

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

Dear Supporter,

March 2024

Well, now we know what it is like to live in Oregon. The Atmospheric River storms that caused so much damage in California have come our way this winter. Thankfully not nearly as intense as was seen by our neighbors. Today, as I write this letter, we are experiencing a full day of rain, wet and cold but not a downpour. Everything has turned green and it is beautiful here.

However, this wet winter has presented its own challenges. Have I ever mentioned that caring for 670 pigs, plus or minus, is a challenge? On a day like today the fields are empty. Not a pig in sight. They have a day of fasting and I have a day to write to you. All sanctuaries across the country handle their inclement weather differently. Here, since most of our worst weather is dealing with the extreme heat of the summer, we have a different approach to winter weather than most areas of the country. Our fields are dotted with over 450 shelters, a few small barns, and a number of low shelters that many pigs will snuggle into together. We fill those shelters with all your donated blankets and cover the entrances with carpet. They double up or even squeeze three or four into a small shelter to be warm and cozy.

When rain is on the way, we make sure all the blankets are tucked well into their shelters and all carpet doors are down and secure. However, as one would expect, many of those blankets are pulled out of the shelters as the pigs exit and the blankets get soaking wet in the rain. When it rains, pens will be full of water and need to be bailed. So the day following a rain, and this year there have been many days following the rain, is the arduous task of pulling out and hanging wet blankets from all the shelters. In addition, we load up the ATVs with dry blankets and begin distributing them to shelters that need them. Later, when the hanging blankets have dried, we bring them into dry storage for the next round of hanging and distributing. We are all tired and our backs are sore from bailing water and bending to pull and hang heavy, wet blankets. Our system here is high maintenance for sure during the rains, but it works well for us for the vast majority of the year. In the days ahead, the sun will come out to dry the mud and the pigs will be dragging their blankets out of their shelters to bask in the sun. It is green and beautiful from the rains and the pigs will dig big holes in the mud. What is more fun for a pig than rooting and making big holes and nobody scolding them!

Thank you so much for your support and for all the donated blankets that get us through the winter months to keep the pigs warm. I hope you enjoyed learning more about how the sanctuary operates from the inside and what it takes to care for so many pigs during the cold, rainy weather. We so appreciate all that you do for the pigs.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

Mary Schanz President & CoFounder





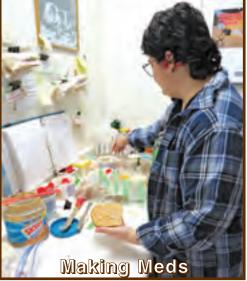
#### Issue 117

## Your Donations

ith over 670 pigs to provide for at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, we are more dependent than ever on your generosity. Beyond your financial support are the many material items that are donated. There are Wish Lists with needed items in our newsletters and on our website with Amazon and Chewy. Sometimes there are questions about what we do with those things and why we need them. I hope this article can answer any questions you have about how your donations are used for the pigs.



We'll start with the food related items. One thing that we use a LOT of is peanut butter. Over 300 of the pigs take supplements and/or medications everv morning. Imagine trying to give 300 pigs a bunch of pills and powders...a little daunting isn't it. The method we have come up with is to spread peanut butter on a slice of bread, add whatever vitamins or medications needed then fold the bread in half and place it in a sandwich bag with the pig's name on it. Pigs living in the same field have their bags



clipped together for easier distribution. Many of these pigs get another dose of meds in the afternoons, so there's another set of sandwiches to be made. That's a LOT of peanut butter! We always ask for Creamy PB simply because it is so much easier and faster to spread without tearing up the bread. Speed is important when preparing manv so sandwiches every day.

These haven't been on the Wish List for a long while because we



are still working our way through a huge back stock of them, but we also use fig newtons. These are the next step in the med delivery system when the sandwich Some pigs are doesn't work. adept at eating a peanut butter sandwich, swallowing it then spitting out the pills. It's really amazing they can do that but also annoving. That's when that gooey fig newton comes in handy. We can poke a few pills inside the cookie and most pigs can't resist the yumminess and eat the whole thing, pills and all. Lucky Lucy gets both a sandwich with Biotin powder and a fig newton with her pills inside.



Speaking of cookies, another item always on our Wish List is Animal Crackers. Again, these are not a regular part of the pigs' diet. Instead, they have several uses around the sanctuary. Say you need to lure Angelina out of her field because she is going to the clinic for a spay next week, but she first needs to spend a few days in a holding pen to be on her special pre-op diet. She'll quickly follow a trail of animal crackers

and go wherever you want her to go. Another example; you need to clean a wound on Henry's neck, but he won't be still. Give him a handful of animal crackers to keep him occupied and clean



away! They are also great as a distraction when giving Aida an injection or putting zinc oxide behind Rusty's ears or getting ointment in June's eye. You get the picture.

I mentioned Angelina's pre-op diet before going in for a spay. Part of that is getting canned pumpkin added to her food because being under anesthesia can sometimes make pigs constipated. Having pumpkin for a few days before and after an



procedure anesthetic helps prevent that from happening. Other pigs like Frylock and Polar Bear need it more often because of chronic problems with constipation. Bailey had a bowel resection four years ago when her intestines twisted. It is very important to keep her system running smoothly, so she gets a pumpkin mash and prunes every morning. Douglas, Carl, and a few others also have prunes added to their morning meal. Benefiber is another product we use for the same purpose. Of those three items; pumpkin, prunes and fiber powder, the canned pumpkin is the one we use in larger quantities.



Vanilla Ensure or other generic nutritional drinks are blended with peanut butter, bananas, and cream cheese to make high calorie shakes for pigs needing to gain weight, usually elderly pigs like Tank and Jackie. The shake is poured on top of their regular Glenda, Wilbur, and food. Christine get a smaller amount of shake stirred into their soft mashes to add calories. The shakes are also meal replacements while pigs recover from dental surgery. Earlier this year, Morgan was ill and would not take her



medication in a peanut butter sandwich, fig newton or any other treat we tried to feed her. We ended up grinding up her pills then mixing the powder in a shake and syringing it into her mouth. It was messy at first, but once she got the hang of it, Morgan loved it. Those syringed shakes kept her going until she regained her appetite.

Another item on the Wish List year-round is blankets, blankets, and more blankets. This winter we nearly ran short on blankets. The pigs had enough in their houses but just barely. Rainy days made for a mad scramble to get wet blankets that the pigs had drug out into the fields hung up to hopefully dry by the end of the Then we rushed about dav. stuffing them back into the shelters for the cold nights. Pigs love to nest, snuggle, or bury



#### Page 4

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themselves under their bedding. A common sight on sunny winter mornings is seeing pigs intentionally pulling blankets out into the sun to lie on. Puppy and Phil, best buddies, do this nearly every morning. Mayzee and Eli are another pair that do the same thing. Robin pushes and scoots blankets into a big pile inside the barn where he sleeps. He likes to be King of the Hill on the blanket pile.

There are gift cards listed in the newsletter's Wish List that are always welcome donations. The Walmart and Fry's gift cards can



purchase perishable items like cream cheese, eggs, cottage cheese and lots of bread for all those peanut butter sandwiches. The Fry's cards are also used to

for prescription pav medications for Carl, Richard, Mouse, and Baby Face who take "human meds." Home Depot and Lowe's cards get us building materials for shelters and troughs, tools, and water hoses. Office Max and Staples cards keep the office supplies stocked. The photos for the sponsor program are printed at Walgreen's, so gift cards help with that. The Amazon gift cards cover so much. You can buy almost anything on Amazon!



Sometimes supporters make

arrangements to drop off large item donations at the sanctuary. We are always happy to see a pickup truck loaded with rolls of carpet pull up in the driveway. We use a lot of carpet especially during the winter. All the shelters have the doorways covered with carpet to keep out the cold air. The floors are carpeted as well. The pigs

that are fed in the individual pens with special meals have a carpet "placemat" to keep the pigs from tipping their bowls over into the



dirt. The kennels used for transporting pigs always have a piece of carpet lining the bottom so the pigs aren't slipping and sliding. A note about carpet donations...we <u>cannot</u> use Berber carpet. It unravels too easily and we have had pigs get it tangled around their feet or stuck in between their teeth. It's a real hazard.

A few times we have had crafty supporters build houses for the pigs and deliver them to the sanctuary. Our pig population continues to grow steadily so more housing is necessary. Plus, we have been here for 23 years and shelters from the early days have needed to be replaced. Lily and Christie are pictured here in their fancy digs up in the North Field. Their home was custom built by a supporter. They love it!

Whether you donate gift cards, financial gifts, ship items from our Wish Lists, or drop off supplies at various points in the Phoenix/Tucson area, we appreciate every single thing you do. The pigs of Ironwood need you and love you!!

...Donna

Page 5

n late 2018, there was a small group of pigs with similar health issues, all of which required them to be very careful to not overstress their joints, get pushed by other pigs or engage in scuffles that could



result in injury. A handsome boy named Shakey was the main He has severe concern. neurological problems causing him to be unstable, often falling down and having difficulty walking in a straight line. He needed to be in a small field with only a few pigs that would not be apt to fight with him. Around the same time Shakey arrived, a youngster named Christopher came. He had bad lameness due to abnormal narrowing of his spinal column. Finn, Drummer and Miley each came from a different field/herd where they



# Shakey's

had sustained injuries requiring surgery. All three recovered but were at risk of further damage if jostled around too much. Billy had weak joints that were getting worse and was having difficulty getting around in the large field that he and his sister Cookie lived in. These pigs' issues occurred around the same time so it became necessary to create a new field just for them. A section of the East Field was fenced off and the new area was named Shakey's.

Christopher and Cookie are no longer with us, but the remainder of the little herd is still going strong and have become good friends. Others have joined the group in pairs over the years. In early 2021, sisters Kendall and Skyler moved into Shakey's.



Kendall has two fused vertebrae that impair her mobility and leave her susceptible to injury. Skyler has abnormal pad growth that makes walking uncomfortable at times. They were a perfect fit for Shakey's herd. A short time later another pair of sisters came along. Ginger has impaired proprioception due to narrowing between her shoulder blades that pinches her spinal cord. She gets around and enjoys exploring her field but needs to rest more often than usual. Denise is in great health but came along to keep Ginger company. The last pair to join the herd in the summer of 2022 was



Gorda and Francesca who are not related but are very dear friends. Francesca has mobility limitations due some to abnormalities in her spine. She had lived for a while in Lil' East Field but was brought in to one of holding after the pens experiencing severe lameness. That is where she met Gorda, an overweight new arrival living in the pen next door. Because of her obesity, Gorda was not very mobile and had poor eyesight because of the fat folds covering her eyes. The girls became good friends and once Francesca was ready to make the move, they became a part of Shakey's. The eleven piggies are one happy herd these days.



Because of the physical challenges most of them endure, they are separated during feeding time to allow each the time and space to eat without fear of being knocked around during the feeding frenzy. There are individual pens for the majority of them to use only during meals. Denise and Ginger share a feed



pen while Francesca and Gorda go into a larger pen to eat together. Shakey needs space to move about in case he has one of his off-balance spells while eating so being in a pen isn't what works best for him. Instead, he has his food and juice bowls placed beside the back of one of the shelters so that he has something

solid to lean against when needed. All herd members come out of their pens to graze on hay together once the meal is done.

Shakey has become close with Miley and Drummer and usually shares a shelter with one or the other. Finn and Billy are independent boys often sleeping alone but occasionally going into a house with one of the other pigs. Francesca and Gorda are never far apart and love snuggling in their shelter. The sisters Denise & Ginger and Kendall & Skyler like the company of the others but are normally paired off when inside their houses.



It is a sweet group of piggies needing a special environment to keep them protected while still giving them the opportunity to live as members of a herd. Thanks to your generosity, they found their safe niche in Shakey's Field and are living fulfilling lives together.

...Donna

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS \*=High Priority \*\*Used Blankets are needed year round.\*\* \*First Class Forever Stamps \*Animal Crackers \*Famotidine, 20mg \*Ensure (or Generic), Vanilla Only Peanut Butter, Creamy ONLY Fiber Powder (Non-flavored) Canned Pumpkin

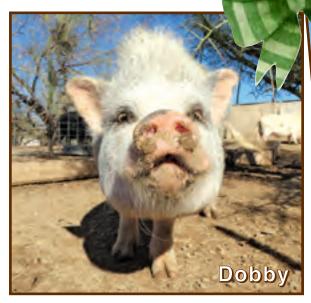


Waddles

GIFT CARDS

Fry's Home Depot Lowes Office Max Staples Walmart Amazon Walgreen's Chewy's

# Sponsor a



My leg is deformed and doesn't fit in my shoulder socket so I limp quite a bit. I get medicine to help me though. And I get to live with my family that I love dearly!



I came to live at the sanctuary with 13 family members because our human couldn't feed all of us. We were so hungry and skinny, but not anymore!



I came from a p breeding nightm as 8 months wer was terrible! W spayed!) now. T Ironwood!!

These eight pigs all have one thing in common. They each need sponsors to help with their basic care. Your \$30 monthly donation will support one pig. Who will be the lucky one? You



Boris & Donna

will receive a letter and pictures to learn more about the pig of your choice. Later in the year, you'll receive an update and new photos. Join our Sponsor Family today!

\* Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



Prometheus

My family and I our human could anymore. It was somewhere new, to have my famil

# Special



blace that was a hare. Pigs as young re giving birth. It e're safe (and hank you,



came here because n't take care of us scary being so I was so glad y with me.



My human lost his job then his house because of Covid. That's when my brother and I became a part of Ironwood. Now we live with a small herd of other pigs. Loving it!



One of the workers here saved my life. My humans ate my brother and had plans to eat me and my sister. We sure got lucky that word got around and we were saved!



I am Krypto's brother. We had a good home before coming here then it all fell apart. But it's okay! We are living a peaceful, carefree life here and all is well.



When I was young, I was running loose with my siblings but the neighborhood dogs killed them all. A nice man saved me then called Ironwood. I'm safe and happy here!



n the past decade Ironwood has taken in 972 pigs. Some were released by their owners for various reasons, some were victims of abuse and legally taken from their homes by authorities, and many more were strays rescued by concerned citizens, county animal shelters, law enforcement, or sanctuary staff. Family units are often those involved in the abuse cases. There are also situations in private homes when the owners have allowed breeding not realizing how soon the youngsters become fertile. Males can be fertile as early as 9 weeks while females can begin heat cycles at 12 weeks. Needless to say we have had many families find a permanent home at Ironwood over the past 23 years. Let's take a look at some of the siblings that arrived during the last ten years and have made their home here.

Ironwood encourages owners to spay and neuter their pigs. When that is financially impossible, we step in to help with the offer to get the pigs altered, recovered from the surgeries, then returned to their home. One man asked for help because the pigs left behind by an ex-girlfriend were breeding. We took the 5 females in December of 2017 and got them spayed. While they were

## Siblings

recovering, we went back and got the 7 males to be neutered. The man promptly ghosted us once all the pigs were in our hands and they became permanent

residents except for one mom and daughter who were adopted. Sisters Liz and Janelle living in Lil' East Field with their mom Miriam, are best friends. It's always so sweet to see the girls cuddling with their mother after all these years. One of their brothers, Dennis, also

of their brothers, Dennis, also lives in that field, but he is always



with his buddy Gummer. He was taken out of the group of boys because his brothers were so mean to him. The other brothers; Zipper, Velcro, Buttons, Mitchell, and Leo, live in the large North Field with their dad Wilson. Although they are more independent than the girls

and enjoy wandering around on their own, the family still meets back in their home territory often sharing the same shelter.

One of the things we stress to potential adopters is to check zoning regulations in their area. It varies a great deal within counties, towns, and neighborhood HOAs. One situation in the fall of 2018 involved a breeder in northern



Arizona where no pigs were allowed at all. Unfortunately, after she was told to get rid of the pigs, she sold the adults as "breeding stock" then asked us to take the last litter of 7 babies which she didn't have time to sell in order to avoid being fined. Sparkle, Goldie, Malachi, Chet, Melody, and Jeremiah all live in Lil' East Field and spend a great deal of time together. Sparkle and Goldie are particularly close as well as Chet and Jeremiah. Leroy Lee, another of that litter, suffered a dislocated shoulder last year and needed to move into seclusion for a lengthy recovery.

A pair of brothers, Sully and Stitch, came with their dad, Mr.



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#### Issue 117

#### IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

#### Page 11

White, from a breeder in Tucson. This man said he bought a different breed of animal each year and let them have babies so his children could experience the birthing process. When he was "done" with the pigs, he planned to send them to auction where they would most likely have ended up as food or breeding We've no idea what stock happened to the female but at least these 3 are safely living in the Far East Field where they have made friends with others in their herd. Sully and Stitch have remained close during their years here. A teenage breeder who got bored with his "business," was the source of sisters Sugarfoot and Rosalie who live in the Princess Field. Another owner let her pigs breed, not as a source of money, but simply due to negligence in having them altered. After she was evicted from a rental home. we took in Chardonnay and her two litters. Harpo, Zeppo, Dante,

Some of the groups of siblings were strays rescued from various situations. Jubilee and Jitterbug, sister and brother, were originally picked up by Pima Animal Control Center before making



their way to the sanctuary. Sisters Elma and Zelma were found in a

box in a vacant lot by a woman in the neighborhood. They were barely old enough to have been weaned before being dumped there. Now 3.5 years old, the girls are still best friends and love their life with a big herd in the Peoria Field. Part

> of that same herd are Whitney, Todd, and August, siblings that were born at an animal shelter in Douglas, AZ. Mom and Dad, later named Mavis and Douglas, had been picked up as strays. After Mavis gave birth to a litter of 6.

the shelter asked us to take the whole family because they did not have a safe enclosure for babies. Nurse Judy was a stray that gave birth to her litter while living on the loose in a rural area. A nice lady and her children helped to take care of them until we were able to capture the family and bring them to Ironwood. The boys, Pixie, Diggory, and Ethan live in the Main Field with their mom. Ginger had issues with her spinal cord that required her to live with a small herd, so she and her sister Denise went to Shakey's Field.

Some of the siblings came from owners who were moving and unable to take their pigs with them. One example is Fastie and Elvis, brothers living in the Main Field. Those two love each other and are seldom far apart. Gibson,



Costner, Jessie, and Leanne are brothers and sisters also living in that field with their mom, Willow. This quartet of siblings are some of the friendliest piggies ever! If you pet one, you'll soon have all 4 at your feet for belly rubs. George and P.W. are the look alike brothers in Princess Field who came here when their humans moved. The rest of their family have health issues and live in special care areas.

Owners call us with all kinds of reasons they need to rehome their pigs. Pinky and Isabelly are sisters from a home where the young girl was terrified of them. They had been relegated to a tiny



Foxy, and Chipmunk, from the youngest litter, all live with mom in the Main Field and continue to have a close relationship. Kendall and Skyler are older siblings that live in Shakey's due to physical limitations.

#### Page 12

#### IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



pen in the backyard but needed more space. Igor, Ivan, and Blossom's human was serving a long-term jail sentence and his friend got tired of caring for them. Java and Kava lived at a small rescue having financial difficulties and came here to ease the burden. When one owner's water well went dry, we took in 12 pigs including two pairs of



siblings. Brothers Batman and Robin live in Gotham City along with siblings Bisquick and Cheese.

Mozart and Johann are brothers whose owners let them run loose



in a neighborhood. After being reported to Animal Control numerous times, the county gave us permission to bring them here. One of the abuse cases that we dealt with included Daffodil and her two litters of babies. Her older girls; Meadow, Magnolia, Mimosa, and Maybelline were spayed and went to live in the Northwest Field. The other litter was still nursing and stayed with mom. Bluebell, Myrtle, Jared, and Hawthorn now live in Amy's Yard with another family of similar age.

We have never done any breeding at Ironwood (and never will!), but we have rescued pregnant females who gave birth to their babies here. There have been 6 such births during the past decade. Tabitha's babies Clark, Dudley, and Caroline are 7-yearolds living in Lil' East Field. In that same herd are Ruby's children Jelly Bean, Carlton, Londyn, and Sharona who are almost 8 years old. Those "kids" share the same territory as Crystal's daughters Billie

Jean and Ivy. Crystal's sons Captain and Merlo were adopted as youngsters, but returned to us in 2019 when their human moved The boys live in to Alaska. Comanche's Field Jezebel's babies Jameson, Violet, and Mona will soon be 9 years old. Two of Elsa's litter were adopted, but the others; Sven, Kristoff, Anna, and Yelena, live in Amy's Yard. Huratio, Riley, Ed, and Jango, otherwise known as the Frat Boys, will celebrate their tenth birthday next month. They were



born here shortly after their mom, Charlotte, was taken from a hoarding situation.



And last but not least are the sisters Thelma and Louise. They began their time here as boarders then became permanent residents 7 years ago after the boarding fees



were never paid. The girls are very close and are often seen cuddled together inside their shelter. Your support allows all these pigs to continue to enjoy a safe, comfortable life here with their siblings plus all the friends they have made. Thank you for making their lives happy!

...Donna

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## Ways You Can Help



**Señor Piggles** 

support a age and cach on the directly to Arizona residents who shop at Fry's Food Stores can help the pigs every time you use your Fry's Shoppers card! Just go to FrysFood.com, click on "My Account" then choose "Community Rewards". Follow the prompts to designate Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Don't forget to get your friends and family involved. It's easy to raise funds at no extra cost to you!

> Check out the Wish List on page 7 of this newsletter for items you can ship. We especially need

Chet

both are easy! On Ironwood's website, Amazon and Chewy,

www.ironwoodpigs.org, go to the www.urunwuuupugs.urg, gu uu unc «Support Page" and click on the links in

our wish lists on both sites.



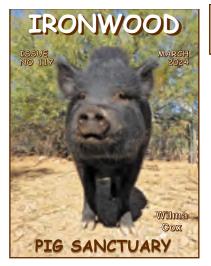
Hansel

Currently needed items from our Wish List can be donated at two Tucson Drop-Off Locations and three in the Phoenix area. Please email ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com or call 520-579-8847 for information on the drop-off sites.

Rain

mugs, magnets, and more on Ironwood's Shop for shirts, hats, pillows, on-Line Store found on the Support

## Front & Back Cover



Cox ilma was given name her because she came from Wilcox, AZ. She will celebrate two years of being with us on March 4th. We got a desperate plea from the owner of a female pig and four boars that they wanted to give to us. They were unable to keep her away from all those

boars and wanted us to come save her from them. We went right down to Wilcox where they had put her in a pen and were able to bring her home. We were not able to take the remaining boars.

Since being with us these two years, Wilma Cox has turned into a love. She will follow us around and lay down for a belly rub every chance she gets.

We brought Emily to Ironwood on July 31, 2022, just a few months after Wilma Cox arrived. Emily was named after the lady who rescued her. On July 4th they found her under their picnic table but when they approached her, she ran out of their gate and was gone. A few days later they heard her under a utility trailer in their backyard. She had made herself a wallow at the pump by their above-ground pool.

Emily remained on their three-acre fenced property for the rest of the month. They agreed to feed and care for her until we had room to bring her to Ironwood.



But on July 29th. the neighbors claimed she was their pig she saying had been tied to a tree with a rope and broken had loose. Thev came to pick her up and their dog attacked her, so luckily they were not able to catch her. They said they would be back on



Sunday to rope her. Hearing this, we mobilized and went on Saturday and built a pen. We had plenty of people to gently work her into the pen we built. But the best laid plans are never the best. We got her in the pen, but the perimeter fence had a hole in it and she escaped into the desert. Heartbreaking! We blocked the hole and left the gate open to Emily's property, put food in the pen and hoped for the best. That night we got the call from Emily we had hoped for. The pig had returned and Emily was able to close the gate. Early Sunday morning, we were there ahead of the neighbors and were able to get her crated and taken home to Ironwood. The neighbors never did come for her that day. What an ordeal!! So many people involved to bring our Emily to safety.

The rest is history as they say. Over time Emily and Wilma Cox became fast friends. They now live together in the Apache Annex with 24 others that had, with time and work, become a small herd. Emily is still afraid of people, but with Wilma Cox and many other piggy friends, she has all the companionship she needs.

We are so grateful for your help that has made their rescue and the other 24 they now live with possible.

Mary



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Issue 117

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Page 15

HAPPY PIGS																
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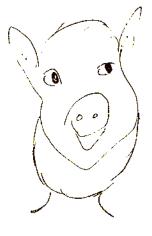
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### MARCH 2024 ISSUE 116

## IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS





#### IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 117