

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
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SEPTEMBER
2021



Abel

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

September 2021

Ahh, September is on the way which means summer will soon be behind us for another year. Not that I want to wish my life away which is already passing too quickly but getting through summers here in the desert is a challenge. However, this summer was different. After the brutal beginning, things turned around for us. After a year of almost no rain, the Monsoons set up and so far we have had almost 8 inches of rain at Ironwood and are expecting more to come. Everything is green and alive again and the fields around us are full of beautiful wildflowers. Because of the rains and clouds, the summer has been so much cooler than normal, in the 90s. The pigs love their deep wallows and digging deep holes in the wet earth that so seldom lends itself to easy digging.

Speaking of challenges, we are seeing yet another year for which nearly every day has another challenge. We have expanded our numbers again this year and as of this writing 65 more pigs have joined our already large family at Ironwood. This has pushed us to the most pigs we have ever had. We are making every effort to take breeding families and large groups out of circulation to avoid even more unwanted pigs who will find no good homes. This increase in numbers has, of course, added additional stress on us as we try to care for all the additional pigs who have been lucky enough to join us.

As with others around the country, one of our biggest challenges is hiring new people. I am so thankful to all our existing staff who come in to face another day in hot humid weather to feed, water, and care for over 660 pigs at this printing. They are not unlike the Health Care Workers who are now facing the COVID challenge once again, exhausted and frustrated. Every pig at Ironwood runs up to one of us in the morning knowing and trusting that they will get their breakfast, receive fresh water, have their hot spots covered and health issues dealt with. "Hot spots" are facial sores which come from the pigs rubbing their faces when there are flies. I am certain I am not the only exhausted person at the end of each day. A big Shout Out is in order to all those who keep Ironwood doing what we are here to do, taking care of and saving lives of pigs.

And a big Shout Out to You. Without you and your support, I would not have to worry about additional staff to take care of our pigs because there would be no pigs to care for. All parts of this organization are essential, but without a doubt, your support is first on the list of essential. Thank you for caring. Our pigs depend on you.

One of our supporters recently wrote, "Each month when I write your check, I am reminded that among all the noise and anger in our country there are a group of folks who spend their time making a difference by tending to 'the piggies' Thanks." Our thanks to him and to all of you.

Sincerely,


Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

Favorite Things

*Raindrops on noses and whiskers on piggies
Bright colored blankets and plump, juicy figgies
Green leafy hay bales all tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things*

For the most part, pigs are not very active animals. But despite not having a To Do list of daily activities, there are certain things they do enjoy on a regular basis. Here are a few of their favorite things.



Mary Lue's Meal



Daisy Munching Hay



Far East Field Herd

FOOD This is at the top of every pig's list! They love to eat and often don't know when to stop. That's why it's so important to limit the amount of food they have access to. Ironwood's pigs are fed a specific amount each day. Some eat individual portions of grain from bowls. The majority trot from trough to trough with members of their herd. The herd size determines the number of troughs in place as well as the amount of grain per trough. Alfalfa hay is scattered in small piles throughout each field for the piggies to graze on after the grain has been gobbled up.

WATER This is an absolute necessity here in the desert, particularly during the summer. Fresh, clean water is provided for the pigs every day, but they have different ways to use and enjoy it. There are bowls and automatic waterers to use for drinking water then pools and mud wallows for rolling in to keep cool. The majority of the pigs have a preference of which one they would rather take a dip in.



Charlotte Loves Her Pool



Porky Pine Prefers a Wallow

NAPS Sleeping...yes, this takes up a LOT of time each day. Depending on the time of the year as well as the time of day, you will see pigs sleeping just about anywhere. Most have their favorite spots to nap, tucked under a creosote bush or shade tree or perhaps out in the sun if it's a cool winter day.



Doctor Napping After Breakfast

Many like to spend their naptime with friends or family...or both! Every field has large shelters and big shade ramadas giving the pigs plenty of room to gather with their buddies to hang out and snooze together.



Pals in Sunset Napping Together



Old Friends, Henry and Jeni

COMPANIONSHIP Pigs are herd animals and tend to be social. Friendships are very important to their mental and emotional well-being. Living with a herd gives the pigs the opportunity to decide who they want to spend their time with. Some of the pigs arrived at the sanctuary with family members and tend to stick together throughout their lives. Many, though, have come from single pig homes or were picked up as strays and must develop relationships after joining



New Friends, Sweet Tea, Hot Sauce & Olivia

a herd in one of the fields. That's not always easy to do and will take quite a while for most of them. Having someone to snuggle with is the best!

BLANKETS

Whether cuddling with a friend or sleeping alone, every pig enjoys burrowing into a comfy blanket or better yet, a big pile of them! Some will plop down on a blanket and be instantly comfortable while others spend an extensive amount of time pushing, shoving and even shredding their blankies to form the perfect nest. During the winter, pigs often drag blankets out of the houses for a nice nap in the sun. Portable comfort!



Bambi & Ewok



Gotham Herd

BELLY RUBS Not all the pigs are tame enough for the enjoyment of a belly rub, but those that are can't seem to get enough! There's something about that back and forth rubbing that will get them completely relaxed, moaning and softly grunting in pleasure. For those pigs familiar with the feeling, just the mention of their name is enough for them to melt to the ground in anticipation of a belly rub. A few simply throw themselves at our feet expecting us to perform on cue. But you know what? Pigs aren't the only ones that enjoy it. Giving a belly rub to a pig is a great way to relax and enjoy their company.



Chewbacca & Thumper
Love a Belly Rub

ROOTING Digging in the dirt with their snout is a natural behavior for pigs. It is a way to forage for tidbits to eat. They also get iron and other trace minerals from the soil. Pushing the dirt outward in a circle creates a soft, comfy hollow to sleep in too. After a rainstorm when the dirt is moist...now that's the best! The pigs root up craters all over the fields after a good rain. What fun!



Rooting After a Rainstorm

*When the pig bites
When the bee stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad*

—Donna



In Memory of Donna Scoggin

If you have called the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in the past few years, it was Donna Scoggin that you spoke with. She answered calls about stray pigs, helped supporters with questions, took information from people needing to find a home for their pig as well as helping with all manner of pig related issues. Sadly, Donna passed away on July 12, 2021. Not only did she handle the sanctuary's phone calls, but she also wrote hundreds of thank you notes to supporters for donations to Ironwood. She had also fostered numerous pigs for the sanctuary and took in many strays since 2004.

Donna was a wonderful, kind person with a huge heart. She will be sorely missed, not only for the work she did for Ironwood but also as our friend.

Online Wish Lists

Chewy Here's how to find us:

Sign in to www.chewy.com

To the right on the navigation bar, click "Give Back"

On the drop-down menu, click "Donate to a Rescue"

In "Find a Rescue", type in Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

*Note: You will need to create an account
in order to make a purchase.

Amazon Here's how to find us:

Sign in to Smile.Amazon.com

Go to the drop-down menu under your "Account & Lists"

On the left side click on "AmazonSmile Charity Lists"

Type Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in the search prompt

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



Hamlet

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

***Stamps - First Class Forever**

Canned Pumpkin - *High Priority*

Fig Cookies - *High Priority*

(NOT individually Wrapped)

Miralax

Stool Softener

Animal Crackers

Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)

Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)

Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg



Barnabus

GIFT CARDS

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

Wallflowers

Like people, pigs have different personalities. Some are friendly, always eager to greet people. A few can be aggressive at times. Many have a take it or leave it attitude towards people. Then there are the wallflowers, the shy ones. Some have lived here for years and still prefer if we didn't even look directly at them. They all have pig pals and are comfortable within their herds but don't want human contact.

One of Ironwood's introverts is Atticus in the Sunset Field. He is 14 and has lived here most of his



Atticus

life with a herd of 38 pigs. He stays in the back portion of the large field where he sleeps in a shelter alone. He hangs out under a nearby shade ramada where a few others with similar personalities spend their time. Even after all his years with us, Atticus shies away if a person gets close to him.

Over in the Far East Field lives a boy named Torpedo. This six-

year-old had been here since 2016 and never allows anyone to touch him. He stays with a big group of



Torpedo

friends within his herd of 35 and is very popular with them, but if a person looks his way, he takes off. And he is fast! We didn't name him Torpedo for nothing!

Annette has lived at the sanctuary since 2008 and has yet to be petted. She was part of a large family rescue and has remained in



Annette

a very close relationship with family members as well as making friends with several other pigs. Annette is totally a "pig's

pig" and wants absolutely nothing to do with humans. Our only purpose is to keep her fed and watered!

Carlton is one of the wallflowers that will let some people pet him at times, but he needs to be approached very slowly and carefully. Most of the time he'd just rather not. He was born here in 2016 a week after we rescued his mom. Even having been



Carlton

raised in constant contact with people, he just has a shy personality.

If pigs would rather hang out with pigs, that is exactly what we let them do. We love to pet them and be able to get close if some health issue needs to be checked, but we also understand that not everyone wants that. That's the beauty of living in a big field with other pigs...they can each do whatever makes them happy whether it's with pigs only or allows us to be a close part of their lives.

—-Donna

Sponsor a S



Tamale

My human mom had lots of animals, so she got rid of me and my brother. Then he got sick and died. I'm in a good spot now but could use a new friend or two. (Hint, hint!)



Gruntilda

What a relief to be here where the kids have a place to go play (and let me sleep!) I love my kids but I didn't need more and that won't be happening again! Whew!



Stitch

I came here with after our human at a meat auction close call! I am and live every da

Young or old, disabled or healthy...all of them need your support. Your \$30 monthly donation will help

provide the basic daily needs for the pig of your choice. You will receive a letter about your pig along with photos then an update later in the year. Thank you for caring!



Donna & Eli

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

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



I got dumped out, p Animal Control, th My front legs were time ago and healed can get around pret want to.

Special Pig!



With my dad and brother
an dad tried to sell us
tion. That was a
am so lucky to be here
day to the fullest!



Chowder

My old yard was full of trash and
was kind of gross. This place is
awesome! My family and I are
really happy here and love
having all this space to
explore.



Taco

My human family moved but got
me placed here first. I have
weight issues and my legs aren't
too strong, but I'm safe and well-
cared for. That makes me
happy!



Mouse

at, picked up by
, then brought here.
ere broken a long
aled weird, but I
pretty fast when I



Willoughby

I've only been here three months,
but let me tell you...this place is so
different from home. I get fed every
day, there are houses to sleep in and
lots of room to play.



Scarlett

I had been passed around to
different homes. The last owner
had "personal issues" and
couldn't keep me. But now I've
found my forever home at
Ironwood. Yay!

Kingman Pig Rescue

There are times when we try to help people with their pig situations instead of people having to immediately release their pigs. This was one of those times. We were notified that a homeowner in Kingman, AZ was taking in stray pigs. While this is a kind gesture, without separating the male pigs from the females a lot of breeding will take place.

The homeowner was not in a good financial situation to take care of them all. She was feeding them any leftover food from the food bank and food that restaurants would throw away. We scheduled a vet to go to her house and neuter all of the boys. Most of the girls were not pregnant yet or were not very far along. During the colder months that quickly approached, the homeowner fell ill and was not feeding or caring for the pigs. There wasn't any housing or bedding for them to keep warm in. Catrina, a friend of Ironwood who lives near the home where the pigs were, would go check on the pigs and feed them. A group of volunteers went up with straw for bedding and brought several bags of pig food to give the homeowner. Catrina continued to check on the pigs and would let us know when we needed to send more food and hay.

The vet that neutered all of the boys contacted us to let us know

how bad the living conditions were for the pigs. Soon after that the county contacted the homeowner informing her that she could not have the pigs on her property. Not long after this the Arizona heat was here. The pigs still didn't have proper housing or water. Catrina informed us that on one of her visits several pigs were lethargic, dehydrated and overheated. There was also an injured pig and a new boar that she had taken in. We knew we had to act quickly.

It wasn't the best time of year to be doing a long transport as the temperatures were so high, but we couldn't risk the pigs being left without enough or any water. We moved ahead with plans to pick up all of the pigs. After a couple of date changes and communicating with several different people trying to arrange everything, we finally had enough staff to go and a place to stay for a night when we got there. We planned to take three vans so we would have enough room for everyone. We brought water sprayers in each van to cool anyone off that needed it during transport.

On a Friday morning we loaded up 15 carriers to transport the pigs. We brought our boards to use to round everyone up and our dollie to get them into the vans. We started our trip with one of our vans as well as a rented van

and headed to Phoenix to pick up another rental van. Once this was done, we were finally fully ready to start our drive to Kingman. After about 4 1/2 total hours of driving, we made it to the house where we would stay the night. We tried to get some rest, anticipating a big day of loading pigs.

The next morning we got up early and made sure everything was set with the carriers. We went and bought ice for our sprayers so we would have cold water to mist the pigs off with then headed to Catrina's house to trim her pigs' hooves while we were in the area. Once that was done, we followed Catrina to the house where we would pick up the pigs. She would help us herd and load the pigs.

Upon arrival at the house, we saw a yard with garbage everywhere... egg cartons, random paper and plastic, pieces of wood and other things. The homeowner had also





we realized that it had a flat tire! This would be tricky in a normal situation, but we had to push through deep mud and puddles. We decided to just carry most of the pigs in their carriers and only use the dollie for

just dumped a large tub of water creating a mud pit for us to have to go through to get the pigs to the vans.

Our first action was to get all of the carriers and equipment into the yard. We felt out the pigs' energies and reactions to us. We

the heaviest ones. We had to break some wood away from the entrance to the yard in order to fit the carriers through.



started with lining all of the carriers up with the pigs on one side of the yard. We used our boards to herd anyone we could. We were able to get a couple of the pigs this way. Once the first pig was loaded and on the dollie,



For loading the rest of the pigs, we were able to use the large pig shelter that was in the yard. After



a pig would go inside we would have one of us go in with the pig and the others hold a carrier directly outside of the shelter opening. This worked well for a few more of the pigs. For the rest we were able to use the back side of the home.



There was a small opening in a fence that led to the backside of the home where the pigs had a separate area. We used this opening just like the opening to the pig shelter. We would have two or three people go in with the pigs with two or three people holding the carrier outside the opening. With the boards we would herd a pig into the carrier.

The last pig, the bigger boar, was in another separate area at the front of the house. I don't think I've ever seen so many flies in one spot before. This area was also very deep with mud and poop. He was a bit more worked up, so we hosed him off before loading him. Thankfully this all went a lot smoother than we anticipated! Getting the carriers to the van ended up being the worst part.

With a little rearranging of carriers, we had all of the pigs loaded with the ones we wanted to keep an eye on the most closer to the driver's seat. We started to head back to Marana. We hit a bit



of traffic initially, but the rest of the drive wasn't bad. We stopped a couple of times to check on the pigs and spray them off. All of the pigs were much calmer than we anticipated. They were all laying down and being quiet. This was almost more worrisome, so we were constantly checking and making sure no one was too exhausted from the loading. Only one pig got carsick and the rest just relaxed.

We finally arrived back at the sanctuary. We were greeted by Ben, Mary, Donna and a couple other staff members. We got the two boars, now named McMuffin and King, in secure pens to ensure they wouldn't mingle with any other pigs until they were neutered. We then separated the

other 13 pigs into two large pens so we could monitor and deworm them all. We cooled everyone off and gave them a big welcome. Some were still shy as they were in a new place with new people, but others were very friendly and coming up for attention.

A couple of the pigs did throw up or defecate some of the plastic they had eaten at the property. Otherwise everyone was in good shape after the long road trip. They settled down nicely and were comfortable. We were relieved that everyone was safe and healthy!

—Taryn



Kingman, the Next Step

While the 13 Kingman pigs were living in the pens for their evaluation period, preparations were being made for their living arrangements in a field. It was decided to take a back portion of



Lady Macbeth

the Princess Field that was already fenced in to create a home just for them. The gate always remained open and several of the Princess herd had made that area their home territory. To help those pigs adjust to the change, we recreated their “neighborhood” just outside the



Individual Feeding Pens

gate. Several shelters were brought out and grouped under a shade tree then a shade ramada was erected for further coverage

over the houses. They all happily settled into the new spot and are doing great there.

In the enclosed end of the field, troughs were brought out for feeding most of the 13. Four individual feed pens were built for Birdie, Tiny, Gruntilda and Forky. Extra water bowls and pools were added. Shade ramadas were expanded around the shelters. A few more mud wallows were dug out to ensure there would be plenty of places for the pigs to cool off. Soon we were ready for the big move. Because of the distance from the Quarantine pens to the new home we dubbed Kingman, the pigs had to be loaded into carriers and brought out in the ATVs. After several trips back and forth, the family was together in their new home with the exception of McMuffin and King who are still in quarantine after being neutered.

The next week was spent exploring their new space, choosing shelters, testing out the wallows and adjusting to the new feeding routine. Birdie, Tiny and Gruntilda are all a bit thin and needed to go into individual pens during meals to get extra rations. The girls learned very quickly

and were soon anxiously waiting at their gates to go inside at mealtime. We found that Gruntilda had difficulty with the dry grain pellets, so that was changed to a soft mash. Forky is also a bit thin and has some physical difficulties with lameness. We thought he may have problems keeping up with the group free feeding in the troughs and planned to have him



Feeding Troughs

go inside a pen. He had other ideas though! He ignored our efforts to lead him into the pen and just went for the trough anyway. After days of attempts, we finally let him win that battle. Forky is given a bowl of food near the troughs to start off with. After he has eaten most of it, he joins the rest at the troughs. It's working for him and he gets plenty to eat. They all graze on alfalfa hay together once the grain has been eaten.

Gruntilda, the oldest of the group, was first to establish herself in a house. She chose one of the larger shelters in the back. Many of the younger pigs love sleeping



Gruntilda's Hangout

with her and pile into the house together. Lucky, another of the adults, usually goes into one of the smaller houses by himself. Forky tried out several spots and finally settled in the other large shelter in Gruntilda's neighborhood. He doesn't mind sharing with others as long as they give him a corner spot. The young adults, Panini, Chowder, Bo Peep and Tiny alternate between hanging out in Gruntilda's house or pairing up inside the "pigloos", the igloo dog houses.

In the center of the circle of houses are a pool and large mud wallow. The little ones are in and



Wallow Time

out of those constantly. They enjoy rolling and splashing, often piling in four or five at a time. The adults, Lucky, Forky and Gruntilda tend to sleep more but

pop out occasionally to take a dip. There are other shade ramadas set up with pools and wallows but this is the most popular spot for the family to hang out. They have a great relationship with one another and love being together. The youngest ones, Birdie, Cricket, Elaine Card, Willoughby, Lady Macbeth and Shakespeare, are

very energetic and spend a lot of time out and about in the field in between their naps. Rooting is a favorite pastime, digging out holes with their snouts or looking



Kingman Family

for tidbits to snack on. Panini, Chowder and Bo Peep are not quite full grown yet and often join the babies on their adventures.

Tiny is a young adult and often stays in the house with Gruntilda but will hurry out if the little ones get excited about something. She doesn't want to miss out on any fun. She also loves people, so if anyone comes out to visit, she is right there pushing her way to the front to hog all the attention. Many of the 13 are friendly but some remain a bit people shy. We don't emphasize getting them tame and prefer for them to do what is most comfortable for them. Some will

eventually warm up to us after observing others getting belly



Willoughby & Tiny

rub while some simply prefer being with pigs.

Thanks to your support Ironwood was able to take in the 15 pigs from Kingman who desperately needed to get out of the situation they were stuck in. Now they are all safe and well-cared for. All the males are neutered and there will be no more babies. The pigs can relax and enjoy the rest of their lives in peace, knowing each day will bring food, water, shelter and friendship. Thank you!

—Donna



Chowder, Shakespeare & Elaine Card

Front & Back Cover



Abel and his brother Gabe were purchased from Craigslist back in September of 2012. They were three or four months old at that time. Once the family got them home, they found they could not make pens to confine these young rambunctious boys. So when they continued to break out of their pen and were being chased by their dog and in danger of being harmed, they called us to come get them. When we arrived, at that very moment, they were being chased around the yard by their dog, so we felt we got there in the knick of time.

Both boys were brought to Ironwood where they were neutered and began their life at the sanctuary. They were moved to the large North Field and made friends with many others there and grew into healthy young pigs. Sadly, in the winter of 2017, as some of you may remember, we had a horrible illness that passed through Ironwood and hundreds of our pigs became ill and 20 passed away from the illness. Gabe contracted the illness and was very sick from it. At the same time he developed a very infected hoof and had to be euthanized.



But Abel had already made many friends with others so he managed to do well without his brother. He is middle aged now and continues to live in the North Field with all his old buddies. With any luck he will spend many more good years with us at Ironwood.



Shakespeare, Elaine Card and Lucky: Read Their Story Inside

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Shakespeare, Elaine Card and Lucky, the adorable pigs on the back cover, are three of the thirteen pigs recently rescued from Kingman, AZ. You can read all about the rescue of them and their family members beginning on page 10 of this issue. They are happily settled in their new home here at the sanctuary and all of the group are flourishing.

Annual Open House



Ironwood's annual Open House, normally held on the second Saturday of November, was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For 2021, we are still undecided

and are waiting to see how the current surge in infection goes. If the numbers continue to rise, we will wait another year in order to protect our staff, volunteers and visitors. Stay tuned for updates on the web site as well as in the monthly newsletters.

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**Shakespeare, Elaine Card and Lucky:
Read Their Story Inside**