

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 87

MARCH
2019



Scott

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2019

Dear Supporter,

Ironwood has been honored by the Humane Society of the United States of America - Arizona with an award for the best Arizona Animal Welfare Organization of 2018. The following page is what HSUS posted on their web site and I want to say that I am pleased to have received this award for our organization. As those of you who have visited Ironwood know it takes a huge effort each day to care for the now more than 600 pigs who call Ironwood home. Six hundred is a line we never wanted to cross but so many circumstances have brought us here.

I want to take this opportunity to say that this honor has been possible because of the efforts of so many, many people who are involved with making Ironwood a great home for so many unwanted pigs. From the top down you are the ones who make this all possible. Without your financial support and all manner of other support none of the rest of us would be here because there would be no money to care for all these pigs. If it were not for you we could not have said yes to the three strays who just arrived from Buckeye, AZ, the five babies from Puerto Rico, the two groups of seven and five from breeders who to our great delight went out of business, and numerous other individual pigs in need of a home.

So this honor belongs to you as well as so many others. A shout out goes to our growing staff who are invaluable to our pigs and the success of our sanctuary. Those of us in the trenches are here to feed and water and do all manner of care for our pigs on the hottest days of summer and in the rain, mud and cold of winter. Taryn, Lisa and Cinnie are here way before dawn to prepare the meds and all the special meals while I click away on the computer keeping up with many communications including all those requesting us to take their pigs. In addition to the actual care there is a huge amount of maintenance, transport, veterinary care and recovery and, of course, many of you know about Donna's sponsor program that updates you on what is happening at the sanctuary and how your sponsored pig or pigs are doing.

I also want to include all the volunteers who do so much to help our pigs both on-site and off. The now growing network of people and rescues who are cooperating with us to take and place some of our pigs once they are spayed and neutered has become very important to us as well. Since there are so many pigs now in need of a home due to the vast amount of overbreeding, this cooperation has become more and more important for the welfare of pigs here in AZ.

Again I want to thank all who voted for us, our supporters and all the many people who help make it possible for us to have a sanctuary we all can be proud of and where over 600 pigs live a good, safe life with many friends of their own kind.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

HSUS-Arizona Honors Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as the Arizona Animal Welfare Organization of the Year 2018



Where does a rescued, abandoned or neglected pig go to find care and sanctuary? These highly social and intelligent animals are incredibly lucky when they are able to land at the [Ironwood Pig Sanctuary](#), [The Humane Society of the United States's](#) - Arizona Animal Welfare Organization of the Year, 2018.

Join this amazing organization and co-founder, Mary Schanz, as she receives the award at our annual Humane Lobby Day on Feb. 27th at the Arizona Capitol.

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, located in southern AZ, opened their gates in 2001 to take in their first two pigs and now

have nearly 600 pot belly pigs including a few hogs and hog mixes.

Mary (pictured above) was raised on a farm in Ohio and graduated from The Ohio State University with a BS degree in Medical Technology. While living in California, she spent many years working in hospital laboratories, traveling widely and hiking, camping and sailing the coasts of California and Mexico with her husband and co-founder Ben Watkins. They also spent a winter in Costa Rica running a wildlife rescue there.

After moving to Arizona in 1988, Mary got involved in environmental and animal rights issues and decided she

wanted to do something to make a difference and create more balance in her life. So she and Ben started helping at a rescue in Picture Rocks and eventually bought the land for Ironwood. Since 2001 they have been rescuing and providing sanctuary for pot belly pigs and a few hogs.

Want to learn more about the HSUS Animal Welfare Organization of the Year and make a donation to support their work? Visit them online at www.ironwoodpigs.org

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary also offers tours!

Congrats Mary, Ben and the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary staff and team of volunteers!

The Foods Pigs Eat

March is National Nutrition month, an educational campaign to help people make wise food choices for a healthy life style. What better time than now to focus on the foods pigs eat at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

There are currently 611 pigs in the sanctuary's population. That is a LOT of hungry mouths to feed! Every 2-3 weeks Vaquero Feed & Livestock Supply delivers three tons of 50 pound bags of feed pellets that are made specifically for pigs. That is what is used to feed the majority of the pigs. Vaquero also brings



600-900 pounds of other types of feed that we use for particular pigs. Sometimes new arrivals have been suffering from malnutrition and are underweight. Some of the pigs, usually the very elderly, have trouble keeping their weight up to a healthy level. We make a mix of rolled corn, soybean meal and pig grower pellets that can be added to the regular feed to boost the caloric intake for Bam Bam, Tyler,

Herbie and a few others. The past couple of years have seen a rise in the number of young pigs coming here. During their first year of growth the youngsters need a specialized food to meet their nutritional needs. We use Mazuri Youth feed pellets for them. That same food can also be used for pigs needing to put on some weight. Then there are



those like Pixie and Planet with the opposite problem. These two pigs came here obese needing to lose weight. Mazuri Elder is used in place of the regular feed pellets to help those needing to drop a few pounds. Also in the feed delivery are 50 pound bags of bran flakes to add to special meals for those that need the bulk added to their diet such as Possum, Dewey and Pippa. Empower Balance is an equine supplement that our vet suggested to use for Huey and Collie, two elderly boys with thin bony hips carrying all their weight in their bellies. There are quite a number of pigs that we often see eating sand which can sometimes cause intestinal

blockage if the pebbles and sand are not passing through. Wolfgang, Pooh, Mr. Piggles and Connie just to mention a few, get



a daily dose of psyllium pellets to aid in passing sand through their systems. All of these various grains, pellets and supplements delivered in large quantities are stored in a shed until needed.

Because the sanctuary is located in the middle of the desert, there is very little natural vegetation that the pigs can eat. Their diet is supplemented with alfalfa hay to give them roughage. Each morning the hay is scattered in small piles throughout each field after the pigs have eaten their feed



pellets. The hay not only adds to the pigs' diet but also gives them something more to do. They



happily wander from pile to pile nibbling on the hay. Many get up from naps in the afternoons to meander through the field again to snack on leftovers. Or when they get up the next morning grazing on scraps of hay can occupy their time while waiting for breakfast. The hay normally comes from



two sources, Vaquero Feed & Livestock Supply or Glover Ranch, and is delivered monthly. Each delivery of about 80 bales is stored in the barn until needing to be dispersed to the various feed stations at the different fields around the property.

Then come the food items that are always mentioned on the Wish List in the newsletters, on Amazon.com or on the web site

for visitors coming to the sanctuary who wish to bring donations. People are always wondering what we do with some of those items. Peanut butter is always on the lists. There are many pigs taking daily medications or oral supplements such as acid reducers, flaxseed capsules, Prednisone, multi-vitamins, Vitamin E or antibiotics. Because there are so many to hand out, we have found the easiest solution is to place the pills and tablets inside peanut butter sandwiches. The sandwiches go into Ziploc bags labeled with the pig's name and field, are bundled into groups by field and placed in the tote caddies that go out with the feeders at mealtime. The meds are then handed out to the individual pigs. The stickiness of the peanut butter holds the pills in for the majority of the pigs. There are always some that can eat a sandwich then spit the pills to the ground. This is when the fig newton cookies enter the picture. Those are even stickier than peanut butter and few pigs can resist the yummy flavor. Pills can easily be stuffed into the filling of the cookie. When you see fig newtons on every Wish List, don't think we're just handing out



cookies left and right. Those are only used to get medications into pigs when needed. Occasionally there are pigs that refuse the peanut butter sandwiches and the fig newtons. We then resort to things like bananas, cereal fruit bars or even Little Debbie



strawberry rolls or Twinkies. Those are last resort items for when someone is being particularly picky like Louise was when she was on antibiotics or if a pig is temporarily taking a bitter tasting medication. Josh and Sasha are both very old and toothless, so Twinkies are easier for them to chew as they take their daily medication for arthritis. We just try to disguise the meds in something they can't resist.

Canned pumpkin is another product that we use a lot of. Being under anesthesia for surgery can mess with the digestive system. Adding canned pumpkin to meals before and after surgery can help alleviate or prevent any issues. Often overweight pigs will have tiny dry stool so adding pumpkin to the diet can improve that. Mineral oil is also helpful in that area. It can be added to a pig's food or put in

some diluted juice. Celie, Gertie, Oscar Hoo and a few others love the juice with mineral oil that they get twice weekly on a regular basis to keep them regulated. The juice of choice at the sanctuary is the Cran/Grape combination. Other Wish List items related to the same health concern are prunes and prune juice. Malcolm loves his prune juice that is served with his breakfast each day. Beautiful, Webster, Hamlet and a few others have 3-4 prunes added to their meals daily.

Some food items you will not see on the Wish List are the perishables things I purchase



during weekly trips to the local grocery store, usually Fry's or Walmart. Each week I pick up 80-100 loaves of wheat bread to make the peanut butter sandwiches for the pigs' medications. Most of that is put into freezers to be pulled out to thaw as needed throughout the week. Pigs that have been off their feed, feeling ill or just had surgery will need some extra enticement to stimulate their appetites. Vanilla yogurt, cheesy scrambled eggs or macaroni and cheese can be added to a meal to

make it irresistible. Cream cheese mixed into a mash or milkshake can add some calories for thin pigs like Flower, Scooby and Wilbur.

Taryn or Lisa start the work day early to prepare the individual meals and mashes for around 100 pigs currently on the specials list. Each pig will have its own tub (a 32 ounce yogurt cup) with a labeled flag stuck in to identify the meals for the feeders. These are loaded into tote caddies labeled by field to go out for the morning meals. The caddies also have any juices needed by those herds as well as the bundles of med bags containing the peanut butter sandwiches or fig newton cookies packed with medications. A lot goes into the meal preparation before the rest of the staff arrives.

Animal crackers are always on the Wish List. Again, these cookies are not just fed to the pigs for fun and games but serve a purpose in multiple situations. New pigs living in the holding pens go out into one of two exercise yards

each day to have the opportunity to wander around and explore the area. The larger yard extends to all the area around the outbuildings and staff housing. To encourage Charlotte and her girls to follow



back to their pen when "recess" is over, shaking a bag of animal crackers then dropping one or two along the way ensures that they'll be happy to come back home. Quincy and Dory needed to be brought in from their field to one of the holding pens prior to heading to the vet clinic to be spayed. Following a trail of animal crackers made that move go quickly with only two staff members (one to trail cookies and the other to manage gates) without resorting to a group of people going in with boards to herd the girls out. After Sassy's biopsy and cryo surgery, she needed to have her bandages changed every few days. Munching on animal crackers kept her distracted enough to get the job done with little stress to her.



People sometimes ask why we don't just feed the pigs fruits and

vegetables. Sometimes we do get some donated produce which the pigs thoroughly enjoy as an added



treat. It is simply not physically or financially feasible to rely on fresh fruits and veggies on a daily

basis to feed 611 pigs when there is a small staff in an isolated rural area located 30 miles from town.

The logistics for having plenty of food on site on a daily basis are what lead us to depend on the feed pellets and hay as the foundation for a meal that will meet the pigs' nutritional needs. Your donations enable us to meet those needs as well as cover the special dietary items for the pigs with particular health issues. Thank you for keeping the pigs fed and happy!

---Donna



My Favorite Pig

Everyone who works at Ironwood has a favorite pig...usually many favorites! James, who has worked here for several years, gets to know the pigs as he goes from field to field cleaning and filling water bowls and pools. He had no trouble coming up with Theo as his overall fave.

Theo is my favorite because he saved another pig's life by giving his blood for a transfusion. Every day when he lived out in Princess Field he would come rub on my leg and flop down for a belly rub. He'd follow me around for cookies. Even though he's not in that field anymore, I still spend time with him. Mary had asked me to watch over Theo while he is living in the special care pen. Every month or two I bring him a bean burro because that was the special treat he got when he saved Lulu's life. I still pamper Theo to this day.

---James



Sponsor a S



Momma

My mom was really sad to have to give me and my family to Ironwood, but she had to move and had no choice. It's okay though. I'm in a safe place with my daughters.



Thumper

When my owner was arrested the sheriff's deputies had to make sure my family and friends were taken to safe places. I came here with 10 other pigs.



I have a congenit that required major prevent me from g I have a wobbly y that slow me do



Shakey

My parents split up s I had to be moved of now live in a special physically disabled p have balance issues.

These pigs are all getting a second chance by coming to Ironwood. Your support as a sponsor provides a safe, comfortable home for them. In exchange for your \$30



Donna

Sparkle

monthly donation, you will receive your pig's background story along with photos. Later in the year you will get an update with new pictures to keep you connected to your pig's life. Join our family of sponsors today!

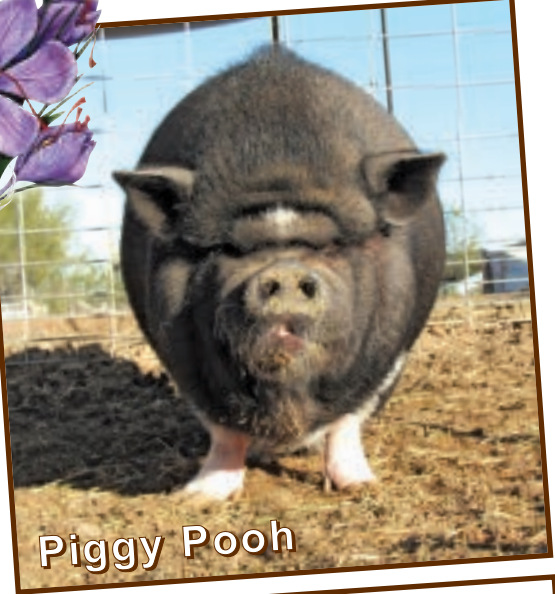
---Donna

Special Pig!



Christopher

enital spinal problem
major surgery to
m getting any worse.
ly walk but I don't let
e down!



Piggy Pooh

My mother, sister and I have
been here for a while on a strict
diet and are slimming down a
lot. Trust me, it's true!
You should have seen
me 9 months ago!



Finn

I had a dislocated shoulder and
had to have surgery then weeks of
physical therapy and special care.
I recovered but have to be
careful with my activities.



up so my family and
d off the property. I
cial field for
ed pigs because I
es.



Lyla

My family moved away and did not
want to take me along. That kind of
hurt my feelings after being together
for over 3 years. But now I live
with a small herd of other pigs.



Dexter

My owners' house got mold in it
and they had to move into a
motel. There was nobody to take
care of me. And, I admit I was a
bit very pushy and aggressive
too.

Where Do They Go When...

A sensitive subject full of emotion...one that many people don't want to discuss but is a part of the natural life cycle...a question that comes from many visitors... What happens when a pig passes away? What do we do with our piggy friends that have ended their journey?

The answer to that question has changed over the years. In the early days of the sanctuary when we lost a pig, he or she was buried in an area set aside to serve as a cemetery. The graves were dug by hand as needed. A marker with the pig's name and date of death was erected to memorialize their spot. The first cemetery is located in the back of the Main Field and started with a grave for Mrs. Pibb in August of 2001. Later, when that piece of land held ten graves, it was decided not to take up more of the pigs' living space in that field and a second cemetery was begun in the far corner of the East Field. The cemeteries are kept within the six foot chain link fencing that surrounds the pigs' living areas in order to protect the graves. In 2007 after the sanctuary had expanded by fencing in another six acres on the west side of the property, a third burial plot was developed. As the sanctuary's population rapidly rose each year, the number of deaths also increased as our earlier inhabitants were into their advanced senior years.

Digging graves by hand was no longer a viable solution, so occasionally a backhoe was rented for a weekend to prepare



Original Cemetery

numerous burial sites in advance. That cemetery filled quicker than we wanted or expected it to and a fourth was fenced in at the back of the New Mexico Field.

It was at this point that we admitted that something had to change. Too much space needed for the pigs' living areas was being taken over as a final resting place for the deceased. It was decided to begin taking our pigs that had passed on to be cremated individually at a crematory in Tucson. The cremated remains are returned to us in individual labeled containers for burial in the cemetery, still getting a marker with their name to designate their final resting place. This method not only takes up less ground space but the actual burial of the remains is easier than digging a large grave.

Mary, Taryn and I are always present during the burials and use that time to say a final goodbye to our friends. If, during the pig's

life, they had been getting daily medications, we place the bags with their names that were used when passing out the sandwiches containing the meds into the grave. Some pigs get special mashes prepared ahead of time and have a flag with their name on it to place in the meal marking it for individuals. Those flags also go into the grave with the pig. Each burial serves as a time for remembering and sharing stories of the individual pig. It's a time for tears but also for laughter at some of the memories. Each pig that arrives here is loved and treated as an individual during their lifetime with us no matter how long or short that time turns out to be. They receive that same love and respect at their passing then again at their burial. For the past 18+ years the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has provided a permanent home for over 1500 pigs as well as giving them a final resting place. And those same pigs will always be in our hearts and yours.

---Donna



Your Legacy, Your Gift to the Future



A planned gift is an investment in the future of your favorite charity or charities that ensures the means to continue that charity's mission into the future. You are encouraged to make a bequest in a Will or Living Trust to benefit the charity(s) of your choosing.

Planned giving offers a wide variety of benefits to you as you plan to accomplish your charitable and financial goals. Benefits may include: personal satisfaction in providing for the continued mission of your favorite charity or charities, income tax savings, avoidance of capital gain tax or federal estate tax, reduction in the administrative costs of settling your estate, and a reminder to your heirs of your dedication to your favorite charity or charities. When considering a legacy gift, please consult a qualified professional.

There are several types of bequests you can make through your will or other estate plan.

- * A percentage bequest which grants a certain percentage of your estate to your favorite charity.
- * A specific bequest of an amount of money or an asset.
- * A contingent bequest naming Ironwood as a recipient in case another beneficiary does not survive you.
- * A residual bequest of the remainder of your estate or a percentage of the remainder after you have made specific bequests.

Thank you for considering the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your estate plans. All the pigs, including Sparkle say thank you. The Mary C Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names (although it is okay if you've already used only the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary name), the post office address from the back cover and this tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-0999483. Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the over 600 Pot-Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.



Moving Miles

My name is Miles. When I was a baby someone dumped me on Park Link Road a few miles from the sanctuary where I ended up running for my life from coyotes in the desert and getting covered with tons of cholla cactus needles. I looked like a pincushion when I finally got here! Man, that was exhausting and super scary! Some lady saw me running by the road and called Ironwood. It took two days for them to catch me. Anyway, that was a while ago and I've grown up some since then. While living in the holding pens I was introduced to Gam Gam who became my good friend. We even shared a pen after we got to know each other.



In January Gam Gam, me and 14 other young pigs all moved into the Lil' East Field bringing that herd up to 41 pigs. I consider myself to be a pretty nice guy. Just ask the people that work here. They love to give me belly rubs and pet me and tell me how sweet I am. But there was something about meeting all those other pigs



in the herd that brought out another side of me that I didn't even know existed. I suddenly wanted to take control of the whole pig universe! I began fighting with other pigs in order to establish my dominance. If



Gam Gam & Miles

If someone bit me, I'd bite right back. If anyone looked at me sideways, I'd jump right on them. There were plenty of scuffles happening but people would always jump in and break us up. I think the other pigs got the message though because after a while nobody challenged me anymore. This other guy named Teddy stirred up a lot of trouble too. He sort of owns one end of the field while I handle the other side. I keep my 'hood under control with little effort these days. Usually just a little sideways shuffle and the clacking of my jaws is enough to remind the pigs who is in charge. Things are settling down now and we're

learning to live together peacefully.

I still have my teddy bear side too. I love Gam Gam and we have picked out a nice house to share. We are making other friends out here and have several that like to hang out in our favorite corner. And I can still charm the socks off the people and get belly rubs every day. Life is good! Someone told me that Gam Gam and I get to live here and have people watching over us because of you. We haven't even met, but you help take care of all of us! How cool is that! Thanks!

---Miles

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are needed year round.****

Miralax Powder
 Antibiotic Ointment
 Animal Crackers
 Fig Newton Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
 Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU
 Peanut Butter, Creamy Only
 Children's Multi-Vitamins, NO Iron
 Canned Pumpkin
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules 1000⁺mg
 Stool Softeners
 Prunes
 Sheets

GIFT CARDS

Master Card
 Discover Card
 Fry's
 Home Depot
 Lowes
 Office Max
 Office Depot
 Staples
 Walmart
 Amazon
 Walgreen's

Smile.Amazon.com

The easiest way to provide for the pigs' current needs is to order from our [Amazon Wish List](#). It is kept up to date with items required to properly care for the pigs. Most items on the list are things we need on an on-going basis, so even if it was listed over a year ago, it is still something we use and need daily. The list is checked frequently to guarantee that you are sending something that is currently needed.



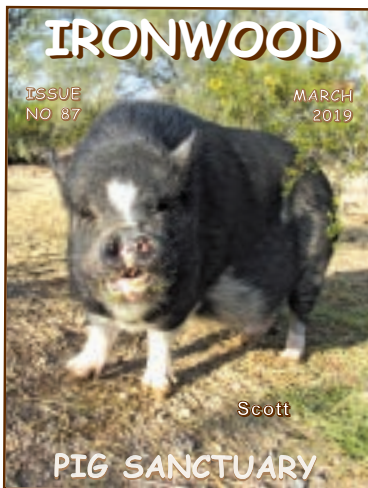
Albert & Katrina

Please make all your purchases including your personal purchases on smile.amazon.com and designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Log on to smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483 using the same log-in information that you use for your amazon.com account. At the top of the page you will see "Supporting: Mary C

Schanz Foundation". The Foundation is our parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to Ironwood. And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping on many items which is particularly helpful when sending something heavy or large.

**All your packages and donations are a great help to the pigs
 and are much appreciated! Thank you!!**

Front & Back Cover



Scott, his companion Gwendolyn, and their five babies arrived at Ironwood on March 1, 2009 so it is appropriate Scott and his family are being featured in our March 2019 newsletter exactly ten years after they arrived at Ironwood. The

Humane Society in Yuma picked up Scott and Gwendolyn after they had been turned loose in the desert when their owner moved away.

When Scott arrived he had recently been neutered. The stitches were out and he was bleeding. We immediately took him to our vet where he was given the care he needed then returned to us where he had a full recovery.



While they were at the Humane Society Gwendolyn gave birth to nine babies on January 19, 2009.

Stephano, Linus, Kelli, and Aida remained with us and were released to our large Peoria Field along with Scott. One baby, Otis was adopted as was Gwendolyn. She was soon returned to us in August of 2009 when the family split up and Otis was returned to us in 2015 when the family moved to a home not zoned to have pigs.

Scott has always been very shy and avoided contact with us. We feed him in a feeding pen since he was

also shy with the other pigs and we wanted to be sure he got enough food.

He remains close with his family and he is pictured here hanging out with his son Linus. He has also become friends with another son and father, George and Walter who have lived here with him for many years. He has been a happy, healthy boy all these years.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 86

Mozart and his brother Johann are such beautiful, wonderful pigs. They were without a doubt two of the most difficult pigs to catch in all our nearly 18 years of picking up pigs. We got a call from Pima Animal Care Center asking us if we could go pick up two pigs who were getting out of their pen regularly and breaking into the pen of a man nearby who had a hog. He told PACC that he was going to shoot them if something could not be done soon to keep these pigs off his property. Mozart was the one who broke out the most and was there most often, but on this day Mozart and Johann were both on the property.

When we got there we were shocked to see two large scraggly woolly pigs. They looked like woolly mammoths. They were in an enclosure with the people's hog but when we tried to get them in their carriers it was a nightmare. Johann was not so difficult but even with the help of all the family, Mozart was nearly impossible. He pushed right through a chain link fence which I have never seen a

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.

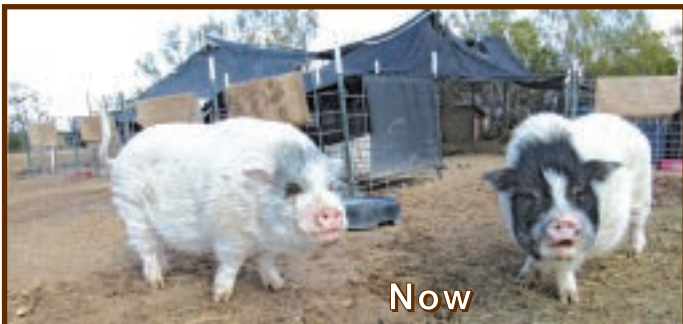
* The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.



Johann & Mozart - Then

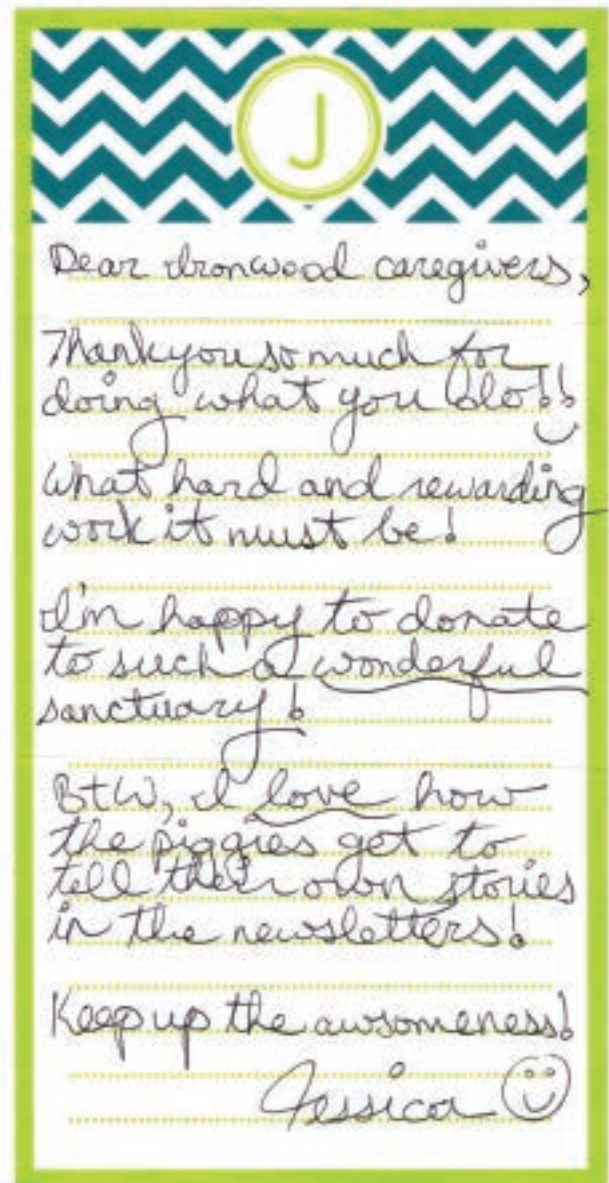
pig do before. With a stroke of luck we got him in the carrier before he escaped completely and would have been gone.

With good food and a good environment they began to slowly settle down and did not run wildly around their pen when we entered. Johann's tusks were growing into the roof of his mouth so we had to trim his tusks as soon as possible. They both come up to us now and love to get treats from our hands. We have moved them into a large field where they roam freely with many other pigs but still hang together with one another. These pictures give you a clear picture of how far they have come and how beautiful they are.



Now

Supporter Writes



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Mozart