

IRONWOOD

Happy Holidays

SUBSCRIPTIONS
NO 79

NOVEMBER
2017



Prissy

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 2017

Dear Supporter,

The Holidays are quickly coming, Open House is nearly here and we are scurrying to make the seasonal change, finally, from summer to winter so we are sort of like Santa's workshop here in the desert. We are building a new area to quarantine our new pigs and we are looking ahead to build a recovery building for our surgery pigs coming home from the clinic and for cyro-surgeries done here at Ironwood. Our outreach program has made some good strides (see article on page 10 for details), but this is just the beginning of this effort and so much remains to be done. My letter in the September newsletter has started some conversations of legislation to make some helpful changes for pigs.

As the Holidays approach and I think about the message of Peace on Earth I take pause because this is such a tumultuous time that Peace on Earth is elusive. However there are increasing signs and victories this past year for animals that bring the end of 2017 with hope for a brighter future. So many groups, large and small, have been so active in saving so many animals left homeless in the Harvey, Irma, and Maria Hurricanes. Ringling Brothers Circus closed in May after 146 years of animal abuse and several other countries in the world have banned animals from the circus. The founders of "Keepers of the Wild" are proposing a new 2480 acre Wild Planet Nature Park in northern AZ which will be the largest animal sanctuary in the US and have plans to house many of the animals that will be in need of a home as the circuses close. The CA state Legislation unanimously passed AB485 which says all cats, dogs, and rabbits sold in stores must come from shelters and dog rescue groups, NOT PUPPY MILLS. Unfortunately the AZ state legislators and Governor Ducey reversed the progress AZ was making toward that goal.

One of our supporters who volunteers here each Open House gave a ten minute talk at her company, Liberty Mutual, singing the praises of Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. This reached hundreds of people and she wrote to me today "The world is changing – the animal supporters are more prevalent than ever before – even in Corporate America." She said her audience LOVED her talk.

So with all the turmoil around us Peace and Hope can be found and people are working throughout the world to help animals of all species. For our pigs you are our Hope. Thank you so much. All of us at Ironwood wish you a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Holiday Season.

Sincerely



Mary Schanz

PS Lucinda, one of the sweetest and most mellow pigs I have ever met, is one of our rescued Moms who was running loose in the cotton fields near us with her daughter and son. She comforts me and brings me peace. Peace comes to us in so many unexpected ways.



Mary & Lucinda

A Typical Day At Ironwood

There is a lot going on at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary every day. Some of it is the obvious...feeding and watering the pigs, but there are many details that go into taking proper care of the pigs and keeping them safe and comfortable. Most days it's Taryn who gets the ball rolling. She comes in at 4:30 a.m. (or earlier during the summer) to prepare the special meals and load them into the various tubs going out to the different fields along with the morning medications. Next she feeds the elderly pigs that live in the backyards of the Visitor Center and Ben and Mary's house. At this time of year that means feeding by flashlight since the sun is barely beginning to rise. Some of these pigs need extra help due to their physical



limitations, so Taryn allows time for that as well as checking their houses to see if anyone had overnight accidents and needs to have wet carpet or blankets replaced. Then it's off to the holding pens where the newest arrivals are living. These pens are also used for pigs recovering from

surgeries, injuries or illnesses so some of them may need to have wounds treated or get injections of antibiotics. There can be anywhere from 20 to 35 pigs living in the pens. Taryn works hard to get them all taken care of before the rest of the feeding team arrives.



Once the staff of 7 feeders are all present they grab the tubs that were loaded up with special meals and juices earlier and head off to the west side of the property to feed the herds living in the nine fields over there. The fields are fed in the same order every day to keep the pigs in a routine. While some of the fields can be fed by one person, the larger fields like Sunset, Princess and Peoria require 2-3 people to get the job done. There are bowls to fill with special meals, pigs to put in the individual feed pens, juice bowls



to fill, medications to hand out then troughs to fill with grain for the rest of the herd. While the pigs are eating the staff is busy tucking in blankets that the pigs accidentally drag out of their houses when they get up each morning, observing the pigs for physical problems, putting sunscreen on the white pigs' ears



and spreading out alfalfa hay for the pigs to graze on when they're done with their grain. Some of the pigs who have issues with cracked hooves get hoof strengthening ointment applied to their toes. The feeding staff is also trained to give injections because there may be times that a pig in the field needs a shot of antibiotics or their monthly Adequan injection for joint problems. Then pigs have to be let out of their pens, bowls picked up and rinsed and the feed station cleaned up and readied for the next day.

Once the feeding team is in full swing, another team of four people follow a half hour behind them to do the watering. Wading pools must be emptied into the mud wallows then scrubbed and



refilled. There are bowls to be cleaned and filled with drinking water scattered around the fields as well as inside each of the individual feeding pens. The automatic waterers have to be cleaned every day. The watering team makes sure the pigs have plenty of water to drink as well as to play in to keep them cool. Like the feeders, the watering staff also observes the pigs as they go through the fields, noticing things such as limping, cracked hooves or abnormal behavior. Sometimes they have to stop and break up a scuffle between two pigs.

Meanwhile, the feeding team has finished with the west side and split up. One person stays behind



to do the “walk around” which involves going through every field and checking inside every single feeding pen to make sure that all the pigs were let out after

breakfast. It’s simply double checking to ensure the safety of the pigs. Most of the feeders go over to the east side of the property to begin feeding the pigs in the fields over there. Others go to the various special care areas set aside for pigs with physical disabilities or perhaps just old and arthritic. It can take 4-5 hours just to get all the pigs fed while the watering is a 5-7 hour job depending on how hot it is on a



given day. During the feeding and watering, the staff uses the walkie-talkies to call in things they notice that need to go on the work list. A shade ramada in Spike’s Field may have gotten blown down during the night. Esmerelda’s latch on her feed pen is broken and needs replacing. A trough in Northwest Field has a hole worn through the bottom and needs to be replaced. A new pool is needed in Far East because the old one has a hole in it. Assisted Living Phase 3 is out of hay and must be restocked. And the list goes on and on and on! All those things are jotted down on the work list to be taken care of after the feeding is completed and the staff takes a break.

Even while the feeding and watering is being taken care of,

there are additional staff people working hard at other jobs. Catina is busy making around 350 peanut butter sandwiches, filling each with various pills and powders then putting them into the bags labeled with the pigs’ names and grouping them by fields. She must prepare all the medications for the next day’s morning and evening rounds.

Don is on hand taking care of a variety of tasks. If a water line breaks out in one of the fields, a call over the walkie-talkie gets Don moving to shut the water off and make the repair. If new shelters or troughs are needed, he is there to get those built. Creating a new field means putting up fencing and adding more water lines and hose bibs. A wind storm has ripped the roofing off several shelters in North Field, an automatic waterer is running



over in the Frat House, the ATV with a wagon load of hay has a flat tire...who’re you gonna call? That would be a matter for our handyman, Don!

Then there’s Travis hauling water from town to fill the storage tanks. The water well here does a great job but it’s not enough to support the high pig population with all

their pools, wallows and water bowls as well as the staff that live on-site. For two to three days each week Travis will make the



trek back and forth picking up loads of water to supplement the supply pumped from the well.

The morning meal for the holding pen pigs and the 29 different fields and special care areas is finally finished. But guess what! We're not done yet. Now it's time to go back through all those same places and give lunches to any youngsters under 9-12 months as well as a handful of the seniors who need extra meals to keep their weight up. There is also a list of boys who have a history of forming urinary stones or granules and girls with frequent UTI issues. These piggies get diluted cranberry/grape juice at lunch time to ensure that they are drinking enough. Three pigs also get a midday medication every day and are included with the lunch schedule.

While two staff members split up the lunch shift chores, others are tackling the work list of the oddball repairs and things that were called in during the morning feeding. On top of that are the

regularly scheduled activities that occur on particular days. On Mondays 3-6 pigs are loaded in the van and taken to the vet clinic for Tuesday surgery. Tuesdays and Fridays are the days that the ATVs are loaded with bags of



grain to be taken out to all the fields to restock the tubs at the feed stations. Every third Tuesday the feed store delivers over 4 tons of grain in 50 pound bags. At least one staff member helps unload and stack those in the grain barn. On Wednesdays part of the staff works on the daunting task of keeping all the pigs' hooves and tusks trimmed. The trimming team works hard to keep those hooves in shape.



Every Thursday I head into town to pick up miscellaneous supplies, prescriptions and grocery items to stock up for the week. During the cooler months, Saturday mornings include giving a tour of

the sanctuary to groups of visitors. Bales of hay are loaded up and taken out to restock the feed stations every other week. Hay deliveries come in once or twice monthly and several staff members work hard to unload and stack the bales in the hay barn. That is especially grueling when it's 110 degrees!

Beginning in the wee hours of the morning and going on throughout the entire day is the rotation of pigs that are living in the holding pens. They each need to take a turn in one of the two exercise yards for a half hour or more so that everyone is able to have time



to run around and explore. That sounds easy enough but sometimes you get a pig like Pooh who likes to play hide and seek. When it's time for her to come back in she seldom comes when called and will be hiding in the bushes or up under the water tank. Matilda falls asleep under Richard's trailer and you have to go wake her up. The litter of young boys may be running in circles acting silly and totally ignore your efforts to herd them back into their pen. You never know how long the rotation chore will take.

Most days include a list of pigs that need specific medical care that requires 2-3 people to get done. After major dental surgery Martin needed to have his mouth flushed daily at first then



gradually cut back on frequency as the hole where his tusk had been began to close up. He is extremely shy and skittish, so it required 3 people to work on him. It could be that the girls who got spayed earlier in the week are ready to have their IV catheters taken out. Depending on their personalities, it could be done by one person or may need 2 or 3 more to help. It seems that there is always a pig with a foot wrapped due to an injury or split hoof or having stones stuck between their toes. Those



bandages have to be changed regularly. New male arrivals recently neutered need to have their incisions checked for infection.

One of the last chores of the day is to give out the evening medications. One person who has learned where the pigs like to hang out during the day goes through each field to hand out an average of 75 evening sandwiches with meds. Three other staff split the special care areas which require more time. The elderly and/or sick pigs need their medications, averaging 35 each evening, as well as diluted juice and slices of fruit for everyone. Getting the old ones out of their houses can sometimes be a chore, but they need to get up to drink and go to the bathroom every afternoon. There are also a few pigs that get a late meal as well.



All of the above are the normal day to day happenings that are always on the schedule. Other things crop up constantly. During the summer monsoon season we're often faced with the results of flooding or heavy wind damage adding more things to the repair list. A winter rain means wet blankets to hang up on fences to dry then going back later in the day to tuck them into shelters. More often than we want, a pig has to be rushed off for an emergency vet visit which will pull a staff member for the

majority of the day. A stray pig is picked up by Animal Control so off goes another staff member to bring that one to the sanctuary. Pigs from out in the fields that are scheduled for surgery, maybe a spay or a dental, must be brought in to the holding pens a few days prior to adjust their diets in preparation for undergoing anesthesia. That normally takes at



least two people to get that accomplished. All of the trash and recycled items have to be hauled to the dump so there goes another person. The chores never end and the work is never completed. A lot gets accomplished every single day but it starts all over again tomorrow!

Taking proper care of over 500 pigs is a lot of hard work. It's endless work. Sometimes it's thankless work. But it's done with love for the pigs....always with the pigs in mind. And because of your support and dedication to Ironwood, all the pigs are well fed, medicated, trimmed and snuggled inside their shelters with their blankets at the end of each day.

---Donna

Open House



Saturday November 11th
from 11:00AM to 3:00PM

Remember, Ironwood's annual Open House is coming up on Saturday, November 11th from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. Invitations with a map and directions have been sent out. You can also check our web site for directions if you did not receive one.

Donations are much appreciated!! Check out this list for items that are ongoing needs. An * denotes items we use and need the most.

- ****BLANKETS** (pigs love comforters!)
- *Sheets (no pillowcases please)
- *Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
- *Cranberry/Grape Juice (cran/grape flavor only please)
- *Vitamin B Complex (small tablets please)
- *Ranitidine 150mg Acid Reducer
- *Flaxseed Oil Capsules
- Prune Juice
- Fig Newton Cookies (or equivalent brand)
- Canned Pumpkin
- Animal Crackers
- Benefiber (not flavored)
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Children's Multivitamins (NO IRON)

These happy, smiling pigs are just a few of those anxious to meet and greet you at this year's Open House! Be ready to pet some pigs and have lots of fun!



Sponsor a S



Shaq

I may not be tall like Shaquille O'Neal but I've got a big spirit! My owners said I was hard to handle, but I just needed to be neutered and calmed down. They should see me now!



Henley

I came from a breeder at a petting zoo who sold me to be a house pet. That didn't work out too well with a dog and 3 little kids. I'm much happier here living outside with other pigs.



My owners abandoned me and my neighbors were getting sick. Thank goodness a sponsor saved me and brought me to my field.



I was born here a year ago. My mom and dad were really nice to me at home where they were. I have lots of friends including my brother.

These pigs are just a few of those hoping for your love and support. For a monthly donation of \$30 you will receive pictures of your pig along with their background.



Donna

Henry

New photos and an update will arrive later in the year to keep you connected to your piggy. Remember that a sponsorship makes a great holiday gift! What a fun way to support an Ironwood pig!

---Donna

Special Pig!



Pinta

andoned me then the
e going to eat me!
ss another neighbor
brought me here. I
h Henley who lives in



Señor Piggles

My mom and I came here after
we were attacked by dogs at our
old house. That was scary! I
feel safe here. I've made friends
with a litter just a bit younger
than me.



Little Pig

My owners loved me but had to
move out of state because of their
daughter's health problems. It
was sad saying good-bye, but I've
got a nice home here with
other pigs.



Caroline

year ago after my
re rescued from a
were no longer
ots of friends here
thers.



Maxwell

I was a stray that ended up at the
Humane Society in Yuma, AZ.
They helped me get placed at
Ironwood where I am living with a
herd of piggies around my age. It's
fun!



Francesca

My owners lost their house and
had to move to a place where I
wasn't allowed to go. At first I
was scared to be around a bunch
of other pigs, but I like it now.

Prevention is the Best Answer

In my letter in the September newsletter I talked about the horrible crisis in pig breeding and overpopulation. This continues to be a huge issue. I mentioned we were going to start to spend more of our resources on reaching out to help those in need with out of control breeding situations. To that end we have made some progress. Some of the people in the situations I mentioned did reach out to us for help and were willing to cooperate with us in order to help them. I want to give you an update on the lives we have touched and how we are helping. In some cases the pigs are being returned to their homes after they have been spayed and neutered and in some cases we have taken the pigs here at Ironwood. One family in Tempe was spiraling out of control. We brought their 4 males here to neuter then lulated the remaining adult females that we thought were pregnant. Once the boys were ready to return home we took them back then picked up the six young females pictured here. What cute little chunky girls they



Six Baby Girls

are! They have all been spayed and recovered and now are ready

to go home.

Another family had a stray boar break into their yard and soon their five females were all giving birth. Many of the babies did not survive. Soon the very young males, who can be fertile as young as 60 days, had impregnated the females again. This is a fact most people are not aware of. So once again there was a crisis pending. We brought the six surviving boys and two young females, now slightly over 5 months old, here to spay and neuter. To our surprise



Two Girls

the tiny girl was pregnant. We lulated all the adult females. Then the neutered boys and spayed females were returned to their home. Both families are now looking for homes for their piglets but rest well knowing there will be no more piglets on the way. We are grateful these families reached out for our help before the situation was truly out of control. They too are grateful we were able to step in and help them with more unintended pregnancies.

We took a group of six who were



Five of the Six Boys

being bred and sold for meat. The first litter had been sold. There were four remaining from the second litter; Pedro, Miguel,



Shelley

Miley, and Shelley. She-ra was the only survivor from Shakira's



She-Ra



Shakira

third litter. They have all been spayed and neutered preventing more pregnancies from occurring.

We got a call to help with some pigs the owner had placed in the care of a man who lived near the cotton fields near us. He worked there and agreed to keep them at a place not far from where he was located. When his car broke down and he was evicted from his property he turned the pigs loose. He said, rightly so, that he could not get to them to feed them and they had a better chance on their own. He would soon be gone. He thought they had a better chance on their own with irrigation ditches and foliage to feed on. We arrived an hour before the man was moving. With his help we



Lucinda



Johnny Rocket

were able to capture Lucinda and her son Johnny Rocket and her daughter Latoya. The dad and



Shakira, Latoya & Miley

another son were not found. We took Lucinda for an immediate spay. The man told us she had had two previous litters of 9 and 11 and there were only three that had survived.

Lastly we brought Cookie and Billy to Ironwood in late



Latoya

September. The man had been evicted and wanted us to take his pigs. He would not relinquish the last and only survivor of Cookie's



John Doe & Mickey

two previous litters to us. We luterallysed Cookie and Billy has been neutered.

Pictured here are the faces of those we have spayed and neutered and whose lives we have changed forever. They are happy and healthy. You can see from the survival rate that most do not make it in life. There are very few



Sick Boy & Zorro

good homes for pigs. It is said that up to 90% of pigs adopted or



Mickey

bought do not remain in their homes. Therefore Prevention is the Best Answer. These are only five situations out of so many, but it is a start. I cannot guess how many lives have been saved by these interventions, but it is many. All together there were 23 females involved who could have produced so many more unwanted babies. Your support has made and will continue to make it possible for us to do more outreach and help more people and pigs in these situations. Thank you.

---Mary

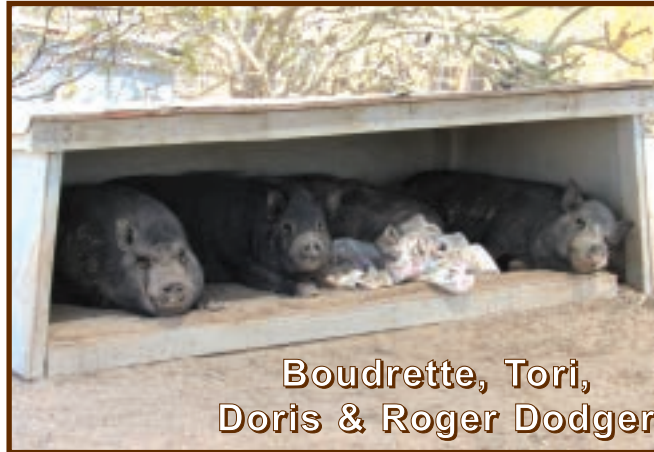
Pig Housing

People often ask where do the pigs sleep and where do they go when it rains. The pigs have a variety of choices to call home. We built most of the shelters that are scattered around in all the fields, but there have also been quite a few donated by people releasing their pigs to us. Sometimes supporters give us the giant and extra large igloos. One year a local high school shop class built some cute houses with windows for the pigs as their end of the year project. The homes come from different sources in all sizes to provide shelter for the pigs.



Arnold, Sasha & Josh

The wooden shelters built by Ironwood's staff or volunteers come in two sizes, a single and a double. The single size can be home to 1-3 pigs depending on their size and how cozy they want to get. The doubles can comfortably house 4-6 although I've actually seen 11 packed into one during a rainstorm. The weather can affect how many pigs sleep together. When it's



**Boudrette, Tori,
Doris & Roger Dodger**

hot they tend to spread out more, even sleeping out under the trees overnight. During the cold weather the pigs pack in tighter to share body heat. Some pigs prefer having their own space and will claim a home and not allow anyone else in. Dewey was like that when he first moved out into Comanche's Field. Months later he had become good buddies with a group of five other pigs. That group lives where several houses are together in a "neighborhood" and they switch around all the time, sleeping in different houses with different pigs. It's like they take turns being with each other. Dewey is comfortable sharing

space with his friends now.

Some of the larger fields have what we call a "low boy" shelter. These are flat roofed, open-sided shelters set low to the ground. In the summer the sides are either open or have shade cloth to block the sun. For the winter months we hang carpets on all four sides to enclose the shelter creating a warm cozy place to fill with blankets and/or bedding hay. The low boys are popular with large groups of friends. In the Peoria Field, the



Low Boy - Peoria Field

low boy will sometimes be filled with 20 or more pigs. Some of the low boys have shade cloth extensions built off the ends with pools and mud wallows underneath. Reuben will often get up, go take a dip in the pool then rejoin his buddies under the roofed portion. How convenient is that!



Low Boy - North Field

We have a few camper shells that the pigs enjoy sleeping in. The windows can be raised for the hot season then closed up for the winter. Otis, Wilbur and Herbie

staked their claim on the camper shell in the back of the Far East



Herbie & Wilbur

Field when they first moved there. Two and a half years later, those boys are still living in it. They love that camper shell!

The igloo shelters (or pigloos) are also favorites of pigs who want their own space or only one friend to sleep with. The Main Field has several pigloos clustered together in the shade of some palo verde



Shaq

trees. Those are very popular with the pigs. Franklin's best friend had to be moved into Hospice. He no longer felt like living in their old house, one of the wooden doubles, so he moved into a pigloo. He now has lots of neighbors keeping him company.

All of the shelters at Ironwood are altered for the seasonal changes. With winter soon approaching, we will begin hanging the carpet sidings on the low boys to enclose

them. Carpet doors will be hung on the wooden shelters and the openings of the camper shells. The pigloos will have heavy blankets or quilts to cover the doorway. Blankets will fill each house to provide nesting material for the pigs. It's a big job to get the shelters ready for winter to make sure that the pigs will be warm and cozy.

Every field at Ironwood has a variety of sizes and styles of shelters so that the pigs can find a home they are comfortable in,



Gwendolyn

whether by themselves or with friends. There are houses grouped together in neighborhoods as well as isolated shelters for those that need their "me time". The



Franklin



Blue

number of houses per field is dependent on the population of the herd but there are always more



Ira

houses available than the pigs actually need so that they have choices as their needs change or friendships develop. Thanks to your support we can provide plenty of housing for these adorable pigs who want a nice, comfortable place to call home.

---Donna



Little Bit & Zeus

Holiday Gifts

You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while doing your holiday shopping or for other special occasions like birthdays or anniversaries! The following make great gifts.

- *2018 Ironwood Calendar- different pigs pictured each month - \$20 Includes Shipping
- *Jigsaw Puzzles- 252 piece puzzles of Ironwood pigs - \$28 Includes Shipping
- *Sponsor a Pig- get a letter and pictures of an adorable pig
- *Donations "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of"- get a certificate or card of acknowledgement
- *T-Shirts, Hats & Aprons- with the Ironwood logo, available ONLY at www.ironwoodpigs.org on the Support Page or go directly to the store at: <https://www.companycasuals.com/iwp/start.jsp>

You may purchase these gifts using the enclosed envelope or go to Ironwood's web site and use PayPal or your credit card. *Please note that the T-shirts, hats and aprons are ONLY available online and need plenty of advance notice.*



Jigsaw Puzzles



Sponsor a Pig



2018 Calendar



In Honor Of or Memory Of



Special Occasions

Front and Back Covers



How could you not love that face? Prissy came from St. Matilda's rescue on July 4th weekend in 2004 along with 45 other pigs from there. We have no history on her like all the others that came with her. We also have no idea what her age was when she arrived but since that was thirteen years ago we know she is among the oldest here at Ironwood. She has always been a character with a lot of personality and that has not changed since she moved from her field to our smaller Camelot area reserved for seniors or physically disabled. Any newcomer has to be aware because Prissy will be trolling the area making sure they understand who is in charge. We love her and her personality quirks.



Christine & Taz

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 79

Taz was one of the gang of seven pigs plus one sheep who came from Kathy when she was getting a divorce in 2012. She had adopted some from us, found some along the roadside, taken one who was unwanted from a family, and one from a feed store. They were Tommy, Timmy, Toby, Tyler, Taz, Theo, Tucker and of course Joey the sheep. Taz and Theo were with us for a time in 2009 to be neutered and then returned to Kathy. The gang all live together in our Princess Field except little Tommy who passed away shortly after he



Christine



Taz

arrived. Taz is the only one who does not get a daily medicine of some kind since their age ranges from 8 to 11 now. Since most pigs look at their med as a treat I like to sneak Taz a little bread crust from the others since he feels left out. We are so happy to have been able to keep this big family together.

Christine was a baby herself and pregnant when we rescued her and her five other family members from the desert west of Tucson in June of 2013. They were being looked after by a squatter on an abandoned resort. The property was sold and the man evicted, so no one was left to care for the pigs that came and went at will. A kind man built a pen and fed the pigs in the pen until we could get there to pick them up.

Christine had a hard recovery from her spay and developed a suture infection. She was confined to a pen for some time while we treated her with Epsom salt baths and antibiotics. She had a full recovery and was returned to her family. Her family and Taz's family all live together in our Princess Field. They have become friends and hang out with each other. Two success stories for sure. ---Mary

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US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

NOVEMBER 2017
ISSUE 79

Return Service Requested

Published at the above address regularly.

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Christine & Taz