

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

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Dear Friend,

October 2018

For people in most parts of the country, fall temperatures mean it's time to get out your sweaters and jackets. For us it means a drop from the 100s to the 90s or on nicer days, the 80s...a blessed relief although it is still hot. The pigs are still wanting their mud wallows and wading pools and will need them up through November and sometimes beyond. The lower temperatures do allow us to get by with watering only once each day for the most part.



and flipping around in the muddy water of the wallow. Or when you catch Gus napping in the pool. Or see Logan rooting through the mud with his face coated up to his eyeballs. Some pigs find other uses for the pools. Francesca and a few others claim a pool makes a great umbrella. The majority of the pools are placed under shade

ramadas but one can never have too much shade in the desert!



Because pigs cannot sweat or pant like other animals to release body heat, they must have water or mud in order to cool off. It actually



looks like a lot of fun for them too. You can't help but smile when watching Glenda splashing



Because of your continued generosity, the pigs of Ironwood have access to plenty of water opportunities. They have pools and water bowls scattered around in all of the fields and pens as well as having mud wallows next to the majority of the pools. Your support keeps the pigs cool through the not so cool fall weather in the desert. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsor Coordinator

# Ladies First Doesn't Apply

**I**n the world of good manners "Ladies First" is not the case at Ironwood when getting the pigs spayed and neutered. The boys cause more problems and behavioral issues, plus they stay fertile for up to 45 days after neutering so they head to surgery ASAP. The girls get put on a waiting list for a variety of reasons. We often get pigs that are obese and unable to undergo surgery. A sweet stray we call Beautiful is a prime example. She is on a diet to lose her curves before it will be safe to be spayed. The ladies need more recovery time and with only a few areas available for surgery recovery we



Dee & Sandy  
Daughter & Mother

this past June we took in 22 pigs and only 1 came neutered. Of those 22, we got the 8 males neutered and 5 of the females spayed. The other 8 girls are on the waiting list for their turn. And that was just one month's worth!

Some of the incoming females get bumped to the top of the list. Sandy and Dee, mother and daughter, were supposed to be spayed, recover here then return to their owner. Well, that was in May and they are still here. They are now permanent residents of Ironwood and will not be going home. Priscilla was done pronto due to extreme aggressiveness with the hope that being spayed would help. She is still a scary gal but at least there is not the added crabbiness of going into heat every month.

Getting spayed is important and needs to be done. While we don't

have the worry of unwanted pregnancies because all our males are neutered, there are major medical and behavioral issues to consider. Unaltered females almost always develop uterine tumors which shorten their lives. Mammary tumors occur with more frequency. Going into heat each month can make females aggressive, some excessively so. Spaying can eliminate these problems and give a girl a happier, healthier life.

---Donna



Beautiful

must limit the number going in plus the fact that the vet can only handle a certain number of surgeries as well.

Sometimes we simply get too many pigs arriving at once and there's no way to get them all spayed or neutered promptly. Just



Priscilla

*If you would like to help cover the expenses of the 27 females that have been spayed during 2018, the average cost was \$581 per pig. Your donation is much appreciated by all the "piggy ladies"!*



# Our Blue-Eyed Charlotte

**C**harlotte is a popular pig name and we've seen a lot of them over the years. This particular Charlotte arrived in March 2014 from a breeder/hoarder situation. The owner said Charlotte's leg had been broken before she got her at 6 weeks of age. Obviously, the break was never set and



her leg is permanently bent at the elbow joint. This gives Charlotte a tilted, slower gait. She has developed a thick callous where the leg hits the ground and the vet assures us she feels no pain. She is also missing most of both ears due to either a dog or coyote attack, each of which could have easily occurred where she had been living.

of her boys have been diagnosed with Degenerative Joint Disease which is most likely the reason for Charlotte's broken leg.

When the time came for Charlotte to move from the holding pens to one of the many fields here, it was decided to place her in the Assisted Living Field. This is a smaller field for elderly pigs or those with mild disabilities.

Charlotte is only around 10 years old but was placed here due to her mobility issues. It was a good choice for her and she adjusted well to her new life.

For the first year or so Charlotte spent most of her time alone. She chose a more isolated shelter and tended to stay in that area. Over time she began to hang out with other pigs that lived in a small "neighborhood" with five

houses under a shade ramada. There Charlotte met Oatis who



There Charlotte met Oatis who has become her friend. The two often share a house although both pigs still have a streak of independence and like their time alone as well. Charlotte is a sweet, quiet girl who remains a bit shy with people but has come to enjoy the company of the other pigs in her field. Thanks to you she has a happy life with no more breeding in a home safe from dogs and other predators. Charlotte is a lucky girl!

There Charlotte met Oatis who



Charlotte & Oatis

Charlotte came to us pregnant, close to full term. She had a litter of 9 babies, 5 of whom still live at the sanctuary. Two



---Donna

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**

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**Paisley Mae**