

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2021

Dear Supporter,

As the New Year is marching on, we still find ourselves in turmoil and in the throes of COVID-19. Certainly, the signs are hopeful with numbers of cases decreasing rapidly and the vaccine rolling out, albeit on a bumpy road. Our sanctuary is still closed to visitors and with the hot weather close at hand, it will probably be fall before we are able to open to allow visitors again.

The biggest impact we have felt for many months now is the shortage of staff. I have talked about this in previous newsletters and we continue to have 2 to 4 people off work daily due to circumstances related to COVID-19 in one way or another.

However, as I have said to so many of you recently while writing thank you notes, I cannot overstate how important your continued support has been during these very difficult and stressful times. Just two days ago we were able to rush to Coolidge, AZ to pick up a mom and her baby girl who were strays and had wandered onto a lady's pasture. The mom was attacked by a horse living there who was kicking and biting her. Pat, a neighbor, is a supporter of ours and contacted us immediately. The lady who owned the horse quickly fashioned a pen and confined both pigs. They were picked up by our staff and taken directly to the vet clinic where the mom was thoroughly examined and found, thankfully, to have no broken or dislocated bones. The mom is thin, neglected, pregnant and now suffering from her wounds. But she and her baby are now home from the clinic. Marsha can take all the time she needs to recover in a warm shelter with plenty of pain meds and good food to eat with her baby by her side. Pat wrote to thank us and said "they looked so lost and helpless; it was heartbreaking." Because of You, Pat who contacted us, the owner of the property, our staff who were willing to work overtime to rescue them and the vet who waited at the clinic for their arrival, Marsha and Mallow are safe at Ironwood. Our work has not ended with the care Marsha will need to recover, but we will be here to provide that care. These are the stories that shine light through the darkness of so many months of frustration, stress and yes, fear.

Thank you so very much for the support you provide to give life to our pigs.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

President & CoFounder

Mary with Marsha and Mallow



# Happy Hour

e have Happy Hour every day at Ironwood...but alas, it's not for the staff! It's some of the piggies getting afternoon

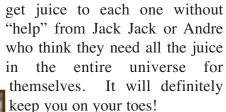
the piggies getting afternoon drinks and/or snacks. Because it can take 4-5 hours to feed the over 600 pigs on site, they are only fed a big breakfast with a few exceptions for youngsters and special cases. The morning meal includes dispersing medications which the majority of those on meds receive once If anyone is taking daily. antibiotics, that is almost always a twice daily deal. The more severe cases of arthritis and joint problems also require afternoon med. The various pills, powders and capsules are tucked inside a peanut butter sandwich for most while the "pill spitters" have theirs stuffed in a fig newton cookie or other sticky treat for the bitter tasting pills. The afternoon routine is divided into four groups with all of them being done towards the end of the work day. Each section is normally done by one person unless someone is in training.

The A.L. Run

This run includes taking care of the pigs in Assisted Living, Hospice and those in the Quarantine Pens. The first stop is Assisted Living or A.L., a small field for elderly pigs, most of whom have "retired" from one of the larger herds/fields due to a decline in mobility. Step one is to pass out the med sandwiches. Most who get one know the routine and will gather round the person and wait for



their turn. A few, like Polly and Big Penelope, stay inside their shelters due to the severity of their Everyone is served arthritis. slices of fruit, usually apples. It's not much of a snack as far as quantity, but the main purpose is to get a last look at each pig and make sure everyone is doing okay at the end of the day. All of the pigs in this field also get diluted cran/grape juice. This helps keep our elderly pigs hydrated which is very important in this hot, dry environment. There are currently 12 pigs in residence in Assisted Living and it's not always easy to



Once this little herd is done with their Happy Hour refreshments and the bowls have been rinsed and cleaned, then we head over to Hospice. This is a smaller, much slower paced group of pigs. The same routine applies here; meds, apples and juice for each piggy. Louise and Roxanne rarely get up and are served their goodies in their shelter. Louise is notorious for spilling her juice bowl, so you have to sit with her and hold it while she gets her fill. She is also one of the tricky ones about taking her meds. Her pills have to be tucked inside a piece of Little Debbie strawberry roll. totally turns up her nose if offered anything else. As this area is finished and the caretaker is leaving, she makes sure all the shelter doorways are covered and drops the blanket doors on the barn for the night.



Then it's on to the Quarantine Pens. Currently there is a litter of six youngsters and their mom, Nurse Judy who get served dinner. That's an interesting affair to get the seven of them spread out and eating at the same time. They get so excited about each meal! There are a couple of pigs in



other pens getting a dose of meds then everyone gets apple slices. Water bowls are also checked to ensure that all have enough to drink. Two boarders, Gracie Mae and Lulu, get diluted juice. Lulu is a bit scary and difficult to deal with so it's best to go in with a pig board for protection.

#### **Pens and Phases Run**

Years ago, after the Assisted Living Field got filled to capacity, we built two more retirement areas called Phase 2 and Phase 3. Both are small fields with herds of 10-12 pigs. The first stop on this run



is Phase 3 to hand out medications. Porky needs help keeping his sandwich in his mouth and may need several tries before he gets a good grip on it. You have to stay with him to grab the treat if he drops it before Harry or Piggy Spears gobbles it up.

They do try hard! Penny and Porky liked to be served in bed while the rest of the herd gathers around the caretaker eager to get their fruit snacks.

Next is Phase 2 which is a bit larger area and not everyone comes out. Most

of the pigs line up for treats, but Bernadette prefers waiting indoors and is luckily easy to find in the same house almost every



day. During the winter when the carpet doors are up, you have to go around to each house lifting

the door to play "Where's Dozer?" He used to enjoy playing "Chase the Caretaker" but has lately decided it's funny to hide inside and see how long it takes to find him. Maurice is the only piggy in the Phases that gets juice in the afternoons. He has a history of urinary tract issues, so he needs the extra liquids.

The third part of this run is the holding pens which house newcomers, boarders and anyone recovering from illness, injury or surgery. The population changes out frequently so you have to

keep up with who's in residence here. Again, everyone gets fruit



to get their end of the day check, while a few get meds and juice. The majority of the boarders also get dinner to keep them on the feeding schedules they have at home. Chardonnay and her litter of babies are also fed an evening meal. In all the areas of this run, the caretaker tucks blankets back into shelters where necessary and ensures that water bowls are full.

#### **Behind the Houses Run**

The Manager's home and the Visitor Center both have backyards that are home to a handful of pigs with special needs. Many of them have limited mobility and may require assistance to get up for their juice and treats. The same routine applies; meds, fruit then juice. These piggies are pretty good about waiting their turns and



being patient as treats are handed out. Bob and Oreo, two love birds that share a home, are seldom outside and may need encouragement to get up to drink their juice. Appetites are good though, once they're up and moving.



Beyond the yard of the Visitor Center are two adjoining areas that serve as a hospice type setting. The residents of Camelot and the Cat Shelter (there's a story involving some feral cats behind that name) are all dealing with severe arthritis or other joint related issues and most are in their late teens. Patience is required here as each pig is individually



tended to. A few gather together for drinks and snacks, but the majority need to be dealt with one on one. The housing situation is like "Musical Chairs" with the pigs changing shelters as well as partners. You really have to be able to identify each pig because they're seldom in the same spot day after day. When all have finally had their fruit and fill of juice, the caretaker makes sure all get settled back inside with plenty of blankets ready for the cold,

winter night ahead.

Sometimes there will be a pig who had recent surgery in the small building that was converted into a recovery area. This pig will need its Happy Hour refreshments as well as being observed for a

status report on its condition.

#### The Outside Run

This is the med run that will for sure help you get all your steps in for the day if you're a Fitbit junkie. First on the list is going out to where Henry Bien lives to give him a dose of medication he needs before eating his last meal of the day. (You can read about Henry and his special feeding schedule in the article, "The Three Amigos" on pages 14-15.) Then you head over to the west side of the property to begin a journey through 22 of the 24 fields in the outer portion of the sanctuary. The med sandwiches are in individual bags with the pig's name on it and bundled by fields. These are loaded in a tote to cart around as you go from field to field handing out meds. Pigs love routines and the vast majority who get an afternoon dose know when it's time. If they hear someone coming their way late in the day, they'll trot over to the

fence expecting to get their treat. They're so disappointed if it's not the Sandwich Lady and just another staff person coming out to do a chore or repair something.

When a pig is added to an evening medication whether temporary or permanent, it takes a few days for them to catch on to the fact that a treat is coming each day. In the meantime, the caretaker has to go



hunting for them. It's harder in the winter because by this time of day, most of the pigs are bedded down inside their houses and you can't see them due to the carpet doors covering the openings. You don't want to wake up the whole herd and have a gang of hungry pigs following you, yet you have to keep peeking inside shelters and calling out the pig's name in order to find them. You often hear over the two-way radio things like, "Does anyone know where Daisy in Princess Field sleeps?" or "Where does Sweet Cheeks like to hang out?" It can be challenging at times.

Then you also have the pigs who try to fool you into thinking they're supposed to get something. The imposters will

join the "med pigs" gathered around the caretaker, sitting pretty and cute waiting for a sandwich... and waiting and waiting. You hate to disappoint them, but you also don't want to encourage them. Others will realize you're



handing out extra treats then suddenly one day you have half the herd running you down instead of the polite four or five that actually need their meds.

The North Field is probably the most difficult field to get through. This is due to the group of oversized Kunekune pigs. One of them, Thumper, does get an evening med and she has no patience whatsoever. Her family members are all rather food crazy and want something too. It's best to hand out the meds to the 11 on the list for that herd as quickly as possible then just hightail it to the next field. At this point, you're almost done...just a few more smaller fields to go. Once all the meds have been handed out, the last chore is to take Henry Bien his dinner. He needs to be handfed small balls of mash at a slow pace. It doesn't take long because he is always eager to eat, but you have to be careful to make him wait between bites to

help with his digestive problem.

Finally, the Happy Hour runs are over. The staff is busily cleaning and refilling all the juice bottles to be ready for tomorrow's runs. Med bags are returned to their appropriate slots to be refilled with the next day's set of sandwiches. The totes are restocked with a few fruit bars or fig newtons to use as backup in case anyone spits out a pill and needs a do-over. The afternoon runs are a busy but important time of day for the piggies and something they look forward to. Thanks to your support, we're able to provide the juice, fruit, meds and treats that round out the pigs' day.

—Donna

# ur Wish List

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

Stool Softener
Canned Pumpkin
Animal Crackers
Antibacterial Wipes
Antibiotic Ointment
Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)
Sheets
Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg
Fig Newton Cookies (NOT

Individually Wrapped)



#### GIFT CARDS

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

# Donation Drop-Off

There are now six locations to drop off blankets as well as other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

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

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.

\*New Locations

Scottsdale: Karen's near Scottsdale Rd and Cactus. Call 480-313-2047.

Fountain Hills: Geri's in Fountain Hills. Call 480-229-8318.

**Tempe:** Anne's near McClintock and US-60. Call 480-720-5168.

Thank you Karen, Geri, and Anne for joining our Drop-Off team!



Goldie

# Amazon Smile Charity Wish List

The easiest way to provide for the pigs' current needs is to order from our AmazonSmile Charity Wish List. 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 and designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Log on to smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483. At the top left you will see "Supporting: Mary C Schanz

Cowboy

Lironwood Pig Sanctuary.

Foundation". That is our parent organization doing business as the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to Ironwood.

Your packages and donations are a great help to the pigs and are much appreciated! Thank you!!

# Sponsor a



I got dumped with my family on a rural road. Somebody that used to work at the sanctuary saw us and called for help. Now I live with a herd and never need to worry about my next meal.



I was an escape artist roaming the neighborhood. A lady that was worried for my safety penned me up in her yard but really didn't want to keep me. She got help from Ironwood.



I was an "only chi seldom allowed to acted out because

my family g I live outsice nap in the s



An Animal Control
me up running loos
Grove Rd. That w
on the streets. I'm
here with new frien

These pigs would love to have you as their sponsor parent! A monthly pledge of \$30 will help



Donna & Azul

cover the basic needs of one of the pigs featured here. You will receive an introductory letter and pictures of your pig with an update and new photos later in the year. Join our family of sponsors today!

-Donna

# Special Pig



child" that was
d to go outside. I
use I wasn't happy, so
ly gave me up. Now
tside, root in the dirt,
ne sunshine...wow!



trol office picked oose on **O**range t was a tough life 'm safe and happy riends.



Like a lot of pigs raised alone in a house, I was unhappy and turned aggressive. My attitude has totally changed! I have piggy friends, lots of space and I'm loved by everybody!



My human mom lost her job then her house due to COVID stuff, so she had to bring me here. I have trouble standing and walking but live with the old folks where it's safe for me.



Me and a bunch of other animals were abandoned at our home.
The Sheriff was called and we ended up at the animal shelter who then called Ironwood to take me.



I came here with Checkers. We both had to go straight to the vet clinic to get medical help after leaving the animal shelter. We're doing great now and love our new life!

# Do You Need a Will?

The information below was obtained from an attorney's website. They recommend that to be completely sure everything is in order, consider having your will prepared by a trusts and estates attorney.

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a will legally protect your spouse, children, and assets, it can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on.

e knew of a woman who had equity in her home and died without a will.

The court, a paid administrator and an attorney took over and the \$10,000 equity she had that she wanted to use for taking care of all her animals including a pig was gone at the end.

•A will is a legal document that spells out your wishes regarding care of your children or animals, as well as distribution of your assets after your death and the executor for your will.

•Failure to prepare a will typically leaves decisions about your estate in the hands of judges or state officials and an attorney and may also cause family strife.

•You can prepare a valid will yourself, but you should have the document witnessed to decrease the likelihood of successful challenges later.

•To be completely sure everything is in order, consider having your will prepared by a trusts and estates attorney.

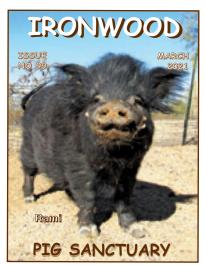
My mother doesn't have a Will, but that is okay because Ironwood is here to take care of me if something happens to her.



Some people think that only the very wealthy or those with complicated assets need wills.

- •You can be clear about who gets your assets and decide who gets what and how much.
- •You can keep your assets out of the hands of people you don't want to have them.
- •You can identify who should care for your children or animals. Without a will, the courts will decide.
- •You can plan to save your estate money on taxes. You can also give gifts and charitable donations, which can help offset the estate tax.

# Front & Back Cover



ami is a wild and wooly pig for sure. In all these years being at Ironwood since May of 2007, he has remained feral and lived happily with his

companions. We have never been able to catch him to trim his tusks. Of the twenty feral pigs who arrived at Ironwood from New Mexico, he is one of only four remaining with us. A year ago January I featured Sedona on our cover and told their story. She also remains with us.

They have been an especially lucky group since they have always enjoyed a large field together and we have only once made any attempt to put any other pigs with them. They were babies of theirs who were returned adoptions. We quickly pulled the returned babies, then adults themselves, out of the field since they were being stalked by the adults. We never again made an attempt to integrate them with others. Because they are big and strong and feral, we felt it was best for all concerned to allow them to live their lives together at peace, and so it is. So Rami, Richard, Sedona and Kwili will enjoy their remaining days together.





had to laugh when I saw this picture of Sweet Cheeks and Homer together. These two pot-bellied pigs standing next to each other in the Princess Field are a dramatic way to see how much these pigs can vary in size. Let it not be told they will be 20 to 30 pounds unless they are starved, of course. The Princess Field is a large field with quite a diverse group of pigs; large and small, old and young, families and friends from a wide range of backgrounds. Homer and his friends had been dumped at a hot springs in Tonopah, AZ. Sweet Cheeks, her mom and extended family came from a teenage breeder north of Prescott, AZ who found he wasn't getting rich and moved on leaving the pigs behind. A family of four also living in Princess Field who are now growing old, were rescued from the desert several years ago. There are pairs and strays and single pigs who were pets for years before coming to Ironwood. A great diversity of pigs share this field.

Sometimes the field erupts in significant fights among one another. However, for the most part groups of 8 to 10 will be seen lounging together. They have become part of a large family with disputes and friendships. However, they have the opportunity to live like a pig with space to roam free and run and play enjoying the company of one another no matter their size, shape or color.



# Baby Face's Journey

aby Face arrived to her foster parents Maricopa, AZ in a pretty dramatic way. Grace got a call about a stray pig running loose at a construction site. It happened to be on a scorching 112 degree day in AZ. The unfinished houses had no walls, so they were unable to capture her until Grace came up with the idea to put plywood around one of the rooms and trap her. Thankfully the water was on for the construction workers and they were able to cool her off. They were able to get her in a carrier but then could not lift her into the truck. With more ingenuity and thanks to the construction site, they borrowed a scaffolding board that they used as a ramp to slide her up into the truck for transport home.

Grace put Baby Face in a pen next to Opie and Bojangles and later they shared the same area happily. She made herself right at home. She broke through one of the doors to one of Grace's houses that was being used for storage and animals then got cozy in the blankets.

Fast forward six months or so and Baby Face started to itch. Over time it got worse and worse. We talked about her often and suspected an allergy or parasite. I had Grace give her Ivermectin three different times over the months to eliminate any parasites on her skin. She also put her on Prednisone. We tried Zyrtec, Benadryl, fish oil and every possible type of cream. She got worse. So in November of 2020 I picked her up and brought her to Ironwood.

We thought it may be environmental since there is a lot of agricultural spraying in her area. She was now so bad that she was scratching sores on her body



and looked like a prehistoric creature. The vets did biopsies and blood work which both indicated a severe Allergic Dermatitis, but why? We started on high dose Hydroxyzine with little improvement. We tried sprays, shampoos and prescription dog foods with no improvement. Shortly before a second trip to the vet. I decided to take her off corn and wheat. That was not an easy task for a pig since all pig food contains corn. Baby Face started to show signs of improvement. We started to feed her potatoes, cooked lentils, Quinoa, beans, fruits, veggies and eggs. The vets thought she looked better as well and decided to send blood out for



allergy testing but said she was a dog since no allergy tests for pigs could be found. Jackpot! The test showed she is allergic to corn, rice and many other things, but the key is CORN! Although she continues to scratch, she is now greatly improved. We have continued a number of drugs to help her, but the diet change seems to be the major factor in her healing process.

In our nearly 20 years running this sanctuary, we have never seen a case like this one. She is a young pig and it so grieved me to see her suffer. I am hopeful we have now found a solution to her problem. You can see from the photos what a huge improvement there has been in her skin. We are so hopeful she will soon be a healthy pig again.

-Mary



# Ironwood's New Web Site

Please visit *www.ironwoodpigs.org* for an exciting new look at the sanctuary! Many thanks go out to Eric Arellano in Phoenix (also the proud sponsor dad of Pua!) who volunteered to get this set up and running for us. He put in many hours of his own time and did a fantastic job. Check it out!

## Q IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

field placement. The pigs then join a herd based on their physical ability, age, and emotional needs.



#### SPECIAL NEEDS FIELD

The Special Needs Field allows us to provide a safe, loving environment for our pigs with physical or emotional disabilities. Some of our pigs are blind, some have epilepsy, and one big girl is scared of her own shadow. They're able to cope well within this smaller community!

### Q IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



#### BEETHOVEN

I was used as breeding stock until a neighbor convinced my owner to stop. I moved here with my beautiful friend Bettina.

Improvements to the site:

- \* Easy to navigate
- \* Connect directly to our Amazon Wish List
- \* New Donation options
- \* All new photos and videos

# The Three Amigos

eorgie, Coraline and Henry Bien...three sweet pigs with different types of eating disorders. Their separate issues led to them living a life together in a place of their own.

suspected twisted intestine. That did not turn out to be his problem, thank goodness, but the sphincter muscle in his esophagus does not work properly. That cannot be corrected, so we began experimenting with different feeding methods and medications to help him. The plan we've

began sneezing constantly. She was taken to the vet clinic where she had a long piece of hay extracted from her nostril. Ouch! The assumption was that she had accidentally snorted up the hay, but we later learned



Hanry Bien

Henry Bien, a resident since January 2014, did great out in Comanche's Field up until last spring when he began throwing up after every meal. He was taken to the vet clinic for a

Henry Bien

settled on that seems to work the majority of the time is to give him Sucralfate 1-2 hours before his morning and evening meals and Metoclopramide and softeners later in the morning. He gets three small meals per day consisting of a wet mash rolled into small balls that are hand fed to keep his head elevated as well as slow him down. He is completely off hay to help with digestion. Henry Bien continues to have good and bad days but when he does throw up now it is only in small amounts.

Georgie came to Ironwood in August 2018 and lived happily with a herd in the Northeast Field for a while. Last March she that wasn't the case. She began sneezing even more and returned to the clinic for another exam. When they went to intubate her,



they found a quarter sized hole on the left side of the roof of her mouth going all the way through into her nasal cavity. This was nothing that any of the vets at the clinic had dealt with before, so they sent pictures and x-rays to a dental specialist. The procedure that might possibly fix the hole would require several difficult and painful surgeries with months of recovery between each. None of the vets involved recommended putting poor Georgie through that, especially with no guarantee that it would even So, the next step was figuring out how to adjust Georgie's life to deal with this abnormality. We built a raised platform to set her bowl in so that she would keep her head up while eating. She is served a soupy mash that requires her to pause every few bites to swallow thoroughly and clear her mouth. Also, she is no longer given any hay at all nor any treats that may have particles that would get stuck in that hole. She still has snotty sneezes during meals and a runny left nostril but for the most part, she does great.

It was obvious soon after her arrival in June 2020 that Coraline had issues due to excessive vomiting. She made 3 trips to the vet clinic and was finally diagnosed with megaesophagus. Various feeding methods have



been tried. An elevated bowl like Georgie's was difficult because of her "chin rolls" plus she was still throwing up. We then tried hand feeding her small balls of mash. That worked decently for a while then she got worse. We went to a soupy mash and again, it only worked for a short time. Next was a dog's slow feeder with her mash smeared across it. current solution is dry food scattered on a big placemat that takes her a while to find and eat twice daily. Coraline takes 3 types of medication at various times of the day to help as well.

Coraline, Georgie and Henry Bien were all having problems around the same time. None of them can have treats or the alfalfa hay that is fed in the fields as an enrichment and fiber supplement. For that reason, as well as their special diets, they cannot live in any of the fields with a herd of pigs. The three piggies have their own area that was created by fencing off a large section of the West Field. The girls are fed in individual pens where they can eat their specially prepared meals at their own pace while Henry Bien is hand fed. After finishing feeding Henry, the caretaker checks the shelters for blankets and/or carpets that need to be replaced. Someone has usually thrown up during the night. Blankets are hung up and rinsed then replaced with clean ones. At that point Henry can have his juice and the girls are finished and ready to come out. Georgie is a messy eater. Bowls and



placemats have to be cleaned. Henry likes to "help" with this chore.

At first, each pig slept in their own shelter. They got along fine with one another but needed time to develop a closer relationship. Now they all snuggle into one



house. On cool days they enjoy relaxing in the sun together. Georgie, Coraline and Henry Bien have become a sweet little trio.

—Donna

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## IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



