

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2018

Dear Supporter,

Last night and today it rained. It rained all night and most of the day. The pigs will be happy tomorrow when they emerge from their shelters and have wet dirt to root in. With their rubbery snouts they will dig big holes that they can nap in later in the sun. For now they are tucked in their shelters, most with another pig or pigs to help keep them warm and with the many blankets that you

have provided. Tomorrow we will hang wet blankets and replace them with the many extra dry blankets we have. These are some of the real tangible things that happen here because we have your support. The blankets are one part of hundreds of other things that have to happen each day of each month of each year to make the wheels turn to keep the sanctuary working and the pigs safe and happy.

We do the work, which is daunting indeed, but you provide the means to do the work. The donations of money, sponsors, sustainers, boxes, supplies, bequests and grants all provide the means for us to care for the pigs whose lives you touch.

The requests to take more pigs has exploded, our outreach program has grown, and our efforts to keep the pigs safe in this ever more hostile climate is becoming more of a constant concern. The rain I spoke of today is only the second appreciable rain all winter during the hottest winter I can remember. We are apprehensive about what is ahead and often talk about moving the sanctuary to a less hostile environment. But that would take a herculean effort and neither time nor resources could make it possible.

The fact that you provide the means, in all different forms, for us to continue to provide for the pigs we have here and for the next ones who will come through our gates gives us the courage to move ahead in these hard times so that more heartwarming stories can be told like many of the ones in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

President and CoFounder

Mary Scham



PS: Tonight as I was finishing this letter to you a very pregnant little stray girl found walking along the road in Tolleson, AZ, came through the gates of Ironwood to a home where she and her babies can be safe and warm. Thanks to those who rescued her, those who transported her and again to you who allowed us to answer yes to this urgent call for help.

PPS: Just over 24 hours after her arrival Crystal gave birth to six beautiful babies. How lucky was she?!

The Main Move

any of the pet pig owners that want or need to release their pigs to the sanctuary have the misconception that their pig is going to prance right up to the other pigs, immediately become best friends with all they meet and start living a fantastic life within a large herd. That happy ending does come...but it comes about gradually and it doesn't come easily or without pain in some cases. In February's Ironwood Update you read about five elderly male pigs that were moved out of the Main Field into a



smaller field for their safety in preparation for the introduction of fifteen new pigs into the Main herd. These new pigs had already spent some time living in the individual holding pens for evaluation, getting spayed or neutered, and taking care of any other medical issues. They were determined through observation to be emotionally and physically fit enough to join a large herd as well as of similar personalities that would blend with the pigs already established in the field.

In early January Shakira, Pedro, Miguel, She-ra, Shelley, Miley, Patti, Lucinda, Johnny Rocket,



Latoya, Quincy, Billy, Cookie, Kevin and Matilda followed a trail of animal crackers dribbled along the path by staff members leading from the holding pens, down the hallway then through the gate to the Main Field. And then the fun began....

Pigs are social animals that live in herds naturally. When "strangers" are put together in the different fields at the sanctuary, they will choose their territories and their friends. Each herd has a hierarchy with a pecking order set in place with group leaders within each of the various territories. Main Field

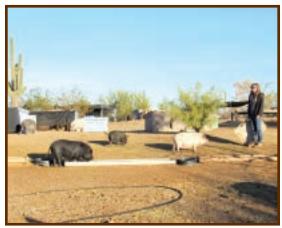


had 25 pigs happily living together, having chosen their favorite areas and favorite pals. In one fell swoop 15 pigs were thrown into the mix, each needing to choose a shelter, decide which troughs they wanted to eat from and pick an area to hang out in. All of that involves stepping into established territories already belonging to someone. ensues are fights to determine who is going to be the submissive one, who is going to defend their house, who is going to be offended by a stranger eating beside them, etc. etc.

Pigs fight. It's just what they do and how they determine their



hierarchy. The job of Ironwood's staff and volunteers is to monitor the interactions between the new and the established pigs then break up fights that get out of hand. The pigs do a lot of posturing and challenging one another by chomping their teeth and strutting sideways with their manes raised up. This needs to occur or the pigs will never get it out of their system or figure out their pecking order. The fine line



is deciding when it has gone far enough and to step in with one of the "pig boards" to separate the two before someone gets hurt. Breaking up a pig fight is not always easy when the pigs are large or if they're throwing themselves completely into it.

During the first day with the new pigs in Main Field there was a lot of pushing, shoving, chomping and biting. The new pigs were followed around by staff as they explored the area to ensure they would not get hurt as well as making sure they found water sources and shade. It didn't take long to decide that Patti was not going to do well there. She is an active but overweight gal and she



the point of heavy breathing and frequent stops. Before the afternoon was over Patti was on her way back to the

holding pens to await an introduction to a smaller field/herd that would be more suitable for her. Not too far behind her was Quincy, not

quite as overweight as Patti but suffering from the same exhaustion issues. The girls were

doing fine after getting back "home" to their pen and getting some rest that afternoon. The large Main Field was simply out of their league. The second day



Oolong and Pablo were brought out to replace those two girls so that there are still 40 pigs in the Main herd

Meal time is always the most stressful time when introducing new pigs into a herd. Everyone is hungry, anxious and sometimes grumpy. Patience when food is on the mind is not a common virtue of pigs! Plus the new pigs have to learn the routine of passing out the medications, getting the pigs in pens that have special meals then the others being fed in troughs. There are staff members with their pig boards ready and on



the alert. This goes on for weeks with a group of this size. The pigs will eventually settle down for naps by early afternoon but for several weeks people have to be

out there monitoring for hours and hours every day. In a field as big as Main with 40 pigs wandering about, sometimes that monitoring involves sprinting across the field with a board to break up a fight then running back to where you had been because another couple of pigs have gotten into it. It can get nerve wracking at times....for

people and pigs! During meals, not only are we watching for fights but we have to make sure that the new pigs are eating. They are all used to being fed individually in bowls in the holding pens but now they need to grasp the concept of eating from a trough with others. There are troughs scattered throughout the field and the pigs have the freedom to run from trough to trough. For most it's an easy transition because they love to

eat, but a few have difficulty with the close proximity of others while they eat. We have bowls scattered around the field too so if necessary, we'll grab a bowl and help those who are confused or nervous at the troughs.



The pigs know where their sensitive spots are and what is going to hurt the most. The most common injuries that occur are bite wounds on the ears. The pigs



are strong so when they grab an ear, hold on and shake a lot of damage can be done. This is one reason why we always have Neosporin on our Wish List! While the pigs are eating their breakfast we can dart around rubbing antibiotic ointment onto wounds while they are distracted. Several of the 15 pigs joining the

Main herd are young and made the transition into herd life without much fuss. The older ones like Lucinda, Kevin, Pablo and Billy had more issues with the established pigs. Lucinda didn't really like being out there and spent the first few days pacing by the gate. An igloo was moved near the gate and she began using that as her shelter. Once she realized pacing was not going to get her out of there, Lucinda began wandering further into the field and interacting with the other pigs more. That of course led to more scuffles but fortunately none of her battle wounds were serious.

Billy worked hard to hold the record for getting into the most fights. He is such a sweet, sweet boy and loves getting attention from people. He also loves his companion, Cookie that he came to Ironwood with, but he sure had trouble learning to get along with other pigs. He eventually calmed down but for a while the radio call "Do you see Billy?" was frequently heard as the monitors tried to keep track of him and keep him out of trouble. Kevin, another super sweet piggy who came here from a single pig home, had difficulties too. His problem was being the one who got picked on. Having grown up alone he had no idea how to interact with other pigs. The pigs pick up on things like that and will take advantage. Kevin has learned to stay on the fringes of activity and stay out of target range.

Since Pablo and Oolong came out to the field a day later than the others. Pablo felt he had some catching up to do. He got into quite a few rumbles his first few days with the herd. Everyone gradually found their places in the pecking order. The new pigs claimed shelters after trying out various spots. They have pretty much decided on which parts of the field they prefer and chosen spots they're comfortable hanging out in. The 25 pigs who were already living in the Main Field have reluctantly decided the intruders are there to stay and are settling back into their routines.



It is very seldom an easy task to introduce new pigs into an existing herd. It can be accomplished with time and patience, though. The Main Field is now home to a herd of 40 pigs who will eventually learn to like one another or at least be able to tolerate each other and live together peacefully. Even Billy has made new friends! He was seen lying quietly on his side while Pamela gently nuzzled and nudged him. Another transition has been achieved. Get ready North Field herd....you're next on the list!

---Donna

A Very Touching Bond

lironwood gets in many pigs whose stories tug at our hearts. Chubby, who came to us from Tuba City, AZ, could barely stand up let alone walk.



He was very malnourished and beat up by dogs as he tried to steal food wherever he could. Miles was found on Park Link Rd at mile post ten and reported to us by



some people who saw him running on the road. We built a pen to catch him. He was so dehydrated he could not keep water down and had hundreds of cactus thorns in him that we had to slowly pull out. Dory was found under a bush in a wash and given to us by Pima Animal Care Center with a broken jaw. They all are so worthy and their happy endings give us the strength and



resolve to carry on. There are hundreds of stories like these for all rescues but occasionally there is one that just grabs everyone. Skeeter and Prince Albert is one such story.

On Sunday January 28th we got a call from the Humane Society in Phoenix. A baby pig had been brought to them who was found running loose on a baseball field. Their vet examined her since she did appear to have been attacked by something. Finding that her wounds were not serious they asked if we could pick her up because they were unable to keep her. Taryn posted the need to transport her to Ironwood that day on Facebook and within a very short time one of our supporters, Anne from Maricopa, AZ, offered



to pick her up and bring her to us. The baby was such a tiny thing, not more than 8 weeks old for sure. She was scratched up but had no serious wounds. We kept her in the house that first night. She was named Skeeter after one of the girl baseball players in the movie *A League of Their Own*.

The next morning Taryn put Skeeter out behind our Visitor Center. Prince Albert had recently been moved to this location which is reserved for elderly pigs. He certainly qualified since he arrived in 2004 as an adult and is around 17-18 years old. It was time for him to move where he will have more



attention. He was going to be company for Annie D. who recently lost her last companion, but they have not yet been introduced.

Skeeter immediately spotted Prince Albert and ran up to him. He tried to get away from her but she was not having it. He went to his shelter and she followed. Taryn said Skeeter had been in



there with him for several hours so we decided to leave her there that night. I checked on Skeeter later and found her on one side of



the shelter and Prince Albert on the other, but she held her own. Then things began to change. She was next to him and crawling over him and trying to nurse on him.

One of the staff picked her up one cold morning to bring her in the house for warmth. Prince Albert



got upset and ran, arthritis notwithstanding, to protect her. That settled it. Grandad was going to protect his baby so we left her there. When we go out to pet Skeeter, Prince Albert is always nearby grunting to let us know she is now under his supervision. After all, one of us humans had already failed to keep her safe. While he once spent most of his day in his shelter like most pigs his age do, he is now up keeping a close eye on her or inside making little grunts to assure her he is on watch. This match is adorable and all who come to visit want to see these

two. Prince Albert is a shy boy and never has wanted much attention from humans, so he stands on the sidelines while Skeeter runs up to greet all who go back to see them. He is watching to be sure his little girl is not harmed or taken from him.

All who see them are delighted. While part of our mission is not entertainment, Skeeter enjoys the socialization from all who come to visit her and Prince Albert now has a new lease on life and a



reason to get up and about. This match is truly a heart grabber and reinforces the need for pigs and all animals to have companions, even when the bond is between the very old and the very young.

---Mary



2018 CALENDAR SALE

We still have a few of the 2018 Ironwood calendars left. You can order one today for \$8 which includes shipping. Don't miss out on these cute pig pictures!!

Sponsor



My owner was making me have babies and trying to sell them but the dogs killed a lot of them.

Then he had to move and Billy and I got to come here. Whew!



My owners had to move into a rental house and the landlord said no pigs plus the neighborhood wasn't zoned for pigs. I think that's just rude! I'm a nice, quiet boy.

My owner was even house and could refriend Cookie with a lot safer here an were some mean of neighborhood.

Billy

These piggies are just a few of the many who still need a sponsor. Please help them feel welcome at Ironwood by supporting them with a monthly



donation of \$30. In return you'll get a letter and pictures about your pig then an update later in the year to let you know how he or she is doing. It's an easy way to be a "piggy parent" without worrying about zoning issues!

---Donna



I've had a crazy life around to different p evicted from their h guy just turned me a loose to fend for our

Special Pig!



s evicted from his ld not take me or my with him. We are anyway. There an dogs in the



I had been passed around to 3 different homes before coming here. The last place was not zoned for pigs and there were big dogs there. Certainly not the place for me!



My parents loved me, but when their daughter got real sick they had to go up north to be with her. They were going to be gone for a really long time so I came here.



life! I was passed nt people who all got r homes. The last ne and my family ourselves. Yikes!



I came here with Lucinda and Latoya. We got lucky that the people found us before the coyotes did. My dad and brother were never found.



I've lived in different homes with different owners. I kept getting pregnant and having litters. Then I got turned loose with my babies. What a nightmare!

West Field

hen we began to create areas for pigs with varied needs and

subdivide the original six acres that had been fenced in for the pigs, the opposite sides of that big field were made into mid-sized homes for specific groups. Today you will visit one of those called the West Field. In the early days of Ironwood we were helping an overcrowded pig sanctuary that had no room for expansion by bringing many

of the pigs here. A group of seven had not been faring well over there due to too much competition and all were much too thin. They were moved into West Field by themselves to give them a chance to gain some weight as well as confidence. Daley, Wilma, Tammy and the rest of the gang loved their new home and soon began gaining weight strength. It wasn't long before all of them were looking healthy and happy.



Another small pig sanctuary in Apache Junction, AZ was downsizing due to a lack of funding and volunteers.

Ironwood took in 19 of those pigs and moved them into the West Field to join the original 7. As the



months went by it was apparent that everyone was handling the increased population just fine. In June of 2002 a group of 7 boys showed up from a rescue operation in Florida following a horrible abuse situation. Those males, named for the 7 Dwarfs were the last to join that herd for quite a while. We wanted to make sure that the original 7 "skinny pigs" were able to handle the competition and not revert back to letting themselves get shoved away from the food. Their time alone in the West Field had proved to strengthen their attitude and confidence so that they were able to hold their ground with pigs joining the herd. From the three groups of pigs coming together to create the first West herd, only Sasha and Josh remain after all these many years. Both are very old now, in their upper teens and are arthritic. Because they move slower now and can't handle the inclines within the field, they are living in a corner of the West Field that was fenced in to provide a safe living area for the elderly in that herd. There is

plenty of space for them with a flat surface that makes it easier for Josh and Sasha to get around. A cute younger boy named Pumba lives with them. He was picked on a lot by the other pigs in West Field and ended up with injuries that made it unsafe for him to return to the group. The three pigs are happy within their area and can still visit through the fencing with other members of the

The rest of the West Field herd consists of 11 pigs that arrived singly or in pairs from either private homes or were picked up as strays. Carl and Zoe sort of share the alpha position. Both have strong, assertive personalities yet get along great with one another. On the opposite

herd.



end of the spectrum are Jezebel, Miki, Lucy and Napoleon. They each have a calm personality and remain on the outskirts of the main hub of the herd. Half of the



herd hangs out together during their relaxation time. They have a community shelter that they share



which is next to a group of trees that make a great shady spot for naps on hot days. The other half has divided up into pairs that enjoy being together. Lucy and Napoleon are good friends now. Miki is very independent and is perfectly happy being on her own, but Jack fell in love with her and follows her around. When she is being too aloof, he'll go spend some time with Chico.

Most of the herd is fed individually in pens for different reasons. Chico is the type that loses his head at mealtime and needs to be locked in his pen to keep him from hurting anyone (including the person trying to feed them). Carl is big and pushy, so he is fed in a pen to prevent him from getting everyone's share

of the food. Betty is older and needs a mash, Miki eats very slowly and needs extra time, Scarlet is too chunky and is trying to lose weight and the list goes on. We do our best to attend to the individual needs of the pigs and ensure that each is fed properly and has the opportunity to eat their fair share. After the pigs have finished their grain, all are let out of their feeding pens and meander through the field grazing on alfalfa hay that is spread around. Once their bellies are full

it's off to their second favorite activity of the day....naptime! Morning naps are usually enjoyed out in the warmth of the sun. When the temperatures begin to rise, the pigs will slip off into the

shade of the trees or under ramadas that have been built in

various spots around the field. Eventually everyone will end up in their houses by the time late afternoon rolls around.

As in all of Ironwood's fields, there are shelters are various sizes so that the pigs have choices to

accommodate individuals, pairs and large or small groups. Many pigs are very territorial about their housing and will stay in the same shelter for years on end. Others switch around with changes in the weather. It gets rather uncomfortable for 5 pigs to squeeze into a shelter when it's 112 degrees outside. Pigs put off a lot of body heat so while that

arrangement is perfect for the winter nights nobody wants that during the height of summer. There are always more shelters available than the number of pigs require so that they have choices if changes need to be made. Just like people, piggy friends will sometimes have disagreements and not want to sleep together for a bit, so an empty shelter is nice to have as an option.

The West Field has plenty of space for the herd to grow but there are some strong personalities for present newcomers to face. Scarlet, Zoe and Pepper can stir up trouble even amongst the ones they've been living with for a few years. New additions to the herd will need to be tough pigs that can deal with the challenges of joining the present group. The majority of the time the herd members get



along just fine and cohabitate without problems. It is a peaceful sight to see them in the late morning when everyone has a full belly and they're happy and relaxed, hanging out with their friends for a nice long nap. Thanks to your support, Zoe, Chico, Betty, Carl and all their buddies will continue to have a place to call home.

---Donna

Donor Directed or Advised Funds

Because of the change in the tax code for 2018 many supporters who previously itemized their deductions are finding that the doubling of the standard deduction has eliminated their need for itemizing. The good news is that they may receive a larger deduction compared to when they itemized their deductions in previous years. The bad news is that some or all of their charitable donations are now not tax deductible since their larger standard deduction exceeds what they normally donated to their favorite charities.

A donor directed or advised funds may help them to obtain some or all of their deductions for charity. How it works is that they make a donation which represents their charitable donations over a multiple number of years to a non profit organization that manages such funds. Since they will be transferring multiple years worth of donations at one time they will receive a tax deduction in the year of the donation provided that the deduction exceeds their standard deduction for that year. They can now direct what organizations they want donations made to for the next few years using the donated funds that they initially deposited.

A donor directed or advised fund, is a philanthropic vehicle handled by a public charity. It allows donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax benefit and then recommend grants from the fund over time. An easy way to think about a donor-advised fund is like a charitable savings account: a donor contributes to the fund as frequently as they like and then recommends grants to their favorite charities when they are ready.

This may not be for everyone. Please consult your tax advisor on how a donor advised fund might help you with your charitable donations. The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary DOES NOT manage such funds.

Required IRA Minimum Distribution

required minimum distribution is the minimum amount one must withdraw from their account each year. They generally have to start taking withdrawals from their IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account when they reach age 70½. Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner. If they have appreciated stock in their IRA or other account they can have their account manager transfer stocks to Ironwood which means that they will not have to pay taxes on the gain in value and will receive a tax deduction for its current market value. Plus they will meet their yearly requirement for a minimum distribution. The transfer of stock must be made by the broker. The distribution can be made to more than one organization. Please refer to your tax adviser for details on how this might help your taxes.



ur winter has been mild but the pigs still love snuggling in their blankets especially during the cool The need for comforters and blankets is an ongoing need, so please keep collecting them! There are two locations where you may drop off blankets and other material donations (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

In the Phoenix area, please drop off donations at Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-

8069 for directions. For Tucson, please go to Ben and Mary's in northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015 for directions.

*If anyone is interested in becoming a donation drop off site for the east side of Tucson or the north or west side of Phoenix, please contact the sanctuary at ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com or call 520-631-6015.

Blanket and Donation Drop Offs

ur Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Used Blankets are needed year around.

Vitamin E Capsules 400 IU

Wire Cutters

Lineman's pliers

Sheets (NO pillow cases)

Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)

Glucosamine/Chondroiton, capsules or tablets

Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg

Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 50 and 35 cents)

Other denominations can also be used

Animal Crackers

Probiotics

Stool Softeners

Utility Knives

Neosporin

We have a wish list on Smile.Amazon.com. They offer free shipping on many items if you sign up for Amazon Prime.

GIFT CARDS

Walgreen's Home Depot

Lowes

Discover

MasterCard

Office Max

Walmart

Amazon

Office Depot

Target

Fry's

Staples

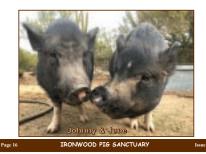
Front and Back Covers



ickles handsome young boy who came to us in January of 2016 when he was one vear old. He had one of more common reasons for giving him He was always up. breaking out of his pen and they could not PIG SANCTUARY contain him and keep

him safe. Of course, I guess neutering him and making a stronger enclosure was not an option. Translation: "We just don't want him anymore." So whatever the excuse, that is usually the bottom line. He is a very nice boy and loves to greet many of our visitors as they pass through on a tour to get a few extra belly rubs. He has integrated into the herd, but he still remains pretty much a loner. Still he is happy and healthy and has no worries about being safe since he has moved to Ironwood.





ohnny and June came Ironwood from Humane Society in 2008 when they were babies.

We soon adopted them to a nice family in Tucson where they had a large shaded area in which to grow up. However not having any history on them or their family we did not know they would soon grow up to be what seemed to be feral pigs. They are stronger, bigger, and pushier than a normal pot bellied pig. So they, Johnny in particular, became too pushy for the kids in the family and even Dad ended up in the emergency room when he accidently got gored by Johnny. So by April of 2012 it was time for them to come back to Ironwood. I feel the family made the right decision to return the pigs to us where they could work their way into a large field with a large herd where there are actually other feral pigs and hog mixes. Having been pets they were rather intimidated by the others so ended up eating in their own separate pens but they are ten years old now and very comfortable in the Sunset Field. June is shy and Johnny remains demanding but we have all learned to deal with his "in your face" personality.



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.

Two Easy Ways to Support the Pigs

1. Go to www.smile.amazon.com and sign in the same as you would for your Amazon account. When prompted to pick your charity, simply type in "Ironwood Pig Sanctuary" in the search bar. It will appear as the Mary C Schanz Foundation which is the parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Each time you go to Amazon it will automatically open under AmazonSmile. The sanctuary will receive a donation of 0.5% from Amazon for ALL your purchases, not just those made from Ironwood's Wish List.





2. Arizona residents who shop at Fry's Food Stores, a chain of supermarkets located in Arizona, can go to www.frysfood.com to register your V.I.P. card in Fry's Community Rewards program. When asked to find your organization, type in Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. It will be under the parent organization, the Mary C Schanz Foundation. Each time you check out at Fry's simply scan your V.I.P. card and a percentage of your purchases will be the donated to sanctuary quarterly. Remember...you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for Ironwood.

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