery Jan 2020



Feb 2020

again. He has been responding to sounds since his surgery. Regaining at least partial hearing is an interesting effect that was not expected. We are rooting for continued progress for K.B.

—Donna

If you like to help with K.B.'s medical bills, please allocate your donation in his name. His four visits to the veterinary clinic came to \$1,936.16. K.B. appreciates your support!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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NEWSLETTER UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



James Giving Meds in Main Field