

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 50

JANUARY
2013



Charlotte & Olivia
PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

January 2013

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to 2013 at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Happily we have all survived the holidays and December 21, 2012! Our wish for 2013 is that there are fewer pigs to rescue, more get good homes, fewer pigs are born, and breeders go out of business because no one buys their pigs. What a wonderful year it would be! Hope springs eternal.

The reality is things have changed very little since 1998 when we first became involved with pigs while we were volunteering at a local sanctuary, now our Annex. I remember thinking when we were planning Ironwood that this would be a temporary adventure since the pot belly pig fad was over and few people wanted them. I figured that between attrition and adoption we would soon be out of business and Donna could take care of the Sanctuary till then while we went off to travel in our retirement. I could not have been more wrong.

The need to provide a home for pigs has never diminished. Retirement is something that is only in our dreams. Other rescues in the state of Arizona dissolved and over the past ten years all of those pigs are now part of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Hopefully there are no other rescues in Arizona with large numbers of pigs needing a home. The average age of pigs entering the sanctuary this past year is much younger than years past. People buy them from Craig's List or from breeders and then call us to take them when they no longer want them.

So our work will never be done. When you read the two feature articles in this newsletter about Amber and Hercules, Amber a little stray and Hercules from another rescue, you will understand why we must continue our mission. One is a baby and one is an old fellow, but both came to Ironwood in desperate need of our help. These are sentient beings who share our emotions and feel pain and fear just like you and me.

It is only because people like you know and understand that as well, were we able to give Amber and Hercules and so many more like them here at Ironwood the sophisticated care they required to become whole and well again.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President and Co-Founder



Mary with Wilbur & Hercules

PS In the year ahead we must continue to beat our drums and make our voices heard for all animals because if we don't push for change, no one will. Have a very Happy New Year and thank you so much for caring.

Amber Alert!

I found a pig that was attacked by a dog. I have taken her to the vet once, but I can't afford the veterinary care and don't want to euthanize her. Would you take her? She has a few bite wounds." This was a call Ben received while he was on vacation in October. He told the man that we would take her and care for her.



On Sunday morning, October 28th, I greeted the man at our front gate and helped him unload the pig he had found. He had her for two weeks and had named her Amber. When I first laid eyes on Amber I knew these "wounds" were quite serious. It looked like a lot of the skin would need to come off of her face and a lot of debridement would need to be done. Her wounds were very serious and clearly painful and irritating.

After the man left, Deeanna, another staff member and I sat with Amber and cleaned her face the best that we could. There were a lot of deep bites and places

that had dirt and grass stuck in them. She had bites on either side of her mouth that allowed food to come out as she ate. The bite across the top of her nose looked deep as well as the one behind her left ear. I knew that she would need to be seen by our vet soon, but we did what we could to clean her up. She was also very itchy, so I gave her medication to help calm the itching. Amber didn't fight it at all and let us help her.

Right off the bat Amber was incredibly sweet and clearly loved receiving attention. I would expect any animal or even a person in her condition to be scared and to not want attention. Amber was definitely the opposite. She was walking around with her tail wagging and wouldn't say no to a belly rub. Thank goodness she came with



such a sweet demeanor which made it easier for us to doctor her.

Ben and Mary returned from their vacation that evening, so I took them out to see Amber. I warned

them that Amber's situation was more serious than we were told. After seeing her condition, Ben and Mary agreed that Amber



would need to be seen by our vet as soon as possible. Amber, however, had other ideas.

I headed out early to see how Amber was doing. It was evident that it was now an emergency. She had rubbed her face so much that a large portion of skin had come off her right cheek. I could see a tendon and the skin protecting her bone. I immediately called Mary while trying to keep Amber calm so that she would not rub her face anymore. Mary put in an emergency call to our vet who said she would meet Mary right away at the clinic.

Upon arrival at the clinic Amber was first seen by Dr. Staten. After anesthetizing her, Dr. Staten was able to debride Amber's face and clean everything out really well. A lot of skin and tissue were taken off and the wounds were very deep, often down to the bone. The

wound across her nose was down to the bone and had a bite wound that went through to her nasal passageway. There was also a serious bite behind her left ear



that was about 4 inches deep and went down to the skull. These areas would be very sensitive areas that we would need to pay special attention to. Together Dr. Staten and Dr. Page were able to wrap Amber's face and torso so that she would be kept clean and moist. Once Amber was ready to come home I headed down to pick her up. I was greeted with many instructions on how to care for Amber's injuries.



Amber's face would need to stay wrapped and be kept moist all day every day. This would mean wetting the gauze under her bandages about 3 times a day and applying Vaseline to any healing

injuries that were not as serious. We would have to wet the gauze with a solution of saline and penicillin many times throughout the day. We would also need to apply collagen to the area on top of her nose. We would have to change her bandages often to ensure they were clean. All of this would be very crucial for Amber's healing. If the bone were to dry out we could have serious problems. Amber would also need to visit our vet again the following week for another debridement and maybe another time after that. Amber would also need to be kept on antibiotics for at least 4 weeks.



Initially we had to change Amber's bandages every other day in order to keep them clean. We needed to make sure everything stayed moist and that the gauze covered the necessary areas. The first few times we had to change her bandages she would let us do so if someone was holding her. She would be held by one person while two others applied new gauze and bandages. This didn't last long. Amber quickly grew tired of being

handled so much and would not sit still at all. We had to start



anesthetizing Amber each time we had to change her bandages. We wanted this entire experience to be the least traumatic as possible for her. We introduced a tube to the area that needed wetting to make it easier to keep the area over her nose wet. It would take about 45 minutes for us to complete the entire process. During one of the bandage changes we found a chip of bone coming out of one of Amber's wounds. We were able to pull it out, which our vet stated was necessary. There may be more bone pieces, but they have not surfaced yet.

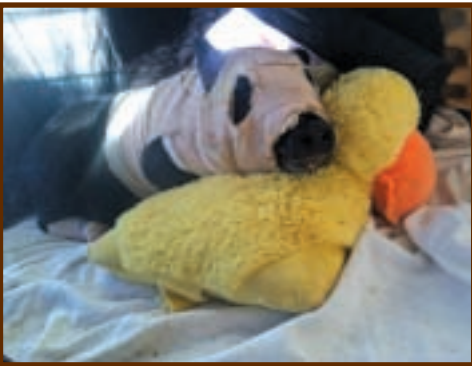


Throughout Amber's healing process she was of course itchy. She would try to scratch through her bandages with her back feet.

To help with this we kept socks on her feet. Not only did this help soften the blow when she would kick at her face, but it was also adorable. She went through many socks, but it definitely helped keep her from hurting herself. Amber also received a stuffed animal ducky. She immediately used this as a cuddle buddy and



would often rub her face on it. If she had to rub on something, we were glad it was a soft toy.



Once Amber started healing well we were able to wait 3 to 4 days before changing her bandages. This would be much easier on her as we didn't want to anesthetize her so often. The final time we had to anesthetize Amber she took a while to fully wake up and had trouble keeping her heart rate up. Mary had to give her a small dose of atropine to help with her heart rate. Thankfully this was the last time.



Amber has healed incredibly quickly and well. We and our vets are surprised with her quick progress and very pleased. It took a lot of teamwork and constant care to ensure Amber was getting the treatment she needed.

We are often asked if dogs and pigs get along. While yes, they can, they might not and should never be left together unsupervised. We have had many pigs come in that have been attacked by dogs and the pigs never win. Pigs are a prey animal. Any little thing can set a predator off and when left unattended a dog can do much damage to a pig. We have many pigs who are missing ears or tails and Amber who almost lost most of her face due to dog attacks.

It has been amazing to see how happy and friendly Amber continues to be after having been through such experiences; the dog attack and the constant medical attention. We tried to make everything a positive experience for her. We couldn't have asked for a better patient and we have been more than happy to be Amber's "amberlance" in her time of need. We are also very



thankful for the graciousness of everyone who has helped Amber financially and with healing thoughts. Without your help we wouldn't be able to continue to help those in need like Amber.



Above is the latest picture of Amber's healing progress. She is now free to run about the exercise yard and greet other pigs. She has done so well that we do not need to continue to anesthetize her or wrap her in protective gauze. We are so happy to see her without her cocoon.

--- Taryn

Sponsor a S



Fitzroy

You'd never believe what my name was before coming here. Get this....Fat Boy! I mean, how rude is that! I love my new name and my new home.



Taz

The name implies a windstorm of trouble but the opposite is true. I am a lovable guy who happily goes about his business and wishes no one harm.



Annie

I came here with a not much hope of a and a long recovery living out in a field



Bentley

I was rescued along with several family members from a home where breeding was rampant. Our main source of food was stale bread. My life is very different and much better now!



Ernest

When I arrived I had huge testicular tumors which made walking rather difficult. Boy, has my life improved! I am really happy that I made it to Ironwood.



Possum

I played defensive Razorbacks in a but if there was a of pigs, I'd be th

Special Pig!



large uterine tumor and a future. After surgery, I'm feeling great and with lots of friends.



Travis

I came here from another sanctuary where we all lived in small pens. This place is great! I now have lots of friends and lots of space.



George

I'm a quiet, shy boy that was placed in the Special Needs Field after arriving here. It's the perfect place for me! I fit in great with the pigs already living there.



the tackle for the Arkansas football team consisting of a past life. Well, not really, here!



Worf, Donna & Ernest

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

Start out your New Year by joining our family of sponsors! These pigs really need your support and want to become a part of your family. A monthly donation of \$30 will provide your pig's care and their share of sanctuary expenses.

In exchange you will receive photos and a letter about your pig as well as new pictures and an update on your pig during the upcoming year. Please consider becoming a "pig parent" today!

--- Donna

A New Lease On Life

My name is Hercules.

Once upon a time I lived in a sanctuary far from here. In that place all the pigs lived in small pens, most of us by ourselves. The vet never came to see us even when we needed help. We had plenty to eat but other than that, life was sort of bleak. The people of Ironwood had been coming and taking a few of us at a time whenever the owner would agree to let them. Finally I got my turn on August 1, 2012.

When I arrived at Ironwood I was in sad shape. First of all, I had numerous abscesses all over my body. There were some big ones on my hips, back legs and sides as well as a bunch of them on my neck. My neck...now that was an interesting sight! I had this saggy, baggy skin that hung down to the ground so low that I would sometimes step on it. It was full of abscesses of all sizes. Felt like I had hard-boiled eggs in there! The vet came out to see me and



said that she thought she could remove the saggy part of my neck, taking most of the abscesses with it. Yikes!

I went in to the vet's clinic on September 18th to have my surgery. I was scared but knew it had to be done. Dr. Page did an excellent job with my "neck tuck" although it was a long and difficult operation. I came home with 71 staples in my neck but no more abscesses! I was really out of it for the first few days...couldn't even stand up to eat or drink. The people here gave me fluids through a tube and needle to keep me hydrated. It was very hot, so I had to have cool towels put on me and they even brought a fan out for me. That was nice! Everyone was afraid for me in the extreme heat, but they were very patient and caring and got me through that tough time. Someone stayed with me almost all the time until I was able to stand on my own. Not only was my neck painful, but I sort of hurt all over, so they gave me medication for that.

The people here were real nice about helping me eat and drink. It was great being pampered while I recovered. On October 2nd Mary and Donna took the 71 staples out of my neck. I know I didn't make it easy for them, but it felt weird and I didn't like it. Tim had to pick me up and roll me over on my back so they could reach all the staples. They had to count all of them to make sure none got left



in. The whole suture line healed up perfectly though. I was lucky to have never gotten an infection or anything like that. I have a cool looking scar now!



Another important date for me was October 15th. That was the





day I was taken out to the Assisted Living Phase 2 Field to begin a new chapter of my life as part of the herd there. A few of the other pigs tried to challenge me since I was the new guy invading their

territory, but things calmed down pretty quickly. I chose a shelter near the front gate that is next to a house that Phoenix lives in. He's a nice piggy. We haven't exactly become friends yet, but we are comfortable being neighbors. Every morning I go down to the back gate and wait for breakfast to be served. My bowl is under a shady palo verde tree which is nice on the hot days.

I still have one abscess developing on my hip and suffer from arthritis, but my life is so much better now. I can walk

around without tripping on my own neck, which is awesome. Having only one abscess as opposed to say, 13...that is pretty awesome too! I live in a field with other pigs and have the freedom to wander around as I please. I have a nice cozy house with warm blankets. Life is good!

---Hercules

PS: Just in case anyone is wondering...I do not have a sponsor yet, but I think it would be really cool to get one!

GIFT CARDS

Fry's
Home Depot
Lowe's
Office Max
Office Depot
Staples
PetSmart
Target
Discover
MasterCard

Our Wish List

BIG STUFF

Van, Cargo - Late Model
Full Size, rear A/C
Truck - Late Model 3/4 Ton
Long Bed Pickup

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Postage Stamps (Forever, 45, 32, 20 cents) Other amounts can also be used

Used Blankets always welcome

Cranberry Capsules (Equivalent to 25,000 mg of fruit)

Good value can be had at Puritan's Pride at
1-800-645-1030 or www.puritan.com

Glucosamine, Chondroitin with MSM (see above for source)

Fig Newton Cookies

Antacid comparable to Zantac, No Tums

Children's Multi-Vitamins, No Iron

Peanut Butter, Creamy Only

Once again Amazon.com offers free shipping for some peanut butter. A good value is Peter Pan 40 oz jar, pack of 3. (Minimum order of \$25 for free shipping)

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Open House November 10th

Once again we had a wonderful attendance at our Open House on November 10, 2012. We had almost 300 visitors, many of whom brought gifts of blankets, peanut butter, Fig Newton cookies, animal crackers, cranberry/grape juice, Ensure, and other items. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Rain had been threatening for the day but as it turned out, it was sunny and cooler than average, which made it a great day to be outside enjoying the Sanctuary.



A fun time was had by all. We had many cookies, vegan and otherwise made by Taryn, Erin, and Mary, many baked goods donated by Sherry, a vegetable platter donated by Barbara, other snacks, vegan dishes and sodas, along with our great vegan chili donated by Jon and Francie. If you didn't get yours early, everything was pretty much cleaned out by the end of the day. And of course the wonderful bread baked and donated by Don of Barrio Bread at Barriobread.com.

We had many other volunteers who helped make our Open House a success. Julia came for her annual visit from NH. She spends a week volunteering and then helps to greet everyone on Open House day. Lori and her family came and as always Rhiannon had her table to sell her little handmade stuffed pigs. Also Joanne Lefebvre, DVM was there selling her book, [Animal Teachings](#), and Melissa of Scentsy Candles

sold her wares and will donate the profit to Ironwood. In addition our tables were full of so many piggy items that people had sent us that we saved to sell during the Open House.



Even though it is hard work for us getting ready we love the Open House. It is a time to meet friends and supporters and just get a lift from the synergy of everyone having a good time. None of this would be possible were it not for all the people who helped to make it so including staff and others who came during the week before to help rake the fields and get everything clean and ready for our pigs' big day.

We had tours throughout the day so everyone who



wanted was able to visit the pigs. Because the day was a little cooler than it had been, many of the pigs were out and about even later in the day. There were also

many sponsors visiting to partake in the festivities and to see their sponsored pig(s).

This year we had the use of two golf carts to take those out to the fields that were not able to go on their own, thanks to the generous donation from Margaret and Rick.

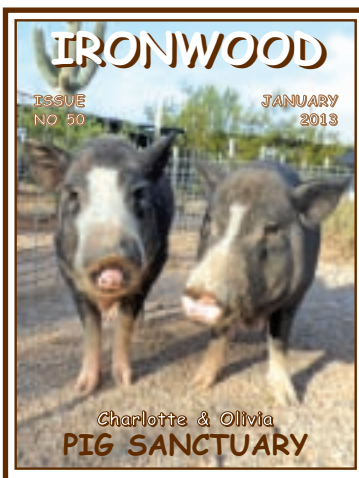
MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Front and Back Cover



In March of this year we picked up Olivia and Charlotte in Elgin, AZ. The family was moving back to Tucson and these two rambunctious girls certainly would not fit into apartment living or even backyard living. They were raised by a family so both, but especially Charlotte, are

very social and one might say demanding. A large field to run and play in was just what they needed. Like most baby pigs, they start out as family pets but once they begin to grow up and exhibit their strength they are relegated to a small pen, as were Olivia and Charlotte. They had neither shelter nor blankets to comfort them during our cold winter nights and no place for two youngsters to run and play. They were a lot for us to handle for a while. They were both thin and always hungry, so when they played in our common area before being released to their field they were a real nuisance and were into everything and on top of everything. How could two pigs be so agile? Now they have settled into their life at Ironwood in our north field and are no longer trying to leap over fences. They have been a challenge indeed. We affectionately refer to them as the "crazy girls."



Nellie and her sisters Virginia and Olive and their brother Mario came from the Three Points area of Tucson in

October of 2011. They were living in a horrible tiny pen, males and females together. They were seen advertised on Craig's List and one boar was already sold. We purchased them to keep four more pigs from entering the community and producing many more. The man had purchased two baby pigs for his three-year-old daughter who had no interest in them. They kept having babies so he wanted to be "rid" of all of them. Really? They are all young and Virginia was already very lame. Nellie and her sisters live in a field along with Pop Tart. They are all doing very well and Virginia has really improved. Mario is in another field with his young friend Oliver.



Sisters Olive, Nellie & Virginia

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
POST OFFICE BOX 35490
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490
520-631-6015
ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
www.ironwoodpigs.org
www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

JANUARY 2013
ISSUE 50

Return Service Requested

Published at the above address regularly.

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Nellie Cooling Off in a Water Bowl!