

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

August 2019

It has been hot this summer, but at least we have not had to deal with temperatures over 115 degrees like we normally do. But, over 100 is still hot and the pigs need to cool off. Pigs cannot pant or sweat to release body heat like other animals do. They must have water to sit, lay or roll in to keep cool.

With your continued support, we are able to provide the pigs with various ways to keep cool during the long hot season. Wading pools are important for the pigs' comfort.

They are scattered throughout the fields, yards and pens. Pigs make use of the pools in different ways. They may take a quick dip, step in to cool their feet, sit for a while to cool their bottom or stretch out and take a nap in the water.



Nelson

When the pools are dumped and cleaned, the water goes into the mud wallows. Many pigs prefer the wallows because it's easier to roll back and forth to coat the entire body. And it's easy to share a wallow with friends. Some younger pigs



Malachi & Dennis

will bypass a pool and wallow to go sit in one of the drinking bowls. If they don't feel like walking over to a wallow, they may dump the

bowl over and roll in the wet dirt. As the watering team makes the rounds cleaning and filling bowls and pools, they will spray the pigs with the hose on hotter days. Most of the pigs love that!

Your donations also give shade to the pigs. Shade ramadas are erected over pools, wallows and shelters to



Lil' East Pigs

provide cool shady spots for the pigs to hang out and rest. Elderly or disabled pigs in the special care areas are checked on frequently during the hot months. Cool, wet towels are placed over their shoulders to prevent overheating. A bottle of



Assisted Living

frozen water inside a pillow case can be tucked next to a hot pig inside a shelter. Several of those areas have a mister system to

provide extra cooling. Because of your kindness and generosity, we can keep over 630 pigs safe and comfortable. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsorship Coordinator

# Baby Girl...Moving on Up

**H**ey, it's me, Baby Girl! I wanted to share my story with you because I think it's pretty amazing. I've come a long way, baby!

**The Beginning:** I lived in a trailer with no way to get outside (the steps were too steep). When my mom went to work she would put me in the bathtub so I wouldn't have accidents on the floor. I got to get out of the tub for a little while in the evenings but back in for bedtime. I slipped around in the tub so much that it messed my legs up really bad and I could barely walk. I got real fat because I never got any exercise. My skin was grayish pink with almost no hair because I had never been outside. I looked sort of gross, to be honest.



**The Middle:** I came to Ironwood in June of 2016 when I was about 2.5 years old because a friend of my owner's got real mad at her for the way she was making me live. I stayed in a pen for a while under complete shade until I got used to being outside and I didn't sunburn

so easily. When my legs got stronger I moved to a place called Tombstone to live with 4 other girls but that didn't work out for me. I think that was my fault, but I was so excited to be with other pigs that I kept getting too close too fast and the other girls didn't like that. It got sort of ugly real fast. Then I was moved into a big



Baby Girl & Rosarita

pen to live with Rosarita. Gosh, I loved her so much! We had the best times together, but she was very old and died in December of 2017. I was heartbroken, but then Virginia came to live with me which was nice but we never got very close.

**The Present:** This spring Virginia went back to live with her family in another area. And...this is the super exciting part!... I was let out of the corner pen where I had been living and was allowed to go out into the Northeast Field and live with a whole herd of pigs! Wow! It is fabulous!! I love wandering all



over the place, exploring different spots, testing out the mud wallows everywhere. I'm all slim and trim these days. My hair grows out in the winter then sheds in the summer like the other pigs. I get to eat out of troughs with a bunch of my herd members. (How cool does that sound...herd members!) I am trying to be friends with Georgie, Miss Lady Gray and Pepito. It wasn't love at first sight like with Rosarita, but I know now that things like that only happen once in a lifetime. But that's okay. I am healthy and happy. The other pigs seem to like me and I



absolutely love living out here like a real, grown up pig. This is the life for me!

---Baby Girl

# Spays and Neuters

**T**he pigs just keep on coming to Ironwood. We have taken in 66 pigs so far in 2019, 21 of which were spayed or neutered already leaving us with 45 pigs to get altered. Males get first priority and are neutered within days after arriving. Females are done 1 or 2 at a time when the surgery time and recovery space are available. The pigs presented here are a few of the spring arrivals that have had their surgeries.

Hansel and Gretel, a pair of 2 year old siblings, were taken in because their owner said she



Gretel & Hansel

could not afford to keep them. She had let them breed and realized there was no money to be made. They are sweet little pigs that are lucky to no longer be in that litter after litter kind of life. Hansel and Gretel have both been altered and recovered beautifully from their surgeries.

Pepper is a 3.5 year old girl that had been an indoor/outdoor pet but had gotten aggressive toward the family, a common occurrence



Pepper

from a single pig at that age. She had an easy surgery, but her recovery was a bit rough requiring a second trip to the clinic. Pepper did make a full recovery and is back to her grumpy, jaw chomping self. Once she is able to join a herd in one of the fields, her behavior should settle down quite a bit.

Benson is a 1.5 year old male whose owners were moving and waited until the last minute to get him placed. After he was neutered, he



Benson

gradually became friendlier with us. He makes the sweetest little cooing sounds!

Douglas was a stray that ended up in the Douglas, AZ Animal Shelter with his mate, Mavis. When Mavis gave birth, we offered to take the whole family because they weren't really set up for pigs there. Douglas required abdominal surgery for his neuter because he was a double



Douglas

cryptorchid. That meant a more invasive surgery for him plus a longer recovery period. Douglas healed quickly and is doing fabulous.

---Donna

*If you would like to help with the cost of these 5 pigs' medical bills, please designate your donation to "Spay/Neuter". Their surgery costs are \$3,177.91 with an additional \$1,679.23 for Pepper's emergency second visit. The total billing is \$4,857.23. Thank you for caring!*

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**

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**NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

## **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**



**Senor Piggles**