

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

August 2021

I have mentioned before that the desert is not the most ideal environment for pot-bellied pigs, but here we are with over 670 of them in the middle of another hot, dry summer. Pigs cannot pant or sweat to release body heat, so a good supply of water is necessary for them to survive the heat. Keeping the pigs comfortable is the priority during this time of the year.



Rudy

Every living area, whether an individual holding pen or out in a field, has an abundance of pools and mud wallows available. The

pools are positioned to be in the shade, particularly during the afternoons, with the wallows nearby. The pigs often create shallow mud holes by tipping a water bowl then rolling in their DIY wallow. A good coating of mud can cool them off. The silly pigs will do this just a few feet away from a nice, big wallow full of water just because they can.

Some pigs enjoy napping in their pool while others take a quick dip then hop back out.



Jeremiah

The elderly and/or disabled pigs living in



special care areas receive extra pampering during the hot weather.

Igloo coolers with ice water are placed in those areas. We will dip a lightweight towel in the water then drape it over a pig's shoulders to help lower their body temperature. Those are refreshed frequently throughout the day



Rosie & Sirocco

on into the early evening. Most of the special care living quarters also have a mister system to keep a spray of cool water on the pigs all day. Hot water bottles that have been in the freezer can be placed inside houses up against a pig that needs some extra cooling efforts. A lot of the pigs also enjoy being sprayed with the water hose. What fun!

Ironwood's watering team works hard all summer to keep a fresh water supply in the pools, bowls and wallows. The water truck



Conner

drivers put in many hours hauling water from town to keep the storage tanks loaded. The feeding team steps in to help with watering and towelng the pigs as they go about their duties. Thanks for everyone's hard, hot work! And a big Thank You to you for supporting the care of these wonderful pigs!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator

Rain

Rain is a pretty girl that arrived at Ironwood in November of 2020 after her owners claimed they could no longer afford to keep her. The poor girl was extremely obese with her belly dragging on the ground to the point where she would step on it while walking. Rain has lost some weight over the past nine months but it's a slow process. She has not been spayed and will need to drop more pounds before that is able to happen. The heavier a pig



Arrival November 2020

matters since that slowed her down a great deal. The fat rolls above her eyes also affected her eyesight. At times she seems to have trouble seeing and shies away from things. This condition may improve as the weight comes off.

Because of the excessive weight affecting her mobility along with her poor eyesight, Rain was placed in a smaller living area called Camelot to live with Rosie and Sirocco. It was not an easy transition for this girl who had never known the company of other pigs. Rosie readily accepted her presence, but Sirocco is territorial and had



is, the more difficult and dangerous the surgery will be.

An unique feature of Rain is her front feet. Her right foot has three large toes and two dew claws rather than two of each. The left foot has three large toes and only one dew claw. The extra toe on each foot looks like two toes that merged together with a surface split in the top of the hoof. The deformity does not inhibit Rain's ability to walk although she was having difficulty when she arrived only because the hooves had never been trimmed before. The obesity certainly didn't help



issues with the intrusion. The trio of pigs have slowly become tolerant of one another. Having been raised alone, Rain is content with spending time in her house on her own and is never pushy about getting attention from the other pigs or from people. She is only four years old, but her weight problem, poor eyesight and deformed toes combined to lower her activity level. Most of



her time is spent napping...and waiting for her next meal! Rain has settled in and is doing well these days.

—Donna

A message from Rain:

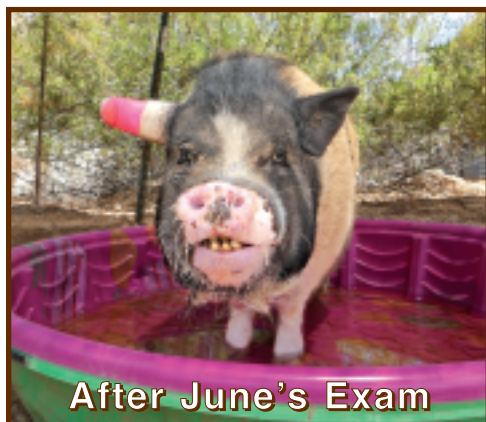
"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live at the sanctuary. Losing weight and having my hooves trimmed on a regular basis has made me feel much better. I am happy with my new home in Camelot."

Daphne

Daphne is an 11 year old spayed female that has been at Ironwood since September of 2013. She had been an “only child” whose human mom entered a fast-track nursing program and no longer had time to spend with her. After years of being in excellent health, Daphne began having problems with a constantly runny drip out of her left nostril. She went through the



hair is stiff and can get stuck beside the gums or work its way into an opening around the teeth. The vet felt that infected area was the cause of Daphne’s runny nose since it connected to her nasal passage. After having that work done, her condition improved for a while but in early March the left nostril was worse than before. A second trip to the vet clinic led to the discovery of an oral fistula, an abnormal connection from her



After June’s Exam

usual rounds of medications used for allergy type issues with no improvement then developed a head tilt. A trip to the vet earlier this year was the first of four visits to find a solution.

During the first visit, most of Daphne’s top teeth were extracted with one being very infected with a lot of pig hair packed in underneath the tooth. That sounds strange for a pig to have hair impacted in their mouth, but we see that sometimes. They get it inside their mouth as they root and tear up the blankets as well as when eating hay off the ground where hair has been shed. Pig



Enjoying a Mud Bath

mouth to her nasal cavity on the left side that had healed open rather than sealing up like it should have. The vet had to go in and surgically remove more infected material.

Seven weeks later Daphne returned to the clinic for another checkup. This time two more teeth had to be pulled, but the good news was the fistula was getting smaller. The latest exam on June 30th found the fistula tiny and almost healed closed. Daphne has been on a rotating dose of antibiotics while she deals with all the dental work and the slow



Relaxing With Friends

healing process. At this point, the vet feels that the fistula will close and eventually the nasal drainage will stop. Throughout this ordeal, Daphne has remained in good spirits and has been a good patient.

—Donna

If you would like to help with Daphne’s medical bills, please allocate your donation in her name. The total for her four vet visits this year is \$2,958.94. Daphne appreciates your caring and support!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

POST OFFICE BOX 35490

TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490

520-579-8847

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Mr. Pitts, Resident Since 2016