

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

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Dear Friend,

October 2020

One of my many jobs here at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is doing the photography for the newsletters, the thank you notes and the updates for those who sponsor pigs. A benefit of that is being able to wander through the fields observing the pigs, watching for those cute moments to capture in a photo. Feeding time is the most frenzied time of day



Kate & Toby

when the pigs are hungry and gathering eagerly at the gates to get their meals. That is a great photo

opportunity because all the pigs are out and about, but it's also nice to stroll around later in the day when things have quieted down and catch the pigs in their relaxed mode. Then you can see where their favorite spots are and who they are hanging out with. Sometimes it is a sweet surprise like when I saw Kate and Toby spooning in a shelter. They were cuddling in a different house a few days later. The two have been living in the same field for almost ten years and just recently became a couple. How sweet!

Out in the Frat House, a small field for six brothers,



Jango

I remember when they were born at the sanctuary after we rescued their mom shortly before she gave birth. She was unable to nurse the boys, so we raised them

inside the Visitor Center and bottle fed them for a few weeks. It was a busy but precious time. It's hard to imagine, but I held Jango in the palm of one hand and look at him now all grown up and so happy!

Trying to get a piggy to look my way for a photo is sometimes difficult. When I call her name, Little Charlotte just melts down to the ground wanting a belly rub...and how can I refuse! Louis



Donna & Little Charlotte

just wants to lean on my legs and be petted. I also note the changes of the social status of the pigs. Celeste came here with a giant chip on her shoulder and could not get along with anyone, pig or person. Then I see her relaxing in a wallow with Reba, the



Celeste & Reba

shiest pig in that herd. Adorable! Your support makes it possible for all the pigs here to flourish physically and emotionally, develop lasting friendships and be able to relax in a safe, comfortable environment. Thank you from all of us here!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsor Coordinator

# Bernadette & Pansy

**D**uring the initial stages of the COVID-19 crisis, veterinary surgeries were limited to emergencies and those that could be done with minimal use of PPE (gloves, masks, etc.) That threw a wrench into our usual spring plans for getting spays done during nice weather. By the time the restrictions were lifted, the extreme heat of summer had set in making spay recoveries very difficult. Instead, we focused on dentals. This is the story of two of the dental patients, Bernadette and Pansy.

Back in late December of 2007 Ironwood took in 3 pigs that a man had found as strays. He was moving out of state and unable to take the pigs along with him. Bernadette was one of the trio. Several months later she was



Bernadette

adopted by a man who bought her a companion for \$10 at a yard sale. That was Pansy. The two girls became close friends. Fast forward to May 2017. The nice



Pansy & Bernadette

man who cared for these girls as well as 2 other pigs he got along the way was dying of cancer. He asked that the sanctuary take his 4 pigs and provide them a forever home.

Bernadette and Pansy are still the very best of friends and do everything together which included a trip to the vet clinic for dental work. Both girls were in need of a dental exam and went in at the same time to keep each other company. Pansy had a fractured incisor removed and several pockets of infection cleaned out of her gums. Bernadette had five teeth pulled including an incisor that left behind a rather deep hole that had to be sutured. She also had a large amount of plaque cleaned off her remaining teeth.

Both girls are around 14 years old, well into their senior years. Both are dealing with arthritis which was exacerbated by the transport back and forth to the vet clinic as well as the actual time

spent on the table for the dental surgery. Their recovery was slow, but Bernadette and Pansy were pampered in a private holding pen until they were strong enough to return to the Assisted Living Field, Phase Two where they live with a small herd. The ladies move a bit stiffly and slowly but still get around well enough to take care of business. They share a shelter and are always cuddled in with one another, happy to be together in their golden years.

—Donna



Pansy

*If you would like to help with Bernadette and Pansy's medical bills, please allocate your donation in their name. Their combined total is \$3,395.67. These lovely ladies appreciate your support!*

# Hot Sauce & Sweet Tea

**T**hese two adorable piggies have been living together as best friends since they were very young. Unfortunately their family's home burned down in the spring of 2015. Afterward the pigs were temporarily housed at a friend's place until the landlord found out and demanded that they be removed from the property. In June of 2015 Hot Sauce and Sweet Tea came to live at Ironwood. All newcomers stay in the holding pens to be observed and evaluated physically. This also allows the opportunity to get to know the pig's personality and



needed to be moved to a smaller area for safety reasons as her lameness worsened.

A large enclosure on the northeast end of the field became a home for Sweet Tea and an elderly friend, Poncho. It wasn't long before Hot Sauce began having more physical difficulties and moved in with them. Sadly, Poncho passed away this June at the age of nearly 20. Sweet Tea,

became good friends with a group of five others that are around their age. The east end of the North Field became the home territory for the group and is where they spent the majority of their time. Sweet Tea's lameness increased over time and she became one of the first pigs that we used Adequan on. It is an injectable medication that helps protect the cartilage and provides joint lubrication. Over the years she has also had several laser treatments on her joints. These things certainly helped Sweet Tea's condition and prolonged the time she could safely live in the field, but in the summer of 2019 she



now 9 years old and Hot Sauce, age 8, miss their buddy but are lucky to have their friendship holding strong. Both are taking daily oral medication to help with their arthritic issues that set in at an earlier than usual age. Sweet Tea still gets her monthly injections of Adequan as well. Despite their physical limitations, the two pigs are happy and content in a safe, comfortable environment. Thank you for your donations that make this life possible for them.



emotional status so that we can determine which herd they may best fit in with. Later these two pigs, along with several other recent arrivals, moved to the North Field to join the herd there.

Both Sweet Tea and Hot Sauce exhibited joint problems early on but were strong enough to happily be a part of the herd. They



—Donna

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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**



**Toby - Resident Since 2012**