

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 90

SEPTEMBER
2019



Boss Hog

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2019

Dear Supporter,

Beyond the day to day happenings at Ironwood is another whole story that is largely untold. It is the battle that rages each day around Arizona and beyond for everyone rescuing animals whether it is pigs or any other animal. The battle, of course, is the vast overpopulation of pigs in need of a home for a myriad of reasons, some completely legitimate but many are not. Each day I have to open my email or reply to phone calls from people who cannot or will not be able to keep their pig or pigs. Choosing which pig or pigs we can take is not an easy decision to be made and a great deal of agonizing goes into deciding.

This is yet another bumper year and these are but a few of the 75 plus pigs you have enabled us to take in so far this year who would otherwise have no place to call home. Luke and Petunia were picked up by Carrie and Pima Animal Care. They had no shade or water in 110 degree temperatures. Littlefoot is a young stray taken in by a family and later delivered to the sanctuary. Chester was brought here from Fort Mohave, AZ by Becky from SCAMPP and her friend Frank via CA. A woman in her 80's could no longer care for Chester. The trip ended up being 36 hours on the road for Becky and Frank. Lisa and Jake picked up three boars from Queen Creek while Danielle from Better Piggies Rescue took the mom and her new babies to her place. All these pigs were living in horrible conditions. Ben and I picked up Iris and Onyx, both extremely obese. They had no chance of finding a home just days before the family had to move. And that same weekend Kevin Bacon was picked up by our staff. Kevin had been attacked by the neighbor's dog and left with no ears. And beautiful Lyla was brought in by Carrie just a day before an 84 year old woman was going to have back surgery and could no longer care for her.

These are a fraction of the pigs and their stories who have made their way to Ironwood that your support has made possible. Picking them up is the easy part. The hard part is doing the triage to know who most needs our help or what owners may be able to find a home for their pig on their own or keep their pig. We try to take the strays where people in the community have themselves rescued these pigs. Also, we take the older pigs who will not likely find a new home, pigs in abuse and neglect situations, breeding pairs to avoid more babies, or other situations where the pig or pigs would not likely find a home, like so many obese pigs that come to us. They all come with problems and are in need of medical care even if it is just to be spayed or neutered, but many come with neglected medical issues.

None of these pigs would make it through the gates of Ironwood without you. No matter where in the country you live, you have touched the lives of all of these pigs and we are so very grateful. With your help we will continue to save as many as we can and we will continue to bring you into the lives of the pigs who have been able to join Ironwood's large family.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Gotham City

In the spring of 2018 we got word of a man in a rural town south of Tucson with a lot of animals; pigs, geese, ducks, dogs, etc. His



Gotham City

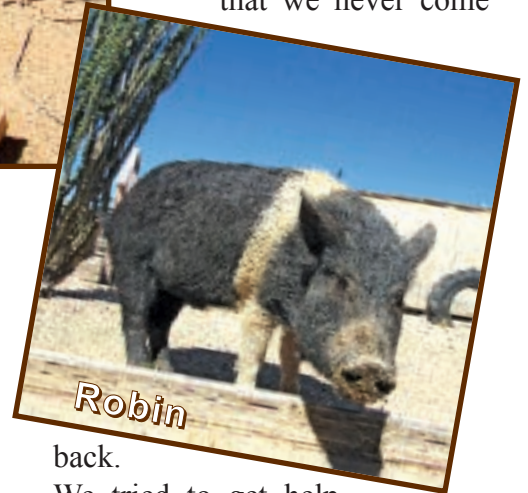
able to get 7 more pigs out to the safety of Ironwood. On each trip, the owner became more unstable and belligerent, finally demanding that we never come



Batman

dehydrated mom was trying to nurse a litter of babies.

We tried to help the owner and offered to take those in need of immediate medical attention as well as continue to make trips hauling in more water. He would be agreeable one minute then change his mind the next. Finally he relented and said we could have one group consisting of 1 adult female, 1 juvenile male and 3 babies. We quickly got them away from there and to Ironwood before he could revoke the offer. Each time we made the trip down that way, we went prepared with carriers in case he was in an



Robin

back.

We tried to get help for the pigs through different agencies but unfortunately, no one seemed to really care about the welfare of those 22 pigs left behind without sufficient food or water. The sheriff's department declared the home to be "good enough" and that was the end of it. It was heartbreaking to think of those pigs as well as the future litters on the way but our hands were legally tied. All we could do was be thankful for the 12 that were rescued and move forward with their care.

The dozen small hogs were all spayed and neutered as soon as possible. They were put on vitamins and supplements and fed 3 times a day to build up their weight and strength. Two of the

water well had gone dry and the animals had no water at all. We headed down his way with a truckload of water and a stack of wading pools. What started as a Good Samaritan deed quickly turned into a nightmare. There were 34 small breed hogs, most extremely thin with no wallows, pools or water bowls. There were babies of various ages, males and females were mixed together, and it was obvious the owner was allowing continuous breeding despite the fact that he could not afford to feed them. He got leftover food from the food bank once a week and corn from a friend when he had extra available. Some pigs were lame, two males had obvious medical problems and a half starved,



Citizens of Gotham

agreeable state of mind and let us take more. On 3 more occasions during the next 3 weeks, we were

twelve required extra medical care. Dave, whose penis had been permanently extended, swollen and dragging on the ground, had



Dave

to have a partial amputation. He stayed at the vet clinic for a week for intense recovery and monitoring before being deemed healthy enough to come back to Ironwood. His recovery care continued for weeks at the sanctuary. These days Dave looks fantastic and has no adverse side effects from the amputation. Sandy had a large amount of fluid retained in her abdominal cavity as well as multiple tumors in her abdomen and uterus. Those tumors were removed during her



Mrs. Butterworth, Dee & Sandy

spay surgery, but a large tumor on her umbilical cord area could not be taken out. The long term prognosis for Sandy was not good but it has been over a year and she

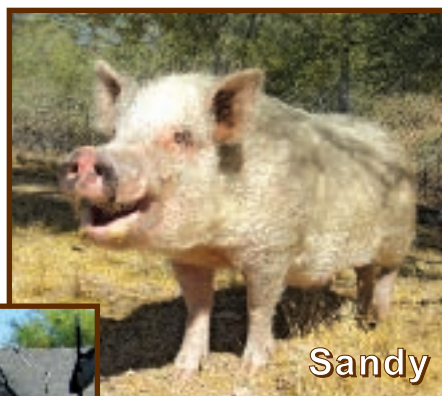
is hanging in there. She has needed to return to the clinic four times during the past year to have fluid drained from her abdomen, the last time being in July 2019. We keep note of the size of her belly and watch for bloating as the sign that she needs to be drained again. Amazingly, Sandy looks perfectly healthy otherwise, had good results on her latest blood



Crockett & Dave

work and remains active and happy.

The 12 young hogs grew and



Sandy

grew....then grew some more. They were living in the holding pens getting daily turns in the large exercise yard together. Now that they were all stable and healthy, they needed a permanent home.

A nice sized field on the east end of the sanctuary's property had a herd that had shrunk down to the last 2 pigs over the past decade. It was

decided to move those 2 elderly piggies elsewhere and devote this field to the hogs. Two brothers in the group are named Batman and Robin. Taking off on that theme, we opted to call their field Gotham City. It was the perfect size for them and has a barn (the Batcave) where they can sleep and hang out together. The place was an instant hit for the group. While there are no fancy machines or pigmobiles hidden inside, the Batcave is carpeted and full of sheets and lightweight blankets for rooting and nesting.

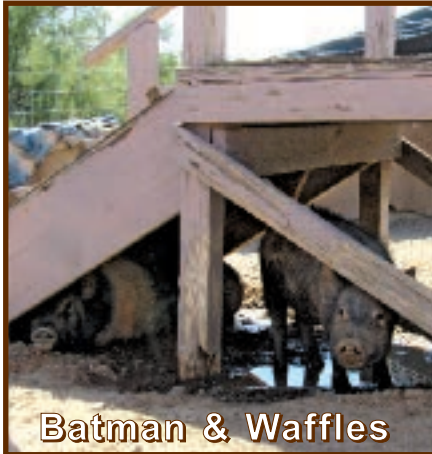
Gotham is home to Batman, Robin, Dave, Crockett, Sandy, Dee, Bisquick, Waffles, Aunt Jemima, Mrs. Butterworth, Mac and Cheese. The field has several shade ramadas with multiple mud wallows and pools where the piggies can cool off. They all love rolling in the muddy water or napping in the pools. Multiple



Bisquick & Waffles

troughs are scattered across the field where they are free to run from one to the other gobbling up grain during meals. In addition to the Batcave, there are five houses available to provide choices for where they want to sleep. At the end of one shelter is a set of stairs

previously used by a pair of pigmy goats as playground equipment. The steps provide a shady niche for one or two pigs at a time. That has become a primo spot with pigs waiting for their turn to go in. Batman loves hiding in there!



Batman & Waffles

Most likely due to being deprived of sufficient food at their previous home, the hogs get VERY excited



Feeding

at feeding time. After one escape and a couple of near escapes into the adjoining Lil' East Field, we had to make an adjustment to the fencing at the entrance gate. A small area was blocked off just inside the gate so that we could actually get into Gotham without anyone stampeding out in their eagerness to be fed. The space is also big enough for the ATV to get through when necessary. That

idea was a real life saver for the feeding team! All of the males get a peanut butter sandwich with a daily dose of supplements inside that help prevent urinary crystals or stones from forming, a common issue for neutered boys. Dee, Sandy, Dave and Batman also get Psyllium pellets to help prevent sand buildup in their intestines. All four are frequently spotted eating or licking dirt. Sandy takes a few other daily medications due to her fluid retention. The pigs love to get their meds and quickly trot over to the "med person" who hands out the sandwiches.

There is a large palo verde tree in the back of Gotham City. The pigs have enjoyed the shade it provides as well as the tasty treats of blossoms that fell in the spring and the seed pods that dropped in midsummer. There will often be 4-8 pigs back there checking the ground for tidbits. Because these piggies are young and still growing, they are more active throughout the day even during the heat of the summer. The heat does lead to frequent trips to the pool or wallow for a quick cool off. The only full grown adults in the group, Sandy and Mrs. Butterworth, do nap more than the others. All of them seem very relaxed and happy together, willing to share a shady spot or wallow when another comes along. Some have closer relationships and spend more time together like Sandy and Dee who

are mother and daughter. Waffles and Bisquick are often seen snuggled beside one another. Mac and Cheese are almost always together (and what a great combo that makes!). Those two boys have a favorite wallow under the ramada near the back of the



Handing Out Meds

field where they often nap side by side in the cool water. They remain the most skittish with people while the others have gotten pretty relaxed around us.



Mac and Cheese

Robin in particular has turned into a little love bug! He can't seem to get enough of petting and snuggling and back rubbing. They are a great bunch of piggies. Because of your donations, they have a wonderful permanent home where they are safe, well fed and watered and have gotten the medical care necessary to live a happy, healthy life in Gotham City.

---Donna

Pig Fun With Kids



Ironwood was recently asked to table the 2019 Loft Kids Fest. This is a summer event that the Loft, located in Tucson, puts on. For this event the public is welcome to attend to view movies for free as well as enjoy the different organizations that have been asked to set up tables. Knowing that kids were our main audience we came prepared with pig masks and crowns! Kids, and adults, were welcome to color a mask or crown or take it home with them to color. Most people chose to color them at the events. This was so fun for us to see their creativity!

This was a good time for us to see what the kids already knew about pigs and what they thought about how pigs should be treated. We didn't have any big speeches for them but wanted to keep it short and fun. We hope we left a good impression and left them thinking about pigs.

talk to them about pigs and Ironwood. We hope to see a lot of the people we spoke to again for tours when it cools off.

--- Taryn

We were also able to speak with the parents about the sanctuary. Several people were interested in tours and found out what items the sanctuary needs donated. Many folks were also interested in our newsletters and were shocked to hear that there is a pig sanctuary so close to them!



While we were enjoying the craft time with kids we were also able to tell them how cool the pigs are.

We had a lot of fun seeing people's creativity while we got to



Taryn's Favorite Pig

M eet Taryn, Ironwood's Assistant Manager and animal caregiver. She has lived on site for the past ten years and devotes a lot of time and energy to taking care of the piggies here. There are many pigs on her favorites list, but Charlene is at the top.

I've had several "favorite" pigs over the years that have passed away, but Charlene has been a favorite since I started working here. She's so timid but curious. She's a teeny little girl but bold. She stands out to me in the cutest ways. I love seeing Charlene strut around the field because even though she's little, she has a strong presence.

---Taryn



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are needed year round.****

- Cranberry Capsules
- Swat Fly Ointment
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Heavy Duty Duct Tape
- Animal Crackers
- Canned Pumpkin
- Stool Softeners
- Prunes
- Sheets
- Flaxseed Oil Capsules 1000⁺mg
- Fig Newton Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
- Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
- Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU
- Children's Multi-Vitamins, NO Iron



Sparkle

GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Office Max
- Office Depot
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Walgreen's

Sponsor a S



Batman

I went from "rags to riches"! I was hungry and thirsty all the time at my other home. Now my friends and I have our own field with plenty of food and water.



Malachi

I came here with my six siblings. Our owner had been breeding and selling babies but got in trouble over zoning issues. I'm lucky to be here with my family!



My owner was ra
sell for meat. Yil
were lucky to get
get to Ironwood v

These are just a few of the pigs at Ironwood that need your help and support. Become a Sponsor for the pig of your choice! Your monthly donation of \$30 will help provide the basic needs of your pig. You will receive a letter with your pig's story along with photos. Later in the



Miss Lady Gray, Donna & Floki

*year you will get an update and new pictures to keep you connected to your pig's life. Please join our family of Sponsors today!
---Donna*



Holy mud wallows any water to drink home, but now I ca pool or roll in a wa want. I love it her

Special Pig!



Aunt Jemima

s raising small hogs to
Yikes! A dozen of us
get out of there and
od where we're safe.



Mrs. Butterworth

You have no idea how happy I
am to be living here! My first
home was a rough place to live
and they made me have
babies over and over.



Arthur

I came here with my brother and 2
sisters after we outgrew the small
pen at our owner's home. We
were never allowed to go out
into a bigger place.



Robin

ows! I barely had
ink at my other
I can jump in a
a wallow any time I
here at Ironwood!



Hobson

My sisters already have sponsors.
My brother Arthur and I sure hope
we get picked. We want the whole
family to have a mom and/or dad!



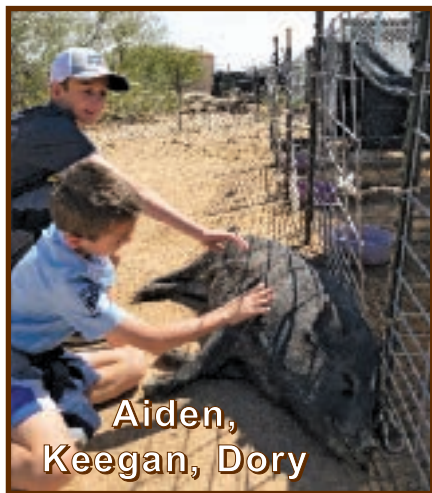
Bisquick

A bunch of us got rescued a few
at a time from a place where we
didn't get enough food to eat.
For a while we didn't even have
water because the well went dry.

Our Family's Journey

Although our family has always loved animals, we did not understand the real meaning of animal rescue and advocacy until we embarked on a journey together about six years ago when we moved to Arizona. Through every experience that we share as a family, both happy and heartbreaking, we continue to learn and grow. Positive role models and influences from organizations like Ironwood Pig Sanctuary have been an essential part of this journey.

When we arrived in Arizona, one of the first defining steps in this journey was when we got involved with Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Our older son,



Aiden,
Keegan, Dory

Aiden, attended the summer camps and when our younger son, Keegan, was old enough, he joined his brother. The camp provides a comprehensive educational program, incorporating topics such as animal welfare, responsible pet



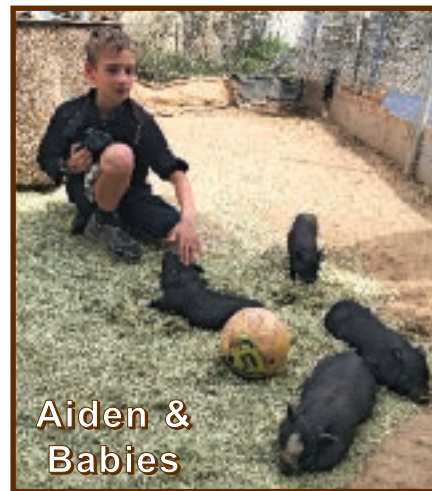
Theo & Keegan

ownership, wildlife education, and animal care careers. Aiden and Keegan also attended additional Hand in Paw Club events. It was through a Hand in Paw Club field trip that we first found out about Ironwood. Over the years, we fostered and adopted multiple pets from HSSA and continue to participate in events and fundraising.

The first time we visited Ironwood as a family, we knew it was a special place. We met Theo, with his endearing eyes and sweet personality. Keegan immediately felt a special connection with him. We found out that Theo had multiple sponsors at the time, so we instead decided to sponsor another very special pig, Ruby. Over the years we continued to visit Ironwood as a family. We added multiple sponsorships over time, including Theo, and feel like the pigs are part of our family. Every time we receive the newsletter or a sponsor update from Ironwood, we talk

about the latest news about our sponsored pigs. There is a feeling of excitement when we plan our visits and it has become a family tradition that before each visit we make a special trip to Costco to stock up on supplies for the pigs. Ironwood holds a special place in our hearts. Every time we visit, it has a peaceful, grounding effect on all of us – a reminder of all the physically and emotionally draining work that goes into animal rescue, but also an example of how incredibly compassionate humans can be.

We have also had the privilege of working with other animal rescue organizations. Three and a half years ago, we rescued a blind rabbit. Taking in an animal with special needs led us to search for additional resources, both on the web and through social media. It was through this research that I met the director of the Rabbit



Aiden &
Babies

Haven in Northern California. The Rabbit Haven is such a successful, inspiring organization

that focuses on education in addition to rescue, I wanted to help somehow, even if it was from Arizona. The director offered me a volunteer position, working



Keegan & Ruby

remotely to develop presentations, especially for their largest fundraiser, Bunny Fest. The first year, Aiden traveled to San Jose with me to volunteer for the event. We met many wonderful people who were dedicated to caring for animals and increasing awareness through community outreach. For the next Bunny Fest event, my husband and both boys came with me to San Jose. We worked together through the weekend to help set up, run the event, and take everything down at the end. We have never seen our boys work so hard. By the time we headed back to Arizona, utterly exhausted, we realized that *they finally got it*. Participating in events like this fundraiser, seeing our boys enthusiastically working so hard, *brings out the very best in them*. When we travel, we also try to incorporate animal education and welfare into the trip. We may have different interests: Aiden loves airplanes. Keegan is obsessed with video games. But animal rescue is a passion we all share so it brings us even closer together and strengthens our bond

as a family. Locally, we visit the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. We have been there countless times, but we joke how we encounter something new every single time we visit. We traveled to Washington State and went on a whale watching trip that centered on whale education and conservation. This summer, we traveled to Utah and visited Best Friends Animal Society. It was an incredible experience to get to see the country's largest animal sanctuary and the resources they provide to other rescues to expand their impact. As soon as we headed home, the family unanimously agreed that we will make a return trip so that we can spend time volunteering at the sanctuary. The experiences we share make a lasting impression. Our kids don't see it as work. They *enjoy* participating in the cause and it has become ingrained as part of who we are.

We try to reinforce these lessons and experiences at home. We have even changed the way that we shop, transitioning to cosmetics and cleaning products that are animal cruelty free. At



Aiden & Pearl

the beginning, the boys treated it as a contest to see who could find the most brands that were cruelty

free, using the Cruelty Cutter app. At home, we have adopted dogs, guinea pigs, and bunnies. The boys understand how much work is involved with caring for the animals, and even more importantly, the commitment required to care and love each animal throughout its lifetime. Aiden and Keegan both participate in cleaning up after the pets, as well as preparing the veggies for the guinea pigs and bunnies. They are nine- and eleven-year old boys.... They often have their moments where they would rather be doing things other than cleaning litter boxes. But somehow, even after those phases, they pull through and do things to help without being asked. Those subtle victories remind my husband and me that all of this is making a difference. This has been an amazing journey. Thanks to the acts of compassion from organizations like Ironwood, our family is learning how to be better, more informed animal advocates. Through educational events, sanctuary and rescue visits, volunteering at fundraiser events, and reinforcing the environment home, we have become more aware. The common passion for animals and the experiences that we share as a family have strengthened our bond. We are tremendously grateful for organizations such as Ironwood Pig Sanctuary who have had such a positive influence on our lives.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Aerielle, Tom, Aiden, and Keegan Bullaro

Are You Sure You Want a Pig

Are you sure you want a pig?" That may

seem like a strange question coming from someone who has somehow ended up devoting the latter half of her life to rescuing, caring for and loving pot-bellied pigs, but anyone who is thinking of getting a pig needs to stop and think seriously about what having a pig entails. There are many important things to consider other than the fact that they're just so darn cute, especially when they're babies. If you look at this picture of baby Merlo and Captain and picture yourself cuddling with those darling little faces...STOP! Remind yourself that these babies are going to grow up into full size, heavy duty, stronger than you pigs averaging out to 120-150 pounds. Can you deal with that? And that's just the beginning of the questions...

If having a pig is on your radar, the first thing you need to do is find out if you can legally own one (or two!). Zoning is the first hurdle. Most HOAs do not allow pigs as pets. Every county, city, town, subdivision or however you chop things up has their own set of rules and regulations about pot-



Merlo & Captain



Merlo & Captain

bellied pigs. Some don't allow them at all because they are considered livestock while others have stipulations on numbers or even size. And get it in writing! Many times we hear from people



Baby Oliver & Toby

being forced to "get rid" of their pig because of new neighbors moving in and complaining when it had been allowed before the complainers showed up. Some people try to get away with having a pig in an HOA neighborhood by hiding their pig indoors. That is not the best or happiest environment for pigs. They love being outside and rooting around in the dirt which is a natural instinct for them. Many indoor only

pigs become behavioral problems later on with aggressiveness or tearing up the house because they are bored and unhappy. Your pigs need to be outside doing piggy stuff!

And that thought leads to the next question. Is your yard securely fenced to protect your pig from neighboring dogs or coyotes? Is it large enough to provide room for exercise and rooting? Is it landscaped and

Shade, shelter, wallows and a friend. What more could a pig want!

doomed for "remodeling" by your pigs? Is there a place that your pigs can have a wading pool and/or a mud wallow? Pigs cannot pant or sweat to release body heat like other animals. They must have access to water at all times to keep themselves cool.



Karter & Aibileen

They will also need areas that are shaded throughout the day where they can comfortably relax out of the heat. That covers the summertime requirements. During the cold months sufficient shelter is needed where the pigs can snuggle and keep warm or get in out of the rain.



Gracie

I already mentioned that adult pot-bellied pigs average 120-150 pounds, contrary to what the media and breeders spout off



Liz

about 30-40 pound piggies. If an adult pig is only 40 pounds, then it most likely comes from inbred stock and/or has been starved to stay small. Of course, if you only feed a pig a handful of grain or a few green beans each day it will stay small, but will it be healthy? NO! Inbreeding leads to genetic weaknesses and shortened life spans. Starving and malnourishment lead to health

issues. Would you starve your child to keep him or her small and cute? Of course not! Babies have to grow up and they need nourishing food to do that. So get the picture of a full sized adult pig in your household then think about a trip to the vet. Can you transport your pig in your car? Can you even get it loaded into a carrier to put it in the car? If you do get the pig in a carrier, how do you get the carrier to your vehicle? Is the picture of owning a pig getting scrambled yet? The next question is about your vet. A lot of veterinarians will not work on pot-bellied pigs which are considered “exotic” pets or livestock. Some vets that claim they will see pigs do not really know the proper ways to handle them and fall back on drugs or anesthesia for doing simple things like trimming hooves or giving vaccinations. Both of those methods can be very dangerous and even deadly if miscalculated. We have heard way too many sad stories from owners whose pigs have suffered broken bones or even died at the hands of their vets. Before getting a pig, make sure there is a local vet that knows pigs then find out if they are mobile or if you are expected to transport your pig to the clinic. Those are definitely things you don’t want to have to sort through during an emergency.

And another thing...do you have young children in your house? Pigs will treat humans and other animals as part of their herd which means you will be treated

like a pig. Pigs are territorial, very strong and can be ornery at times. If a pig is rooting in a pile of blankets and another pig comes along to join the fun, there may be some head slamming and nipping if the first one doesn’t feel like sharing. If your child is that “second pig” trying to get a blankie, are you prepared for what may happen? Having other animals, particularly dogs, is not always a good mix either. They may get along just great until that one day when the dog gets too close during a meal or tries to share a bed and the pig says no which in pig language can be pushing, shoving or biting. That can set the dog off and now you’ve got a horrendous fight to break up. We have seen a lot of pigs coming to us with wounds from dogs...missing tails, ripped up ears or chunks of flesh bitten off. Poor Wilbur came with a large piece of his back gone, exposed down to his spine. He



Wilbur

had been attacked by dogs in his neighborhood after slipping through a gap in the fence. The vet bills were more than the family could handle and we were asked to take over his care.

Pigs are herd animals and love being with others of their kind.



**Group Hug!
Pigs Love Other Pigs**

Having two or more pigs most often leads to a happier, well adjusted life. Almost all of the pigs released to Ironwood due to behavioral problems and aggressiveness were raised as the only pig in the household. Coming here to become part of a herd solves that issue the majority of the time. Letting a pig become a member of your family is a long term commitment. Pot-bellied pigs have an average life span of 14-18 years. Are you willing and able to provide a loving, comfortable home to a pig for that length of time?

That is a lot to think about! Research, question, think about it, then research some more before deciding if a pig is right for you. Visit a place like Ironwood if possible to get a real grasp of what you'll be dealing with. Pigs make fabulous pets but have unique needs and issues to consider. If you do decide to get a pig, remember... ADOPT! There are always plenty of piggies out there needing to be rescued or rehomed.

---Donna



Haiden

Front Cover



Boss Hog was a loved pig for nearly three years. When his family moved with him they found out that they were not allowed to keep him at their new home. However, his new digs were not so great. When we arrived to pick him up he had no

shade. When I asked about the shade I was told the side of the house provided shade in the afternoon. Although it was a teary goodbye we never did hear from his people again and this is what commonly happens.

So Boss Hog came here in August of 2012 and has been living in the Princess Field for several years. He is a very handsome fellow with a long full tail. He and Timmy were best buddies for some time and shared a house together. But recently he and Oliver have become good friends and are often seen in a shelter together. However, he and Timmy are still good friends and like to spend quiet times with each other. His younger socialization has stuck with him so he still enjoys having our attention and of course loves a little animal cracker treat if anyone happens to pass through with a few to share. I just know Boss Hog enjoys living here in a nice large field with many companions of his own kind. It is far superior to living by himself in a small pen.



Boss Hog & Timmy

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.

Back Cover



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 90

Thelma &
Delta Dawn

Thelma and Louise came from Healing Hearts Rescue when they were closing their place in Wilcox. The girls are both very unusual looking pigs and our vet had never seen this breed of pig. We really don't know what kind of pig they are, but we have never seen two like them before or since. We know very little about their background except to say that Healing Hearts took them from an elderly couple in Tucson who could no longer keep them. Their age is unknown, but we do know they are in



Louise & Thelma in 2015

their senior years. Sadly, due to health reasons, we have had to separate the sisters. Thelma continues to live in a large field with her companion Delta Dawn and others. Louise has moved into a small assisted living home with a few others whose health is similar to hers. Thelma is shy of people but has a big presence with the others in her field.

Delta Dawn came here with Jimmy Dean from Pahrump, NV in May of 2014. Their people were truck drivers and on the road often for weeks at a time. They had neighbors who for many years were willing to look after their pigs but the time came when that was no longer possible. They asked if we would take them to Ironwood. Delta Dawn was 9 and Jimmy Dean was 10 when they arrived, so they were already approaching their senior years. They both lived in Spike's Field with Thelma and Louise. Like Louise, Jimmy Dean had to be moved to a smaller assisted living field and separated from Delta Dawn. Jimmy Dean has now passed on. Delta has always been one tough lady and has given newcomers to her field a piece of her mind. But she eventually makes amends and makes friends as she has done with Thelma.



Delta Dawn

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