

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO. 21

AUGUST  
2007



Miss Bliss

## PIG SANCTUARY

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary  
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road  
Marana, AZ 85658**

August 1, 2007

Dear Supporter,

As I look back over my years of devoting my life to making this a better world for the animals on this earth I often wonder how will things ever change? When will the human race understand that every sentient being deserves to be treated with respect and given a life free of abuse, neglect, and oppression. And yet animal abuse is everywhere around us and on every continent. Pet overpopulation, factory farms, medical experimentation, cruel sports, circuses, and Premarin mare farms. The list is endless.

But somewhere in there I see a light that flickers. Over the years we have seen an increase in the number of letters, donations, and school projects that children have been involved in to help raise money for our pigs. They sell candy grams, they do chores at home and donate the money they make to sponsor one of our pigs, or they ask friends and family to help out with a donation and it all comes to Ironwood with letters and pictures. We are so grateful for their help and the encouragement from the teachers who are inspired to make this a school project. But most of all it is a sign that these children are waking up to the fact that the lives of these animals matter. The circle of compassion can extend to pigs not just dogs and cats. And if it can extend to pigs it can extend to all other animals.

The hope for a kinder more compassionate world lies in our young people. I would like to thank all of you who have written to me or been involved in an effort to help our pigs. My message to you is to say that your fire has been lit so don't let it burn out. Continue to nurture your compassion and love of animals so one day all living beings will live with us as one. Philosopher Jeremy Bentham said of animals: "The question is not: Can they talk?, or Can they reason?, but Can they suffer?"

*Mary Schanz*

Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder

PS: As I look at the faces of the many pigs we have rescued in the past few months and feel despair from the many calls that come in each day to rescue another pig, I have to believe that the children will grow up and give all animals a different world in which to live.





# More Rescues



**A**mere three months ago in our May newsletter I reported on Ironwood's involvement with rescues in both CA and AZ. Luckily the CA rescue did not result in our taking more pigs, but the AZ rescue did. We have been lucky to be able to place Miss Bliss and her whole family as foster pigs with Donna in Maricopa, AZ.

The May newsletter had barely arrived at your homes when we began to get e-mails about a New Mexico situation which was dire. As many as 30 pigs had been shot as they ran from their home and those that survived only did so because they were able to escape. Lana from Florida was trying hard to coordinate a rescue, but the

information was sketchy and facts were difficult to get. We were the closest sanctuary but unable to leave our facility since we were still trying to recover from our recent rescue. Finally, with the help of Sioux from CO, Suey from CA, Richard from TN and Lana, who was all the while working with the vet and animal control, this horrible rescue began

# More Rescues cont.



to take place. Richard and Suey went to New Mexico and helped get things under control. The boys were all neutered and

blood tested and they built a secure fence so there would be no more pigs escaping and being shot by neighbors or sheriffs. The pen was cleared of trash and debris, and food and wading pools with water were provided. The next problem was where would they go and how would they get there once all the blood tests came back negative, which would allow them to cross state lines.

This is where Ironwood came in. We quickly put together a field for the boys and another large pen for the moms and babies. Michelle Corella and her husband Art offered to transport the pigs to us. On May 26th 20 new frightened pigs whose lives have been through a series of horrors arrived at Ironwood. The details of all that has happened since their

arrival is beyond the scope of this article but it has kept us

busy for sure. Eight of the babies were spayed and neutered and are now in new homes and the two youngest ones will soon be ready to be altered and find a home as well. One of the adult females already had an emergency spay and the four others will soon be spayed, and we are hoping they will be transported to Suey in CA. One of the boys has a broken leg that he is managing to get along with, and since they are so wild they will probably stay at Ironwood. They are slowly getting settled and I am not sure another major stress in their lives would be what they would need. These are not potbellied pigs but a feral or feral mix. Their eyes are intense, their legs long, and their snouts long and beautiful.

The fun didn't end with the New

Mexico pigs. Noah's Ark in NV also had four pigs that she was desperate to place since she had become ill and was finding homes for all of her animals. So Minnie and her three friends arrived at Ironwood as well. They are being housed in a pen in our West Field and will soon be released to integrate with the 24 other pigs in that field.

These are the faces of some of the pigs that have arrived at Ironwood in the past few months from central AZ and the livestock auction, from New Mexico and from NV. These pigs are safe and secure, have been given medical care, spayed and neutered, some placed in new homes, others waiting for a home and still others released to one of our fields.

All of these lives have been saved because YOU care enough to save their lives.

Thank you.



# Meet Our Pigs

**T**his is little **Zoey**. She came to us recently because the nice people who rescued her were turned in for having a pig. This is so very sad and happens all too often. It is



bad enough that we get pigs from people who don't want them, but even sadder to have to take pigs from people who wish to keep them. Zoey was attacked by a pit bull last Nov. and the people who rescued her took her to the vet for treatment. They claimed her as their pig since the vet would not treat her without an owner. Their granddaughter helped to nurse her back to health, and now she is living with us. She is very cute and Zoey loves her mud wallows.

**O****mpa** has been with us for a year now. I decided to feature her since I was out taking sponsor pictures the other evening in her field and I

saw her walking along with a proud self-confident gait. It really struck me how much better she looked both physically and emotionally. Although she is still fat, she is much thinner than when she first came to us, and her attitude is completely changed. For many months she barely moved and did not come up to eat with the others when she was released to her field. That has all changed, and now she is part of the herd and gets around very well. The people who owned her found her wandering near a freeway entrance.

She was living in a crowded room and eating all the wrong foods. But worst of all she was



headed for a butcher school where she would be used as a teaching tool. It seems they were the only ones willing to pick her up. Ompa is now safe and living a full pig's life with us.

**J****esse** has a history that we probably are glad we don't know. She came to us from Phoenix with Zoe #2. Strangely



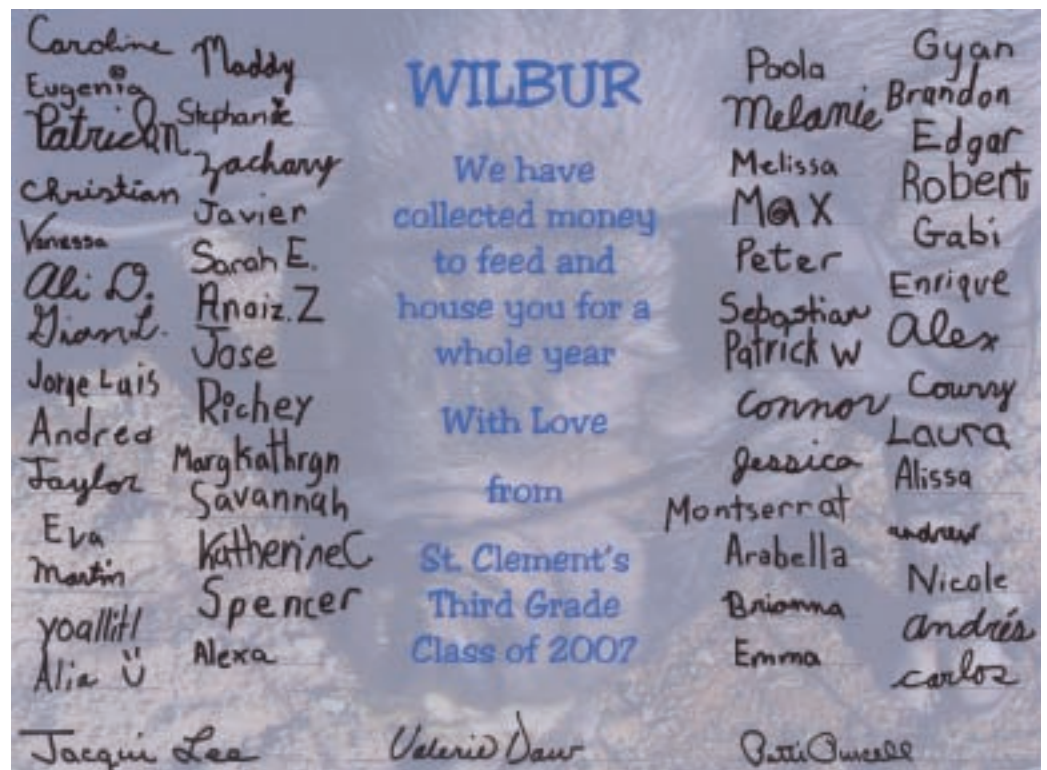
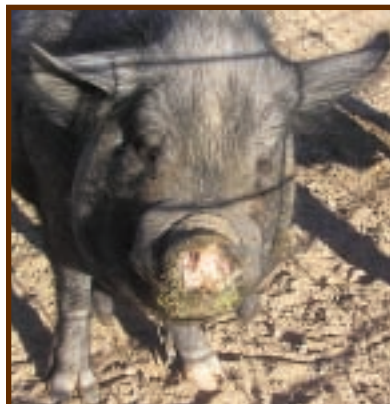
enough Zoey and Zoe came to us on the same day. The owners were moving and like so many others that come to us, the pigs weren't going with them. They had Zoe all of her life but one day about 5 or 6 years ago Jesse wandered into their yard and they said she was in really bad shape. I believe it since her throat has evidence of a very large bite there at one time. She is still very thin, probably because Zoe pushed her out of her food. We have them separated, but still next to one another, so now poor little Jesse can get enough to eat and put some weight on. She is one of the sweetest and friendliest pigs ever to come to us. She just loves attention.

# Schools Support Ironwood

**J**acqui Lee's third grade class at the St. Clement's Episcopal School made a very generous donation to the sanctuary to sponsor Wilbur for a year.

The Third Grade Class took a six-week period to earn \$6 each by doing chores at home. A Pig Pen Business Office was open every lunchtime for the children to record their chores and deposit their money. They all took turns learning how to record, total, and write receipts for their school account. Their goal was \$325, to house and feed Wilbur for one year. They far exceeded their goal and made \$429!

"Thank you for letting our students share in your wonderful sanctuary. They learned a valuable lesson in sharing, giving, and caring, and their gift to Wilbur comes truly from their hearts." Jacqui Lee





**M**any students with their teachers and classmates have been getting involved with sponsoring one of our sweet pigs. It is an opportunity for the students to pull together on a project and learn about caring for an animal. On the page to the left is an example of St. Clement's involvement with our sponsor program. Below are other schools who see supporting Ironwood as a special involvement for their students.

May 19, 2007

Dear Piggies and Friends,

I have been supporting the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary for a little while now and love the newsletter so much that I had begun bringing it to share with my 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class at 112<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School in South Central Los Angeles. Most of my students have never seen a real pig and the incredible images and stories in your mailings have really touched their hearts.

When they read about another class raising money for the pigs, they were determined to do the same. Using their own money, which is a huge deal for these children, they bought candy and sold it in a one-day after school frenzy to raise money for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. They insisted that every penny be sent on to the pigs.

Please accept this check on behalf of my class. Please know it comes with love from a group of kids who have learned the importance of doing something for others with no thought of what it could do for them. They are already indoctrinating my class for next year, to make sure that this new tradition continues. Please keep up your wonderful work and please know that it is inspiring to others, even those who have not had the good fortune to actually meet a pig.

Respectfully,



Criss K. Sudar  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
112<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School

Also from:

- |                    |                         |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Vardaman Anderson  | Manuel Tony Garcia      | Kevin Orozco    |
| Marco Ayala        | Julda Gomez             | Kenneth Peña    |
| Adam Ayers-Hymes   | Gonzalo Hernandez       | Paola Perez     |
| DeMarco Barnes     | George Huipio           | Kenneth Perkins |
| Leonard Brown      | Vanessa Jimenez         | Isidoro Rivern  |
| Alma Bucio-Solis   | Coshawn Milles          | Noe Rodriguez   |
| Dominique Chambers | Maria Morales           | Rene Ruelas     |
| Alberto Corrales   | Alejandra Morales-Perez | Jocelyn Torres  |
| Tykeis Davis       | Rosa Moyeda             | Marquis Ware    |

Dear Ironwood Pig Sanctuary,

In October I received one of your mailers explaining your organization and asking for a donation. I was so moved by the mailer that I brought it in to share with my 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. After hearing the story about Kizzy and looking at the pictures of some of the other pigs living at the sanctuary – my students really wanted to help. This month we sold candy-cane grams for 3 days before Winter break, with all proceeds going to your sanctuary. My students made posters and even talked the secretary into putting an advertisement on the morning announcements. We set a goal of \$100. We sold for only 3 days and were amazed to find that we had made a \$220 profit. The students in my class are elated that we are able to send you such an amount to support and care for the pigs. And it warms my heart to see these students so passionate about something.

One of the mandatory standards we have to cover in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is teaching the students to write formal business letters. Every year all of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes write to large companies and request donations to buy books for the homeless. Well my class is going a different route this year. My 6<sup>th</sup> graders are writing and asking for donations for your sanctuary or for the company to send items that we can raffle off and then send the proceeds to Ironwood. My students also hope to sell Valentines Day Candy-grams in hopes of beating or equaling our December candy-gram sales.

I hope you and the pigs and the other volunteers had a wonderful holiday.

Send our love to the pigs,

Miss Abby Sromek & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class  
Glendale, Arizona

P.S. My students would like to know if students have ever come to the Sanctuary for a field trip?

November 2006

Dear Ironwood Pig Sanctuary,

My name is Danielle Johnson, I live in Murray, Utah and I go to McMillian Elementary. I'm in sixth grade in Ms. Weiss' class. I wanted to let you know that when I read about Kizzy and about your sanctuary it touched my heart, so I brought the story to my class and asked my teacher if I could ask my class to bring donation money, and luckily she loves pigs so she agreed! In the end we got \$13.03! I wanted to also donate money too. I donated \$20.00 and my Mom also donated. We thought it isn't good to mail pennies and dollars. So my mom gave you her credit card number. So I hope the money will help you!

Danielle Johnson



Arnie



Pig Body



M



White Socks



Kate Moss



## Hi! My Name is Pig Body.

*I know that my name is sort of funny but if I could get sponsored or better yet adopted, maybe I could have a different name. I came from Texas from a breeder and I was supposed to have blue eyes and weigh no more than 85 pounds. Well so much for that tale. My mom had a stroke and had to go to a nursing home so now I am living at the sanctuary, but I would really like to have my own home again. I am about three years old and little boys can be a little ornery but I sure do love attention.*

*I and all my friends on these pages would love to be sponsored. There are many others not listed here that would like to have a sponsor as well. Many of our friends are sponsored and we wonder why not us?*

*If you sponsor one of us, you will receive pictures of your selected pig throughout your sponsorship. A contribution of \$30 a month will cover all your pig's expenses including food and health care. Listed are just a few of the pigs needing your help. Choose one of them or send Mary a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and she will send you a picture with background information.*

*Thank you for making a difference!*

*---Pig Body*







Marcia



Richard



Zoey



Sara



Porky



Collie



Princess



Larry



Sean



Sandy





# Newsletter Changes

**O**ur transition from an all black and white newsletter on tan paper to full color on white sealed paper is complete with this issue. We hope that you like the changes.

As our circulation increased over the years and alphagraphics, our printer, purchased a large efficient printer, it became more and more cost effective to go to color. The motivation was that our pig pictures are so much nicer in color and on white paper. This is based upon your response to our newsletter where most of you particularly like the pictures.

The final change from tan paper to white sealed paper was made with no cost impact. We chose tan paper in the original newsletter because we felt that it provided a warmer feel and a little more interesting look. We have gone to white because we feel that the color has added the same nice feel and the pictures look better.

And finally, even though we don't like to fold the newsletter, we wanted to do it because of the recent postage changes. Previously, the postage rate for our newsletter was the same as letter-size nonprofit mail. Now

with the new mailing changes our postage would be 60% higher. In order to receive a 23% lower than previous postage rate, we have had to fold the newsletter. By folding we are saving approximately \$140 in postage for every thousand newsletters.

## COVER

Miss Bliss is one of the family of seven that we bought at the livestock auction featured in our May newsletter. The whole family were strays and they all came to us very malnourished. She is also seen on page 4 with part of her family around her and no longer looking melancholy.

She and her whole family have moved to Donna Scoggin's home in Maricopa where they are being fostered and cared for by Donna and her son Justin. We are so happy Donna was able to take them as a family group and to give them the care they deserved after the ordeal they had been through.



## 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](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.



**Donna Trimming One of Her Pigs, Navajo**



# Spay Your Pig - Revisited

**I**n the past we have run an article on spaying your pig and the benefits thereof. However, I want to revisit this topic since more and more statistics make us aware of how important it is to spay your pig before she becomes older and has developed a tumor, often cancerous, cysts, fluid-filled uterus, or other complication of being intact.

The reason most often thought of, especially since we operate a sanctuary, is to prevent unwanted pregnancy. This is of course a major concern and the first consideration for us here at Ironwood. Of course all of our males are neutered, so pregnancy

is not an issue. Preventing the birth of more pigs when there already are no homes for the many that we have is primary to us.

Many people say to us that they need not spay their pig since she will never come in contact with a boar. But I have heard over and over that people have lost their beloved pig early because of a uterine tumor.

The statistics indicate that 80 to 85% of pigs who live to their senior years will have a uterine tumor that often is the cause of death. In the past 1-1/2 years we have spayed 60 pigs. Thirty-two of them were young, estimated to

be under 8 years old, and none of them had a tumor or other complications after their surgery.

Twenty-eight of them were older, estimated above eight years. Of those, only five had a normal spay. Twenty-three of them had abnormal spays for a number of reasons and ten of that twenty-three died due to complications with their tumors. It is true that this was not a random sample of spaying older pigs since most were either older pigs that came to us with large visible tumors and some were pigs we had on our property who had not been spayed and developed tumors or symptoms that indicated they had a tumor.

Here at Ironwood we continue to spay as many of our pigs as we have finances for and as weather permits. Without a recovery building we have to select the time of year that we are able to spay, except for emergencies of course.

There are other reasons to spay as well, especially behavioral problems, but I wanted to emphasize the health considerations in this article. For the health and well-being of your female pig please consider having her spayed and the sooner the better.

---Mary



Fred Falk created this art to highlight Mary's article on all the rescues we have been involved with lately.

# Thank You For Your Support!

## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

### Use Your Credit or Debit Card to Make a Monthly Donation

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25 or \$100, or any amount you choose, will 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 animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring.

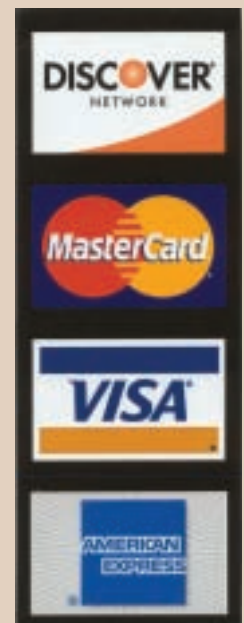
## Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Through Your Estate Plan

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from a number of generous supporters. These donors felt that they needed the assets during their lifetimes, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans. The fair market value of a bequest is deductible in determining a taxable estate for estate tax purposes.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund portfolio, a piece of real estate, 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.

Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the 480 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.





# It's Still Hot Out There!

**A**s Mary and I were putting together this newsletter we were experiencing one of the hottest periods that we have ever known in our 19 years here in Arizona. There were reports of

to any low pools or wallows. We have automatic waterers in all areas so there is always water to drink. However, pigs do not sweat and need a pool or wallow in which to cool off. After feeding we water in earnest with a thorough watering of all fields and areas which takes hours to accomplish. And finally, a check is made in the afternoon to make sure all the pigs, particularly the ones that don't get around so well, have all the water they need and are not stressed by the heat.



**East Field**



**Arnold**

temperatures around Arizona and California over 120 degrees! There may have been hotter days but not for such a long period of time.



**Walter Riley**

At the sanctuary we water our pigs throughout the day. Watering starts first thing in the morning while we feed when we add water

Good shade, plenty

of water and shelter are important for all of our pets, not just pigs.

Even though we might see a horse standing in the sun on a hot day, it always should have the option of getting out of the sun when it wants to.



**Ellie Mae**



**1st Birthday Party**



**Sammy & Poky**

# Thank You, Supporters

**T**his quarter I would like to extend a special THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS. I have tried to make it a policy to write a thank you note for donations of all kinds from all of our supporters. This is true if it is monetary, blankets, pig ornaments, treats for the pigs, medical supplies, candy for us or whatever is so generously donated. I have also tried to keep up with the sponsor program since



Tim Giving Sean and Glen a Treat

taking over last September, but as many of you know, I have not been able to honor that commitment to all of you at this time on either count. I am sure you all realize this is not intentional, but has been necessary since we have taken on additional pigs through recent rescues, and for so many other reasons that have made demands on my time. We are not a large organization here at Ironwood and our staff is limited. They must

devote their time to taking care of the needs of our pigs and so must I.

Therefore, I am thanking all of you here in the newsletter for all that you do to make Ironwood such a nice place for the pigs to live and call home. Please know that I will work to honor those commitments the best I can. If I have missed a thank you or sponsor letter I am sorry. I am so grateful for your continued support.

In addition, I would like to welcome new volunteers to Ironwood including Barbara L, Susan, Nora, Joan, Laura, and Cindy. Of course Bob and William continue to help out weekly. Bob brings our pigs their special treats of produce from Albertsons on Wednesday while William continues to bring the produce to the Annex. With all of their help our Annex and Ironwood are both cleaner and the watering is done earlier. That is so important since it is so very hot these days.

Barbara D, Donna S, Cindy and others continue to help me with thank you notes. If I am behind with their help, just think of where I would be without them!!

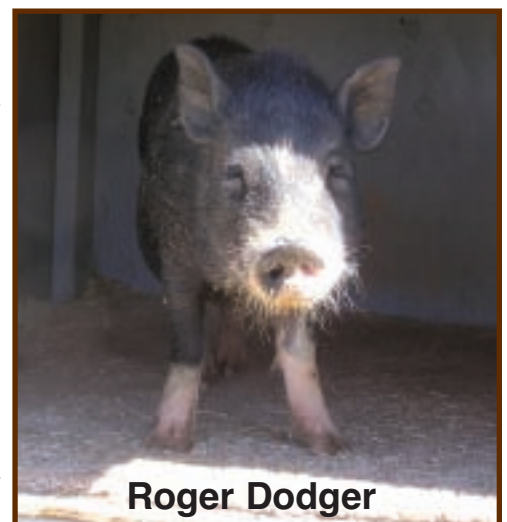
In addition, Pam Munici has been approaching companies for donations for us and so far she has

had some great success. Thanks, Pam, for taking the time to help us with these great donations and thanks to Jeffers and Andteknor Atex for your kind donations.

I would like to thank all the Staff at Ironwood for hanging in there in the extreme heat that we have been experiencing. Without them the piggies would be in grave danger. Many of us have chosen to start work at 5:00 am or earlier this summer to avoid the intense heat.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Stacey who worked for us for over three years in our office and helped us grow. She was always upbeat and pleasant and helped us over many bumps over the years. Due to health considerations she has had to leave us recently. We miss you, Stacey.

---Mary



Roger Dodger

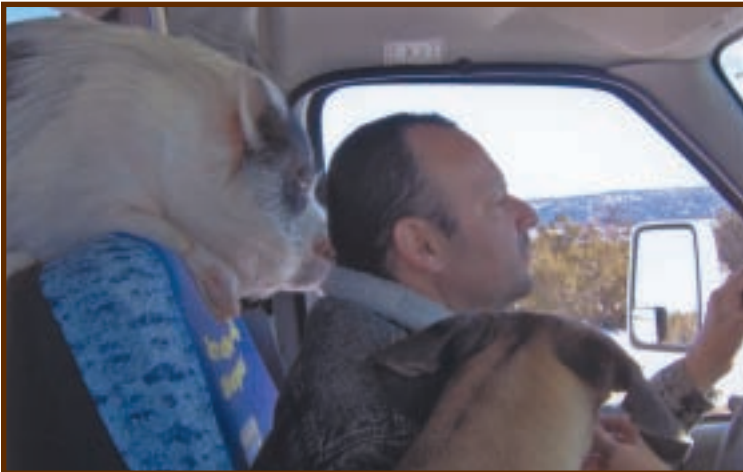


# MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## Our Supporters Write:



We had such a great time touring your wonderful facility even though it was rainy. We are looking forward to being able to come back and visit in the warmer weather and be able to meet more of your residents.

You have some very lucky pigs to wind up at your facility. We love our pig so very much. He is such a great pet and we are thrilled to be able to give him our home to share and receive his love in return.

This is a photo of Porkchop. He sleeps in bed with us, lounges on the sofa while we are at work and goes on family vacations in our RV. He is such an important part of our lives that we can't imagine our family without him. He is the apple of our eye. It is nice to know that you are there for those little piggies not quite as spoiled as our Porkchop! Take care and we are so looking forward to visiting you again.

Love, Abe & Janet

Dear Spike,

My name is Emma and my mom rescued me several years ago from a shelter in Southern California. My mom gets the Ironwood Sanctuary Newsletter and I saw your picture in it. I think you are very handsome and thought you would like a picture of me. I now live in Nevada near Reno. Maybe if you're ever out this way you could stop by for a visit.

Enclosed is some money to get yourself some winter blankets and some special treats (Fig Newtons are my favorite).

Warmest regards,  
Emma



TULLY REALLY ENJOYING HIMSELF!



IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

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