

IRONWOOD

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NO 45

MARCH
2012

Pickles

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2012

Dear Supporter,

Hello again from me, the staff, and more importantly all the pigs here at Ironwood. It has been a mild and beautiful winter. I just wish there would be more of it. When you get this newsletter we will already be entering the long eight months ahead of nothing to look forward to but heat and more heat. Therefore we have been busy as bees getting projects done before it gets too warm to do many of them.

The care of our pigs is complex and varied. The routine feeding and watering is often peppered with bringing a pig from the field that is found to be having difficulty for some reason and returning pigs to their field after recovery. As new pigs arrive, the proper field for them must be determined. We try to introduce them with as little trauma as possible. It is best to do this before the temperatures are too hot so there is not as much stress when they are introduced. This is the hardest part of all since many of these pigs have had more than enough trauma in their lives already. In time they adjust to their new life here at the sanctuary. But the routine care is just the beginning of what we have to do here.

Trimming, trimming, and more trimming. For any of you that have even one pig you can imagine the task of trimming the hoofs and tusks of 600 pigs, many of which are unsocialized. We will soon have our vet out to dart our New Mexico pigs since they are feral and cannot be handled by us without risking injury to them or to us. Many hours and days are devoted to getting the task of trimming done since during the hot months it is too risky to trim.

In addition to trimming we have many other projects under way. We have scheduled more surgeries so the pigs can recover when a wallow is not necessary. One day we will have a climate-controlled building but for now we have to work around the temperatures. We are preparing to make a new storage building to make space for our climate-controlled building, so our next big project will be the construction of the storage building.

We are removing old shelters at our Annex and replacing them with new ones, repairing roofs on many of our shelters, installing floors on shelters that for many years have had dirt floors, painting shelters, making new troughs, replacing old carpet floors and beginning the long and always necessary job of repairing and maintaining our hundreds of automatic waterers at Ironwood and our Annex. All of these tasks along with many others make up what it takes to care for our pigs.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder

PS: All of this would not be possible without you and conversely all of it would not be necessary were it not for people who continue to breed. A few people cause the misery of so many animals.



Belle and Mary

New Friends

Arnold and Petunia have become best friends. All of us at Ironwood are so glad to see this new relationship, especially since both Petunia and Arnold have lost their companions of many years and neither were sanctuary pigs in that they were never integrated into one of our fields.

Petunia, who is now 15 years old, came to us with her companion Sophie in February of 2005. Because of their history, age, and injuries I chose to keep them together in the backyard of our house at the sanctuary. They had both been attacked by the previous owner's dogs and while their wounds had scarred over, Sophie, years later, succumbed to her injuries and Petunia was left alone.



Arnold and Petunia

Petunia has always enjoyed coming out of her yard to wander around the property and sleep under the steps of the Visitor Center. She has always been, one might affectionately say, a curmudgeon.



Arnold and Petunia

Arnold and William were brought to the sanctuary in the spring of 2007 from Debra in Havasu City. She had her pigs for over nine years and loved them dearly and still does. She was reported to Animal Control by a neighbor and forced to relinquish her pigs to us because she was not zoned to have pigs at her home. They were brothers and had lived together all of their lives. William was already quite lame with arthritis but Arnold was well and healthy and very friendly and quite a character to have around. However, since Arnold has an undescended testicle he could never be released where there were unspayed females. Debra did not wish for him to have abdominal surgery.

We kept Arnold and William together in one of our pens since we did not want to separate them. We let Arnold have his daily walk around the property. Petunia is spayed so over the years she and Arnold had become familiar with each other since she and Arnold both roamed the public area each day to get their exercise and their

attention from all of us.

On December 13th of this past year William had to be put to sleep since his arthritis had advanced to a stage where he could no longer get up without experiencing a great deal of pain. Arnold was now alone after spending his whole life with William. Shortly after William passed away we decided to move Arnold in with Petunia. It has been such a delight for us to see them become good friends and now spend all their time together. Arnold still wanders off to explore his property, talk with others around the property, and visit the produce table to see what treats might make their way to him before he wanders back to rejoin Petunia.

Pigs make very strong bonds with their companions and we are always so sad when one of the couple has passed away or we have had to bring one of a pair into a pen or a smaller field because they can no longer live and compete in a large field. Therefore, this budding relationship between Arnold and Petunia has been especially gratifying to us knowing that neither Arnold nor Petunia is alone anymore. This is one more reason I always like to encourage people to have two pigs. They need friends just like we do.

---Mary

Meet The Hoofertons

When we take in new pigs we expect that there will be a lot unknown about them. We are often told that a pig is a female when indeed it is a male or that the pig is very old and upon first glance it is apparent they are young. When we first heard about Mr. and Mrs. Hooferton we knew there would be a lot of unknowns.

For years we had been aware of a 'zoo' in Douglas, Arizona. We got word that the owner needed to close it down and relocate the



Mr. and Mrs. Hooferton

animals. We were contacted about this issue and were asked to take the two pigs that had been living at the zoo. Ben and Mary made the trip to pick them up. The information we were given about the pigs was vague. We were told that there were two pigs that had been at the zoo for 9 years. The sexes of the pigs were unknown and it was unsure if they were neutered or spayed. The pigs had not been given names and we were not given any information on their health.



Mrs. and Mr. Hooferton Laying Out

Upon their arrival it was clear that these two were not the same age and that the male had been eating most of the food. The female was very underweight and appeared to be much, much older while the male was slightly overweight and appeared young. They didn't have names yet so that was going to be taken care of promptly. I had been waiting for over a year for a male and female to come in together without names so that I could name them Mr. and Mrs. Hooferton. Probably not the most clever of names, but I couldn't



Mrs. Hooferton's Front Hoof Upon Her Arrival at Ironwood

resist. Plus one look at the female's face and their behavior together and I just knew the names were fitting!

We quickly learned that Mr. Hooferton was the dominant of the two. He would steal Mrs. Hooferton's food and make her move when he wanted to. We immediately started to separate



Mrs. Hooferton's Rear Hoofs Upon Her Arrival at Ironwood

them during feeding time and put the Mrs. on a higher calorie diet to help get some weight on her. It was also apparent that Mrs. Hooferton was having some issues with lameness and was stiff when walking. She has been started on pain medication which has made her more comfortable. We were also noticing that Mr. Hooferton was exhibiting boar-like behaviors.

It's normally obvious when a male is not neutered. They have a



Mrs. Hooferton

distinctive smell, they do a 'dance' to release their scent and show the other pigs who is who and you can usually see their testicles. This was not necessarily the case with Mr. Hooferton. We would observe him doing the boar 'dance' that we often see, he smelled like a boar and was very interested in our females. However, there were no visible testicles. We had our vet inspect him and she suspects that he is in fact a boar. There are some cases



Mr. Hooferton

where the testicles have not dropped or they are partially neutered. He will be taken in and neutered before these two can be placed into a field.

Since their arrival Mr. and Mrs. Hooferton have started to get

comfortable with their surroundings and with us. Neither really appreciates being touched but they are less timid now. Mrs. Hooferton quickly learned her feeding routine and is eager to be separated so she can chow down. We hope that they continue to acclimate and that once they are in a field they will quickly find their place.

Although we often have many

surprises in store for us when taking in new pigs it is always a pleasure to learn about the pigs and to get to know their personalities. Whether it be not knowing their age or if they enjoy attention or not, we accept the challenges we face. We would much rather take on the unknowns of a pig than to know that their fate may not be as pleasurable as living at the sanctuary.

---Taryn

Check Out Our Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary>



When I started the Ironwood Facebook page I had hoped to spread the word about the sanctuary. Little did I know that over 1,400 people would soon be following the page and commenting on the pictures. I try to update daily to keep everyone updated on the happenings at the sanctuary. I post when pigs are going into surgery and give updates on them as they recover. I also like to share photos of new pigs that we take in and the stories behind them.

I really enjoy seeing people's comments and questions posted on our page. I'm hoping that through our page I can educate and inform people about pigs as well as make them smile with our photos and stories. I've also noticed that we've definitely gained more sponsors and supporters through Facebook. It's amazing what Facebook can do.

I'm excited to gain more followers and to keep sharing pictures and updates with everyone. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep the Ironwood Facebook page alive. Remember to "like" updates in order to keep us on your news feed.

---Taryn

Dear Supporter

Thank you for your continued support of the Sanctuary!

Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. Also many current supporters have included the sanctuary in their wills. These donors feel that they need their assets during their lifetime, but decided to link themselves with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

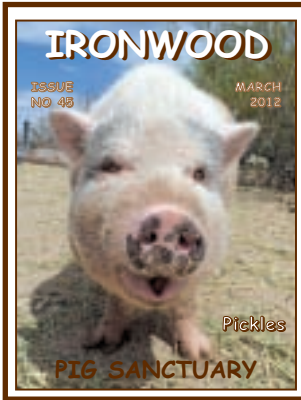
Bequests can be a percentage of the estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

Many attorneys like to include the tax ID number in your will for the organization you are donating to. If yours does, then you must include our parent organization, The Mary C. Schanz Foundation, in your will. The EIN number is 86-0999483. We are doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your information there are no administrative or other expenses associated with The Mary C. Schanz Foundation.

Visit Our Web Site @ www.ironwoodpigs.org

Read any of our 45 newsletters from our very first in September of 2002 to the present. Click on the icon representing the newsletter you are interested in on the right side of our Home page. If you want to make a donation using PayPal, click the donate button at the top of the page. No PayPal account is required. Sponsor a pig or make a Sustainer donation by going to our Support page. You can sponsor your pig until you notify us to stop or for 1 year or for 6 months. Or if you wish, you can log on and make your sponsor donation each month. At the bottom of the Support page is a list of many businesses that will match your donation to Ironwood. See if your employer is listed. If you are retired, your organization may also match your gift. Watch an introductory video of Mary talking about the sanctuary and showing off some of our pigs. And on the Facility page is a picture of our new 65,000-gallon water tank and an article on why we needed this large tank.

You can make secure One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit card by going to the **SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.**



Pickles on our front cover and her companion Wiggy came to us on March 19, 2011. She is about 7 years old and lived in Phoenix with Wiggy and many other animals. Her previous owner was in an accident and would not be able to walk for many months, so she was placing as many of

her animals as possible and her neighbor was helping with their care. She and Wiggy and several others were released to our Main Field where they have adjusted well to their new life here, over time of course. Pickles is shy but if you approach her quietly she does like to be petted. She really likes her new space to travel around and can be seen up much longer than others grazing on the hay that is left over from the morning feeding.

Dexter and Jeannie on our back cover share a couple things in common. They are our two spotted hogs and they both came to us as strays with injuries. Jeannie has been with us for a few years. She was a stray in Oracle, Arizona, where she had been coming to visit a family with horses to find food. We were



unsuccessful when we went to catch her, but later the family was able to catch her. She had acquired some bad injuries from dogs or coyotes, but she survived those and has been with us for many years. She and Laverne, one of our old potbelly pigs, have bonded and have remained companions for all these years.

Dexter arrived at Ironwood in December 2010. He was a young baby as well. He was found on a hiking trail in Phoenix by a man when Dexter ran out in front of him and the man followed him back to the parking lot. There was a small carrier and some food left there. Someone had just dumped him there. He was very dehydrated and unable to keep water down. The man took him home and Dexter recovered. We brought him to Ironwood and later we found he had a bb gun shot below his eye. The bb was removed without any lasting injury.

While Jeannie's best friend is still Laverne, Jeannie and Dexter are seen hanging out together and one day all three may become friends.

Our Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Target, Amazon, Staples, or PetsMart are an easy way to give.
- * The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
- * VISA gift cards that can be used anywhere
- * Postage Stamps (Forever, 45, 32, 20 cents)
- * Used Blankets are always welcome
- * Fig Newton Cookies or equivalent - not individually wrapped please
- * Cranberry Capsule - 2000 mg preferred
- * A Late Model 3/4 Ton Long Bed Pickup Truck

You are the BEST!!!

Whenever we put items on our Wish List or have Taryn post them on Facebook, you are fantastic about coming through for us. We are well stocked on so many items that at this time there isn't anything we really need that can be easily mailed except for the always needed items on the left. Gift cards are fabulous! Back in January two of my weekly trips to the grocery store for the items you can't ship to us like cottage cheese, yogurt, eggs, juice, etc. didn't cost us a penny due to gift cards! I also had the monthly sponsor pictures developed at Walgreen's at no cost! Then a trip to Target to purchase new tubs for the donated produce...again, I didn't spend anything. All of this was done with gift cards! I love those cards!!

---Donna

Sponsor a S



Palie

I lived with some people for years and they never even bothered to name me! I had no shelter and never got any attention. I was lucky to even get food on a regular basis. My first night here a volunteer named me after a favorite dog from her past. Isn't that sweet! I love it here!



Babe

When I got here I could barely get up by myself, but after months of dieting, I no longer have to be pushed and prodded to get up and walk around. I'm living out in a field now and feel like a new man!



Sarah

Hi! I've lived at Ironwood and had a sponsor until just recently. I feel sort of lost being I can't handle being long!



Doc Holliday

My friends Wyatt Earp and Amy are crippled, so the three of us live in an area by ourselves. The people at Ironwood call it Tombstone! I think that's pretty cool! I'm aiming to get a sponsor soon. Can you help me out with that?



Pig Newton

Yeah, I've heard all the fig newton cookie jokes to say nothing of the Wayne Newton references. My dad meant well when he named me. Anyway, he had to go to prison, so I'm staying at Ironwood. I sure miss my dad! Having a sponsor would help ease the loneliness. I'd appreciate having a new friend.



Penelope

Okay, I'm thinking...Penelope newsletter look I'm yet another of us out here confusing, tw We're known Penelope. G

Special Pig!



Ironwood for many years
for most of those up
%. Please help me out! I
being on my own like this.
ng without a sponsor for



Cutie Pie

My life prior to Ironwood was...well,
boring. I lived in a tiny pen for years
because I was never neutered and
couldn't be with the other pigs. Now
I'm a "boar no more" and will be
enjoying life with a herd and friends.
Yipee!!



Papago

I'm another "boar no more" like Cutie
Pie. We were going to start a club but
then all the boy pigs at Ironwood would
get to join because they don't have any
boars here. We'll have to think of
something else. Maybe a club of pigs
with sponsors...but, hey, I couldn't be a
member! At least, not yet....



pe

know what you're
Penelope was in the last
looking for a sponsor. Well,
another Penelope (there are four
t here). To make it more
, two of us live in the same field!
own as Nice Penelope and Mean
. Guess which one I am!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

*We have so many pigs that need a sponsor..... new ones
coming in as well as long time residents that have lost
their sponsors. These are just a few of them. For a
monthly donation of \$30, you can support one pig's
needs here at the sanctuary. In exchange, you'll*



Baby Troubles Donna

*receive letters and
pictures to keep you
updated on your
pig's life. We would
love to have you join
our family of
sponsors!*

---Donna

Field Of Dreams

If you build it, he will come.” That was the voice Kevin Costner heard in the 1989 film telling him to build a baseball field in the middle of his cornfield. Mary, Ben and I heard that same voice, but it was saying, “If you build it, *they* will come.” And boy, have they kept on coming!

When we first started Ironwood back in 2001, we fenced in six acres, envisioning 120-150 pigs (eventually) living in harmony out in this beautiful field. Well, we hit those numbers much sooner than we expected, it kept on rising and hasn’t stopped yet.

Things were going along just fine until we decided to take in 52 pigs from another sanctuary. They



East Field

were all familiar with one another having lived in a herd together. Rather than face mixing them with our existing pigs and dealing with fights, we fenced off one end of our big field to give them their own home, known as our East Field. A group of seven pigs

were all very thin due to being unable to compete with that many pigs for food. Instead of putting



West Field

them in with a big herd where they would have the same problem, we fenced off the other end of our six-acre field to provide a quiet calm place of their own where they could get extra rations and fatten back up to a normal weight. We very creatively dubbed this the West Field.

We continued to add incoming pigs from individual releases and rescues to our original field which we began calling the Main Field. This is where we found that “living in harmony” was just not happening for everyone. Not all pigs are the same and we quickly discovered that having them all live together was not going to work. Prime example...Fido, a huge white pig that towered over the pot bellies. She was absolutely terrified from the moment she set foot into the field. In fact, she never made it further than about ten feet inside the gate before she plopped down and

refused to move again. It was very hot and she was getting sunburned. We kept hosing her down and ended up building a quick shade ramada over her to protect her from the sun. Fido squealed each time another pig even looked at her, she refused to eat or drink and was just living in terror. So began the birth of the Special Needs Field, yet another division of our shrinking six-acre field. It morphed into a home for a limited-sized herd of silly emotional pigs like Fido as well as others with minor physical disabilities.

As new pigs move in with an existing herd, there are always fights and squabbles over the hierarchy, shelters, food, etc. When Mary and I felt that the Main Field pigs had had more than their share of this, we fenced off the north end of the field and created...you guessed it, the



Northeast Field

North Field! New arrivals that were younger and healthy now began filling this space. Then Special Needs overflowed, so the Northeast Field was built to accommodate pigs in need of a

smaller herd. Soon another sanctuary was going out of business and those 47 pigs needed their own field, so the Northwest Field was carved from the diminishing six acres.



Northwest Field

As our pigs began to age, many no longer had the physical capability to maneuver and survive out in the “big field.” Our first Assisted Living Field came into existence on another part of the property to provide accommodations for the senior citizens who needed more one-on-one care. Over time to keep the numbers in this field low so their caregiving would remain safer and easier, Assisted Living Phase Two and Phase Three were built. That’s when we said no more. Either we had to stop taking in pigs or fence in more property.



Phase Three

After much discussion, came the

big job of fencing in another six acres to the west of our original field, adding water lines, shelters, shade ramadas, feed stations, etc. to make a home for the steady stream of pigs entering our gates here at Ironwood. This six-acre field has undergone its own transformation over the years and is now subdivided into several different fields to make separate



Sunset

homes for a group of four hogs we rescued as babies, three more phases of assisted living areas for older pigs, a group of feral pigs from New Mexico, a large single rescue from a home in Peoria, one



Princess and New Mexico

for healthy pigs from individual releases and another for a group of pigs from a sanctuary that is phasing out of business.

Ben just cringes if anyone mentions dividing for yet another field, but sometimes that is the only choice. The pigs’ needs vary to such a degree that there is no

way to safely provide for them all in one big area, especially when you’re talking about hundreds of pigs.



Phase Five

Many visitors to the sanctuary are amazed (and lost!) as we lead them on tours through the maze of seemingly endless fields. New staff members are now given maps to help them learn where the 23 various fields are. When we first heard the calling, “If you build it, they will come,” this isn’t what we imagined, but we are very proud of our sanctuary of many fields. It’s nice to know that if a pig is miserable in one spot or can’t get along with those particular pigs, there is an alternative. We will move a pig until we find where it best fits in with others’ personalities and physical abilities. We strive to make Ironwood a true sanctuary for every pig entering our gate.

---Donna



Peoria

Welcome To The Fat Farm!

We get a lot of incoming pigs that are overweight and many that can be considered obese. Just because they're pigs doesn't mean they are supposed to be fat. And just like with people, once the fat is there, it isn't easy to get off. But it does happen! Here we have some before and after pictures to prove that dieting does work.



Hopper Before

Hopper is a lovely example of what proper feeding can do for the figure! Notice how chubby her cheeks were when she arrived in March of 2010. In the comments section of the release form her owner filled out, it says "likes to eat." Well, that was obvious! The new svelte Hopper still enjoys



Hopper After

eating but in moderate portions. Lola was another that came in



Lola Before

with a "well rounded face" while the rest of her body was just slightly overweight. Just getting regular portions of food since her arrival in February of 2009 has helped her slim down overall and lose that fat face.



Lola After

When Ben and Jerry came in May of 2009, both were overweight. Ben was quite the wide load, to be rather blunt. He looks fantastic now! He has lost weight all over and is so much more agile and mobile than he was before. Notice how Jerry's belly is touching the ground in his



Ben Before

"before" picture. His arthritis will never allow him to be real active, but he gets around much easier now and is no longer hunched up due to the extra pounds he was dragging around.



Ben After

And speaking of belly draggers, check out the difference in Susie's tummy! Isn't she slim and trim now! None of this happened overnight for any of these pigs. It takes months and months for these transformations to occur.

Of course, they are never happy at the beginning with the cut rations, but it really isn't that they are getting tiny amounts of food. It's



Jerry Before

just a matter of getting them used to eating normal size portions of



Jerry After

healthy foods. Once it becomes routine for them, the pigs are happy with their meals and the pounds start to slip off.



Susie Before

This isn't some magic thing that works for everyone or even works at the same pace. As with people, pigs have different metabolism



Susie After

rates and other factors that affect their weight. What works for some, doesn't work for others. But hey, we have living, oinking proof that eating right makes healthy, happy pigs!

---Donna

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



We Need Volunteers

We receive many fleece blankets as donations. These are so soft and warm but rather small for our pigs. Sally, a Tucson volunteer, has spent the last two winters at her sewing machine stitching sets of four fleece blankets together to make the perfect sized pig blanket. She came up with the idea of sewing two end to end, repeating that with another two then layering those and sewing them together to make a thick blanket. She then stitched a V or an X on each half to keep the blanket from "ballooning" apart. Sally's idea and hard work has given us some wonderful blankets, especially useful for our pigs going to surgery. We need some other volunteers to help out though, as we have more fleece this year. If there is anyone in the Marana or Tucson area that is willing to do some sewing for us, please contact Donna at pigsponsors@yahoo.com or call 520-780-8832.

Our Supporters Write



Sunshine Visiting Rebecca

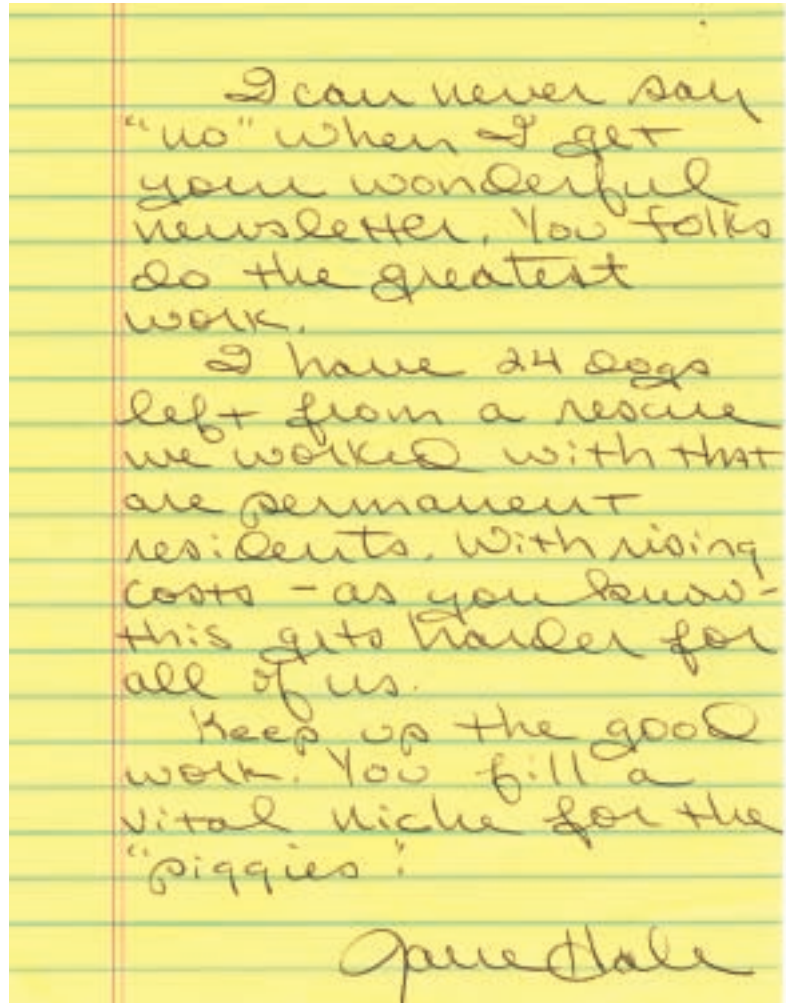
OPEN HOUSE

We have had a number of calls from supporters that are making their vacation plans and want to include a visit to Ironwood during our Open House. So to satisfy these requests we have selected Saturday, November 10, 2012 for our next Open House.

You are all welcome to come! It is a beautiful time of the year in the desert. The vegetation is green and healthy from our normal summer monsoon rains and the weather is cool and usually sunny. We have food, snacks, drinks and there is no admission.

And yes, plenty of tours to see the Pigs.

You won't be disappointed. We have a premier sanctuary and are proud to show it to you.



Your newsletter is the piece of mail I look forward to receiving the most. God Bless you all for caring for all these beautiful beings. Wish I lived closer!

With Gratitude & Love

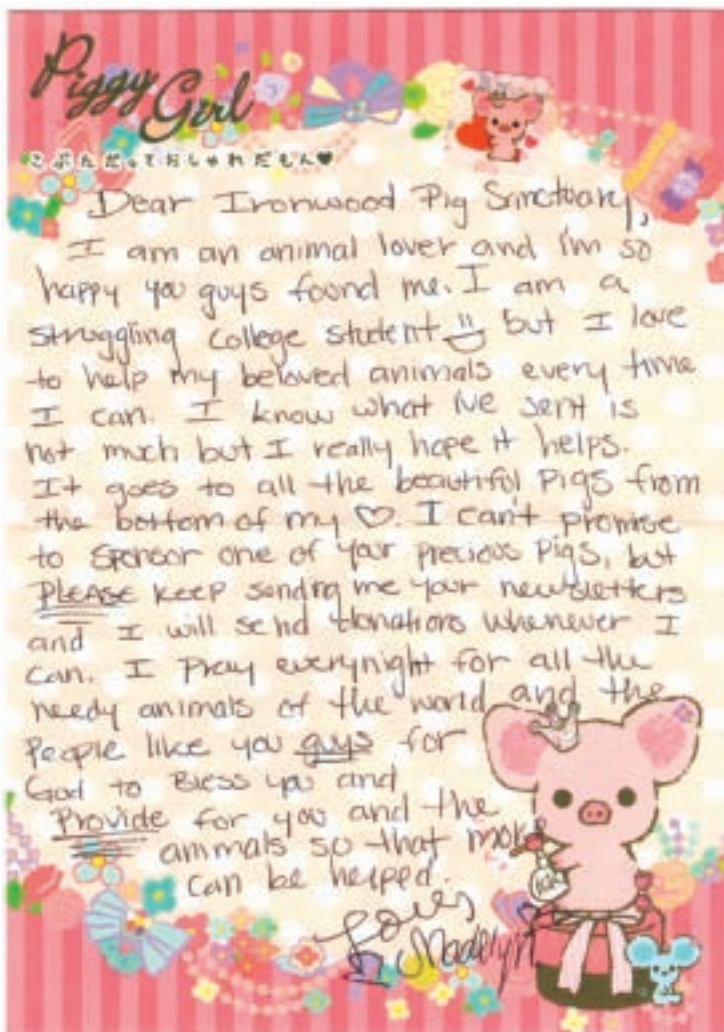
---Beth DeCespedes

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot-bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and other sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

* Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.

* The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.



What a great cause!! Thanks for all you do for the pigs!!

---Cecilia Weldon



Paul at 17 Years Old

Paul is doing really well with his arthritis. He gets a shot of adaquan every three weeks, joint powder, 3 other meds Annette found in a horse (farm) catalogue and a human joint cream that he gets rubbed with every morning. The cream we started with was a vet cream but while in Germany we found human stuff with the same ingredients at 1/3 the price. Annette being a nurse really helps.

You have a lot of good looking pigs there but we thought you'd like to see a picture of Paul.

---Frank & Annette

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Dexter

Jeannie