

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter, May 2022

We are about to say goodbye to the 21st year of rescuing pigs and begin our 22nd year. The Sanctuary has morphed into a lifetime commitment for which I was not really prepared as we stepped into this endeavor, not knowing there was no looking back. Retirement plans gradually slipped away as the sanctuary grew and the lives of so many pigs were in jeopardy. As they pass through the gates of Ironwood with babies in tow, horrific dog attacks, pregnant, malnourished and in pain from being on the lam, owners who have either died or are in poor health, or the pigs simply are no longer wanted, we all work to bring their lives back in balance.

Once we have accepted the responsibility of taking a pig or pigs to Ironwood, we have accepted the responsibility for their care and their safety. That has been our mission from day one and continues to be as we begin our 22nd year. But that commitment comes with many challenges and they are growing bigger each day as our numbers have soared these past couple of years and in particular, these past couple of months. We saw rapid growth in the past when we took over St. Matilda's 46 pigs on July 4, 2004 then picked up 33 that soon became 45 from a Peoria rescue April 15th of 2008. However, during those times our numbers were not as great and we could readily fence off a new large section of land to accommodate the newcomers.

This year, as we look back on 21 years of rescuing pigs, we also look ahead with the full knowledge that our mission is far from over. Once the pigs are with us and their lives are secured, the work begins to give them the best care possible. Not just to be alive but to have a life well lived in our harsh desert environment. That is only accomplished by our staff of far too few. It only takes one day here when staffing is especially short to appreciate the importance of having dedicated people to care for such a large number of pigs. As is true across the country, hiring new people has been especially difficult these past number of months. When one adds summer heat that is on the way, higher gas prices, and non-profit wages, I cannot sing the praises enough of the folks who come each day to see that our pigs get the good care they deserve. Your support makes it possible for us to afford to pay that staff and to continue our 21-year commitment to our mission.

These are some of the very recent rescues made possible by your support as we begin our 22nd year. They have made it through our gate and we are now committed to their care.

Jonas is an adorable little stray boy. A lady called to say he had come in to her yard and was very lame with a possible broken leg. It was an area with few houses and a lot of open desert. I cannot even imagine how this



very social boy arrived at such a location. He was immediately taken to our vet for X-rays. Luckily, he does not have a broken leg, but he is very lame and will require time to hopefully recover.



Meg and Bill were strays who made their way to a lady's house in Willcox. When my staff went to pick up the whole family of four babies

and Meg, the inadequate fencing allowed the babies to escape and only Bill and Meg could be caught. Meg had a bad case of mastitis and could not nurse the baby, but Bill is old enough to eat solid food. The lady said the other 3 babies are still around, but it is not yet clear if we will have another opportunity to rescue them.

Daffodil and her four young babies came from a hoarding situation. All the animals were



confiscated by the Pima County Sheriff's Department including pigs, goats and at least 55 dogs. Daffodil and her babies are now safe with us and will get the care they need.

These four sweet girls came from the same rescue; Mimosa,



Meadow, Magnolia and Maybelline. It is so rewarding to see them enjoying their life here splashing around in their wallows and hiding under blankets.



Maggie is surviving a horrible attack by the owner's dog. She was picked up by PACC after the neighbors called to report she and her sibling were there for days after the attack with no medical help.



Otto and his four companions were brought from CA to a nearby foster home after a long wait for space to be available at Ironwood. The owner, now in his 80's with rapidly failing health,



rescued these pigs from being slaughtered by a man who took free pigs off Craigslist then slaughtered them and sold the meat. They are all somewhat worse for wear due to the owner's waning health, but he worked hard to get them in a safe place before he passes away.



Wilma Cox was picked up in Willcox after a plea from one of the owners who wanted her saved from the four boars they had as well

All these precious lives have been saved because of your support and the hard work of so many here at Ironwood. I was recently asked at an interview for a news station here in Tucson, "Why save pigs?" Pigs, like all sentient beings, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and be free from abuse and neglect. They are wonderful, sensitive beings who experience a wide range of emotions just like you and me.

Sincerely, Mary Schanz

Mary Scharz-President & CoFounder

April Showers Bring May Flowers

he common phrase "April showers bring May flowers" doesn't really apply at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary located in the Sonoran Desert. The cactus blooms have come and gone already, but we do have a variety of "flower girls" living here. Let me introduce you to these lovely ladies.

Sunflower came here in June 2019 after her owners moved. At the time, she was obese with



extremely long hooves that had obviously never been trimmed. Regular hoof trims and a diet have her looking good! Sunflower lives in the Galaxy Field with a herd of 13 pigs. She is a very calm, well-behaved girl around 6-8 years old. After spending a long time on her own which is typical of pigs raised in households as an "only child," she eventually became good friends with Charlie Brown. The two of them share a shelter in a quiet corner. They often spend time hanging out with Onyx and Iris.

Speaking of Iris, she's another of our flower girls. This 5-year-old arrived in August 2019 with her



grandmother, Onyx. Her background is identical to Sunflower's...owners away, she was obese, had super long hooves she was tripping over. Unfortunately, this is a common theme for many of the pigs released to us. All that is in Iris' past though. These days she is an active, slim gal that loves wandering across the Galaxy. She and Grandma Onyx have a very close relationship but do enjoy visiting with others as well.

Lily lives in the North Field, next door to Sunflower and Iris. Her entire family came to the sanctuary in December 2015 to be



spayed and neutered then went back to their home. A year later, both owners were in poor health with one in the hospital and the other in assisted care. At that point, Lily's family came back to stay. The North herd has 37 pigs, but the family consisting of Lily, Precious, Mr. Pitts, Christie and Patch, seldom hang out with anyone other than each other. Lily, now 8 years old, and the others will wander around exploring on their own but when it comes time to rest, they always find other family members to lie down with. It's very sweet!

There are two Petunias at the sanctuary. One is a 5-year-old that came in July 2019 after being



removed from her home due to Petunia has a lot of problems with the pads of her feet growing oddly and forming pockets that small pebbles get stuck in. She gets frequent hoof work done and often needs to have her feet wrapped in bandages. For this reason, she lives in the Special Needs Field with a herd of 9 pigs. Having a small group to live with reduces the challenges and risks of further injury. Petunia is a loner amongst the pigs but enjoys attention from people.



The other Petunia is an 8-year-old cutie that arrived in June of 2018 when her owner had to move out of state to help her elderly father. Just as well since she was being used for breeding, so that put another one out of business. Yay! Petunia, now spayed, lives in the Princess Field with 27 pigs. Although she gets along with the others, she is perfectly happy being on her own. She is very active and spends a lot of time exploring and rooting her way across the field.

Sweet Pea has been at Ironwood since February 2015. She had



been purchased to be part of a small petting zoo, but the owner decided she was "too much

trouble." This is one of the calmest, most laid-back piggies ever and I can't even imagine how she would have been trouble. She just melts to the ground for a belly rub the instant you approach her and will stay that way forever if you had the time to stay with her. Such a sweetie! Sweet Pea is 8 years old and in great health. She lives in the Sunset Field with a herd of 36. Her home territory is a back corner where she and a few others with similar personalities like Fozzie Bear and Biscuits live in peace together.

Violet was actually born at the sanctuary in June 2015 not long after we rescued her mom,



Jezebel. She will soon be 7 years old and lives in the Main Field with a herd of 25 pigs. Her best friends are her siblings Jameson and Mona and another girl their age named Tennille. They all hang out near the front of the field which is a popular spot. There are several houses grouped around the trees in the wash as well as a large community shelter where many from the herd live. Violet is very sweet and likes having her back rubbed.

Poppy is a loveable, young girl that came in June 2019. She recently turned 3 years old which is when pigs reach maturity. Her owners had been evicted from their home and were living in a car. Poppy arrived at a time when



had an abundance youngsters coming in from all different situations. That summer we ended up with 11 piggies around the same age that all became good friends and have remained so even after moving into the Peoria Field to live with a herd of 46 pigs. That group claimed a section of the field with several shelters clustered together in a "neighborhood." Poppy and her friends switch around, sleeping with different pals and are very happy sharing their time and space with one another.

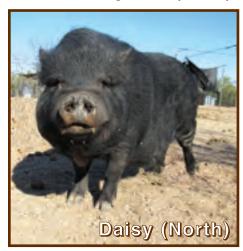
And then we come to the Daisies. There are six girls named Daisy currently living at the sanctuary. We'll start with the youngest one who is one of Poppy's good friends. This Daisy is also 3 years old and came here in September 2019 with her sister Ila. The girls were living in an apartment (BIG mistake!) and were tearing the place up. The owners soon realized they had made the wrong

choice of pets for their living situation. Daisy is closest with her sis but loves being part of the gang they hang out with. She's like



Sweet Pea in that she loves her belly rubs and will drop over on your feet as an invitation to get started.

The second Daisy you'll meet is the 8-year-old mother of Jade. These ladies were loved at their home, but when mom lost her job and dad became disabled and could no longer work, taking care of the girls was no longer a possibility. They've been with us since July of 2017 and live in the North Field along with Lily. Daisy



has recently begun hanging out on the east end of the field apart from Jade for some unknown reason. There is a group of six pigs that call that area home and they've been a bit reluctant to have Daisy join them. She is being persistent though and sticking it out. She eats from the troughs with them now and naps apart from the group but is inching her way closer day by day. She's a quiet, independent gal and hopefully will soon be a part of that particular clique. They'd be lucky to have her as a friend!

Another Daisy lives in the backyard of the Visitor Center, one of the special care areas set aside for elderly pigs or those



with physical disabilities. After her owners moved away in August of 2017, Daisy came to the sanctuary with her friend Dot Dot who has since passed away. Even though she is only 11 years old, Daisy has severe arthritis. Most of her time is spent relaxing and sleeping inside her house, but she is quick to be up and on the move at mealtimes or for the afternoon Happy Hour. She loves her juice and apple slices!



There is another fairly young Daisy with joint problems making it necessary for her to live with a small group of elderly pigs. This 7-year-old girl came in May of 2018 after her human mom had to move out of state due to horrible allergies. Daisy first lived in one of the smaller fields, but she just couldn't cope well with that much space. Because of her continuous problems with lameness, she was moved into the back portion of Assisted Living Phase III and lives there with five other pigs. She has become good friends with Wolfgang, Buddy, Spidey and Pierre. Santa Baby is new to the group and still working her way into the small herd. It's a peaceful bunch and Daisy is very happy with them.

The next Daisy had been abandoned along with Dozer in the backyard of a rental home. The new renters kept them for a few weeks, but the pair were constantly getting out and roaming the neighborhood. Frustrated with chasing the pigs around, they asked if we would take them during December 2018. Daisy, around 6 years old now, lives in the Princess Field with one of the lovely Petunias.



She has these cute wrinkles that look like raised eyebrows, giving her a rather comical expression. She and Dozer are part of the same herd but went their separate ways, establishing different home territories and finding new friends. Daisy fell in love with Conner and enjoys snuggling with him under a favorite shade tree or inside their shelter.

And last, but not least, is the Daisy that is 20 years old. Wow! She has been here since December of 2013 after her owner decided she needed to be with other pigs but had no interest in getting friends for her. She



lives in the Special Needs Field where one of the Petunias resides. Daisy is a sweetheart that enjoys some quiet attention, a few pets or a back rub. She is also perfectly happy just relaxing in the sun by herself. She chose a house at the front of the field and seldom wanders far from home. Sometimes Rambo sleeps in the large shelter with her, but most of the time she is on her own.

This bouquet of flower girls is just a sampling of the 650 or so pigs that have a safe, comfortable place to call home thanks to your generous gifts to Ironwood. Sweet Pea, Lily, Sunflower, Poppy, Violet, Iris, the two Petunias and all the Daisies wish you a spring filled with beauty and peace!

—Donna

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS **Dur Wish List**

Used Blankets are needed year round. *First Class Forever Stamps

*Fig Cookies -*High Priority* (NOT individually Wrapped) Animal Crackers -*High Priority*

Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg -

High Priority

Miralax

Canned Pumpkin

Stool Softener

Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)

Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)



Poppin

GIFT CARDS

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

When shipping donations through USPS, please ONLY ship to POB 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740-5490. Do NOT use the physical address.

Sponsor a



My humans moved away and didn't take me and my friend Taco along. That was sad, but the two of us are still together so that's good! We have a nice place here.



My human family moved away and didn't want to take me and my friend Chester because we were "too old". How rude! We get better care here than we did at home anyway.



Did you know the named Daisy at the the youngest in the it? A bouquet of the Anyway, "pick" references.

These 8 piggies have their hooves crossed in hopes of having sponsors. That would make their day! Your \$30 monthly donation will help with the

basic daily care for the pig of your choice. You will get a background letter and photos of your pig to learn all about them.

* Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



Christopher & Donna



My human family home that went into and got sold. They go with five pigs a so my family and I

Special Pig!



there are six pigs at the sanctuary?! I'm that bouquet. Get of flowers...daisies.



ily lived in a rental into foreclosure hey had nowhere to a salong for the ride, and I came here.



I came here with Rusty. He's my best friend! I sure hope both of us get picked by someone who will love us forever. It's so exciting to think about getting a sponsor!



Not too long ago, my human passed away and I had nowhere else to go. I'm still getting to know the other pigs and trying to make friends. I like it here!



I'm just sitting
here waiting for someone
to sponsor me. I'm the
only piggy in my entire herd of 39
who doesn't have a sponsor.
Feeling a tad lonely here folks!



I used to be a solid black color but have developed vitiligo in the past year, so my pigmentation is turning pale pink. Isn't that funny that I'm a pig with **pig**mentation?

Happy Anniversary, Ironwood!



The sanctuary has been up and running (and GROWING!) for 21 years! Hundreds and hundreds of pigs have come through our gates over the years. Most have come to live out their lives here, roaming freely in fields with herd mates and friends in a safe, protected environment.

Some have been adopted to individual forever homes after yard checks and education about pig ownership. Thank you for being a part of all their lives. Here's to all the pigs that have called Ironwood home for the past 21 years!!



Ironwood's Online Store

You can shop for Ironwood products on our website, www.ironwoodpigs.org. On the Home Page find "Support" on the menu bar then choose "Store" from the drop-down menu. You'll find fun things for yourself or gifts for any occasion!



After

Makeovers

igs arrive at Ironwood from all kinds situations, some good and some bad. Often, the people that

love their pigs the most and have to give them up for reasons beyond their control are the ones that spoil their babies with an over-

abundance of food. Obesity leads to weak joints and mobility. Minnie Pearl Befor poor On the opposite end of the spec-

trum, are pigs that have been in abusive homes or abandoned when people move or dumped out to run loose as strays. These often come in underweight with some suffering from malnutrition and dehydration. We're going to look at a few examples of both the

obese and too thin pigs that have been at the sanctuary long enough improve their appearance.

Minnie Pearl came from the home of a hoarder who, at the time of her arrest in June 2018, had over 100 animals

Willow Before that were all suffering from a lack of food, water and proper care. Thankfully, only 12 of those animals were pigs and 11 of them are now living safe lives the sanctuary. (One pig

"mysteriously disappeared" from the county shelter before we were allowed to pick the group up.) Minnie Pearl had obviously had a recent litter of babies and was

having been at Ironwood for almost 4 years, Minnie Pearl is looking fabulous. very thin.

She was put on extra food rations to allow her to slowly gain Vitamin supplements weight. were added daily for many months until she was looking healthy. Minnie Pearl is around 9-10 years old. She and her best friend that she came here with,

Willow is another gal that had been used for breeding. She came here a

with less competition.

year ago, May 2021 with her and mate children. The family had not Minnie Pearl After been deprived food mistreated. She

was just thin and worn down from being a young mom...too young actually. Willow is turning 3 years old this month which is when pigs reach maturity. All of the family has been spayed and neutered now. Like Minnie Pearl, Willow received extra rations and

vitamins in the beginning to help her get healthier, particularly since she was still a growing girl. She's a fantastic mom whom her children adore. They are always nuzzling and

Willow After snuggling with her. What a sweet family!

Joan Jett, live in Assisted Living Phase V with 7 other pigs. Both have arthritis related lameness and need a smaller field

Johann and Mozart are brothers, 8-10 years old, that have been here for just over 4 years. These

guys were escape artists that terrorized their neighborhood, wreaking havoc on others' property After one neighbor threatened shoot them. another called Pima Animal

Care Center

who gave Ironwood permission to pick them up. The owner could have cared less and never made any effort to keep them. The boys were scraggly and looking, rough but that is actually typical ofboars (unaltered

males) when they've been running loose. They expend a lot of energy and burn a lot of calories just trying to be more macho than one another. After coming to the sanctuary and getting neutered, behavior that

came to an end.

Charlie Brown Before With their new calmness, Johann and Mozart cleaned up their act, so to speak. They are both very handsome, clean young men these days. They live in Spike's Field and have a large group of buddies to hang out and relax with.

Johann Before Johann After



Next, we get to the chubby piggies. Charlie Brown was a much-loved house pig that outgrew his humans' idea of a house pet. They overindulged this boy with treats...all day long! His "Before" picture shows huge, heavy jowls and rolls of fat over his eyes. Those rolls can actually cause a condition called "fat blindness" if the eves are covered for a long period of time, causing temporary or permanent

damage from nonuse. Charlie Brown was lucky to have gotten here at an early age to begin his diet program and did not end up losing his eyesight. He is maintaining a healthy weight and feels so much better now. His

activity level now at 4 years of age is way beyond what it was when he arrived as a lethargic 1.5-yearold. Way to go, Charlie Brown!

> Charlotte had even more pronounced fat rolls above her eyes than

Charlie Brown After Charlie Brown when she came in late 2018. This poor obese girl had been living in a rural area where coyotes were prominent. There was no fencing at her home. If she had been attacked in her condition, she would never have had a chance. When she arrived at 3 years of age, she

has only

been here six

weeks, having

arrived in March

2022 with her

should have been running and playing but could barely shuffle around and only got up when forced to go out for some exercise. A long strict diet got Charlotte in shape and now she loves to wander around her field exploring and rooting. It's

amazing how much difference it makes in the personalities and activity levels when all that extra weight comes off.

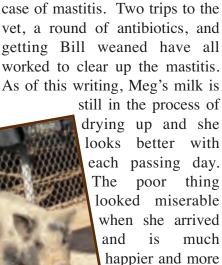
The arriving pigs' "makeovers" may take months or even years, depending on which end of the scale they're on. But it is not just outward the appearance that is noticeable. The healthy looks are the

Moonpie first thing you see, but other changes occur along the way too. Remembering how long it took in his early days to coax Charlie Brown out of his pen to plod his way into the exercise yard then seeing him now trotting across an entire field just to see what his friends are doing is a joy. Watching Willow blossom over the past year from a wrung-out child/mom to a beautiful, active adult is awesome.

Here are a couple of girls who are "works in progress" and well on their way to joining Johann,

field for her to explore once her energy level goes up as the weight goes Charlotte Before Charlotte After son, Bill and a bad

> Mozart and the others on the road to a makeover. Moonpie will eventually join ranks with Charlotte and Charlie Brown as a "perfect weight pig" as she continues to shed the



down.

Meg

these days. Meg is living in one ofthe

comfortable

individual holding pens where new arrivals stay. She has daily access to a turn in the exercise yard. She and Bill are apart for the time being while her milk depletes, but it shouldn't be long until they're back together.

Living a healthy lifestyle is something we hear about all the time and should apply in our lives and the lives of our pigs. Thanks

Meg

—Donna

pounds. She arrived in October 2021 after her owner had a stroke. Due to her obesity and lack of mobility, she is living in Assisted Living Phase II whose herd consists of mostly elderly, arthritic pigs. Although Moonpie has already lost substantial weight over the past seven months, she is still in the lethargic, need to lose more category. Her life pretty much consists of moving from a sunny nap spot to the shade of her house to the place where she eats her meals, but there's a whole

to your support, these pigs and so

many others have the chance for a

happy, healthy life at Ironwood

Pig Sanctuary.

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.

Matching Company Donations



Willow & Gibson

Many companies offer programs to match charity donations made by their employees, sometimes doubling or even tripling your gift. When making a donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary on our website, it's easy to see if your employer will match your donation. On our Support Page in the Donate box, select an amount then enter your company's name. It will immediately tell you if your company will match your gift. Your gift along with your employer's match, will go even further toward the care of the over 650 pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary.

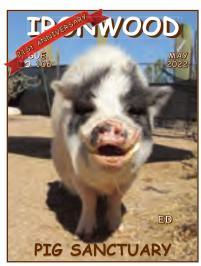
Online Wish Lists

AmazonSmile and Chewy: Both are easy! On Ironwood's website, www.ironwoodpigs.org, go to the "Support Page" and click on the links in the drop-down menu to go directly to our wish lists on both sites.

*Don't forget to make Ironwood your designated charity on AmazonSmile!

*Note: On Chewy.com, you will need to create an account in order to make a purchase.

Front & Back Cover



siblings were born at Ironwood in April of 2014 shortly after we rescued their mom, Charlotte, from a horrible breeding situation. The breeder was eventually shut down. Charlotte was very crippled and perhaps she just had one too many litters because shortly after

they were born, she refused to feed them. Since she rejected her babies, we became their moms. Our senior staff all took turns feeding them through the days and nights until they were able to eat on their own. Ed was the biggest one and the hardest to feed. All the others ate from a pan, but Ed refused and had to be fed from an eye dropper for quite some time.

As they grew into adolescence, we put them in the large Main Field where they could grow up with other pigs and enjoy their life together. But soon after, Si got a broken elbow and we took him all the way to UC Davis, CA for repairs. Once there, they took new X-rays and found he was luckily healing on his own. Not long after Si had healed, another of Ed's brothers, Jango, also got a broken elbow in a fight. This time we kept him home with us and again he healed on his own.

Having experienced two such breaks in a very short time, we made the decision to put all the siblings; Ed, Jango, Si, Riley, Huratio, and their good friend JoJo in a separate field together to avoid any further injuries. We named the field the Frat House. The "kids" grew up together and have lived together in relative peace, as peaceful as siblings can be, for several years now. They are



celebrating their 8th birthday as I write this article, so guess I will give all of them a birthday treat tomorrow.



ackie and Nelson are two boys from a rescue of 33 which later became 45 once the babies from the rescue were born. One night Ben got a call from a woman who said she had an injured pig and asked if we could help her. As the conversation continued, he found out she had many pigs, so he offered to help. Ben asked her if the males and females were separated. She said she was working on that. But after she hung up, we did not hear from her again until months later when she had been charged with animal cruelty and had to give up her pigs. We quickly put together a plan and went to Peoria to pick up all the pigs on April 15, 2008. Many of the group have passed away and all who remain are over 14 years old. We kept the whole family together until, with age, some of them needed to come into a smaller, special needs area.

When 12 youngsters were ready to graduate to a large field, we decided Peoria would be the best fit. So we switched 11 of the older boys and girls who had spent the past 13 years of their lives in the Peoria Field to the smaller field where the youngsters had grown up. The field was renamed Silverbells. Jackie and Nelson are 2 of the 11. The move was great for them since they can stay together in a smaller field adequate for seniors and not have to compete with the large group of younger pigs who were released to their field. Jackie and Nelson are relaxing



here together as they have done for so many years and will continue to do for the rest of their lives.

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 Published at the above address regularly. NON PROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID TUCSON, AZ PERMIT NO. 2216

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