

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

April 2017

I have been a part of Ironwood in one way or another since it opened 16 years ago. There has been a lot of growth over the years as the number of pigs needing our help has increased. As the pigs aged and their needs got more complicated, we had to make modifications to accommodate them. With your generosity, we were able to develop areas specifically for the elderly pigs in need of special care.



Taryn & Deeanna

coming through to put cool, wet towels on the pigs or spraying them with water to get them through the 100+ degree days. Their comfort is a priority.

The elderly pigs in Hospice also get Happy Hour each afternoon. They are all on medication for arthritis, so they

get served peanut butter sandwiches with their pills hidden inside. A refreshing treat of apple or melon

slices is also offered. Then each pig gets diluted juice to ensure

they are staying hydrated. It's also a chance for the "server" to check on each individual pig and assess how they are faring. We love each of these



One of those areas is Hospice. The end care for the pigs is not always something one wants to think about, but it is a necessity. The most debilitating issue faced by elderly pigs is

arthritis. Placing them in a smaller, flat area enables them to get around more easily. They have various sized shelters to choose from including a barn where several sleep together. All the pigs living in Hospice were once a member of a herd in one of the many different fields at Ironwood. As their physical abilities declined, they were moved into Hospice for their safety and comfort. A staff member comes through the area many times throughout each day to check on the pigs. The population is small because each pig needs more individualized care and one-on-one time from their human helpers. During the winter someone is making sure the pigs are tucked in with their blankets to stay warm. In the hot season someone is constantly



Little Hamlet & Ernie



Celesa Giving Juice

Thank you so much for caring!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

pigs and knowing we can provide this type of care for the older, needy pigs is a blessing and we owe it all to you.

Inky's Update

Inky will celebrate his second anniversary with us this month. Today he is a happy, healthy boy of 2½ years of age, nearly full grown. When he arrived in April of 2015 as a 6 month old baby, he was in sad shape. The poor guy had been taken to a pig farmer to be neutered. The farmer's method was brutal without the use of anesthesia. Even if Inky's had been a normal neuter, it would have been painful. Unfortunately, only one testicle had descended so



the clinic to have that second "hidden" testicle removed. This time it was done properly under anesthesia by a vet. Inky's recovery from his "second neuter" was quick and easy. He is smaller than average probably due to the trauma his little body underwent when he was young.

Inky happily lives in our Main Field these days. He has many friends that he hangs out with in the front section of the field which is his home territory. Inky is super friendly and loves to get



took him straight to our vet where his wounds were drained and cleaned. A drain was placed in his abdomen to keep the blood and infection draining out. Inky was anemic from the blood loss and put on vitamins as well as a high protein diet. He also received antibiotics and pain medication. Inky spent much of his first few weeks crawling under his blankets as if hiding from the world of pain he was in.



the man proceeded to slice open Inky's abdomen in search of the other. He never found it and left open, bleeding incisions from mid belly to the tail.

Being young and resilient helped Inky heal. His wounds eventually closed up properly. Once he had recovered from that trauma and gotten stronger, he had to return to

belly rubs and back scratches. His story is a prime example of the necessity of finding a vet that can properly care for a pig. That is a big challenge for many pig owners but should be one of the considerations when deciding whether or not to take on the responsibility of owning a pig.

The owner and a neighbor who was helping with his care soon realized that Inky needed more help than they could provide and asked us to take him. By this time Inky's belly was swollen, there were maggots crawling inside the incisions and he smelled horrible from the extent of infection. We



---Donna

Dental Health

Ironwood has been in existence for almost 16 years now. One of the things we have discovered along the way is that the pigs' teeth begin to deteriorate once they hit their teen years. Some of the signs are simply eating slower, shaking the head while eating or just not wanting to eat at all. We had five pigs go to the vet clinic for dental exams this winter. A pig must be under anesthesia for the examination which involves taking x-rays.



Eloise

Eloise and Malcolm went for their dental exams on the same day. Eloise's problem was centered on one side of her mouth. She had a few bad teeth pulled, one of which had some hair and sand impacted around the base that had caused a mild infection. During her recovery time, Eloise ate a soft



Malcom

mash but was later able to return to eating dry grain from the troughs out in her field. Malcolm had a lot of teeth pulled but no infection issues. He continues to be fed a mash for his meals due to the number of teeth he lost, so he is fed in an individual pen during meals.



Taryn & Allison

Next for dental surgery was Allison, one of our elderly girls in special care. She had ten teeth pulled, most of which were infected to some degree. Requiring a round of antibiotics is common for the dental patients. Allison had a tough recovery, needing to have her food and medication liquefied and syringed into her for a few days until she



Loni

felt like eating. She continues to get a wet mash for all her meals. Loni went to the clinic a few days after Allison and got the same

results...a lot needed pulling and most were infected. She recovered more easily but even after returning to her field, she continues to get a soft mash.

Hopper is probably our worst case to date. Her January dental surgery was her third in less than a year. The infection went down so deep that some of her teeth had to be cut out below the root and sutured closed. Hopper has other



Hopper

health issues that may contribute to her poor dental health, but she always bounces back and returns to her field to be with her brother Twix and their friends.

---Donna

Dental exams/surgeries are difficult and time consuming to perform. Therefore, they are also expensive. The five pigs mentioned above cost a total of \$5,173.89 for their exams, x-rays, surgeries and medications. If you would like to help cover their expenses, please designate your donation "for dentals." We appreciate all your support! Thank you!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

POST OFFICE BOX 35490

TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490

520-631-6015

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

Return Service Requested

Published at the above address regularly.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

APRIL 2017

UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Ernie