

IRONWOOD

A pig with a white mohawk hairstyle is the central focus of the image. The pig is standing in a dirt enclosure, looking directly at the camera. Its nose is covered in mud. In the background, there is a wire fence and some trees. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a farm or sanctuary.

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Strawberry

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2009

Dear Supporter,

Today Ben and Bob will bring two more pigs to Ironwood and this will be their final home. They are 12 to 14 years old. The owner committed suicide, and his wife is left with a foreclosure sale and taking care of her elderly mother. How could the answer be anything but “yes, we will come for them” with a situation like this? The pigs will be safe and cared for here with us. I just hope the lady and her mother find peace and I hope we have helped to lighten her burden.

With stories like these we have decided to lighten our hearts and yours in this issue with a story of love for a dear friend and the good humor that Donna adds to the newsletter with her obvious love of all the piggies; big and small, ugly and cute.

We mean no harm to our pig friends by occasionally poking fun at how they look or some of their strange antics. One of my staff, Matt, once said of some of the strange things they do, “it is their culture,” and indeed it is! They make us laugh and make us cry. They make us angry and give us pleasure. They are our friends and our companions and sometimes even our adversaries.

As you read this issue and enjoy it, I hope you will gain a greater understanding of what a huge impact having a pig friend can have on one’s life. Judi’s story, Donna’s clear affection for all these pigs and our supporter letters all reveal what complex beings they are. If you take the time to look you will find that we do not stand alone in complexity and sensitivity and the desire to be loved and respected.

This seems like a simple concept, but if it were taken seriously the ripple effect could change the world.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS: Rosey and Bosco, pictured here with me, are the two pigs mentioned above. They are with us now, feet trimmed, and settling in nicely. It lightens my heart knowing that we have helped these pigs by giving them a lifetime home.



Bosco, Rosey and Mary

Paris Found a Nice Home

If you had asked Bacon (now named Paris) how she liked her home she would probably say it was just fine. She had a “caregiver” that liked her very much and enough food and a comfortable environment. She was a very friendly sweet pig that took it all in stride. But she didn’t know any better since she was with Robert since she was a baby.



Paris Exploring the Exercise Yard

Robert was planning on buying a house with a yard and in anticipation of getting the house he bought Paris. As it turned out the house sale fell through and he was not able to purchase another.

He had Paris in a third-floor condo with no balcony or other access to the outside. It was too difficult for him to take Paris down the elevator to the outside so there she lived for over a year.

Robert was very fastidious and didn’t want any mess in his home. He felt that if Paris had the run of the condo she would go to the bathroom on the carpets, which he

couldn’t tolerate. In order to ensure that she didn’t mess the condo he kept her in a medium-sized dog carrier which initially had plenty of room for the baby Paris. But as she grew it became less and less roomy. By the time he brought her to us she was not able to turn around in the carrier.

In addition to the carrier he kept her in the bathtub where she would go to the bathroom by urinating into the drain. He kept her in the bathtub for long periods of time. Only moving her from the bathtub to the carrier and back.

When Paris was in the bathtub and wanted attention she would “snap” her nose on the side of the tub. This became so loud that the neighbors below called the police. When the police talked to Robert he didn’t tell them that he had a pig.

Robert felt that it was time to find Paris a new home and called Ironwood.

When Robert told me the conditions that Paris was living under I told him immediately that we would take her.

A pig is an outdoor animal that not only loves to root in the dirt but needs to root in order to obtain iron and other elements in the soil.

Within a few days Robert brought

Paris to Ironwood. We immediately liked her. She was a very sweet friendly pig. Her skin was a strange color since she



Mary & Paris at Ironwood

hadn’t seen sun most of her life. We put her in a pen with a cozy shelter with plenty of blankets and dirt and water to satisfy her needs. Instead of being scared by her new environment she immediately started rooting in the dirt and running around. After the first day she developed a limp which we feel was due to her not having much exercise in the condo. After a few days the limp went away and she had a wonderful time running around the exercise yard and spinning in place. She was so happy to be outside.

Judi Victor, who had recently lost her long-time pig companion Pig Newton, was interested in adopting another pig. After checking out a number of pigs we had for adoption she chose Paris. We took Paris to her new home and she loved it! And they loved her! What a great match.

Good Ol' "Whatshisname"

Our Toucan is pecking the hair from his hind end. It isn't fair to the pig, but we got the Toucan first. So he's gonna stay — and we have to get rid of the pig."

So began our introduction to pig ownership.

He came into the world as "Webster." Which was cute in a *Charlotte's Web* kind of way, but not at all in keeping with our affinity for food-based animal names. After all, this new black creature with a most un-pig-like straight tail would be living with such culinary greats as Buckwheat and Famous Amos the Black Labs; Champignon, Chanterelle and Apple Cinnabar the Golden Palominos; Dundee the emu; and L.L. Bean the llama. An inedible name like "Webster" simply would not do.

It came to us on one of the many five-hour car trips to our mountain retreat in Northern Arizona. The dogs were sleeping soundly on the back seat. Our nameless porcine friend was traveling comfortably in the "way back" of our Suburban.

"I've got it," I said, delighted that — after list-upon-list of names scribbled on the backs of napkins, scrawled across scrap paper, saved in computer files and emailed to friends — I believed I finally had a winner.



"How about 'Pig Newton'?" I asked. "Perfect," my husband agreed.

He Be "Da Man"

It was apparent to us from day one that Pig Newton was used to being in charge. You could hear it in his talk. You could see it in his walk. He was clearly "The Man."

He was friendly enough with the Labs. As long as chow was distributed equally, Newton had no issues. If the dogs got a tortilla, he wanted a tortilla. If they got a Meaty Bone, he wanted a Meaty Bone. Contrary to popular opinion about pigs being, well, pigs and demanding more, Newton didn't expect more. But he also didn't expect less. If portions weren't equal in his mind,

he would seek instant revenge. Peeing on the tile floor in the living room was the sweetest instant revenge he could imagine. In his 19 years with us, revenge came only three times. For that, I will always be grateful.

Barn Pig by Day; House Pig by Night

Unlike most pigs, Newton lived in the house at night. During the day, he was relegated to the goat and emu pen, located outside near our three horses.

While in the house, Newton was fastidious. Once outside, however, his more farm-like porcine instincts prevailed, rendering him incapable of resisting the urge to submerge himself in a mud bog he had scooped, formed, dredged and perfected entirely with his hydraulically-operated nose.

At the end of the day, Newton was bathed properly with a garden hose, an activity he protested at the top of his lungs. Once clean, however, he was escorted to the house where dinner awaited on his "pig porch." After dinner, he was invited inside to spend the night on his favorite stack of soft blankets, topped with a down puff in the winter. Even the Labs didn't mind his encroachment on their beloved turf.

"Pampered" became his unspoken middle name.

Pig Newton's Annual Holiday Gala

Every year, we hosted a Holiday Party for friends, family and business associates. From a rather



humble beginning involving a cheese tray, assorted Christmas cookies and 10-15 friends, the party evolved through the years to well over 100 guests. We called in the caterer. Formal invitations were mailed a month before the event. And somehow, Pig Newton managed to create the illusion that it was, indeed, *his* party.

He insisted on dressing for the occasion. While a red silk smoking jacket would have been perfect for a man of his stature, he bedecked himself in ridiculous costumery through the years, ranging from a denim and gold lamé get-up that would have shocked Dolly Parton; to a cacophonous mix of plaids that would have embarrassed the likes of Ralph Lauren and Burberry; to a simple statement he called "Pig In Peals," in which he donned some 200 plastic pop beads, looped endlessly around his 54" neck.

As fate would have it, the sound of the first doorbell startled Newton

such that he constricted, causing the pop bead necklace to explode en masse of white pea-sized projectiles. Our bedroom floor, where Newton had positioned himself to receive his guests atop a stunning snow white blanket, was covered in white pop beads, bouncing every which way and converting the floor into a virtual skating rink. I spent the first thirty minutes of the party on my hands and knees — in my brand-new cocktail dress — scooping pop beads off the floor and shoving them into a garbage bag.

So much for Pig Prêt-à-Porter!

Endless Memories

It didn't seem at all fair. The day after we left for vacation, we got a call from our house sitter. Newt wasn't doing well at all. "How can that be?" I asked. "He was absolutely fine when we left yesterday."

But somehow, after 19 marvelous years of his legendary antics, his unorthodox sense of humor, his quirks, his idiosyncrasies, his "attitude," his unquestionable loyalty and his unrelenting devotion, he was gone.

We miss you, Newt. You were a king among pigs. And you'll always hold a special place in our hearts.

--Judi Victor

Weeks passed. David and I were still mourning our buddy Newt. It's hard when someone so special, so much a part of our family, such an integral part of our lives is no more. But life moves on. And we realized we needed to do the same.

I visited Ironwood three times but it wasn't until my solo visit on Christmas Eve morning that I met Paris. We bonded instantly. I'm not sure if it was because of her incredibly sweet disposition or because she looked like a baby Pig Newton, but I knew right away that she was the one.

Though she's only been with us for several weeks, already Paris has found her special place in our home — and in our hearts.



Paris at Her New Home

She enjoys hiding under the clothes racks in our closet. No one knows she's there — even the Labs — except for an occasional twitch of a trouser pant leg. Or a blouse that has somehow ended up on the floor, with only the French cuff sticking out from under...ahhhh, a tiny little black pig snout — tipped in pink — that belongs to someone who is fast asleep and terribly content, knowing this is her "Forever Home."

--Judi Victor

Something Nice to Say


This past summer we were applying for an important grant that could provide up to 6 months of our pig food. This was a significant grant for us since food is a very large expense, particularly with the cost of corn increasing so dramatically over the past couple of years.

One of the requirements for the grant request was to have two individuals that work in the animal rescue field and have visited the sanctuary to write letters of recommendation. We received a very nice letter from Dave Nora and Peggy Kavookjian who own pigs and have volunteered for over 20 years in the field of animal welfare.

We also needed a second letter which our long-time veterinarian Dr. Barbara Page of Adobe Veterinary Center agreed to write for us. We have always had a good relationship with Dr. Page but were pleasantly surprised by the great letter she wrote.

When we read her letter we were very pleased about what she said about us and the sanctuary.

With Dr. Page's permission we decided to print her letter on the next page so you can read it also. I hope you don't mind us tooting our own horn so to speak. We just wanted to share what she had to say with you. By the way we did receive a substantial portion of the grant that we had asked for.



Strawberry lives at our Annex. When we were still volunteers at the Annex, then called P i g s * A * L o t , Lynette, the previous owner, got a call from a woman in Phoenix who wanted to bring three pigs to her. Two days later on March 17th, 2001 at 11:00pm at night three pigs arrived at PAL loose in the back of a pickup truck. Somehow they all survived the 100-mile 2-hour trip. There was one neutered male they found roaming in a trailer park, one very young black female who was very crippled, we named her Little Bella, and little Strawberry who was about 7 months old at the time. It is hard to think of "little Strawberry" being nearly nine years old. She is very social and sweet and has lived at our Annex all of her life.

Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Stamps (42, 27, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, or Walgreens
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * Zinc Oxide Ointment Such as Desitin
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM
- * Flax Seed Capsules
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment



Barbara Page, DVM
Christine Staten, DVM
Susan Stofft, DVM
Elisa Marusich, DVM

July 19, 2008

Ms Edith Murphy, Executive Director
82 Devonshire St., B6
Boston, MA 02109-3614

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mary Schanz and Beh Watkins for many years. I first met them when they were volunteering their help at Pigs-A-Lot, the original potbellied pig sanctuary in the Tucson area, at least 10 years ago. Both immediately impressed me with their intelligence, forethought and grasp of what was needed to first, properly take care of the immediate needs of rescued animals, and second, to look into the future and PLAN for those needs.

I have been a veterinarian for 30 years, and have helped many "sanctuaries" and rescuers over those years. All except Ironwood Pig Sanctuary have been born solely of desperation and big hearts, only to founder and gradually or painfully fade away. Ironwood was a planned facility from the beginning, with a careful eye for expansion and facility for care that is often forgotten in the rush to feed and shelter neglected or abused animals: health maintenance and veterinary care. These necessary extra burdens are often the downfall of such shelters.

Ms. Schanz and Mr. Watkins spent many months researching other pig sanctuaries, consulting their managers, asking questions, planning pens, open areas, ways to separate the sick from the healthy, all with an understanding of the special needs and behaviors of pigs. All this was done while still continuing their volunteering of many hours of hard work.

They are outstanding human beings totally devoted to their mission, with soft hearts, but disciplined strategy. I am humbled by their dedication. I cannot more enthusiastically endorse Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. They are deserving of any support that can be given, with complete assurance that it will be applied efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Page, DVM
Chief of Staff

Sponsor a S



Fiona

Fiona: Who needs a pot of gold? Is it edible? No! I'm hoping to find a pot of strawberries and grapes. Now, that would be rich!



Victoria

Victoria: Hmm...I think I'll wish for my very own personal staff member who will wait on me hand and foot or I should say, hand and hoof!



Carson

Carson: I hope the blankets. Lots and warm blankets! I co comfy in my shelter th

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

Besides having their own personal wishes, these pigs are also hoping to find a sponsor at the end of the rainbow this St. Patrick's Day! A \$30 monthly



Buck and Donna

donation will provide for their basic care and health needs. In return, you will receive periodic letters and pictures from Donna to update you on the life of your Pig.



David Bowie

Special Pig!



A pot is full of lots of fluffy could really get en!



Stella

Stella: Geez! I hate these kinds of questions. I mean, what would you wish for? There are too many answers....fruits, vegetables, pellets, crackers, cookies. How can I pick just one?!



Peaches

Peaches: I would wish for world peace, a better economy, health and happiness for all sponsors and their pigs, and a carrot cake! (Well, what did you expect? I am a pig!)



David Bowie: Besides a sponsor, it has to be cookies waiting at the end of the rainbow. A gigantic pot of fig newtons, animal crackers, vanilla wafers. M m m m m y mouth is watering just imagining it!



Bradley

Bradley: After sleeping on it, I've decided that I would wish for more nap time. Can you put naps in a pot at the end of the rainbow? Huh, maybe I'll have to sleep on it some more and come up with something else.

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

By joining as a Sanctuary Sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose, can be charged to your credit or debit card each month. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience.

Ironwood's Sustainer program will benefit our wonderful pigs by providing a regular monthly income that will go directly to where it is needed most at the Sanctuary.

To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

The costs involved in maintaining a safe and healthy pot-bellied pig sanctuary are significant. Food and hay, medicines, medical care, supplements for arthritis and other ailments, shelter and fencing, and maintaining living areas are but some of the costs.

Thank You For Caring.

We accept donations with the four shown credit cards for your convenience.



Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetime, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

You can make secure donations to the Sanctuary using your credit card by going to our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

Our New Annex Staff



Shannon and Nipper

Shannon, Jeff, and their son Gunner and their kitties and doggies are all settled in at the Annex. Shannon has learned many of the pigs by name and has given some of them names as she gets to know them. Jeff has devised a method of dragging the open areas of the property which helps to keep things nice and clean so Laura, our volunteer, and Shannon can spend more time with the pigs and less time with the rake!!

Shannon is shown here giving

Nipper a belly rub. She learned very quickly to get on Nipper's good side. Anyone who has been to the Annex knows that Nipper is one pig with an attitude, but she sure loves her belly rubs.

We are so glad to feel confident now that all our pigs who have spent their whole lives at our Annex will be able to live their lives out where they are secure and safe. Ironwood is nice but the Annex is their home and they want to stay there.

Open House

Thank you everyone who came to our Open House in November and helped to make it a very special occasion. And thank you to our staff and all the volunteers who worked so hard getting ready and working during the day. We had a nice turnout and it was a very pleasant sunny day. Everyone enjoyed themselves, particularly the pigs. I noticed later in the afternoon that many of our visitors, after finishing their tours and food, just didn't want to leave.

I was helping with directing incoming traffic and I found it enjoyable that many of the new arrivals, when I pointed out the visitor center where we had food, snacks, and drinks, said we want to see the pigs!

We had our usual pig items for sale along with two raffles. One was for a 26-inch LCD HD television donated by Joan Wolf and won by Vicente Granillo. The other was a gold chain with a cast gold pig donated by Pat Morgan and won by Trish Hosking. Thank you Joan and Pat for your generous donations.

Many of the visitors took the opportunity to see their sponsored pig, some for the first time.

If you were not able to come to the Open House please try and plan for next year. If you can't make the Open House we do have tours at other times, mostly on Saturdays, by appointment only.



One of April's Tours

We do have tours on other days but do not have tours every day due to a vet visit, picking up new pigs, or short staffed. For our out of town visitors please plan ahead for your tour so that when you are in town we will be able to accommodate your visit. We are a little over one hour from Tucson and two hours from Phoenix. Please call or e-mail for directions and an appointment.

Have You Kissed Your Pig Today!

When giving tours to visitors or working with new volunteers or staff, I always introduce the pigs by name as we wander through the fields. There are stories to tell about why they came to Ironwood



Frankie

or what makes them special or some that are particularly cute or friendly. Many times I've heard "How do you know all their names? They all look alike! How



Tai San

can you tell them apart?" Now tell me, can you look at the pictures on this page and say that all these pigs look alike?! I admit

there are some of the 560+ pigs here that are difficult to pick out of the crowd, but most of them have their own little quirks and facial expressions that make them unique.

Check out that pout on Frankie's face!

And who wouldn't want to give Tai San a big ole kiss after seeing that special smile she reserves for those who say her name! What about Cooper? Isn't he just the cutest, happiest pig you've ever seen? I honestly think he was a fashion model in a previous life. He absolutely loves posing for pictures!

How could you pass up a kiss from a little cutie like Percy? (I'm not prejudiced or anything since he is one of my "kids" at my house!) Each of these pigs is adorable and beautiful in their own way. Check out Dapple, the Don King of pigs! How more unique could a pig possibly be! He's got one of those "only a mother could love" faces. And yes, I do love him!

You can definitely learn to tell the pigs apart as you spend time with them. Their faces, markings, personalities and even their voices can define who's who. Mel, aka "The Foghorn," has a distinct way of saying hello that is unmistakable. Lulubelle will talk your ears off with her unique voice. There are a few you can



Cooper



Percy



Dapple



Ariel

even recognize from the sound of their snoring. Sammy is the first one to pop into my head about that one. You can hear him from



Arnie

2 fields away! So there is more than one way to distinguish one pig from another. But really, who wouldn't remember Arnie after getting a close-up of his mug? (Plus the fact that Arnie would just as soon take a nip out of your leg as not is a great reason to memorize his face!)

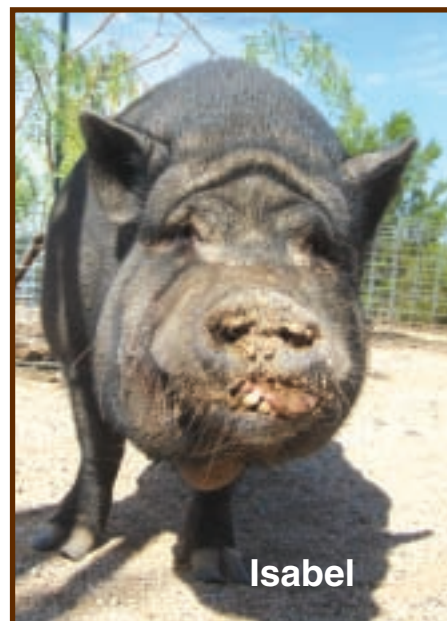
Ariel's sponsor claims she's the prettiest pig ever! So come on, have you kissed your pig today?
-- Donna



Tulip



Harriet



Isabel

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-682-4686 or e-mail at hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Donna trimming Navajo, one of her Pigs.



Missy

Our Supporters Write

Dear Ironwood Angels,
 As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to tell you how thankful we are for Peggy Sue. She has become a loving, warm hearted little girl who enriches our lives daily.
 And I also am thankful for people like you who give so freely of themselves to our animal companions. You are very special people.
 Peggy Sue wants to thank you too, for taking such good care of her when she was homeless. She may have been abandoned by others, but never by you. Thank you
 Janie

Sofie
 One day I would like to share my story with you of my pet Sofie, my pet pig as a child. She slept with me - we went on hikes - she met me after school at the bus stop - then one day she did not come - I have never forgotten that day, it changed my life forever. --
 - I became a Vegan.
 Nancie Sailor



Please accept this donation on behalf of my "daughter", Lilly, shown here on our farm with her best friend Abby, a 20

year old quarter horse. Lilly has changed my life. Thank-you for the wonderful work you do!

Cathy Cirone



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.

Dear Piggies and Friends,

We at Discover Learning Center heard about your pig sanctuary and decided that this would be a great learning experience for our three- and four-year-old preschoolers. After looking at one of your newsletters and seeing the pigs in the pool and eating watermelon, we decided that we wanted to help out. We made piggy banks and encouraged the children to help out at home so they could earn money to put in the piggy banks. Then they decided to put on a bake sale lasting three days. Each day we sold something different like “mud brownies,” “snout cookies,” and “pig food .” During the bake sale the children wore pig snouts and ears they made, to encourage parents to donate money for our cause. Our preschool friends also made pictures to send to the pigs so the pigs know they are loved by us. We are proud to know that we can help contribute to such a good cause.

Best Wishes, Ms. Rose, Ms. Rachel, and Preschool A of Discovery Learning Center



Moe, Curly and Larry Under Their Favorite Tree



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