

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

April 2018

Two of the objectives in Ironwood's Mission Statement are to "promote spaying and neutering" of pot bellied pigs and "to assist owners". Lately we have been meeting a combination of both goals. Two different pig owners ended up with an overabundance of pregnant pigs and babies.

Another owner had a young male and female and not realizing they were at a fertile age, she ended up with a pregnant girl. We have been able to get these pigs spayed and



Mother & Daughter

be quarantined from the herds until their time is up. The females are spayed as we have time. Their surgery is more difficult and the recovery time more extensive. We can only handle 2-3 spay recoveries at a time so there is a waiting list of females to be taken care of.



Mother & Daughters

neutered and back in their homes resting assured there will be no more babies there.

The pigs that come to the sanctuary as permanent residents also need to be spayed and neutered.

Getting the males neutered as they arrive is the priority. Since they can remain fertile for 45 days, they must



Hershey

During 2017 there were 28 males neutered and 34 females spayed for a total of 62 pigs. So far in 2018 we've gotten 20 males and 9 females altered. It's

very important to get this done mainly to prevent further reproduction but also for the health of the pigs.

Males can develop

testicular cancer if unaltered. The majority of females will end up with uterine tumors as they age. Getting the pigs altered gives them the possibility of a longer, healthier life. Thanks to your donations we can provide this service to owners in need as well as to the pigs residing at the sanctuary. We truly appreciate your support to fulfill the goals of Ironwood's Mission!



Spencer & Ginger

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Reasons I Should be Neutered

1. **Stop the Breeding!!** There are too many of us pigs that nobody wants already. No more babies please!

2. **I stink!** I'm not kidding folks! An unaltered male pig reeks! I emit a nasty odor to mark my territory and alert other pigs to my presence. Pee-Yoo!!

3. **I can be aggressive!** When I get around other pigs I sort of lose my head and want to charge everyone. I am very defensive and won't think twice about goring you.

4. **I am determined to get out of my pen.** I will push and shove and jump and climb...whatever it takes. The majority of pigs picked up as strays are boars. I am out looking for love.



Finn

5. **I am destructive!** I'll rip apart blankets and carpet flooring and I mean totally shred them. I can smash and fold a wading pool until it's completely useless.



Finn

6. **I don't eat well.** I get so busy destroying stuff and strutting around showing off how tough I am that I can't be bothered to eat all my food.

7. **I will mount anything and everything.** Excuse my crudeness but it's true. Dog houses, toys, your leg, blankets, other pigs male or female....it doesn't matter what it is.

8. **I act just plain weird!** Yep, I'll froth at the mouth, attack the water hose, jam my face through the fence, chomp my teeth like a madman, bite the fencing, etc.

Once I get neutered it does take about 45 days for all the o b n o x i o u s behavior and testosterone to get out of my

system. I gradually calm down and in most cases become a nice, peaceful gentleman.

The average cost of a neuter surgery is \$318.55. So far in 2018 we have had 22 males come in that were not altered (and you can bank on more in the future.) If you would like to assist in covering their surgery costs, please mark your donation "Neuters". Thank you for helping to end the breeding and giving these guys a chance for a calmer, happier life.



Dad & Sons



Maverick

Bettina & Beethoven



That wound was still in the healing process when she arrived here. That was sort of the last straw for the owner. She was tired of the fights and said the

Bettina’s eyes, ears and face while she is relaxing. It must feel comforting because she’ll lie very still and let him do it.

Bettina and Beethoven will soon join the herd in the Assisted Living Phase 4 Field. This field started out as a home for elderly pigs still in good physical condition but simply ready for a smaller group to contend with. It has sort of morphed into a mix of pigs fitting that bill along with some overweight and/or shy pigs that prefer a calmer environment

These two beautiful pigs had a rough life before coming to Ironwood in January 2018. Their owner had been breeding them and selling the babies. When the market got

pigs were “useless” anyway since they weren’t reproducing.

Soon after their arrival Bettina went in to be spayed and have a thorough exam of all her past wounds. She did very well during her surgery and had a good recovery. Her dog attack wounds have all healed with no negative side effects. Beethoven had no wounds so apparently avoided the conflicts with the dogs. He absolutely adores



Beethoven

tough and non profitable, a neighbor tried to talk her into giving the pigs to the sanctuary but she wouldn’t release them. She finally agreed to at least let us get Beethoven neutered then he returned home. There were also pit bulls on the property that viciously attacked Bettina on more than one occasion. During earlier attacks one ear was completely bitten off while the other was shredded down to just a nub. Later the dogs tore off a piece of Bettina’s right rump taking most of her vulva as well.



Bettina

Bettina! He loves to nuzzle her while she is lying down. Beethoven has this strange habit of gently licking and kissing

with less competition. Beethoven is a very sweet, gentle guy that enjoys being petted and getting back rubs. Bettina is curious but still a bit wary of contact. They now have a safe place to call home and the opportunity to form friendships with other pigs while maintaining their own relationship. Your donations make this life possible for Bettina, Beethoven and so many other pigs. Thank you!

...Donna

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Clark, Neutered in 2017