

# TRUCKEE TOWNWOOD

ISSUE  
NO 43

NOVEMBER  
2011

Happy Holidays



Yoda

## PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 2011

Dear Supporter,

The holidays are again upon us and we have decided to brighten up our pages with a little holiday fun this year. Everyone here at Ironwood wishes you a happy, healthy, compassionate holiday season and the pigs want to join in as well with their wishes of happy holidays. We hope we bring a smile to your face and a little holiday cheer.

Another year has passed and those of us here at Ironwood would like to express our gratitude to you, our supporters, who have made it possible for us to maintain and care for those pigs who have been with us so many years. We have not just maintained however. We have been able to welcome many newcomers to our family like Pop Tart in the following article and Sunshine, 15, pictured here with me. So many have continued their journey making space for those who are still in need of a home here at Ironwood. It is the natural process and as we have been able to see so many through their lives here, we hope to be able to provide the same care for the recent arrivals, young and old.

To that end we count our blessings. The hot, hot summer is finally abating and we are enjoying some nice pleasant days with cooler temperatures. Of course this means cooler nights as well, so blankets are in and carpet doors will soon be up. The pigs pile in together and we hear quarreling in the fields as they jockey for the best and warmest position. You have stretched yourselves during these very difficult economic times to make sure our pigs still have a safe home. I cannot tell you how important this has been. I know many of you are living on a limited income and still you send what you can to help provide our pigs with food and care. I am so grateful for every one of you who helps in any way you can to keep us moving forward.

I also wanted to thank all of you who wrote wonderful letters of support, encouragement and commiseration in response to my September letter. I was truly touched by so many who took the time to write to console me and to share many of your tales of a life of rescue and sacrifice. Thank you all for listening and helping me to restore my balance. Through all of our efforts there will be fewer animals suffering this year than last.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz

PS As I walk around Ironwood and see all the lucky pigs out sunning themselves in the now pleasant days, my holidays will be happy knowing all the Ironwood Pigs will be snug in their beds with blankets at night because you, their Santa Claus, have been here all year.

**Sunshine and Mary**



# Pop Tart's Rescue

I believe everyone has heard the term, it takes a village to raise a child. Well, this phrase may apply to little Pop Tart's rescue.

Toward the end of August, while Ben and I were finally enjoying a few days off, we got an e-mail from one of our long term supporters. She and her husband were one of the very first to adopt a pig from us. She forwarded a Craig's list ad to us about a little pig who needed a new and loving home.

When I contacted Jessica, the person who posted the Craig's ad, I found out she knew of us since we buy food from the store where she works. She had received a call from an old woman on the southwest side of town who has



many animals that she raises and kills for meat. She had just gotten in 20 baby hogs who were to be



raised for meat and among them was little Pop Tart. She told Jessica she could have her if she wanted her. The lady told Jessica this little pig was being badly roughed up by the larger hogs and she would soon kill her if Jessica did not want her. Jessica went to pick her up and said Pop Tart was skinny and very badly sunburned. She took her home immediately.

Jessica took care of her for nearly two months putting lotion on her daily for her sunburn. Three weeks before she posted her on Craig's list, Pop Tart gave birth to babies, all of which died immediately. She was in no condition to raise a

family and Jessica said she was so thin she did not even know she was pregnant. She said she would have liked to have kept her, but Pop Tart seemed so sad and her tail never wagged. She hoped that someone would take her that could do more for her.

Knowing that she was very shy of people and in need of special care we contacted Jessica and decided to take her. She brought her to us and I was shocked to see how young she was, a mere baby herself. She does have multiple problems including lameness which may always be with her due to poor nutrition and/or injury. She is now getting three meals a day, has been wormed, and is getting necessary supplements. Her little tail wags all the time now and she has become very vocal. She enjoys her time in the exercise yard and while she will still not let us approach her, she will run behind us squealing for a treat.

I shudder to think about where she originally came from and of the place where the old lady lives with so many animals with a grim future such as theirs. But because so many took the time and effort to be involved, little Pop Tart's destiny will now be bright. It was a woven tale of rescue indeed.

---Mary

*PS - By the way, Pop Tart is looking for a Sponsor!*

# The Feeding Process

**A**sk any pig what their favorite time of day is and the response will be, “Meal time!” Because of the vast number of pigs at the sanctuary and the time required to feed them properly, we only feed once a day. That makes it even more important than ever to make certain that each pig is getting their fair share of food.

Breakfast begins at sunrise each morning and the order we feed the fields never varies. The pigs know the routine and will begin to gather at the gate as their turn approaches. Try changing the



## Pigs Gather at the Gate as Andy & Jason Begin Feeding Sunset Field

feeding order and you end up with groups of hungry pigs taking out their frustrations on each other! The staff’s pace is planned and quick in order to get the pigs fed before fights break out.

We sometimes have people who would like to come out and

volunteer to feed the pigs. Well, it is no simple task to just jump into!



## Jason & Mary Preparing Individual Bowls With Special Meals

When staff members reach a field, one person quickly begins filling individual bowls with special meals prepared in advance stacking them in the order to be passed out while another person gets the buckets of grain ready with measured amounts that vary according to the number of pigs in that particular field. Then medications have to be handed out and pigs with special meals



## Andy Passing Out Medications

put in their individual feeding pens. Both of those chores require the staff members knowing the pigs’ names and faces, a daunting task when there can be 25 or more pigs in one field getting different medications.



## Karisha Loading a Wagon With Some of the Special Meals

Once the “pen pigs” are in place then the buckets of grain have to be evenly dispersed into the troughs and bowls scattered throughout the field. Again, the routine and route is very important. The troughs must be filled in a certain order and at a quick pace, as the pigs are used to things being done in the same way. Try filling the troughs from the wrong direction and you have pigs bumping and biting each other in confusion. You have to remember...these pigs are hungry, they want their breakfast and they want it NOW!

So you have some pigs eating in





### Tim Putting Some of the Main Field Pigs in Their Feeding Pens

small feeding pens for various reasons. Maybe they are on a diet, need more food, have to eat a mash, are slow eaters, or perhaps have just gotten too old and slow to keep up with the others. Then



### Gracie & Hopper in Their Feeding Pens

you have the majority of pigs in each field eating from troughs. They spend their time rushing



from one trough to another scrambling to get their share. Sometimes that can overwhelm a shy pig, an arthritic pig or one that just isn't feeling top notch that day. We always keep an eye out for anyone that is holding back and not getting into the troughs as they should. In areas that have shy pigs, we will scatter bowls near the troughs so that if a pig gets pushed out of a trough, it can turn to an individual bowl and still get its grain.

For most pigs the troughs, the scattered bowls and the feeding pens will do the trick, but there are always exceptions. For example, in our North Field there are a handful of pigs that ate just fine from the troughs in the past but for some reason, perhaps age related, they no longer feel comfortable being a part of the "feeding frenzy." Yet, these five pigs refuse to go into a feeding pen. In their case we fix their food in individual bowls and pass them out in the same area each day. They each have their favorite spot to eat and we're careful to respect that, as it keeps them eating from their own bowl rather than pushing another away from their meal. Boudreaux, Glory, Duane, White Socks and Hondie are good about staying with their own bowl and eating everything. Occasionally other pigs will wander past as they head to another trough and stop by to grab a mouthful of food. For that reason, a staff member hangs out to stand guard over the "bowl pigs" until they are finished. This

is time consuming but necessary to ensure these five get their fair share.



### North Field "Bowl Pigs"

Sometimes rather than make more feeding pens we will let a pig or two come out of the field to eat in the "hallway" outside the gate. Davey in the East Field is so shy he won't go in a pen or eat from the troughs. The only way to get him fed is to have him come outside the gate and eat in his own special area. He has been doing this for over nine years!



### Davey Eating in the "Hallway"

Then we have the senior citizens living in smaller fields and yards throughout the front section of the property. These wonderful old piggies need lots of attention and help to get through their meals. All are fed in individual bowls. Some need help getting

up, a few need someone to hold their juice/water bowls while they drink and the severe cases have to be hand fed. Lucy has gotten very finicky in her old age and will only eat certain foods served a particular way. Don't ever try to mix her hash brown with her sweet potatoes! She's like one of those kids that won't eat foods that are touching each other on the plate!



**Jen Hand Feeding Lucy**

We go to great lengths to keep each of our pigs fed and healthy. Some are easy and some are not. It can be a joyful sight to see pigs trotting from one trough to another, happily filling their bellies or to find the line of pigs in the Main Field standing by their feeding pens anxiously waiting for their turn to go in. Other times it can be very frustrating when you've got a pig like Wilma who has been eating in a pen for years but suddenly refuses to go in for no obvious reason. Or Mae who loved her protein shake and scrambled eggs yesterday but looks at you like you're crazy when you hand her the same meal today.

It takes a lot of love, patience and attention to detail to get through

breakfast at Ironwood. Feeding is the hardest job and takes the longest to learn because of all the individual pigs you not only have to recognize and know by name but also learn all their little quirks and personalities. Training staff members to feed is done one field at a time. Learn the pigs getting medications, learn who goes in feeding pens, learn the amounts of grain and hay given, learn the route of filling the troughs then remember to observe all the pigs to make sure that everyone is up and eating. There is so much to remember in each of the 22 different fields plus the yards behind the houses and the holding pens. We're not just slopping the hogs around here!

...Donna

## Check Out Our Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary>

Taryn, one of our resident staff, maintains our Facebook page with frequent updates about the sanctuary.

When I started the Ironwood Facebook page I had hoped to spread the word about the sanctuary. Little did I know that over 1,400 people would soon be following the page and commenting on the pictures. I try to update daily to keep everyone updated on the happenings at the sanctuary. I really enjoy seeing people's comments and questions. Recently I updated about one of our sick pigs, Rufus, who had many and long vet visits. It really warmed my heart to see people from the Facebook world sending donations to help Rufus.

It's amazing what Facebook can do. I'm excited to gain more followers and to keep sharing pictures and updates with everyone. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep the Ironwood Facebook page alive.

---Taryn

## Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail [hoofandtusk@yahoo.com](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.



# Open House

**W**e're all so excited to see who is coming to Open House this year! It's going to be on Saturday, November 12th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You are all welcome to attend and don't hesitate to bring some friends along! We will have snacks and drinks available. There is no admission fee. You can have a tour of the Sanctuary, visit with pigs and relax around the Visitor Center. It is always a great time so come on out and enjoy the day with us and the pigs!

If you live in one of the states surrounding the Sanctuary you should receive an invitation with a map in the mail. If you don't, please call Ben at 520-631-6015 or email us at [ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com](mailto:ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com) for directions.



Last year you were wonderful, bringing so many blankets and all that peanut butter. This year we want to do things a little different with the donated items to keep us from getting overstocked with one particular thing.

A big "Thank You" to the many people who have been sending peanut butter through Amazon.com ..... you are keeping us well supplied with that. Everyone can bring blankets (we always use them up!), then if you would like to help out more,

## DONATE FROM THIS LIST

### LAST NAMES FROM A-H

Cranberry/Grape juice  
Stool Softeners  
Swat (found at feed stores)

### LAST NAMES FROM I-P

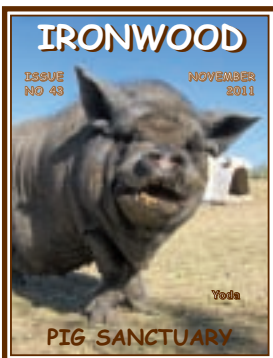
Ensure (Vanilla only)  
Fig Newton Cookies  
Benefiber (unflavored, NOT Metamucil)

### LAST NAMES FROM Q-Z

Mineral Oil  
Glucosamine/Chondroitin  
Animal Crackers

please choose from the list above based upon the beginning letter of your last name.

The above items are things we are in need of now as well as blankets, blankets, blankets! We all love you, appreciate your support and hope to see you at Ironwood's Open House. Mark it on your calendar!



## COVERS

This pig was named Yoda when he arrived because, well, take a look at those ears! Who else could he be but Yoda? And because he became Yoda his companion became Luke Skywalker. Yoda is a bit shy but Luke, his companion, greets all who come to visit. We know they must have been treated well. When the husband passed away his wife attempted suicide and was admitted to a hospital, so her son released the pigs to us. He did not live nearby and had no interest in them, but none the less he arranged for us to pick them up in March of 2008. Yoda and Luke are both well into their senior years, but still living happily in our Sunset field.



After one of our Monsoon storms this summer we were out checking to be sure all pigs were well and Taryn snapped this adorable picture with all these Peoria Pigs squeezed in this shelter. I guess they felt there was safety in numbers. The Peoria rescue pigs have been with us since April of 2008 and they have grown up with us. What a lot of cute little pigs all in a row. I think this must be a record for the number of pigs in one double shelter.



# Sponsor a S



Tootie

I've been working on my wish list for the holidays. Let's see....so far I have apples, a sponsor, cookies, a sponsor, bananas, a sponsor, carrots, a sponsor. Are you seeing a pattern here?



Comanche

My holiday wish would be for my back leg to be normal again. It got broken while running away from people shooting at me and my family. It never healed right and gives me trouble. If only that wish could come true!



Reuben

I've hung my stockings and hope to find them. It would be so cool to ride in the trailer, zipping through the woods with the piggies squealing with joy.



Eloise

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, see my two front teeth. Oh, silly me! Obviously, I already have all my teeth! Hmm. How about...All I want for Christmas is a sponsor for me, a sponsor for me, see a sponsor for me. That has a nice ring to it!



Lucille

I was abandoned at a rental home. A very nice lady found me, took care of me then brought me to Ironwood. I hope she has the best holiday ever because she did me a real favor! This is a great home that I'm very thankful to have.



Roxanne

I love, love, love being here. I've been hanging out with Oliver and putting wrapping paper on the trees and wrapping gifts. It's the best time of year!





# Special Pig!



Millie



Jack

...king by my shelter door  
...he key to the ATV in it!  
...l to take my friends for  
... Can you imagine me  
...e field with the other  
...with glee in the back!

I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season filled with goodies, friends and family. And hopefully those friends and family will share their goodies as well. One can never have too many goodies or too many friends sharing goodies! Oh my, do I sound like a pig or what!

I was a stray, roaming the dirt roads looking for my next meal wherever I could find it before being brought to Ironwood. You know what I've discovered here: animal crackers! I'd love to find mountains of those yummy things under my Christmas tree!



...ve, love the holidays! I've  
...ng lights on the saguaros,  
...aths above the shelter doors  
...ng gifts for my brother  
...all our friends. It's a special  
...r and I hope you enjoy it too!



## JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

*These pigs and many more are in need of a sponsor to make their holidays brighter! Your \$30 monthly donation will provide their food, shelter, medical care and their share of sanctuary expenses. You will receive pictures and updates on your*



Dexter

Donna

*pig every few months. Please join our family of sponsors and help us continue our mission to provide a loving, caring home for these wonderful animals.*

---Donna

# Twas The Night Before Christmas



**T**was the night before Christmas, when all through the sanctuary  
 There was a pack rat stirring, and more than one pig snoring.  
 The blankets were tucked into the shelters with care,  
 In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The pigs were nestled all snug in their beds,  
 While visions of watermelon and apples danced in their heads.  
 The pugs in their snuggies, and I cuddled up with a scarf on my neck,  
 We had just settled down after the last late night check.

When out in the fields there arose such a clatter,  
 I sprang from my trailer to see what was the matter.  
 Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
 Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of another warm night,  
 Gave the luster of mid-day to objects in sight.  
 When, what to my wondering eyes should I see,  
 But a miniature sleigh, and eight pigs running before me.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
 I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.  
 I was so excited to let the pigs know he came,  
 They've all made the good list and he knew them by name!

“Now Chaco! Now, Bob! Now Oliver and Molly Sunshine!  
 On, Clara! On, Shannon! On Annie and Autumn!  
 To the top of the saguaro! To the top of the hay barn!  
 Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”

As dry comes that before the wild dust storm fly,  
 When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.  
 So up to the trailer-top the coursers they flew,  
 With the sleigh full of hay, and St Nicholas too.







Clara



Shannon



Oliver



Autum

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little pig hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the emergency ladder St Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in faux fur, from his feet to his shirt,  
And his clothes were all dusty from all of the dirt.  
A bundle of produce he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a sanctuary worker, just opening his fanny pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!  
His nose looks like Mickey's, which is quite hairy!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And his beard so white, wouldn't you know.

A stick of hay he held tight in his teeth,  
He grabbed some more to make a wreath.  
He had a broad face and a little round tummy,  
That shook when he laughed, I knew that he thought the cookies were yummy!

He was chubby and plump, I saw more than one chin,  
And I laughed when I saw him, with the pigs he'd fit right in!  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but started handing out sweet gifts,  
And as he filled all the troughs, was surprised at the lack of stinky whiffs.  
In relief he took his hand away from his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the water tank he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his pigs gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

by Taryn



Reggie

Charlotte



Mickey



Jethro

# Get A Sanctuary Credit Card

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

Share your passion for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and make donations with your everyday purchases. Just use our custom credit card and 2% of gas and grocery purchases and 1% of all other purchases made with the card will be donated to the Sanctuary. Plus Ironwood will get a \$50 bonus donation when you make your first purchase.



Apply today by visiting [www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary](http://www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary)

You can make secure One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit card by going to the **SUPPORT** page of our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org).

## Be A Sanctuary Sustainer

You can become a **Sanctuary Sustainer** by making a **monthly donation** of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose which is charged to your credit card, debit card or e-check 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. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution or go to the Support page of our web site and make your individual or monthly donation by PayPal (no PayPal account required).

## Become a Member of our Family of Sponsors

Our pigs are eager to share their lives with you. You can provide for a pig's food, shelter, health care and their share of Sanctuary expenses by making a \$30 monthly donation. You will receive current pictures and updates of your pig throughout the year. Please become a member of our family of sponsors! See page 8 and 9 for pigs needing a sponsor.

### Sponsor a Special Pig!

**JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS**  
 Please pigs need money more so in need of a sponsor for make their holidays brighter! Your \$30 monthly donations will provide their food, shelter, medical care and their share of necessary expenses! You will receive pictures and updates on your pig every five months.  
 Sponsor your favorite pig and help us continue our mission of providing loving homes for these wonderful animals.  
 -Dorian



# Ironwood's 2012 Calendar

## A Great Gift Idea

Ironwood's 12 month calendar is full of wonderful pictures of our pigs. Made of heavy stock, great quality, plenty of room for notes and important dates. Everyone loved last year's calendar and the 2012 edition is even better! Order yours today!

Taryn, one of our staff members, puts together the calendar each year. She and Donna take all of the pictures of pigs here at the Sanctuary.

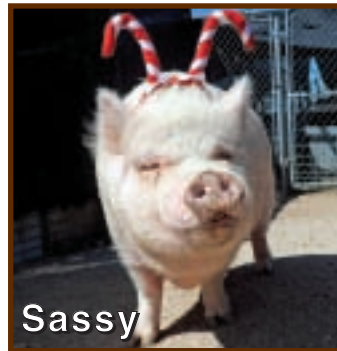
Order your 2012 calendar today by using the donate button on our home page at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) or by sending a note with your check or credit card number in the enclosed remit envelope. The calendar is \$25. All proceeds go to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.



Ho!

Buck

Ho!



Sassy

Ho!



Squiggly

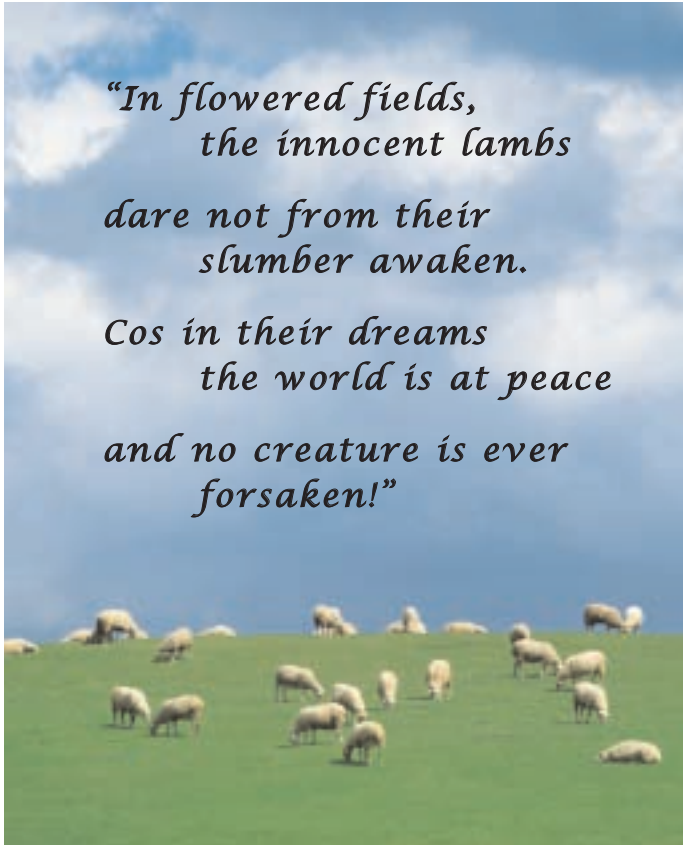
## Our Wish List

- \* Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, or PetsMart are an easy way to give.
- \* The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
- \* VISA gift cards that can be used anywhere
- \* Postage Stamps (44, 29, 20 cents)
- \* Used Blankets and Sheets are always welcome (*Pigs Love Comforters!!*)
- \* Antacid
- \* Triple Antibiotic Ointment

- \* Utility Knives
- \* Vitamin E, 400 IU
- \* Benefiber Powder - Unflavored (NOT Metamucil)
- \* Lineman's Pliers
- \* **Stool Softener - Docusate Sodium 100mg**
- \* **Glucosamine/Chondroitin**
- \* **Mineral Oil**

*Items in Purple are the Most Needed at this time*

# Our Supporters Write

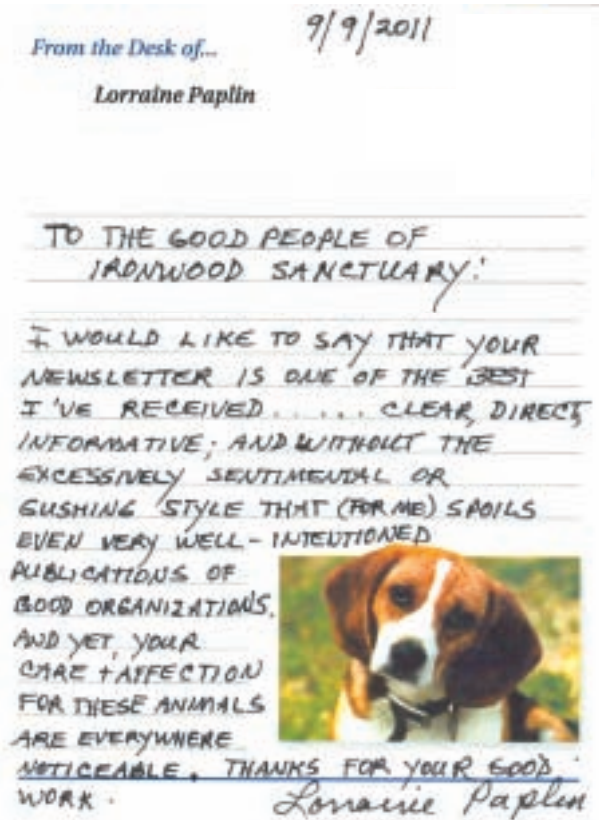


*"In flowered fields,  
the innocent lambs  
dare not from their  
slumber awaken.  
Cos in their dreams  
the world is at peace  
and no creature is ever  
forsaken!"*

Sent by Dora Martin



**Scarlett Oinky**



*Keep Shining*

*Dear Mary & Ben,*

*Thanks for your knowledge.  
Scarlett Oinky kept going 1 yr 3  
months more thanks to you two.*

*She is on her journey now, feels no  
pain.*

*Hope to assist you at your pig  
sanctuary Nov 7th or the Veterans  
Holiday. I will check in with you.*

*Beth*



## 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.

*Your newsletter is the piece of mail I look forward to receiving the most. God Bless you all for caring for all these beautiful beings.*

*Wish I lived closer!*

*With Gratitude and Love.*

*Beth DeCespedes*



*My name is Jessica and I would love to sponsor one of your pigs.*

*I read about Shadow in your news letter this month, and it absolutely broke my heart. I hope she lives out the rest of her life in a safe happy home-sounds like she deserves it!!*

*When I was 7, I was lucky enough to get a pot belly pig of my own- Frank. I got*

*him as a baby, just a few months old, and loved him with all my heart. He was my companion in everyday life for yeeears!*

*We watched movies together (he'd need some help to get up on the couch, but together we'd make it happen), played in the sprinklers together, played tag (he loved to be chased and dodge around in the back yard with me), he even slept with me for the first year of his life. Got a little too big after that- but you bet he slept right by my bed every night :) I loved that pig. and still miss him terribly.*

*One day when I have land of my own, I plan on taking in a few piggies! For now, I would love to help your sanctuary. I admire what you're doing for these pigs a GREAT deal.*

*THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

*- Jessica*

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# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



These are a few pigs from our Peoria field. They have plenty of dry shelters in their field, but during one rainy day they wanted to be together.