

IRONWOOD

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Freya

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2020

Dear Supporter,

In this newsletter you will find a long article about rescuing and saving 41 pigs, some from starvation but all from a life of misery living without enough food, clean water, shelter, shade or medical care. Although we have taken in large numbers of pigs in similar rescues, we no longer have the capacity to do this considering we already have over 600 pigs on site and have so many on our waiting list. We agreed to pay the medical bills and, thanks to your generous donations, it was possible for us to make that commitment so this rescue could proceed more easily.

The real work came from Carrie, Bill, Sherri, and many, many others who did the planning and made it happen. The details are in the "Neglect and Hoarding" article. As you read this article, you will see because of people like them and our committed staff here at Ironwood, so many pigs in Arizona have found homes and are now able to live their lives to completion. In addition to the large rescue in January, just last week Lisa and Joseph, two of our staff, made the long trip to Pahrump, NV to pick up five older, very large pigs from a home where the owner had recently passed away from pancreatic cancer. Their mom was at peace knowing we had committed to taking her pigs and giving them a good home. She passed away before we were able to pick them up, but her daughters know their mom can rest in peace.

I began to think about what it takes for those of us who care deeply about animals and their lives to make such sacrifices in our own lives.

It takes the *courage and commitment of our convictions*. What does that mean? Conviction, as defined in Webster's Dictionary, is a strong persuasion or belief. Those of us involved in Animal Rights and/or Animal Welfare and Rescue have a strong belief that animals' lives are worthy of our efforts to provide for their safety and well-being. People across the country and around the world will sometimes put their own lives at risk to get animals out of harm's way.

Sometimes our convictions are met with controversy, outright hostility and ridicule from people who disagree with our beliefs. But if progress is to be made for animals, we must have the courage of our convictions to ignore the naysayers and push ahead for what we believe to be right.

Whether it is stepping up to the plate to rescue 41 pigs in a hoarding situation, making a long trip to rescue pigs whose mom has passed away or many larger issues like stopping animal testing or factory farms, people who have the courage of their convictions will continue to save the lives of animals.

Your support makes it possible for all of us at Ironwood to continue to do our part in the big web of animal protection and care. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Trim Time

One of the aspects of maintaining a healthy pig is keeping the hooves and tusks trimmed on a regular basis. Having nicely shaped, flat hooves allows the pig to walk normally without putting undue stress on their joints. Keeping the sharp tips off the tusks is a safety issue for other pigs, staff and visitors as well as the pig itself. On average a pig will need a hoof trim every 6-8 months. Some are very active and can get by with once yearly or even longer while others are either not keeping their hooves worn down by activity or have deformed hooves or weird pad growths that require them to be trimmed more frequently. There are currently around 615 pigs at Ironwood. Even trimming all of them once a year is daunting but multiplied by 2, 3 or more times yearly and....Wow!

We have a team of people that work together to get the trimming done. There is an ongoing list of pigs ready for trims. It saves time for the trim team to work in one field at a time, so I will go out in advance to do an inspection. The best time for this is during the morning feeding when all the pigs are out eating or grazing on hay. I walk around looking at everyone's feet while running down the list of names of all the pigs in that field, marking off those that are in need of a trim. Many times a staff member will notice that a particular pig has long hooves

and/or tusks and will alert me to add them to the list. Then we also have the "Frequent Flier" list of pigs that are on odd schedules for



Missy in L V-Trough

various reasons. Bart has had terrible problems with the pads of his feet since he arrived in March of 2019 and requires work every 4 weeks. Mona has an "elf shoe", one rear toe that grows really long and curls up making it difficult to walk. It grows fast, so she has that trimmed down every 10 weeks. Betty's hooves simply grow faster than normal, so she is on a 3 month schedule. And that list goes on and on for 26 pigs with varying trim intervals.

If you look at YouTube videos on how to trim a pig's hooves, you'll see lots of wrong ways to go about it that are dangerous for the pig...going under anesthesia, getting roped like cattle, being grabbed by one leg to jerk them off their feet. You'll also see people sitting beside their pig while it is lying on a rug in a

house, just snoozing away while they trim the hooves. That is not the reality at a sanctuary with 600+ pigs. We do have a few (very few!) that will lie down and let you trim them, but it is more time consuming and not easy to get the whole job done because other pigs keep coming over to interrupt, making the relaxed pig jump up and wander off. Plus it's impossible to trim the tusks safely in that position. Our method is to lift the pig and place it into a V trough on its back then 2-4 people quickly trim the hooves, check the tusks on the males and trim the tips of those if needed then tilt the trough to roll the pig back onto its feet. That V trough is a recent discovery we made thanks to Chris, one of our past trim team members who also works at a veterinary clinic. He brought one for us to try out and it's fantastic!



Benson in XXL V-Trough

Not only does it cushion the pig's back and keep them much more stabilized, but it saves our backs too. Unless the pig is a real struggler, we no longer need to straddle the pig and remain bent



Trimming Bonnie & Mr. Piggles

over throughout the entire procedure. We now can squat down beside the V trough to work, easily changing positions as needed to get better angles. We loved Chris' V trough so much that we bought another one in a larger size so that we can work on two pigs at the same time.

About 99% of the pigs are not going to let us just walk over, pick them up and lay them down in the trough, especially after they have seen us do it to another pig. Go figure! We have to use our "pig boards" to herd the pig into a corner or up against the fence and then get him or her picked up. It only takes two people to do this job if we are working in one of the smaller fields, with tame pigs or with the elderly ones. If we're trimming pigs in the bigger fields, the "jumbo sized" pigs or those



Cornering Ramone

that are not tame at all, it becomes a whole different ball game!

Some fields have a permanent chute built in one corner that we can herd pigs into one by one. This works pretty well for most pigs, but we sometimes still need 4-6

staff members with boards to get the wilder pigs into the chute. Several times throughout the years, we have had people suggest we use a temporary chute that we can move from one field to



Herding Jackie

another as needed. Sounds like a good idea until you get a nervous 200 pound pig crashing through the fencing taking the chute down with them. These guys are extremely strong and determined so something "temporary" would never be enough to hold them.

Attempting to maneuver a pig through one of the larger fields can sometimes be like running an obstacle course. There are bushes and trees to go around, rocky slopes to go up and down, logs and cactus to leap over, shade ramadas to duck under while trying to keep the pig in sight. I

think we've all clocked ourselves on 2x4's or T-posts or gotten jerked back by ropes stretched across the shade cloth. Then there is the issue of all of us focusing on cornering the correct pig. For example, in the Peoria Field's herd of 48 pigs, the majority of them are related and look very similar. When we go into the field with our boards, the pigs know that something is up and that it's not going to be fun. One pig will spot the boards or get suspicious about 5 or 6 of us walking up on them and will snort out a warning to the rest of the herd. They all start barking and running. Say we're trying to get Kate isolated and she takes off with a group of 15 pigs darting through the creosote bushes and someone asks, "Which one's Kate?" and you reply, "The black one!" Well, in this group of pigs, 95% of them are black so that isn't helpful. If you add that she has a scar on her face that also is not helpful if she is running away from you and you can't see her face. Targeting the correct pig is half the battle!



Trimming Tusks

Male pigs need to have their tusks trimmed once or twice a year to get the sharp ends off. This is done in the same position in the V trough as the hoof trimming.



Hoof Trimmers



Horse Nipper

Usually it takes 2 people to do this. One will pull the pig's lips back away from the tusk so they won't get cut by the wire. The other person uses a gingly wire attached to handles to saw through the tusk. There is no nerve in the tusk so the pig does not feel any pain. The wire heats up so it's important for the two people to communicate and be well aware of what the other is doing. Occasionally a third person is needed to hold the front legs still if the pig is struggling or



Cleaning an Abscess

kicking too much. Most of the pigs settle into the trim procedure just fine and let us do what has to be done, but a few will put up a fight over it. Staying calm and working quickly is important to keep these pigs from over-reacting. We want to get done and get them back on their feet as soon as possible.

The pigs are really quick to forgive and forget once they are on all fours again. Most will just meander off like nothing ever happened.



Ironwood's Trim Team

Having a pig on its back in the V trough presents the perfect opportunity to do a quick check for other issues. When Planet was getting his hooves done, the trimmers noticed an abscess on the underside of his chin that never would have been seen from a standing position. Gracie gets thick gunk dried on her face when

the moisture that naturally leaks from her eyes combines with dirt when she's rooting. She gets more of that than most pigs but doesn't like having it done, so it can only be cleaned off while we have her subdued on her back during a trim. Many times we've noted mammary tumors forming that become quite obvious when a piggy is on its back. Abscesses hidden in folds of skin are



Releasing Sprinkles

revealed. Growths on the gums are discovered while trimming the tusks. Ear cleaning on a difficult to handle pig is much easier to do when in the trimming position.

Hoof and tusk trimming is an important part of our total pig care here at Ironwood. It is tough work but one of the many necessary jobs here. It takes team work, patience and endurance. A huge thank you goes out to the group of people making up Ironwood's trim team!!

—Donna

Say Goodbye To Winter

The end of winter will soon be here. Spring begins later this month and we will need to start thinking about the seasonal changes that need to occur to ensure the pigs are comfortable and safe from the heat that seems to sneak up so quickly out here in the desert. For a few more weeks though, the pigs can enjoy the sunshine and nice weather. Here is a glimpse of how the pigs have been spending their time during the mild winter.



Louis

Blankets are on Ironwood's Wish List all year round but are especially important during the cold weather. The pigs love to snuggle in, burrow under or lie atop a pile of warm cozy blankets. Louis likes to wrap himself up warmly to fend off the cold. He does a great job of that and looks adorable at the same time. There have been many times when we've been checking shelters for dry blankets and surprisingly found a pig completely hidden under a comforter. We have even had to "rescue" a few over the years that have wrapped

themselves so tightly that they need help getting out.



Katrina

Katrina is one of many that like to "nest" in a pile. Much time is spent pushing, shoving and nosing the blankets into just the right position to make a comfy bed. That can get a bit noisy if there are multiple pigs sleeping together. Tyler was rearranging the blankets to his preference after Louie and Andre were already settled. With Tyler's every tug on the covers, Louie would grunt while Andre would grumble. They had quickly had enough of Tyler's efforts! And after Tyler got comfortable,

along came Frylock to start the process all over again.

On nice sunny days there will be numerous pigs dragging their blankets out into the sunshine to make naptime more enjoyable. Sometimes pigs that are burrowed under blankets inside their houses may get up for breakfast and come out wearing their blankie like Superman's cape. As they wander around it eventually drops

off. Later in the day another pig comes across it and takes advantage of their lucky



Pumba



Bam Bam



Tofu

find. We constantly have to tuck blankets back into the shelters.



Andre, Frylock, Louie & Tyler

Most of the pigs simply sprawl out on the ground to soak up the warmth of the sun, sometimes alone but most often with friends. A group of the ladies in the Peoria Field have their favorite spot by the creosote bushes.



The Ladies of Peoria

moist ground afterward is always fun. The piggies love to root and dig, making large indentations that are just perfect for their body size...an



Joey

That's the place to head after breakfast is done and it's time to relax. Most often pigs will go to the same place each day when naptime rolls around. Those relaxing alone will just stop and

instant bed!



Brothers, Clark & Dudley



Shakira

rest when they get tired no matter where they are. Like some people, some pigs can sleep anywhere at any time.

Then you have pigs like Twix who can't make up their mind whether to sleep inside or be out in the sun. Actually, Twix is completely head

From the pictures you can see that napping is a huge priority with the pigs. In fact, that "activity" takes up the greater part of their day, especially for those from about 5 years old and up. A variety of places are provided where the pigs can sleep...small shelters, large shelters, igloos, camper shells and barns. The piggies like having choices and will go to



Marilyn



Twix & Louise

over heels in love with Louise who seldom comes out of their house. He found a way to sun himself while still being able to gaze adoringly at his dear Louise.



Violet

There have been quite a lot of rainy days this winter. The pigs don't like the cold rain but the

different places dependant on the weather or their mood. Some prefer having some alone time while others are almost always with friends. Thanks to your financial support and donations of blankets, all the pigs have warm, comfortable housing as well as plenty of space to go out and dig a nice hole or just stretch out in the sun or even in a feed trough.



Barnabus



Twix

—Donna

Sponsor a S



Frylock

My family said they couldn't afford to have me anymore plus they wanted to move somewhere else. If they couldn't afford to feed me, why did they let me keep making babies? There were 8 of us!



Becky

My owners moved to Florida but had no plans to take me along. They actually waited until the day before leaving to call and ask Ironwood to take me. Thank goodness there was room for me!



Marge

Another pig got house and we fo My owners then didn't want any better...peaceful lots of pigs.



These pigs' stories are tales we hear over and over. It is never the pig's fault. They just want a stable home with food, shelter and love. You can provide that for the pig of your choice with a \$30 monthly donation. You'll receive photos and a letter with your pig's background. Later in the year, you'll receive an update with new pictures to keep you involved in your piggy's life. Join Ironwood's Sponsor Family today!



Andre

Donna

—Donna



Charlie Brown

I was bought to be worked out okay u overfed me and I b was just too big! N outside the way pig to...cool!

Special Pig!



Chet



Phil

dumped at my
ought all the time.
decided that they
of us. This place is
and quiet even with

My owner didn't bother to check
on zoning rules and started
breeding pigs. She got in trouble
so I got to come here
with all my brothers
and sisters. This place
is way better!



My dad moved to Tucson and was
boarding me here while
he looked for a house. He
never could find one that
allowed pigs, so I ended up
staying here. I have lots of piggy
friends now.



n



Onyx

a house pet which
until my owners
became gigantic. I
Now I get to live
pigs are supposed

The landlord sold the house where I
lived without telling my owners.
All of a sudden we had nowhere to
live. Some of their family out of
state took them in, but my
granddaughter and I couldn't go.



Luna

While my family was on vacation
I got attacked by their dog. The
pet sitter wouldn't take me to the
vet. When the family got home
they wouldn't either. My whole
ear got bit off!

Neglect and Hoarding

About a year ago we started hearing some concerning reports about a 'sanctuary' that had seemingly come out of nowhere and was taking in livestock animals at an alarming rate up in Tonopah, AZ. After several months of hearing different things from people who had been to the property for various reasons and following closely on social media, I had the opportunity to visit and see for myself just how bad things had gotten in the short 1-2 years this place had been open and accepting pigs, goats, horses and birds.



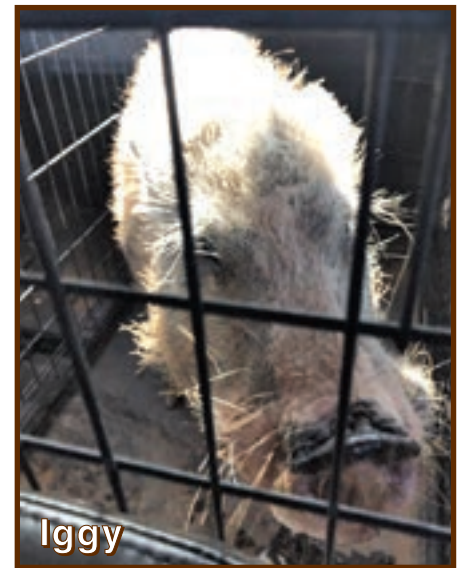
I'm not exactly sure what I expected during my first visit to the property. I had the feeling things wouldn't be good, but I didn't expect them to be as bad as they were. I was overwhelmed with the number of animals housed in an area with unsecured



fencing, absolutely no shelters to speak of and no clean water sources to drink from. Being that it was the middle of summer in the desert and 111 degrees when I arrived, I had expected to see a good portion of the property covered by shade but there was nothing except two trampolines that sat low to the ground and held extreme temperatures below them. The property was littered in junk and the only water was a small man-made pond the animals had for cooling, drinking, peeing and pooping in.

Upon closer inspection of the pigs, I noticed several needed hoof and tusk trims, all of them were horribly sunburnt and a few were dangerously skinny and looked to be starving. When I asked about Iggy, one terribly emaciated pig, I was told, "I'm not sure what's going on with him, he just keeps losing weight. I thought maybe he had worms." I was even more horrified to find

out he'd been there for 9 months but had never seen a vet and had never been dewormed. He was simply left to starve. It was a sad situation with no feeding pens for pigs who may need extra time to finish their food. There were no troughs or feeding bowls to help measure what a pig might be eating. There were no quarantine pens for new arrivals or pigs who got sick and the worst part was absolutely no veterinary care



Iggy

when pigs like Iggy would start to drop weight exceptionally fast. If one would get sick, they were just left to die on their own.



Iggy

After further discussions I learned she didn't know how many animals she had nor did she know their names or where they came from. She had no way of knowing if a pig got any feed that day because it would just get thrown



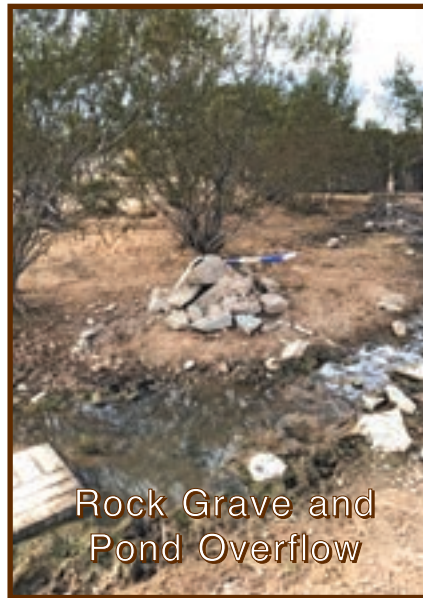
out on the ground and they'd have to fight to get what they could. As the conversation went on, I got more and more concerned about the overall health and safety for the animals under her care. I left that day feeling defeated and heartsick for the animals I had to leave there. I pushed her hard to let me take Iggy, but when you're dealing with a person who hoards animals, they are very reluctant to let any of them go.

That entire evening, I messaged her and pushed her to let me come back and get Iggy so we could get him to the vet. After a good deal of urging, she finally agreed. Being that she was almost three hours away from Ironwood, I called Danielle at Better Piggies and she agreed to go the very next day and pick him up. Iggy saw the vet immediately and it was determined he was starving to



Thin Pigs

death. Because his tongue hung out of his mouth, he needed extra time to eat, but of course he'd never gotten that in the nine



Rock Grave and Pond Overflow

months he spent there. Iggy was only one of the pigs that needed saving and he was one of the lucky ones. He is now back to a healthy weight and living happily with his new family at Better Piggies.

I had extensive conversations

with the owner of this 'rescue' in an attempt to try and educate her on what changes needed to be made to help these animals. We discussed in detail the basic care the pigs needed and when I learned she couldn't afford a \$15 bale of hay, it put everything into perspective. I was quite certain nothing else would ever be done to better the lives of the animals in her care. Sadly, with the current laws in place and lack of an animal control agency in that



Hole in Fence

area, all of our attempts to involve law enforcement went unanswered because she would always have food and water when they went to check. Even with her lack of resources and extreme trouble with finances, she never stopped taking animals in. The numbers grew and it seemed as though there would be nothing to help these dying animals. We were left to wait until a catastrophe happened and just a few short months ago, that's exactly the call I got.

I received an urgent call from her

neighbor; one of those pigs had escaped again. It was a common occurrence from that property and the community knew where they usually came from. We immediately sent two people from our rescue team in the Phoenix area, Bill and Sherri, to go get that pig off the street. As it turned out, the owner didn't want that pig back because the pig always got out and couldn't be contained. Bill and Sherri got to talking to her and told her they wanted to help and amazingly she accepted. Within the next ten days they brought her supplies, feed and hay and as a result, she let them take a total of four pigs from the property because they were horribly emaciated and in need of veterinary care.

We placed the pigs in foster care and very quickly learned all four of them had internal parasites and needed deworming in addition to a multitude of other things to get them healthy. As horrible as that news was, it would be the one thing to force her hand to get help for these animals if she didn't want them all to die. After Sherri advised her of the parasites and told her the rest of her herd was likely suffering from the same thing, she contacted me the next morning to see if Ironwood would help get her pigs the veterinary care they so desperately needed.

I knew this would be a huge undertaking and I'd need a ton of help, both physical and financial, but I'd been waiting for months to find a way to help these pigs and this was it. I got a plan together,

formed a team of willing volunteers in the Phoenix area and went to Ben and Mary with my ideas. By the next morning I had the approval from Mary to move forward and go save these pigs. The owner of these animals reluctantly agreed to sign surrender forms for every pig on the property and sign an agreement to stop taking in new animals. That in itself was a huge win and once it was completed we got to work around the clock.

The first step was scheduling a vet



to come out to see all 35 remaining pigs to deworm, give hoof/tusk trims and give an overview checkup to determine the body condition and any follow-up care needed. Dr. Mike Marricle of Herd Health set aside an entire day and met the rescue team on-site. In the cold, rainy weather with mud in every crack and crevasse, they successfully caught and provided care for the entire herd. It was determined there were three more critical pigs that needed to leave that day and



eight more the following day.

One of the amazing couples on our rescue team, Samantha and Bobby Dittmar, opened their home to the three bonded pigs that needed to leave immediately. With the help of Better Piggies and their amazing livestock trailer, the eight pigs went to Prescott Valley where our wonderful rescue partner, Amy Ogden welcomed them home. Currently they have all settled in beautifully and have been adjusting well to their new healthy diets, warm, dry shelters, clean water and tons of love and affection.



Once the critical pigs were removed, I got to work on finding willing foster homes for the remaining pigs on the property. In the meantime Bill, Sherri, Samantha and Bobby would return often to create temporary shelters, reinforce fencing, bring feed, hay, and straw, make sure the pigs were being fed and check on everyone's health. It was December, our winter rainy season, and it was also freezing.



These pigs were struggling to stay dry and warm and were in real danger of exposure to the elements until these wonderful volunteers gave them a warm, dry space for the first time since they'd arrived there.

I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of offers to help with fostering these pigs and the generous willingness to aid with transport all over the state. On January 1st, New Year's Day, we had a huge transport day. For the first time since I've been in rescue, we had more people than we needed, more cars willing to take pigs to their new homes and countless people willing to roll up their sleeves and get dirty with us. We spent the entire day in Tonopah catching, crating and

loading all but two of the remaining pigs. They were all safely delivered to the 18 foster homes who waited to give them the love and care they deserved. The following weekend the last two were picked up and taken to the wonderful barns at the Humane Society in Phoenix who graciously offered to care for any that needed temporary housing. Those pigs are now in a foster home in Tucson but needed to stay at the Humane Society until their family returned from vacation.

In total 41 pigs were removed from the property in Tonopah. The majority are unaltered females that Ironwood has agreed to spay once they are healthy enough. All of these pigs suffered from malnourishment or starvation as well as internal parasites. There are many with

skin issues caused by overexposure to the intense sun and AZ summers. Their hoof condition overall was terrible; overgrown, dry, cracking and weak. I expect over time there is a real possibility that other issues will surface as a result of the long-term neglect and starvation these pigs suffered. On a good note, because of the flexibility of these wonderful foster homes, we were able to keep bonded pairs together. They have all been settling in and doing well during their recovery.

I'm grateful we have been lucky enough to have a strong rescue community in our state with willing and able people coming forward to give tragedies like this a happy ending. Like the saying goes, "It takes a village..."

—Carrie

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 care for the pigs properly. 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.

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!!**

My Favorite Pig

Everyone at Ironwood has certain pigs that tug at their hearts. Lark, a member of the watering team, interacts with the pigs as she goes from field to field scrubbing and refilling water bowls and pools. Like most people here, it was hard for her to settle on a favorite, but Marty made a big impression on her.

My favorite pig is Marty. That was a hard decision to make as I work in several fields all day as a waterer and have favorite pigs in every one of them. The reasons Marty stands out is I've known him since he arrived here as a baby, about the time I started working here almost 2.5 years ago. He was the cutest little baby and now as a nearly full grown hog, he is still as cute as he was then, only bigger. He has the sweetest personality and really likes people. He also had an impact on my life; because of him I've stopped eating pork. I used to love bacon, pork chops, ham etc. but no more because it comes from pigs just like him. That is why I had to pick him because he inspired me to make a big change in my diet.

..Lark



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

>>No Sheets or Towels at this time

- Heavy Duty Duct Tape
- Hydrocortisone Ointment
- Boost Breeze Nutritional Drink
(Orange Only)
- Probiotic Capsules
- Utility Knives
- Cranberry Capsules
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg



Duchess

GIFT CARDS

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

Front & Back Cover



As is obvious from her pictures Freya is one very cute pig. She is healthy and happy now but a year ago things were not so good for her or her companions. On February 22, 2019, a man went to check on his friend's animals. His friend had been incarcerated and the person he had put in

charge of his animals' care had left them to starve. The man who had gone to check on the animals rescued the dogs then picked up this little pig and took her to a pet store. While there a customer offered to take her home until she could find a home for her. We soon got a call from the lady who took Freya asking us if we could take her. We contacted Carrie who picked her up the next day and took her to our vet for an evaluation then brought her to Ironwood. Sadly, her two companion pigs had already passed away.

I was told her name, selected by Carrie's daughter, means the goddess of love and fertility. Nope, don't want the fertility part, so soon after Freya had recovered and gained enough weight she was spayed. The rest is history

as they say. She is happily running around with all of her friends and enjoying life, especially with big Homer whom she seems to be smitten with. What a



sequence of events that brought her here where she can now live out her life with never a fear of starving again. Sometimes dreams do come true.



Louie Gray & Wyatt

Louie Gray and Wyatt both lived in the Main Field for several years. They later became good friends and started to hang out together. Louie Gray was kind of shy and Wyatt was one of the older pigs in Main.

Wyatt is a senior and life was becoming a bit too difficult for him in the large Main Field. We decided to move him into one of the smaller lifer pens. We did not want to separate him from Louie Gray, so we moved both boys in together. Life is easier for Wyatt now and Louie Gray enjoys being with his friend.

Wyatt and Doc were brothers who had been adopted together but were returned during the big Recession in 2008 when so many pigs came to Ironwood during the hard economic times. Sadly, Doc has passed away.

Louie Gray was snatched out of the jaws of dogs by a lady who stopped her car in the street when she heard screaming. She thought it was a baby being attacked. She rescued him and nursed him back to health but had to give him up when her own life took a serious downturn.

Now they have a life together in peace and safety with each other as companions. One day soon we will open the remaining lifer pens into one large area where the boys can make some new friends but with older less ram-bunctious pigs than those in the Main Field.



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Louie Gray & Wyatt