

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 108

SEPTEMBER
2022



Gizmo

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

September 2022

I just looked back at our September 2021 issue and could almost copy it verbatim on to this September 2022 issue. It is kind of like being in the movie *Ground Hog Day*. The area is experiencing another fairly strong monsoon year, but at Ironwood we have been bypassed most of the time and have only gotten about 1½ inches of rain so far but enough wind to blow the house down so to speak. We watch and wait as the rain slides by. For sure there is no lack of heat and humidity, but the cloud cover helps keep temperatures mostly under 100. And why do I complain when I look at how the rest of the country has suffered.

So many of you write words of encouragement to get us through the heat of the summer and I so appreciate your kind words. Our pigs have to be watched as the towel people are ever diligently working to keep them cool. Our staff must be checked on as well since it is so easy to quickly suffer from heat exhaustion. We always lose staff during the summer months when it becomes too much to work outside for 8 hours every day. As I have said in several past newsletters, staffing is our biggest problem and this summer has been the worst we have experienced with no real solution forthcoming except that time will pass and fall will come.

We continue to answer calls for help. Ramsey and Emily are more strays who have joined our family. We have been involved in another large 20 pig rescue where all have gone to foster homes. Our staff built a large pen for all the males using fencing and shelters provided by the sanctuary. We will have them all neutered in the fall after we are able to dry the wallows up so they can recover safely. Most of the females went to another foster home with a pregnant one going to a different home to have her babies.

We are always looking for good, safe foster homes. This week we provided the materials to one of our good fosters to build many more foster pens so that we have emergency housing and care for pigs in need. We are so fortunate to have people willing to help with our ever-increasing effort to rescue pigs in dire situations. Just today I got a call for another little stray female taken in by a kind lady after having been wandering the neighborhood for well over a week. And this week one of our adopted girls who has been with her human companion for many years, will come back to us, since sadly, he is dying from COVID.

The sanctuary is never static. We are always working to help more pigs and improve their lives. It is only because of your help that we are able to be so bold to reach out and offer help to so many. We are so grateful for your generous contributions to our cause. By the time this update reaches you, we should be seeing relief from the summer and looking forward to the fall ahead. YES!

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Mary & Ramsey

Can You Hear Me Now?

Pot-bellied pigs typically have poor eyesight but have an excellent sense of hearing and smell. Their ears stand up tall and swivel back and forth as they listen to sounds all around them. The appearance of the ears varies with the different breeds. Gizmo, a Kunekune, has large, beautiful ears like angel wings. Rami, a feral mix, has big, hairy ears that bring a smile to your face every time you see him. The majority of the pot-bellies have triangular, upright ears like Jubilee's.



Gizmo



Rami



Jubilee

Then there are the pigs that came to Ironwood after attacks by dogs, often dogs within the household. The pig is almost always on the losing end of those fights, often with severe damage being done. Gorda came in June 2022 after the house sitter let the dogs in with her unsupervised. Although she had deep lacerations on her snout plus bite marks on her ears and face, she was lucky that her wounds were not extensive and healed quickly. Others were not so lucky.



Sully

Herbie and Sully. The damage happened here during scuffles with other pigs. Sometimes it's territorial issues or perhaps at feeding time when they're hungry and grumpy or maybe someone was just in a bad mood and felt like being a bully that day. Our pigs are happy and content 95% of the time, but we all have our moments, right.



Herbie

When the pigs fuss and fight with one another...and it does happen even within family and friend groups...they tend to grab the ears knowing it's a tender spot that's going to hurt and get their point across quickly. As you wander around the sanctuary, you will notice pigs with pieces missing from their ears, like



Jasmine

Jasmine, here since January 2019, had both ears mangled with most of the left one bitten off. She was fortunate that no permanent damage was done to her ear canals. Both are fully functional and her sense of hearing remains intact. Sport was a stray picked up by Animal Control in January 2022. His wounds were partially healed by then, but he had obviously been attacked by dogs



Gorda's Scars

or coyotes. His right ear was completely torn off and portions of the left were barely hanging on.



Sport

The vet was able to save part of his left ear with enough remaining to keep the ear canal open. Maggie, featured in the June newsletter, lost both ears in a vicious attack. She either can't hear very well or is good at ignoring me. So far, she has not had any further problems, but sometimes issues crop up many months later.

Penny had both ears torn off when she was attacked by the dogs at her home. The dogs continued to harass and hurt her for weeks before the owners finally decided it wasn't safe for her to live there anymore. She was released to



Penny

Ironwood in March of 2020 but had to go directly to the vet clinic to have her wounds tended to. With her ears completely shorn off down to the ear hole, Penny can still hear although it doesn't seem to be full ability. Over the past two years, she has had occasional head tilts leading to the discovery of abscesses in and around the right ear hole. The left ear hole (knock on wood!) has been great. Another one with recurrent abscesses is Piggy, a stray that came in 2016 with the crusty, infected remnants of his left ear. Immediate surgery was needed to debride the area and remove what was left of that ear. Just as with Penny, Piggy will let



Piggy

us know when an abscess is forming by tilting his head to the left. This happens about every 9 months or so. So far, the abscesses have all been on the surface and able to be dealt with onsite. Piggy lucked out during his dog or coyote attack, escaping with his right ear undamaged so he can hear normally on that side. Years before Rupert came to Ironwood, he completely lost one ear while the other is shredded and floppy after the family dog

attacked him for no obvious reason. It seems that Rupert can hear from both sides and has never had any major problems



Rupert

since coming here eight years ago. He needs a good ear hole cleaning every once in a while, but that's about it.



Luna

Luna is another of our one-eared piggies. She has been with us since August 2018. Her owners were out of town when Luna was attacked by the family dog. It was two weeks before the owners agreed to release her to the sanctuary in order to get the medical help they refused to consent to or pay for. By that time, it was too late to save any part of Luna's right ear. The remainder of the ear was surgically removed. Three years later, in obvious pain with a severe head tilt to the right, the

vet found the inside of the ear hole was full of pus. Multiple surgeries in the spring of 2021 were attempts to create an opening for the ear canal to allow drainage. Various methods were tried but, unfortunately, none were successful. Luna is monitored for the slightest head tilt which will result in a trip to the clinic to have the ear hole flushed and cleaned under anesthesia. It has been almost a year and a half since the failed surgeries and she has not had an issue. Keep your fingers crossed for that to continue!

In August of 2019, we got K.B. who had been mauled by the neighbor's dogs that jumped the fence into his yard. He was still



in the healing process but had already undergone surgery to remove the tattered bits of his ears. Five months later after experiencing problems with the hole on the right side, K.B. underwent surgery to create an opening in his ear canal. It worked like a charm and he can even hear on that side! His only recurring issue is a buildup of wax and debris that has to be cleaned from the ear holes on

both sides. Pigs with ears are offered some protection from this by the ear itself as well as the hair blocking or catching a good amount of dirt and debris. Those pigs with open holes are simply open targets for dirt accumulation.



Peter was seen by his vet and had already had surgery to close up the wounds after the family dog had bitten off both ears. He came to the sanctuary in March of 2021 then had multiple vet visits to debride the holes as he worked through the healing process. Both ear canals remain open, but the openings are very tiny and must be cleaned with a small probe while under anesthesia. This was last done a year ago and all has been well. Peter was lucky to retain hearing on both sides.



Harper was part of an abuse case rescue through the county animal

shelter. In February 2022, she came to Ironwood with 1 male and 3 females with no background information on any of them. The complete loss of both ears had apparently happened far in her past. To date, Harper has shown no signs of discomfort or had problems with her ear holes and her hearing doesn't seem to be affected.

Relying on a sense of hearing is not as vital to the pigs living at the sanctuary as it would be for pigs in the wild. There are no predators to be wary of here. But the pigs mentioned in this article endured a lot of pain and trauma that could have been avoided in most cases. Pigs and dogs can be companions but that can change in a heartbeat due to natural instincts for prey/predator relationships. These pigs have suffered and may continue to suffer with complications and residual effects for the rest of their lives. We certainly hope that is not the case, but we will remain vigilant for signs of problems with each of them. Luna, K.B., Jasmine and the others are living normal lives as members of herds out in large fields. They have made friends and are living happy, contented lives...with or without ears. Your past support has helped with their initial medical expenses to deal with the results of dog attacks. Your continued support will ensure medical help is available if problems crop up in the future. Can you hear a great, big THANK YOU coming from Ironwood?!

—Donna

Message From Maggie

Hi! My name is Maggie. You may have read about me in the June newsletter. It was about me being attacked by dogs and all the surgeries and stuff I had to have. I lived inside the Visitor Center while I was healing from all that then once I was better, I was able to move out into one of the individual pens. Well, that's where the story ended along with a request for donations to help with all my bills. And you were amazingly generous! Thank you for all the incredible support! I thought it would be cool to give you an update on how I'm doing these days, so here I am.



Maggie

As you can see, things are going great for me now. My wounds healed up and I've not had any problems at all; no more infections, vet visits, drains... nothing! After I got stronger, I started going out into the exercise yard; at first by myself then later with a big girl named Cinnamon. Isn't she beautiful! I love her! She is about 3 years old and came to Ironwood 2 months before I



Cinnamon

did. She was a stray that had been attacked by a dog. Her ear was torn and her back leg had a gross, deep bite. I think that's why we became such good friends because we had that experience in common. It wasn't long before we began living in the same pen and sleeping in a house together.

And then Cinnamon and I met Frankie, a handsome 4-year-old boy. Frankie was the first new pig to come to the sanctuary in 2022. His mom had been evicted from her home and they were living in her



Frankie

car at a homeless encampment. That was hard on both of them, so he came to live here. He got adopted but ended up coming back. I'm sorry that didn't work out for him, but I'm also glad that he's here to be my buddy! The three of us started taking



Maggie & Cinnamon

our yard turns together. That worked out well because we all got along so great. Since we all wanted to start spending more time together, we moved to a different section of the property that has bigger pens. We chose one with 2 houses because sometimes one of us might want some time alone. It's usually



Frankie & Maggie



Friends

Frankie because he says us girls interrupt his naptime too often. Cinnamon and I just like to chat or we get up a lot to wander around or play in the water. Frankie is on a diet and I think after he loses some more weight, he'll feel like walking with us instead of sleeping so much. We'll see.

The exercise yard where we live now is huge! There's like a wide hallway between two rows of pens then it opens up into a big area with a shade ramada where we have a pool and mud wallow to play in. One side of it shares a fence with the Sunset Field, so sometimes Cinnamon and I go over there to visit with some of that herd. It's cool to hear the stories of what their lives are like. For fun I like to trot back and forth along the fence line with one of the Sunset pigs. We chomp our teeth and try to act tougher than the other, pretending that we're gonna fight or something. Maybe that sounds weird, but it's just something pigs do. I think it's fun! Plus, it's good exercise; all that running then turning really

body had to spend so much time and energy on healing up my wounds. All that bad stuff happened when I should have been growing fast. So, any chance to help that along is good.



Maggie

Anyway, I'm glad I got the chance to catch up with you. Life is good now and getting better all the time. I feel really blessed to have ended up at Ironwood where I made two special friends, got lots of medical help from Adobe Veterinary Center when I really needed it and received so much financial help and sweet notes of encouragement from people like you. Isn't life just amazing how things work out!

Love ya!
Maggie



Buddies

quick when I get to the corner. It helps me grow stronger so I can get muscles like Cinnamon's. I may not grow as big as I should because my

Open House 2022 Canceled

We want to apologize to those who were hoping for our annual Open House this November, but the ongoing issue of being short-staffed along with the high number of rescues this year has us unable to organize an event of that magnitude. Our priority is taking care of the 660+ pigs here at the sanctuary and we must focus on them. The regular Saturday Tours will begin soon. Check our website for openings.

Thank you for your continued support!



Denise

Sponsor a S



Harpo

When I was a baby, I came here with my mom and lots of siblings after a messy eviction conflict involving the Sheriff. Things sure are more peaceful here!



Prince Charming

My humans had dogs who would chase me all the time. It was NOT fun! I was lucky that the people had enough sense to get me out before I got hurt.



I have to be careful of fused vertebrae that are "fragile". I live in a few other species that can be safe.

It's been hot this summer! Help these pigs feel "cool" by becoming their sponsor. Your \$30 monthly support will help with their basic needs. In exchange you will receive a letter and photos of your pig then later get an update with what's new in his or her life. Join our family of sponsors today!



Donna & Jade

** 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



Robin

My human got sick and my boyfriend took me to a new house, but she didn't want me. I'm sort of shy, so I'm a small, quiet herd member and I'm scared.

Special Pig!



Kendall

careful because of two
that make me
in a small field with
special pigs where I



Ravi

I spent my first 3 years in a
bedroom and rarely got to go
outside or even into the rest
of the house. Then my
teenage human decided he
didn't want me anymore.



Diggory

I was born out in the desert but
was soon rescued along with my
family by folks who got help
from Ironwood. Now we live
in a big field that keeps us
safe from coyotes.



sick so her
me to his mom's
didn't want me.
, so I live with a
rd so I won't be



Leanne

My human was moving and said he
had too many animals to take along.
Just as well since none of my family
had been altered. That could have
been an expanding disaster!



Maybelline

I was part of an abuse case that
went to court. There were lots of
piggies involved and all the girls
and babies ended up at Ironwood.
We're so lucky!

Made in the Shade

When the sanctuary began over 21 years ago, we first built the individual pens for new arrivals to be separated as they went through worming, vaccinations, etc. Next was fencing in 6.5 acres, constructing shelters and laying water lines in preparation for moving the pigs out to live together as a herd. That acreage was eventually subdivided to provide different living quarters for groups with similar personalities or physical limitations. The largest section was dubbed the Main Field. We'll meander through this field focusing on ways the pigs are able to stay cool during the hot desert summer when temperatures hover around 105-110 degrees for weeks on end.

As you come in the front gate of the Main Field, you will see a large man-made shade ramada. Much of the shade provided for the pigs is built with T-posts and shade cloth since there is not a lot of natural shade available in the desert. This ramada has several pools and mud wallows and is a favorite hangout for the "before breakfast" crowd. The feed station is just outside the gate and the pigs can play in the water while keeping an eye on the feed team making meal preparations.

The current herd in the Main Field



Waiting For Breakfast

consists of 52 pigs with about half of them being young pigs that joined the older residents earlier this year. A large group of the new pigs chose to settle in the southwest corner that had only two shelters and a small shade ramada. When it became clear they had no intention of moving



Corner Neighborhood

on, we put in more housing, extended the shade ramada, added pools and dug out more mud wallows. It became a great neighborhood with accommodations for everyone. Dixie, Petie, Rubble and Chardonnay with her 5 kids are just a few of many that like to relax in the shade, take turns in the wallows or nap together in the houses.

That corner area slopes down to meet the wash which is basically

a dry stream bed that rarely has running water except during infrequent, heavy rainstorms. Because the water settles there, palo verde and mesquite trees grow alongside the wash making wonderful shade for the pigs. In one spot that has several trees, we tucked

pigloos and other small shelters in amongst the shade. That area is a



Pamela & Amelia

favorite hangout for Tennille, Henry, Pamela and several others. There are large bushes and trees in a few other spots around the field including some honey mesquite trees that were donated and planted about 17 years ago. The pigs take advantage of the shade those provide.



Troughs



Fastie



Oolong



Leanne, Costner, Gibson, Willow

Most of the herd is fed in troughs scattered across the field to spread them out so everyone has a chance to get their fair share of grain. Most of the troughs are out in the sun but have water bowls between them with pools close by so the pigs can get drinks or cool off during meals as needed. Other pigs are fed in individual pens for various reasons such as special diets, soft mashes or controlled amounts. In order to keep them comfy while

A lot of the shelters have shade ramadas built over them while others have shade cloth “porches”

gets too warm while napping in his house, he’ll just



Sharing Hay

extending from the front. Both methods provide extra shading to keep the pigs cooler as they relax with friends in their homes. The shelters themselves protect the pigs from direct sun as well. The community shelters or lowboys as we call them, have the carpet sides removed during the hot season to allow the breeze to pass through. If Lincoln



Dharma & Meleah

step out to one of the nearby ramadas built to offer a shady



Feed Pens

secluded in their feed pens during mealtimes, each pen is covered with shade cloth across the top and the sides facing the sun. Each “pen pig” also has a water bowl. They are safe in the shade as they eat their meal then wait for the “trough pigs” to finish up before they are let out. After the meal, the pen pigs join the trough pigs to share alfalfa hay out in the field.



Amelia, Jeni & Violet



Lincoln’s Porch

place to take a dip in the pool or a roll through the mud wallow. Both are superb ways to bring the body temperature down while having fun in the water. There are ramadas of various sizes in all parts of the field to accommodate the pigs no matter where their home territory is established.



Lowboy

best place for pot-bellied pigs to live, but this is where the sanctuary is needed. Being a permanent home for over 660 pigs, 98% of which came from the state of Arizona, is proof that despite the harshness of



Shelley, Shakiro & Pedro

the area this is where the pigs are, like it or not. We do a lot of extra, hard work in order to keep

the pigs cool and safe; things sanctuaries in other states don't find necessary because they have wooded areas with streams and ponds. Without your constant support, none of this would be possible. The pigs of Ironwood need you and appreciate all you do so that they can have it made in the shade!

—Donna



Mallow, Marsha, Dharma, Meleah



Pedro

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Used Blankets are needed year round.****
- *First Class Forever Stamps**
- *Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg -
High Priority
- *Animal Crackers -*High Priority*
- *Fig Cookies -*High Priority*
(NOT individually wrapped)
- Miralax
- Prunes
- Canned Pumpkin
- Stool Softener
- Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)



Elsa

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.

My Favorite Pig

Rachel has worked at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary for 15 months as one of the hard-working caretakers. She interacts with hundreds of pigs while feeding and medicating them as well as when performing many other tasks around the property. When asked which was her favorite pig, she had to take a day to think it over. That's a hard decision when there are so many sweet piggies to love!

It was very difficult for me to choose only one pig to highlight because they all make me smile! However, I finally decided on Waddles from the Assisted Living Field. Waddles quickly snatched a special place in my heart from the moment I saw him. His uniquely handsome face, stout little body and shrill puppy-like squeals he uses to communicate all played a giant part in me falling head over hooves for him! This smart little boy knows his name and waddles right over for yummy treats or just some much needed scratches. Waddles is one of the sweetest buddies out here!

—Rachel



Waddles

AmazonSmile on Mobile Devices

If you use the AmazonSmile app on your mobile device, you must renew your charity of choice twice yearly in order for Ironwood to benefit from your purchases. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to the sanctuary. Don't forget to designate "Mary C Schanz Foundation" (DBA Ironwood Pig Sanctuary) as your charity!



Dante

Front & Back Cover



Have you heard the expression “When Pigs Fly”? Well, I think Gizmo is just about to take off with her ears flying and ready to go. The Kunekunes have been featured several times in our newsletter and on cards, but her picture made me smile and I hope it did you as well. As a recap, Gizmo and 10

other pigs were rescued by Pima Animal Care Center on June 28, 2018. A total of 146 animals were removed from the property that day when the owner was arrested and agreed to surrender all the animals. We picked up all the pigs from PACC the following day. They included Gizmo along with two other adults, six young Kunekunes and two pot-bellied pigs.

Once everyone was spayed and neutered, Gizmo, Heather and Geena were moved to the Sunset Field. A big, roomy shelter was built to accommodate the large newcomers. But the newcomers are not the only ones who enjoy their spacious shelter as can be seen in this picture. Slater, Petey and Big Charlotte also love to hang out in there with the others. Big and small, they all like lounging together. Gizmo cannot be missed in the mornings since she jumps up on the fence for her morning medicine and we have to fight to pass over the fence with the bowls of food. The Kunekunes are so loveable, but their size and boldness can be a bit overwhelming at times. Gizmo, Heather and Geena are happy in Sunset together and have made friends with many others that call that field home.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 108

We got a call from a lady in Willcox who said a family of pigs was hanging around her property and getting into her dogs’ food. She said the mom had mastitis and was unable to nurse the babies, but they were old enough to eat solid food. I quickly sent two of our staff to go for them since I felt Mom would need medical care. She also told me she had a carrier in the pen and could contain the babies in it so they could be easily caught. When our staff arrived, the babies were not contained and the fencing was poor so only the mom and one baby were able to be caught and brought to Ironwood. Once Meg was treated for mastitis and able to be spayed and Bill was neutered, we reunited them. They are now part of a larger family. They hang out with Elsa and her babies and Daffodil and her family in a large field we have for them. They are still the two untouchables of the group, but they are growing up and enjoying their life with all their new friends. Bill is catching up to his Mom’s size quickly since she is such a youngster herself. It is almost hard to tell who is mom and who is son.



Cryptogram:

Each symbol stands for a letter of the alphabet. Use the code to fill in the special message with advice about having a pig.

Advice About Pigs

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
☹	☾	▽	😊	⚡	◊	♁	⚡	↑	✳	♥	◎	◎
N	○	■	⊗	◀	✕	⚡	◻	△	▯	⌚	★	●

♥	⚡	⚡	■	■	↑	♁	✕							
☹	⚡	😊	😊	○	♁	✕	✕	⚡	■	☹	◀	☹	⚡	😊
↑	⚡	↑	✕	⚡	○	⚡								
☹	◎	▯	☹	★	✕	✕	☹	◊	⚡					
◊	○	◀	⚡	⚡	⚡	■	↑	♁						



Isabelly & Pinky

SANCTUARY

How many words can you make using only the letters in the word SANCTUARY? I came up with 95. Can you beat me?

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Bill & Meg