

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

August 2020

The desert sun and hot weather present many challenges for the pigs at Ironwood. Water for drinking and cooling off are the most critical. Extra staff members are hired during the hot season to keep pools, wallows and water bowls filled. The maintenance staff is kept busy repairing, extending or building shade ramadas so the pigs have plenty of



Lisa, Piglet & Violet

to hose piggies down or spray the tops of the shade ramadas.

Another issue that only affects the white pigs is sunburn. They can develop skin cancer too which appears as scabby sores. This happens most frequently behind their ears and on the bellies. We have Zinc Oxide that is used to combat this on our Amazon Charity Wish List as well as on the list in the newsletters. Some pigs such as Sprinkles, Gracie and Meleah enjoy having this rubbed in behind the ears and readily allow it. For others it



Kim & Wilbur

shady spots to relax. Everyone stays on the lookout for pigs over-heating and stops and stops to hose piggies down or spray the tops of the shade ramadas. Another issue that only affects the white pigs is sunburn. They can develop skin cancer too which appears as scabby sores. This happens most frequently behind their ears and on the bellies. We have Zinc Oxide that is used to combat this on our Amazon Charity Wish List as well as on the list in the newsletters. Some pigs such as Sprinkles, Gracie and Meleah enjoy having this rubbed in behind the ears and readily allow it. For others it can be a challenge. It is easier to do while they're preoccupied with eating. After getting a herd fed, someone will go around and

“zinc” the white pigs either in their individual feed pens or out in the feed troughs. Mushu



Ashley & Mushu

doesn't really like to be touched so getting him done when he's eating in his pen is the best bet. With Fozzie Bear a quick swipe to each ear is about the best that can be done. Another technique is to drop a few animal crackers on the ground then rub in the zinc oxide quickly while they're snacking. That works well for Violet who otherwise doesn't care too much for being petted. Then you have some like Crockett, Mike and Wylie that simply won't allow it



Jezebel & Robert

no matter what, when or how. You could serve them a fresh fruit buffet and they'd still run from you.

Some pigs are more

susceptible to skin cancer and need cryosurgery to freeze spots of skin cancer once or twice yearly. Susie, Brazil and Cindy are prime examples of that. Seems like no matter how much or how often they get coated with zinc oxide, the skin cancer just keeps erupting. We keep at it though!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Picklebottom

In May we got a call about a pig wandering loose in a neighborhood in a rural town. She had been seen for several days often chased by dogs. A woman trying to get her to safety asked if we would take her. When Lisa, Robert and Nate arrived, the pig was hiding in a group of trees. They placed the carrier nearby then lured her out with pieces of fruit bars. Being hungry she walked right in, gobbling up food along the way. The poor thing was thin, looked like she had recently been nursing and had several minor bite wounds on her hips and buttocks.

After arriving at Ironwood the tall, lanky gal was named Picklebottom. A couple of weeks later she had a severe vaginal discharge, a sure sign of pyometra. She was taken to the



Recovering From Surgery

clinic for an emergency spay and had a 30 lb. infected uterus removed. She also had an ovarian aneurysm, a rare but life threatening condition. The



pyometra discharge ended up saving her life because the aneurysm would not have presented any visible signs. Picklebottom was very lucky that it was discovered in time. She made a remarkably quick recovery.

Picklebottom is quite a character. She is at least ten years old and a mixed breed, taller and larger than most pot-bellied pigs. She still lives in a holding pen where new arrivals stay before moving to one of the many fields. For about 45 minutes each day Picklebottom goes out to the exercise yard. She loves to wander, staying on the move to explore all corners of the property foraging on vegetation or looking for handouts from anyone that crosses her path. She is friendly and enjoys a quick back rub, but then she's got to get moving again. Picklebottom has surprised us with her ability to climb over fences. Yes, climb! One day she was caught red-handed with her head deep in the grain bin. Her gate was still locked, so she had managed to

climb over, open the bin (a feat in itself) and proceed to stuff her face. Another time Picklebottom was seen hanging over the top of the fence into the neighboring pen in attempts to visit the gal next door. She was then moved to a "boar pen" with extra high double fencing. So far this persistent pig hasn't figured out how to get over or out. Soon she and a few other recent arrivals will move to the Main Field. She's going to love the freedom to roam out there! Thanks to you Picklebottom can live out her life in a safe environment with others of her kind.

—Donna



If you would like to help with Picklebottom's medical bill, please allocate your donation in her name. Her clinic visit came to \$2,686.78. This big, beautiful girl appreciates your support!

Wilbur

Hi! My name is Wilbur. Did you know there have been 30 pigs named Wilbur come to Ironwood over the years? Isn't that crazy! Some of them had their names changed after coming here, but I responded to my name and got to keep it. Anyway...I've been here for about a year and a half. My family loved me, but we ran into some major trouble. I made the mistake of sneaking out of the yard through a gap in the fence and was badly attacked by a dog who took a big chunk out of my back all the way down to my spine. Ouch! I had to go to the vet a bunch of times and my



bothers me a bit because it gets flaky and itchy and also sunburns easily. The nice people here put zinc oxide or Desitin on it. That makes it feel so much better.

I am two years old and sort of small for my age. That's because my body spent a lot of energy on healing my wounds instead of growing. That's okay though. I don't mind being the little guy. I live out in the Sunset Field which is a huge place where 40 other pigs live. Some of them like Heather and Big Charlotte seem ginormous to me. The part of the field where I decided to live is



family just couldn't afford to keep doing that. That's when I came to the sanctuary. By the time I got here my wound was gross and full of maggots. I went straight to the vet to have all the gunk cleaned out. Another time the vet came all the way out here and did some more cleaning stuff. Later I went back to the clinic one last time. It is healed now but still



mostly normal sized pigs and lots of them are around my age. My friend Petey lives out here and sometimes I hang out with the sisters Azul, Hermosa, Zantina, Kirbita and Manteca. Aren't those cool names?! I made friends with a big guy named Salvador, but I don't hang with him too often. He's sort of rambunctious. Then there's this other boy named Wilbert who comes over to the shady spot that I like. He said he used to be Wilbur but had his name changed. We're



buds now. Gosh, there are so many pigs I've met out here. It was kind of overwhelming at first to be in this crowd of pigs, especially at breakfast time when everybody is crazy hungry but I'm used to it now. I like having somebody to talk to all the time or to sit in a wallow together or to take a nap with. There's also lots of quiet spots to relax when I want to be alone. Thanks for sending donations that make this life possible for me. You're the best!

—Wilbur

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

POST OFFICE BOX 35490

TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490

520-579-8847

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Mrs. Butterworth