

# IRONWOOD

Happy Holidays

SUBSCRIPTIONS  
NO 97

NOVEMBER  
2020



Piggy Pooh

PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 2020

Dear Supporter,

We are drawing near the end of another year and what a year 2020 has been. I am sure everyone reading this newsletter can relate to that statement on some important level. This has been a year like no other year most of us have ever experienced. I hope that you and your families are coping as well as can be expected and you are all staying safe and healthy.

At Ironwood we have experienced the busiest year ever and the hottest and driest year ever in our 19 years here. None of these are good records to break and all in the middle of the COVID 19 pandemic. Whew!

Since this is the last time you will hear from us this year, I would like to devote these next couple of pages to bring you all up to date on what Ironwood and thankfully, many others who have done the heavy lifting, have been able to accomplish this past year. Ironwood has welcomed 81 new pigs so far this year. That brings our count here to 611 residents along with 13 boarders. We also have 23 off-site long term foster pigs. Our work here is really cut out for us and our staff has not failed us. No one has contracted Covid and even though, as is expected, some of our staff have left, our core people are solid and have seen us through the most brutal summer on record here in Tucson. At our facility each day is a flurry of activity: feeding, watering, transporting pigs to and from fields for medical care and veterinary care, forming new herds of pigs with newcomers who have spent time in our pens, maintenance and hauling water. The list is long and the task is daunting. However, every day all 647 pigs know they will be cared for by all of us who work so hard to be sure their lives are safe.

Beyond our gates this has been our most active year on record and Ironwood has been available to assist in the following rescues. Starting on page 3 is a recap of the 2020 multiple pig rescues that we have assisted with. Ironwood is unable to take all the pigs from these rescues. We have neither the staff, space or the resources. AZ Piggy Network and all their volunteers have organized the rescues and provided foster homes for many of the pigs. Also ACTS of Kindness has taken so many to their place and Better Piggies Rescue has taken pigs as well. Our part has primarily been providing the funding for so many spays, neuters and medical care that was critical in enabling all these rescues.

These rescues could not have happened without all parties working together to save so many pigs in Arizona. More importantly they could not have happened without your continued and generous support.

Happy Holidays,



Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder

Shy Girls  
Skyler &  
Kendall  
From  
Sahuarita



# Rescues of 2020 Recap

**January – Tonopah – 46** - In the end a total of 46 pigs were removed from the property. This rescue was featured in several articles over the year. Most of these pigs have been spayed and many have been placed in adoptive homes. There were no unneutered males on the property in this rescue.

**March – Tonopah – 9** - A lady called us in desperate need of help. She had rescued some pigs who now were breeding. She had a total of 9 pigs when she called for help. We were able to send a mobile vet to her home to neuter all the males and lutealysed all the females. She was able to keep her pigs on-site with no more danger of future breeding.

**April – Tonopah – 19** - Ben received a call from a lady inquiring about finding a place to have her 7 month old male house pig neutered. During the conversation Ben found out that she had a total of 19 pigs with youngsters ranging in age from four days old to two years old.



Tonopah

She wanted to keep some of her pigs, but she was moving to an area not zoned for pigs. In the end she agreed to release all her pigs and Sherri and Bill took all of them to their home.

**May/June – Gilbert – 61** - A lady called Ironwood and said she had two week old piglets that she had rescued from a hoarder situation. Three had already died. Carrie called the lady back and it opened a Pandora's box. All pigs were intact and there were many young babies and pregnant females.



Gilbert Pigs

Pens were quickly built by AZ Piggy Network volunteers and the males were all separated. There were 32 intact males and we quickly had them all neutered.

Better Piggies took two moms and the two week old babies off the property. Five pregnant females were taken from the property to be spayed and taken to foster homes for recovery. Twelve females were lutealysed on the property and 10 additional females and two males who were too young to breed were

left on the property. The young boys were later neutered. The owner was very cooperative in the beginning and said we could spay and neuter all of them and begin finding homes. However, she later locked everyone involved off the property when folks went to pick up her personal pregnant pig and the one boy who had only one descended testicle. It was hoped that many of her pigs could be placed, but this is one of the heartbreaking rescues left uncompleted in spite of the efforts of so many. The offspring from her pregnant female that she would not let us spay and the young male who needed to be removed from the property to neuter leaves the possibility of continued breeding. We had a contract saying we had the rights to all the pigs, but local authorities did not back us up and without a long and expensive legal battle for which we did not have the time or funding, we had no choice but to move on to the next crisis.

**July – Globe – 28** - A lady called AZ Piggy Network to report that her neighbor had many pigs and piglets living in horrible conditions. Paula and Tom from ACTS went up to investigate and the situation was the worst they had ever seen. The conditions were horrific. It was so bad they tossed out their shoes and clothing when they left the property. A

team from ACTS went up and removed all the pigs from the



Globe

property but were later called by the neighbor again to say he had hidden 5 pigs. Paula and Tom were able to return for them. Five pregnant females in too poor of a condition to spay, gave birth to 26 babies shortly after they were taken to ACTS of Kindness. The owner was breeding and selling these poor pigs. So many were malnourished moms and babies, but now they all safe and cared for at ACTS of Kindness. On September 29th all males from the



Globe Rescue

rescue were neutered. The moms and female babies will soon begin to be spayed and homes hopefully

will begin to be found. As horrible as this rescue was a good conclusion was reached and all the pigs are safely out of there.

**September – Tonto Basin – 22** - Another call came to Ironwood to take a large number of pigs in Tonto Basin. The owner had moved out and left the pigs behind. The fencing was poor so the herd moved from neighbor to



Tonto Basin

neighbor and people there were watering and feeding them. However, they were all intact so as expected all the females of breeding age were pregnant. ACTS of Kindness took 11 of them and we brought 4 of the pregnant girls down to Ironwood to be spayed. The rest went to other foster care homes and all have been spayed and neutered.

**September – Sahuarita – 15** - Ben got a call from the husband and later the wife who said they were being evicted and only had about a week before they had to vacate the property. They had one large neutered hog, Arnold, 3 six-month-old pigs, two of which were pregnant females, dad, a year old boar and a six-month-old boar.

In addition there was a mom and 8 one-month-old babies. We took the mom, her babies and the two pregnant females who are now spayed. All the boys went to the Humane Society Barn in Phoenix where they were neutered. We have a home for the hog and the others will soon go to a foster home once the babies can be spayed and neutered. One of the 6 month old girls was found to have a fused vertebra after taking her to our vet for x-rays, so she and her sister will stay with us at Ironwood.

**October – Phoenix – 21** - This rescue is still in progress. We removed all the females, most of which are no doubt pregnant, and 3 babies from the property. Later we will return for the males once the girls are settled.

These numbers do not include the dozens of individual calls our rescue team receives. We work to take these pigs in as space is available. The number of pigs in need of a home is staggering. As you will read in Carrie's article, the rescue is not the end of the story. Know that because of you, well over three hundred pigs so far this year have either been rescued or at least the breeding has been stopped and hundreds more pigs will not be born to suffer living and dying in horrific conditions. We are so grateful for your contributions and I hope this Holiday Season is a safe and healthy one.

—Mary

# After the Rescue

**S**o many times you see the pigs in desperate need of saving, whether it be on social media, a sign hanging from a telephone pole, the want ads or word of mouth around your community. We get dozens of calls and emails every week about pigs in need and we do our very best to help as many as we possibly can. For everyone else that rescue is over the minute we come to pick up the pig(s), but for us it's just beginning.

You've been privy to some of the large scale rescues we've been involved with throughout 2020. I'd like to take a minute and share with you all the hard work and processes we go through to actually rescue a pig from one of these cases. Once a situation has been assessed, accurate numbers have been taken, genders are determined and potential pregnancies documented, we move in several different directions to put the ball in motion to get these pigs moved to safety as quickly as possible.

First, it becomes necessary to find willing foster homes able to take in pigs and keep them contained, safe and well cared for. Many folks haven't been previously approved and home checks are needed before we can move forward. This is a necessary and time-consuming process that we rely heavily on the pig community to help us fulfill.

Once we're certain of placement for each pig involved, we start organizing transport, confirming safe vehicles are being used, ensuring proper size kennels are available, coordinating schedules and setting up transport dates to get pigs loaded and safely moved over various distances, sometimes hours from where they currently reside.



Globe Pigs at Paula's

In many cases pigs that have suffered neglect, starvation or abandonment will need emergency veterinary care and those pigs will go straight to the vet before going to foster care.

Moving forward we go right into scheduling spay/neuter appointments oftentimes utilizing all of our available vets in multiple cities in order to get these surgeries done and avoid any further unwanted breeding. Again setting up transport, coordinating schedules and ensuring we've triaged these pigs to the best of our ability and prioritized them accordingly.

Some of these pigs will need months of rehabilitation, additional veterinary care and time to heal from the improper care they received previously. Illnesses and injuries will arise, hoof/tusk care will be needed and fosters will need additional support for behavioral issues, dietary requirements and miscellaneous things that arise when bringing a foster pig home.

Eventually when these pigs have been spayed/neutered, recovered fully, have a clean bill of health and are ready for their forever families, we will start the process of looking, screening, doing home checks and hopefully adopting them to the perfect home. Our hope is to find each of these amazing pigs the right family and know that they'll never again experience what they went through before they came to us.

—Carrie



Sahuarita Pigs at Ironwood



Calendar \$15



Donation "In Honor Of"  
\$ at your discretion



Jigsaw Puzzles  
\$23, 252 Pieces



Mugs \$18



Sponsor a Pig - \$30 monthly  
Receive a Letter and Picture



Jigsaw Puzzles  
\$23, 252 Pieces



### HOLIDAY GIFTS

You may purchase these gifts using the enclosed envelope, place an order on the phone at 520-631-0894 or go to Ironwood's web site and use PayPal or your credit card (remember to add your address in the "Note" section of PayPal orders). Please indicate by name the mug or puzzle you prefer. All prices include shipping. T-shirts, hats and aprons are available **ONLY** online at [www.companycasuals.com/iwp/start.jsp](http://www.companycasuals.com/iwp/start.jsp) and need plenty of advance notice.

## Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

Fish Oil Capsules, 1000mg  
 Cranberry Capsules  
 Antibiotic Ointment  
 Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)  
 Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)  
 Sheets  
 Canned Pumpkin  
 Animal Crackers  
 Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg  
 Fig Newton Cookies (NOT Individually Wrapped)



Prince Charming

GIFT CARDS

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

## The Open House That Wasn't

I guess you could say we're having a Closed House this year instead of our annual festivities at November's Open House. Sadly, that event will be yet another missing piece of 2020. The COVID-19 crisis closed our doors to visitors in March and they will remain closed for the rest of this year. The safety and well-being of our staff is of utmost importance in order to keep the sanctuary running and the pigs taken care of properly. On top of that we want to keep the sanctuary supporters well and healthy too. The difficult decision was made to not hold Open House this year in order to eliminate any unnecessary health risks. We will miss seeing so many of you this year, but you'll be in our thoughts. Let's all hope for better things in 2021!

## Donation Drop Offs

Cold weather is finally coming our way! The piggies need their blankies! There are four locations to drop off blankets as well as other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted).

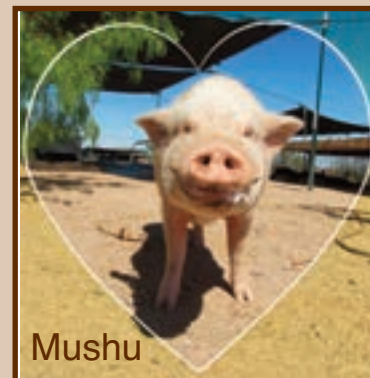
Because of the annual Open House and the Saturday Tours being cancelled due to COVID-19, your material donations are more important than ever this year. Donations from those events normally get us well stocked for months. We need your help to keep those items coming in.

East Phoenix: Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069.

North Phoenix: Danette's near the 101/Cave Creek Rd area. Call 602-376-1086.

Northwest Tucson: Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015.

East Tucson: Sandra's in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296.



Mushu

# Sponsor a S



Penny

I came here after the family dogs attacked me...twice! I ended up losing both of my ears. I was scared being here at first but everybody is super nice and gentle with me.



Dale

My family didn't want me around, so the grandparents called the sanctuary. Good thing I came here because I had problems with my legs and needed to see the vet.



Chicky

I kept busting out going to the neighbor finally put me in here keep me safe and called Ironwood to



Donna & Thumper

These piggies would love to become a part of your family! You can become a sponsor for a \$30 monthly donation. In exchange you will receive your pig's story and some photos. Later in the year you'll get an update to keep you connected to your pig. This would be a great holiday gift! What a fun way to support an Ironwood pig!

—Donna



Pixie

My family got evicted from their house, so I came here to find a new friend, Planet. I've been here since coming here. I'm thin and tri



# Special Pig!



out of my pen and  
neighbor's house. She  
in her chicken coop to  
and off the road. She  
to help me out.



Master Shake

My brother is Biscuits (he's on  
here too). We like living here  
where people like us and are  
always nice to us. I really, really  
like it when people pet me!



Biscuits

I came here a little over a year  
ago with my dad and brother  
when our family said they  
couldn't afford to have us  
anymore. I live in a big field with  
a whole herd of piggies.



Mac

evicted from their  
e here with my  
I've been on a diet  
ere. What do you  
l trim or what?!



I came here with Cheese (also on  
this page). He and I are best buds.  
We live here with other family  
members in our own special field.  
It's great and we have lots of fun!



Cheese

The water well went dry at my  
old home plus we hardly ever  
had anything to eat. My family  
and I were so lucky to end up  
here with plenty of food and  
water every day.

# Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,

First of all, I love you Santa! Second is my wish. Shade is super important out here. I'm hoping you can tuck some rolls of shade cloth into your bag of goodies. We use lots of that but always need more.



Love,  
Chester

Dear Santa,

I am thankful for my house but it would be nice to spruce the place up a bit. Could you please wrap up some paint, roofing material and maybe some carpet? I could fix things up for Little Charlotte and me.



Love,  
Roger Dodger

Dear Santa,

You may have heard rumors about my behavior, but I'm really getting better all the time. Since I've been sorta good this year, I was wondering if you could bring a bunch of water bowls. They are very useful.



Love,  
Pepper

Dear Santa,

Well, piggies like to eat...a lot! We could use more feed troughs or stuff to fix the old ones. Could you please add some lumber and nails to your sleigh? We have our own elves to put them together.



Love,  
Buttons

Dear Santa,

I love playing in a big pile of dirt, but the elves here keep using it up to fill in around wallows or build up the area in front of some shelters. Could you pretty please send a load of dirt for me? I'll share it!



Love,  
Violet

Dear Santa,

This is kind of a big thing to ask for, but we could really use a new van for transporting pigs. We need to feel safe when going to the vet or coming from a home to here. Do you think you could help us out?



when going to the vet or coming from a home to here. Do you think you could help us out?

Love,  
Rambo

Dear Santa,

I have a great place here but new pigs come all the time. Sometimes we need to build pens or fields to make homes for everyone. If you could bring some hog panels that would make our holiday even more magical!



everyone. If you could bring some hog panels that would make our holiday even more magical!

Love,  
Caroline

Dear Santa,

I know it's winter but I'm already dreaming of when I can get in the pool again. I LOVE my pool! I was sort of hoping you could bring a stack of pools so my friends and I will be ready for warm weather. I promise I'll be a good boy!



and I will be ready for warm weather. I promise I'll be a good boy!

Love,  
Hammie

Dear Santa,

This is a wish for all my piggy friends. It would be so cool to see your sleigh overflowing with blankets and comforters. There's a bunch of us and we all want to be warm and cozy this winter. Thank you!!



There's a bunch of us and we all want to be warm and cozy this winter. Thank you!!

Love,  
Petunia

Dear Santa,

I don't want to sound like I'm complaining, but it gets really hot here in the desert. My Christmas wish is to get cases and cases of cran/grape juice to add to our water. I love fancy cocktails!



but it gets really hot here in the desert. My Christmas wish is to get cases and cases of cran/grape juice to add to our water. I love fancy cocktails!

Love,  
Scooby

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for all of your support during this difficult year. Your monetary donations this holiday season can make these piggies' requests to Santa come true. Here's to you and yours...hoping all your holiday wishes come true too!

# Feeding the North Herd

**H**ave you ever wondered how to feed 45 hungry pigs at once? Probably not, but let me tell you, it is not an easy task and definitely requires more than two hands. In the North Field a system has been worked out for three people, each with specific tasks to be done in a particular order. With the staffing problems of the past few months, this is more often done with only two folks.

Whoever arrives at the feed station first begins prepping the



bowls for those pigs that are fed in individual pens. Some have premade mashes, some are on diets, some need extra time to eat and some just need to go in a pen because they're CRAZY! Well, they get crazed at feeding time and misbehave to the point where it's difficult to get the rest of the herd fed safely. (I'm saying "they" but in this particular field that means Thumper. Sorry girl... love ya!) The next person grabs Marty's toy filled with some grain and rushes it out to him before he literally starts climbing the fence.



Distracted by the toy, you can dash into his enclosure to put his food bowl in a corner then get his roommate Dexter inside his feed pen with his meal then fill Marty's water bowl. That'll keep them busy for a bit. On to the next task. One person will grab a stack of prepared bowls and get Thumper in her pen then Mushu, Titan and Zeus whose pens

are on that end of the field. At this same time, another person takes a



bucket of grain to lead Arlo, Chino, Sioux, Cole and Milo to an

enclosure on the east end of the field where they can be locked in to eat from troughs. By this time the third helper has arrived and is straightening feed troughs across the field and filling water bowls set up between the troughs. Then the "pen person" goes back to the feed station to grab the second set of bowls and sets off to the west end of the field. Stop one is a pen in the middle where Lily eats. Next stop is a group of pens for Glenda, Ethel and Precious then Charlotte off in the corner. Then



they check in by radio to see if the other person is ready to start filling troughs so that both the east and west ends are fed simultaneously. Each of the two feeders begins filling their troughs with grain to spread the pigs out so all can eat their fill equally. They continue down the line of troughs until they meet in the middle.

Meanwhile, the third person who was taking care of the water bowls so the pigs have plenty to



chowing down, the feeder goes next door to Hot Sauce and Sweet Tea. These two cuties are also separated during meals, one in a pen and the other eating out. They are the last of the North herd to receive their meals so now everyone is busy eating.

two remaining feeders begin the reverse process. Pigs are let out of their feeding pens and bowls are picked up to be returned to the



drink while they are eating has finished and moved on to feed The Galaxy, a smaller field of eight pigs located next door to North Field. There are still two smaller enclosures inside the

The other “trough person” is using this time to hand out medications to individual pigs. Their meds are in peanut butter sandwiches inside Ziploc bags with their names on them. Some of the pigs sit nicely for their treat and gently take it from your hand while a few others are “shark attacks”. That’s when you just toss the sandwich into an open mouth and get your fingers out of the way. Then it’s time to tuck blankets back into shelters or fill dry wallows, all while observing the pigs eating from the troughs to

feed station for tomorrow’s repeat performance. Alfalfa hay is distributed throughout the field in small clumps for the piggies to nibble and graze on. Winnie grabs a mouthful and trots off to her shelter. Java does the same but hides behind a bush with his treasure. Glenda goes under a shade ramada and waits for a special delivery of hay that she eats in private. The rest of the herd scrambles from one pile to the next munching on clumps as they go. Later they’ll make the rounds again, taking their time to pick through the remains of the hay to eat up every scrap. Now’s the time many will take a dip in the pool or wallow along the way to cool off from the feeding frenzy. The pigs are much calmer and more relaxed now with full bellies. The feeders clean up the station, make sure all the individual bowls are returned and in place, then pack up their wagon to head off to the next field of eagerly awaiting piggies.



North Field that need to be fed. The person who did the east end troughs heads to the feed station to trade in the bucket for the next set of prepared meal bowls and proceeds to the first area. In February of this year we took in a family of pigs from Pahrump, NM after their owner passed away. They were older pigs, so they were moved into this enclosure of their own which we call Pahrump. Ricki and Ricky Jr. eat in individual pens while Bela eats out. This way they can have their fair share with no interruptions. Once they are



make sure everyone is looking good and eating their share of food.

When the troughs are emptied the

—Donna

# My Favorite Pig

**A**shley has worked as an animal caretaker at Ironwood for over a year. She has also adopted three pigs from the sanctuary and loves having her own piggies at home. Her choice as her favorite pig is a big, handsome boy named Homer who has the reputation of being a bit of a grump with people.

*When a I first started working at Ironwood I spent a lot of time with Homer. I got to see not only his ornery side but also the side that loves his cheeks to be rubbed. He's definitely a character which is why he is my favorite pig.*

—Ashley



## AmazonSmile Charity Wish List

The easiest way to provide for the pigs' current needs is to order from our [AmazonSmile Charity Wish List](#). It is kept up to date with items required to care for the pigs properly. To find Ironwood's list go to your "Account & Lists" on the top right of Amazon's home page then scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" on the left. Do a search for "Ironwood Pig Sanctuary" and our Wish List will appear.

Please make all your purchases including your personal purchases on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Log on to [smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483) using the same log-in information that you use for your amazon.com account. At the top of the page you will see "Supporting: Mary C Schanz Foundation". The Foundation is our parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to Ironwood. Last quarter we received \$1,476.39 from this program! And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping on many items.



Porkenstein

**All your packages and donations are a great help to the pigs and are much appreciated! Thank you!!**

# Front & Back Cover



**P**iggy Pooh, her sister Smokey, her mom Momma, her two brothers George and Piggy Wiggly (AKA PW) and her dad Shakey were all picked up by Ben and me on June 28, 2018 in Pearce, AZ. The owner was going through a nasty

divorce and she had to give up all her pigs. It was a stressful time for all. After one litter from Shakey and Momma, the pigs were separated. Piggy Pooh, Momma and Smokey were in a small area and were all very obese. Shakey, who has pretty severe neurological issues, had a pen of his own. It was only by a stroke of luck that we were able to get the two younger boys who were loose in a very large field. Soon we were on our way home to Ironwood.

We have kept Piggy Pooh, Momma and Smokey together. After trying them in one of the mid-size fields, we moved them to a smaller area in order to keep the family together because Momma is quite lame. Piggy Pooh, as you can see from her picture, is the young lady with an attitude in this group, but she is learning to get along with the others in the small herd where she now lives. They have all lost a lot of weight and are enjoying life better now that they can move around more easily.



Smokey, Piggy Pooh & Momma



Mavis

Page 16

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 97

**M**avis, Douglas and their 6 four-day-old babies came home to Ironwood on June 8, 2019. Mavis and Douglas were strays in Douglas, AZ. They had been picked up by Animal Control in December of 2018. A nice lady from Bisbee contacted us in late May to say there were two pigs at the facility in Douglas and they had been there for several months. After we made the decision to take them, the lady went to check on them and found that two days prior to her visit 6 babies had been born. Two days later we picked them up and brought them all to Ironwood.

Mavis was a great mom and all her babies survived. Three were adopted to new homes and three babies remain here. They have grown up in a small herd of young pigs and will stay at the sanctuary.

Mavis and Douglas were of course spayed and neutered. Later they were released with several others to the large Northwest Field. Mavis caused a lot of commotion with her newfound "friends" for a time, but she has settled in now. Douglas was rather timid around all the new competition, so he now eats in a feeding pen to ensure he gets his fair share. They can most often be seen together in their shelter when day is done.



Mavis & Douglas

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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS**



**Mavis**