

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

June 2022

First of all, I just want to thank you for your continued support for the pigs of Ironwood. It's been a tough year so far with staff shortages and a big influx of pigs. But you have been there for us, keeping the donations, both monetary and material,



Chardonnay

coming in. And now we're facing the heat of summer and all the extra work that entails.

Pigs cannot pant or sweat to release body heat, so when it's hot they have to get in water. The most important thing we do to keep them comfortable and safe from the heat is provide wading pools and mud wallows. During the spring, loads of dirt were brought in and used for reshaping the wallows to hold water. At the beginning of the hot season, the



Foxy

wallows need to be filled frequently until they get saturated enough to hold water consistently. Then, as it gets hotter, they have to be filled more often simply because the pigs

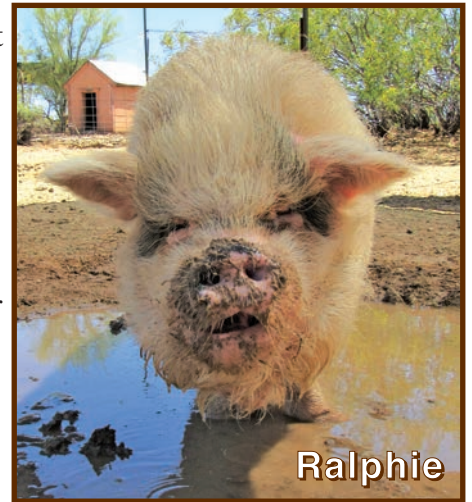
are using up the water. Extra staff for the watering team is a necessity during the hot season.

Additional pools are placed in all areas to provide more availability to water. In the living quarters for senior citizens, the pools must have a section of the

side cut down for easier access for the arthritic piggies. Those pools are doubled for extra sturdiness then taped together along the cut edge for safety purposes.

Extra work, but it has to be done.

The pigs will stand in the pool to cool off their feet while getting a drink, roll in it to wet down their entire body or lie down and nap in it, at least until another pig comes along wanting a turn.



Ralphie



Sgt. Terry Lee

More wallows, more pools, more frequent filling and refilling...all that adds up to more staff time in the fields to do the watering. It also means more trips for the water truck drivers to bring water in to

the storage tanks. And all of that extra work is done in temperatures in excess of 100 degrees. Am I whining? Yeah, a little bit. 😊 That's okay, it'll all be over by....November. Argh!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

What Are Wattles?

When you hear the word wattles, most people picture the fleshy, red things hanging on the necks of turkeys and other types of birds. There are also 3 mammals that have wattles although they differ in appearance than those on the fowl. Certain breeds of goats, sheep and (saving the best for last!) pigs have wattles. Well, what are those dangly things and



Geena

The other members of their family in the North Field; Thumper, Chewbacca, Faline and Lando, do not have any. The three older Kunekune pigs live in the Sunset Field. While Gizmo and Heather have no wattles, Geena, that gorgeous girl on the back cover, has a nice, large pair.

petted or rubbed along with his neck and chin when he's getting some affectionate attention. Hershey definitely has Kunekune blood but may be a mixed breed. His wattles are small and barely



Hershey

noticeable until he raises his head. We're unsure of Eleanor's exact breed, but she is a type of hog weighing about 600



Bambi & Ewok

what purpose do they serve? On mammals, wattles are a pair of fleshy appendages covered with hair that grow out of the neck near the back of the jaw. As for purpose, there seems to be no known biological function for wattles on mammals.

Of the 650+ pigs living at Ironwood, there are only 6 that have wattles, sometimes called tassels. Most of those piggies are a breed called Kunekune that come in a variety of colors. They are stockier and larger than the majority of the pot-bellied pigs. Best friends Bambi and Ewok both have wattles. Ewok's are rather large and plump while Bambi sports a thinner model.

Wilburt in the Princess Field is also a Kunekune. Like the other pigs with wattles, he doesn't



Wilburt

mind at all if you handle his tassels. They're just there to be



Eleanor

pounds while the pot-bellies average around 150. Her wattles have less hair on them compared to those on the Kunekune pigs. So now you have a tidbit of trivia that, like these pigs' wattles, is totally useless, but there it is.

—Donna

Maggie

This sweet 6-month-old girl is very lucky to be alive. In March, she and her sibling were attacked by a dog but never received medical help.



After a few days, a neighbor called the county shelter about the situation. Officers arrived and took both piglets.

Sadly, one died soon after arriving at the shelter. Ironwood was called to take the one with a mangled head who was later named Maggie.



Maggie went directly to Adobe Veterinary Center. She had multiple bite and puncture wounds, mostly on her head and face. One ear was removed and not much remained of the other. A large flap of skin was sutured down across her snout and a front leg required staples to close a wound. Maggie, wrapped in bandages, came to the sanctuary. With her face and snout badly swollen, she could barely open

her mouth. Someone had to hold her up while liquid meals were syringed into her.

A few days later, Maggie returned to the clinic to have her wounds debrided. She underwent a long surgery for reconstructive work on her mouth, nose and face. After returning to Ironwood, Maggie was able to drink meals on her own. She lived in the bathroom in the Visitor Center in order to keep her wounds clean and free of flies. She soon regained enough strength to begin going to

the backyard via a ramp for her meals and potty breaks. Maggie's next trip to the clinic earned a good report on the wounds and her mouth surgery, all healing up nicely, but she continued to need the wraps.



The last visit to the vet had Maggie coming back with no bandages. Her ear canals both



healed open and should remain that way. Her mouth was completely healed. A drain was inserted in her "arm pit" where a pocket of necrotic tissue was extracted. The drain and the staples in her leg were able to come out a few days later.

She continued living indoors until her wounds were thoroughly healed then she made the transition to one of the regular pens where newcomers stay. Maggie easily won the hearts of all the staff. She's a real trooper and a total sweetheart!

—Donna

The four clinic visits came to a total of \$2,731.39. If you would like to contribute toward Maggie's medical expenses, please designate your donation in her name. She sends her love!

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



Geena

**Resident Since
June 2018**