

# IRONWOOD



SUBSCRIPTIONS  
NO 109

NOVEMBER  
2022



Jessie & Leanne

# PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

November 2022

We are approaching the end of yet another year and the time has come to wish you a very Happy Holiday and Happy New Year. This is always a time of reflection for me. A time for me to look back at the year past and at what to expect in the year ahead. Finally Covid seems to be behind us and we are able to welcome visitors again. Seventy-seven new pigs have joined us at Ironwood so far this year. Oddly enough the number at this time last year was also 77. The little boy who just became the 77th is a young boar who was always escaping the lady's



Timmy

yard and we suspected he had been shot. One of our staff offered to foster him if we would take him that day, so Timmy became our 77th pig for 2022. When we took him in to be neutered a week later, they found two 9mm bullets in him. One in his chest and one in his neck about 2 inches from his spine. A miracle indeed that he has survived these wounds and is doing so well.

Since our summers have now extended to the end of September, our staff has had to endure yet another month of often 3 digit temperatures. Looking ahead, I know it will only get worse in the years ahead. A huge thanks to all our staff who have made their way to Ironwood through the summer to be sure all 675 pigs are fed, watered, and their needs are met. Without them and their dedication, Ironwood would not be possible. Even more importantly, this has all been done with a daily shortage of staff since hiring new people has been elusive. This presents a big problem as I look ahead to the New Year. So looking back over the year things have been far from easy, but whoever said rescuing so many animals would be a walk in the park. Many of you have had the experience of rescuing many animals yourselves, so you can appreciate how difficult it is.

Over the past couple of years, we are turning more and more to foster homes to take care of the unwanted pigs that I talked about in previous newsletters. We have dozens more pigs in foster homes. Many of the foster pigs have been saved from hoarding situations. They are all intact and must be separated and neutered.

Because we have been able to provide and install fencing and shelters to house many of these fosters, the process has been sped up considerably. Preventing unwanted births remains our top priority. Our foster parents have become an integral part of Ironwood and I often don't have the pleasure of meeting them or the pigs to which they are providing a home. Other volunteers and helpers make sure they are going to an appropriate home. I must admit having so many pigs in foster homes is a scary proposition. However, the number of unwanted pigs has exploded over this past year and without fosters and the financial ability to support fosters, so many more pigs would be homeless.



Mary & Truffles

This is where your generous support comes in. Like our staff, without you none of this would ever be possible. None of our foster parents have ever asked for any payment. However, the cost of our community outreach program which includes providing spaying and neutering, additional medical care, feed and often fencing and shelters to all these foster pigs, has grown to nearly \$100,000 a year.

I am so very grateful to all of our foster parents who give so much of their time and love to these many pigs in need. We could never provide for all of these additional pigs at Ironwood, particularly because of the difficulty we have with staffing.

Therefore, the overwhelming takeaway from this past year is the huge surge of pigs in need of a home and the impossibility of finding sufficient employees. But another overwhelming takeaway is that you have continued to support us and because of your support we have been able to do so much for the pigs in Arizona.

Avon, seen in a previous newsletter, has metamorphosed into a beautiful, proud young lady.



Avon Now



Ramsey

Ramsey, seen with me in September's newsletter, was tied to a tree by a police officer until we could arrive and bring him to safety.

Of the 77 additional pigs who have come to call Ironwood home this year, most have come to us as strays, abandoned or from hoarding situations. All were in desperate need of a safe harbor including the owner release ones.

Of all the pigs we have rescued this year with so many stories to be told, Truffles has been one of the hardest for me to accept. In August, we got a phone call about a pig in Eloy, AZ. The owner had



Avon,  
First  
Arrived

passed away and the owner of the property lived in Indiana. A neighbor had been asked to care for Truffles, but he could no longer take care of him and asked us to come for him. Although Truffles himself was not in bad shape, his living conditions were abhorrent. He was in a tiny, filthy, dark pen thick with black muck and his water bowl was the same. He had lived that way for 8 long years that the neighbor knew about. He was a beautiful black, proud boar. Now neutered, seeing him out walking the property in the sunlight, talking with other pigs and happily accepting our affections gives me such joy. Bringing Truffles from a dark, foul, lonely hole to an entirely new life of sunshine and friends is all the reward that I could ever ask for. You can be so proud to be part of Truffles' new life and of all the others you have been a part of this year.

Thank you so much for making this yet another successful year at Ironwood. I am not sure what the year ahead will bring, but with your support I am sure many more lives will be saved as they have been for the past 21 years. Please have a Happy Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

*Mary Schanz*

Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder

# Families



## "The Moms"

**I**ronwood's current population is around 675 pigs with 77 of those being new arrivals during 2022. Part of that influx of pigs this year included 3 mothers and their children. Elsa's owner died and none of the family members wanted to keep the pig. We were told she was the only pig at that home, so imagine our shock when Elsa later developed a milk line! She never got very big so it was yet another surprise when she gave birth to 7 babies. One died during the first night but the remaining 6 are growing fast and doing well.

Meg arrived a couple of months later with her son, Bill. Her other 4 babies had gotten out of the poorly constructed fence at their home and disappeared into the desert. Meg had a horrible case of mastitis that had to be dealt with immediately. Mother and son are doing great these days and are looking very healthy.

The same month that Meg and Bill came, we rescued Daffodil, her four 7-week-old babies and four 2-year-old girls that most



likely are hers from a previous litter. They had all been seized by the Sheriff's Department as a result of an animal abuse case.

Because none of the people who owned Elsa, Meg and Daffodil bothered to get the girls spayed, Ironwood gained 19 pigs. There were additional expenses incurred with our new residents. Meg's mastitis required two visits to the vet clinic. Thankfully, she healed up nicely and did not need surgery. Seven of the babies were males that have since been neutered. The three moms have been spayed. The four female

babies are old enough to be spayed and will have that done soon. Meadow, Mimosa, Magnolia and Maybelline, Daffodil's older children, are on the spay waiting list and will hopefully get done this winter. Bluebell, one of Daffodil's young babies, had surgery by an orthopedic specialist to repair a lesion in her shoulder. All of these medical procedures added up to a hefty bill for the sanctuary.

It's disturbing to think about the number of families out there that never make it to Ironwood. The



ones we rescue and provide a permanent home for are most likely just the tip of the unseen iceberg. There is a huge problem all across the country of pot-bellied pigs breeding



uncontrollably at homes where the owners either don't know any better, cannot afford the cost of spay/neuter but don't ask for help until the population explosion is out of control, or they simply don't care. Babies are sold or given away only to end up



breeding elsewhere, expanding the problem. The solution to the overpopulation of pigs is this... **spay and neuter**. Do it before you're overrun with babies having more babies. Males are fertile at nine weeks of age while females can go into their first heat at twelve weeks. Poor Meg was only one year old when she came here with Bill. Things can get out of hand in a hurry. If you know anyone with pigs, ask if they've

had their pets altered. If not, suggest having it done. If the cost is an issue, local sanctuaries may be able to help out. It's easier to come up with the money for a couple of spay/neuter surgeries in the beginning rather than 20 or more down the line when the babies start appearing. Please encourage pig owners to spay and neuter. It's the only answer for the future of all the pig rescue organizations already bursting at the seams.

Our three new moms and their young families were given a large yard of their own to call home. Bill is the oldest of the babies but gets along great with the youngsters. He and Meg remain in a close relationship but enjoy the company of the other pigs. Elsa was adopted in August to become the companion to another pig. She is doing very well at her new forever home and becoming pals with Khloe. Her babies Anna, Yelena, Pabbie, Olaf, Kristoff and Sven are healthy, happy kids that love running and playing in the big space where they live. There are shelters with blankets along with pillows and beds scattered around for them to sleep on, but their favorite place during the hot weather is under the trailer. It's a nice shaded area where all the moms and kids like to hang out. Daffodil is a very laid-back gal that spends a lot of her time lying in the shade under the trailer and

watching the kids play. Myrtle, Bluebell, Hawthorn and Jared like to snuggle with her at night when they finally tire themselves out. Much of their daytime hours are spent playing in the pools, water bowls and mud wallows. Seems



as if when one starts splashing around in the water, it's the cue for everyone to jump on in. If watching a bunch of baby pigs



playing in the water doesn't bring a smile to your face, then nothing will! Despite the fact that we truly wish people would spay and neuter their pigs so that there would no longer be any need for rescuing family units, we do love these three families so much. Because of your generous support, we can give them the best home possible where they can live long and happy lives together.

—Donna



## 2023 Calendars

You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while shopping for holiday gifts or for other special occasions such as birthdays. Our 2023 calendar makes a great gift. The \$20 purchase price includes shipping.

Three ways to purchase calendars:

- 1) Go to Ironwood's website to use PayPal or a credit card. Click on "Donate" in the drop-down menu under Support. After filling in the amount of your order/donations, click on "Write Us a Comment" then specify the number of calendars you wish to order.
- 2) Call 520-631-0894 to pay by credit card.
- 3) Use the enclosed envelope.

## Tours



Even though we are not having our annual Open House this November, we are open for our regular Saturday Tours. You must register online for tours and remember to include the total number of people in your party. Please go to [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) and click on the Visit page to sign up.

## Online Store

This year we have several new Ironwood items available including t-shirts, mugs, can coolers, magnets and more.

**These can only be purchased online on our website, [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org).**

In the drop-down menu under Support, click on "Store." Have fun doing your holiday gift shopping while supporting the sanctuary!



# Donation Drop-Offs

Currently needed items can be found on our Wish List then dropped off at any of the following locations. (No monetary donations can be accepted here.) Don't forget the blankets!!

East Phoenix: Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069.

Fountain Hills: Geri's in Fountain Hills. Call 480-229-8318.

Tempe: Anne's near McClintock and US-60. Call 480-720-5168.

Northwest Tucson: Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015.

East Tucson: Sandra's in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296. **\*Please notify Sandra before dropping off.**



Luke

## Our Wish List

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- \*\*Used Blankets are needed year round.\*\***
- \*First Class Forever Stamps**
- \*Canned Pumpkin \*High Priority\*
- \*Ensure, **Vanilla Only** \*High Priority\*
- \*Animal Crackers \*High Priority\*
- Antibiotic Ointment **with Pain Reliever**
- Miralax
- Prunes
- Stool Softener
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)



Mona

### GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowe's
- 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 S



Magnolia

I was part of a rescue of pigs and other animals involved in an abuse and neglect case. I am so glad to be here in a safe place with good food and clean water.



Costner

My humans let mom and dad breed then said they had too many animals. Go figure! The whole family is here and safe (and spayed and neutered!), so all is well.



My owners move neighbor to feed me a new home. were never heard neighbor helped



*Sponsoring a pig would be a great holiday gift for friends, family or yourself! Your monthly donation of \$30 provides the basic daily needs for your pig. You will receive a background letter and photos with an update during the year to keep you connected to your pig. Please join our family of sponsors today!*



Donna & Christie

*\* 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*



Gibson

I'm Costner's brot 4 months old when Ironwood. It's bec up here with my s parents. I've mad too!



# Special Pig!



Santa Baby

oved and asked a  
ed me until they found  
e. Guess what! They  
ard from again! The  
ed me get here.



Buddha

I was a stray on the loose for a while. I was hanging out in a hayfield so I'd have something to eat. People that saw me were worried I'd get hurt so I came here.



Sven

My mom, Elsa, was pregnant when Ironwood took her in. I was born here in April along with six brothers and sisters. I still have lots of growing up to do!



brother. I was only  
when I got to  
been fun growing  
y siblings and  
made lots of friends



Patchouli

I was brought to the sanctuary to be boarded while my human looked for a new house. He never came back to get me and didn't even call to check on me.



Chardonnay

My owner was evicted then locked off the property. The cops got called when she tried to feed me and my family. What a mess! I'm lucky to be here with my children.

Dear  
Santa,

Dear Santa,

Sometimes our water bowls get cracked or we just need more for new pigs. Can you please bring us a tall stack of bowls? The big piggies drink from them but I like to play in mine on hot days. What fun!



Love,  
Kristoff

Dear Santa,

Our holiday wish is for all the piggies at the sanctuary to have plenty of warm things to nest in. Please load your sleigh with comforters and blankets to put in all the shelters. Thank you!



Love,  
Winky & Arthur

Dear Santa,

We have plans to make some new living quarters soon. The elves here need to build some fences for new pigs coming in. Can you fit some hog panels and t-posts in your sleigh? That would be awesome!



Love,  
Lyla

Dear Santa,

Every pig's favorite thing to do is EAT. So, I'm asking for lots of grain for all the pigs to eat then some lumber and stuff to build feed troughs. Troughs are nice to relax in, but they're mostly for eating.



Love,  
Elaine Card

Dear Santa,

My wish is a big one! The elves that serve us use an ATV with a wagon to haul hay, grain, building materials and even pigs all over the place. They're busy all the time and could really use another one.



Love,  
Porky

Dear Santa,

I would like to ask for lots of bales of hay. My friends and I love to eat hay because



no grass grows here in the desert. Can you please load hay in your sleigh and make our day? (I'm a poet, by the way!)

Love,  
Piggie Smalls

Dear Santa,

You know we use money to buy medicine, trips to the vet, special foods for certain pigs, fuel for the water trucks...all kinds of stuff. Can you fill your bag with cash or gift cards? That would be cool!



Love,  
Petey

Dear Santa,

Ironwood has been around for over 21 years. Some of our shelters are old and need repair. Would you be able to fit some lumber, nails and roofing materials in your magical sleigh? Thanks so much!



Love,  
Daisy & Conner

Dear Santa,

The elves of Ironwood wanted me to ask you for a small tractor with a bucket and a box blade to make their work quicker and easier. Can you pull one behind your sleigh? We'd be so happy!



Love,  
Rosalie

Dear Santa,

We could really use a big golf cart that seats 4 people. Some of our visitors can't walk all the way out to the fields to meet us. It would be helpful if they had a way to ride out there to say hello to us. Thanks!



Love,  
Bitsy

Dear Friend,



*Your monetary donations this holiday season will make these piggies' wishes come true. We can't do this without you and appreciate your support. Happy Holidays to you and your family! May all your wishes come true too!*

# Our Supporters Write


I love your newsletters, read them over and over.

You perform such an amazing job and take care of unwanted pigs. Keep up the good work.  
Admiringly  
Mary

Dear Ironwood Angels,  
Of all the numerous charity appeals I receive, yours is the most unique and best. You truly exemplify the effort to care for the planet and its marvellous, feeling creatures. We stopped buying pork of any kind after reading your adorable stories. Soon we will be completely vegetarians. When the distressing political battles create ongoing anxiety for us all, your gracious, humorous and often delightful stories lift our spirits once again.  
Please hug everyone for us. Ann

Greeting -   
Wanted to tell you how grateful I am for the work you do. Your ADVOCACY has INSPIRED ME IN SO MANY WAYS. Since beginning to follow your story, I have a new appreciation for the suffering we impose on animals, and have made several changes in my own life because of your work.  
OPENE friends.  
TERRI 

Hi! The Newsletter really takes me to Ironwood - it is amazing, The care that is given makes me feel so good. GOD BLESS YOU

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary  
Dear Ironwood ~~to~~ Owners  
and Staff -  
I have loved piggies since  
Mother did "this little  
piggy ..." I am 87  
now and can still feel the  
joy of that precious time.  
I can't help a lot, but  
do what is possible with  
thankfulness for what you do  
for these intelligent, sweet  
piggies.  
Sincerely,  
Nancy 

A Note From...  
Mr. Thomas  
I contribute to multiple  
dog, cat, horse, whale +  
other beneficial organizations,  
but your newsletter is the  
only one that makes me  
feel better + brings a  
smile to my face. I look  
forward to an Arizona Trip  
(depending on Covid) if you  
have a 2021 Open House!

# My Favorite Pig

**L**et me introduce you to Bobbie, a member of Ironwood's watering staff since March 2022. He works hard to keep the pigs supplied with clean fresh water in their bowls and pools as well as filling up the mud wallows during the hot season so that they have a nice spot to cool off. When asked who his favorite pig was, Bobbie answered immediately with no hesitation.

*When I was asked to pick one of my favorite pigs to highlight, I instantly knew who to go with. (Chomp) Norris. I met this amazing guy on my first trip out to the sanctuary. I was doing my interview, getting a tour of this amazing place, when passing through one of the yards I met my first pig. He was chomping nonstop, with foam dripping from his bottom lip. He walked right to me and rubbed his face on the inside of my leg, pushed his nose into my shin and then just stood underneath me, leaning against my leg while I gave him scratches on his back. He then continued to follow me around the yard until I left to another area. I was so taken by how sweet he was, never knowing he had an aggressive side to him. For whatever reason, he chose me to be his buddy. Since that day I have gone in and said hi to Norris every shift I work. In that time, I have been lucky enough to see him calm down a bit, grow and start to trust more people. It's been amazing to witness. I get excited every time I see him, even when he steals my scrub brush from my pocket and hides it in his muddy wallow for me to reach in and find. Norris will always be my sweet boy.*

## AmazonSmile and Chewy:

Both are easy! On Ironwood's website, [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://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.



# Front & Back Cover



**J**essie, Leanne and their family have been featured several times over the past year on cards and postcards. Not only are they so photogenic and adorable, but they are also so social that they keep popping in front of the camera to

get some attention and have their pictures taken. Now that they live in a large field, it is hard to get them all lined up together like they were when they all lived in a pen as seen in the picture below. They were clamoring for their meds that Deeanna was passing out which they think are treats.

Willow, her four children Jessie, Leanne, Gibson and Costner and their daddy Bernie, were all about to be put on Craigslist for free when we got a call to take them. The babies were about 5 months old when we picked them up in May of 2021. We brought the whole family to Ironwood and quickly spayed and neutered them so they could remain together as a family with no chance of more babies being born. They are growing up now, nearly two years old, and enjoy roaming through the field and hanging out together in late afternoon grazing on every last piece of hay they can find. I hope it will be possible for them to live a long and healthy life together here at Ironwood.



**M**eadow and Mimosa are two young girls who were part of a large hoarding situation west of Marana, AZ. It was truly a horrible situation where the animals were left behind with no water or food. The water had been turned off, so they could only be given water by caring neighbors. The animals were removed from the property by Pima Animal Care Center. The pigs were taken to a horse rescue where she had set up a temporary holding pen for them. She immediately called for help and we went and picked up Daffodil and her four young babies and brought them to Ironwood in March of this year. Days later, we returned to pick up Meadow and Mimosa and their two sisters Magnolia and Maybelline. I was told by the officer that these girls were Daffodil's babies as well from an earlier litter. When we brought them to Ironwood and released them in a small field of their own, they immediately began splashing and digging in their wallows. In time, they will be released into a larger adjacent field where they can stay together as a family and grow up with many other pig friends with similar stories to tell. Their trauma is behind them now and they are living in peace with plenty of pig companions.



## 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.

## Word Search

R	U	L	O	U	T	Y	T	L	N	D	A	W	S
E	O	Y	R	G	S	W	P	R	O	R	R	G	I
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- SHADE
- SANCTUARY
- FOOD
- BLANKETS
- SHELTER
- TROUGH
- HOOF
- WATER
- PIGGIES
- WALLOW
- IRONWOOD
- POT BELLY
- TRIM
- POOL



Ethel

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**Meadow & Mimosa**