

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

June 2018

Over the years we have seen many pigs arrive at Ironwood in horrible condition for various reasons, one of those being dog attacks. Sometimes it's the family dog that suddenly becomes the attacker or dogs in the neighborhood jumping the fence to hurt the pig. A lot of strays we take in bear wounds indicative of dog or coyote attacks.



Piggy

due to the household dogs. Amber had nearly all the skin ripped from her face with damage to both ears, one eye and puncture wounds reaching her skull after being attacked by dogs. She recovered just fine and is enjoying life in one of our fields.

It's not to say that all the dogs

behind these attacks are vicious. Sometimes the family dog can be set off during times of high excitement in the house and the dog's natural instincts simply take over. Dogs running loose will go after other animals...rabbits, cats, pigs. They don't stop to think about who they're chasing. The point is that dogs are instinctually capable of attacking pigs if the occasion arises.



Bettina

If you have pigs and dogs together, be careful. My own dog is never allowed to be with my pigs unsupervised just as a precaution. I recommend the same to anyone who has both animals in their home. If your neighbors have dogs, make sure your pig is protected by secure fencing. Pigs and dogs can live happily together, but play it safe. Don't leave your pig in a situation that could turn dangerous. Better safe than sorry!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsor Coordinator



Chubby

There are several pigs who have only one ear, having lost the other to a vicious dog attack. Lily, Boudrette, Squeal and Charlotte each came here with one of their ears completely gone. Piggy arrived with a freshly shredded ear that had to be amputated. Others like Patrick and Chubby were left with a lumpy stub of an ear. Luke, Jezebel, Louie Gray and Barnabus had their tails bitten off.

Bettina is missing a chunk of her rump



Barnabus

# Malcolm

**M**alcolm is a 17.5 year old neutered male that came to Ironwood in May of 2006 after his family moved to an area where zoning regulations did not allow pot bellied pigs. In the twelve years that he has lived at the sanctuary, he has rarely had an off day or been sick having gone to the vet clinic only once in 2016 for some dental work. Unfortunately Malcolm broke that long streak of good health this year. In mid January he suddenly quit eating



continued treatment until he had finally passed all the gravel.

When Malcolm returned to the sanctuary he was again placed in a holding pen where we could continue his fluid treatments and monitor his stool. Giving IV fluids to a pig is tricky to begin with, but with Malcolm and his not so amiable attitude toward most humans it was nearly impossible. Luckily he was feeling much better and was eating and drinking on his own, so we just gave him diluted juice



and drinking. We moved him to an individual holding pen for monitoring. Having him isolated there we discovered that he was not passing any stool. We tried giving him an enema but when the tube wouldn't go in very far, we feared that his intestines may have been blocked. Malcolm was taken to the vet clinic where x-rays showed that his intestines and belly were both full of small rocks. He was put on IV fluids and given mineral oil in attempts to flush out his system. He stayed at the clinic for three days for



**Malcolm & Friends**

several times a day. That was much safer for us and more enjoyable for him! After a week of totally normal behavior, a great

appetite and "rockless" stools Malcolm was able to return to his home in the Assisted Living Phase 4 Field. He gets a daily dose of stool softeners, metoclopramide and psyllium to keep his intestines moving freely and prevent another episode like this in the future.

Today Malcolm is doing very well and is in exceptional health, particularly for his age. He happily spends time puttering around in his field or relaxing with his best friend, Mary Helen.



**Mary Helen & Malcolm**

---Donna

*If you would like to help with Malcolm's medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his vet care, medications and overnight stays at the clinic was \$1,796.56. Malcolm appreciates your generosity and support! Thank you!*

# Family of Six

**A** while back a couple in the Marana area bought a pair of pot bellied pigs and began breeding and raising them to sell. They discovered that there wasn't much money coming in so they came up with the awful plan to butcher and eat the pigs one by one. They started with the dad but didn't like the taste of the meat. Ironwood was called to take the rest of the family because "they don't taste good". How horrible is that! That is why



Miguel & Pedro

Miguel have a close relationship and stick close together as they meander around the field each day. The boys enjoy napping under the palo verde trees. They also spend time with the rest of the family during their outings around the field. Shakira and her girls chose a larger community shelter that they share with a few other pigs from the Main herd. Sometimes the boys will join the ladies there.



Shakira

Shakira and her children Shelley, She-Ra, Miley, Miguel and Pedro came to live at the sanctuary in July of 2017.

We gave the family of six names and got them all spayed and neutered. They later moved out to the Main Field and live there with a herd of 38 pigs. They adjusted quickly to their new home and have done very well there. They love having so much space to wander around in and explore. The brothers Pedro and

"kids" still have some growing to do as pigs don't attain their full size until they reach the age of 3. Shakira is 3.5 years old and has reached her full adult size. With the whole family being young, they remain active throughout the day and are often out wandering around together or with other friends they have made. They like to scour the ground for scraps of hay left over from the morning feeding or nibble on seed pods from the trees when those are in season. Pedro is very people



Miley

friendly and enjoys being petted while Miley, She-Ra and Shakira are warming up to that. Shelley and Miguel are curious but still a bit wary of humans. They are a very sweet family of piggies. Thanks to your generosity this family of six will live out their lives together at Ironwood feeling safe, secure and well fed. A much better prospect than what awaited them at their previous home!



She-Ra & Shelley

survivor from Shakira's last litter, just turned 1 last month. The

---Donna

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**POST OFFICE BOX 35490**

**TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490**

520-579-8847

[ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com](mailto:ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com)

[www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org)

[www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary)

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**NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

## **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**



**From Family of Six - Miguel, Shakira & Miley**