

IRONWOOD

Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence

ISSUE
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Huey

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2016

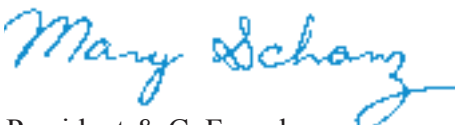
Dear Supporter,

We have reached another milestone. It is our fifteen year Anniversary. What were my expectations when we started and how have they been right or wrong? Having volunteered for nearly two years at another pig rescue, now our Annex, I was pretty familiar with pigs and their personalities. I had worked in the animal rights community for many years, so I had a strong commitment to animal rights and their welfare. Ben and I had a property we had agreed to sell as start up money to get us started. We had both retired so we could work full time building the sanctuary and working there. So things looked good and we saw the green light. We had fallen in love with the pigs where we volunteered and knew there was a need and possibly an impending disaster if we did not move ahead. We were correct about this since we bought what is now our Annex in 2003 in foreclosure and had taken nearly 100 pigs from there during 2001 and 2002.

Overall we had much more wrong than right. We thought our numbers would remain in control by adoption and attrition. We thought we could supplement our income with grants and by boarding pigs. We thought the pig fad was pretty much over and soon there would not be so many needing homes. We were wrong about all of the above. Pigs live much longer than I thought, not 10 to 12 years but more like 14 to 18 years and sometimes beyond, needing much more care along that path. Good adoptive homes are rare, not many people board pigs and grants are elusive. Instead of the pig fad fading it is back in spades with the "micro mini" fad.

So what expectations were right? We have saved well over a thousand lives including all the pigs at our Annex whom we had grown to love. We have not just saved their lives but have given them a place to call home and lifetime companions to live out their natural lives with in peace. Of all expectations these are the ones that count the most and why we are still here. We have also provided comfort to so many people who have had to give up their pig or pigs and were so afraid there would not be a good safe home for them. One expectation not on our list that has been fulfilling is the many volunteers who take great pleasure in helping out pigs and visitors who have so much fun coming to visit our sanctuary and our pigs. Our commitment to these animals has never wavered although the path has been so much more difficult than I could have ever prepared myself for. The tasks are monumental and the physical and mental stresses are sometimes overwhelming.

But never in my wildest dreams could I have had the expectation that we would have so many wonderful supporters who would be willing to support our nearly 600 pigs. Everyone told us no one wanted to help pigs, only cats and dogs. Thanks to all of you, the naysayers were wrong. You have delivered fifteen years of success to our sanctuary and made it possible to have a wonderful pig home that we all can be proud of. Thank you for fifteen good years.



President & CoFounder

Highlights, Past & Present

First 5 Years

Six Acre Field: In the fall of 2001 we completed our first large enclosure and began to move pigs in, creating our first herd. Over the years this six acres has been subdivided to create different fields for herds with varying needs and abilities.



Sponsor Program: To raise funds for the sanctuary, Donna developed a sponsor program. Joel from New York signed up as our first sponsor for a handsome pig named Taylor. This has grown to be a major source of financial assistance for the pigs.



Assisted Living Field: A new field was built in 2003 dedicated solely to our elderly pigs needing special care and attention. As that field's population reached its maximum, Assisted Living Phases 2 and 3 were developed during 2004 for the increasing number of special needs pigs.



Annex: The sanctuary originally known as Pigs*A*Lot in Picture Rocks, AZ was incorporated into Ironwood after the property went up for sale in a foreclosure auction in May of 2003. The Annex is still home to a herd of 18 pigs.

Open House: Ironwood had its first Open House in November of 2003. This annual event is a great opportunity for supporters and visitors to tour the sanctuary and meet the resident pigs.



Large Rescues: In July of 2004 Ironwood took in 46 pigs from St. Matilda's Sanctuary when the owners decided to close their doors for personal reasons. There were other group rescues from an abuse case in Florida as well as the overcrowded Pigs*A*Lot before its closure.

Second 5 Years

Four Little Hoglets: Ironwood took in a litter of four adorable hogs from the Humane Society in June of 2006. Buttercup and Bubbles are sorely missed, but Blossom and Mojo Jojo are still here amazing visitors with their size and sweetness.



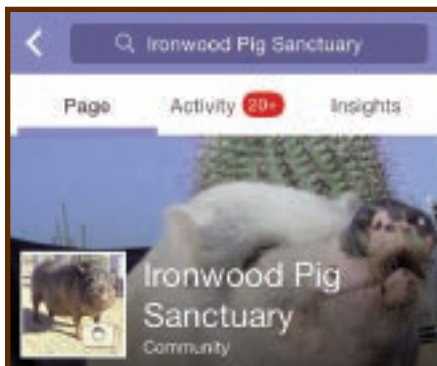
Field Expansion: The pig population continued to grow beyond our expectations, so another six acres was enclosed on the west side of the property during 2006-07. Today that addition is subdivided into ten different fields providing a home for a total of 213 pigs.

More Large Rescues: In 2008 an abuse case in Peoria, AZ led to the rescue of 33 pigs including three pregnant females who soon gave birth to another 13 bringing the total to 46 pigs. An Apache Junction, AZ sanctuary in poor condition finally closing its doors after years of attempts to shut them down, brought in nearly 40 more pigs during 2010.



Electricity: After years of depending on a diesel generator for power, Ironwood finally gets “real” electricity in the fall of 2008. It was a happy event since we no longer had to listen to the roar of the generator running several times each day.

Cryogenic Medical Equipment: With a training workshop and donated cryogenic equipment from Mike Brymill and family in January of 2010, Ironwood staff is now able to conduct cryosurgery to freeze spots of skin cancer on our white pigs. Being able to do this procedure on site is less stressful for the pigs as well as more economical.



Facebook: In June of 2010 Taryn got Ironwood’s Facebook page up and running. She posts pictures, videos and information about the daily happenings at the sanctuary. Currently there are over 6800 followers on Facebook being entertained by our pigs.

Third 5 Years

New Water Tank: In the summer of 2011 we added a 65,000 gallon holding tank to increase our available water supply. The four storage tanks totaling 112,000 gallons are filled by a combination of our well water and water brought in from town in large water trucks.



Desert Rescue: The latest of several desert rescues over the years brought in a family of six scruffy pigs in June of 2013. Karter was pregnant and later gave birth to six babies.



Blood Transfusion: During a difficult recovery from spay surgery in March of 2015 Lulu required a blood transfusion to save her life. Theo donated his blood to help her. It was the first transfusion for any of our pigs as well as a new experience for the vets.



California Pigs: A group of six pigs from two Animal Control Centers in California made the long trip to Ironwood in May 2015. The group included yet another pregnant female. Jezebel gave birth to nine babies a few weeks later.

Amputation: In the summer of 2015 Penelope developed a severe bone infection in her toe and had her outer dew claw amputated. The successful surgery was another first in our history...the only amputation for an Ironwood pig.



Adoption Increase: We adopted out more pigs during 2015 than any other year in our history. This was due to the ever increasing number of young pigs and babies arriving at the sanctuary.



THE FUTURE

Who knows what the future holds. We're willing to bet it will include more pigs! One thing for certain though...the future of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is in your hands. YOUR support ensures the continuation of our efforts to provide the best care and best home possible for pigs in need. ---Donna

Stray Pigs

We are used to hearing about stray dogs and cats but stray pigs? Many who come here for a tour are surprised as we go along and I point out so many stray pigs that have come to us over the past year or more.

We have always had an occasional stray who will end up at Animal Control or we will get a call to come get a stray who has shown up in someone's yard.



Indeed one of our first pigs, Taylor came from Animal Control and was found walking down Taylor Lane southwest of Tucson. Also Tucker who has been with us for many years appeared in a lady's yard as a full grown full bodied pig. In other words fat!



Jeffrey

I was in pretty rough shape, skinny and beat up when Ironwood came to get me from the lady who saved me. But look at me now, a happy growing boy! Who said hog?



Opal

I was running loose for over a month in Catalina. I came here then got adopted to a wonderful new home.



Edgar

The people who found me treated me well, but now I have a big field and piggies to run with.

But the pattern has changed. So far this year of the 18 pigs we have taken in 7 of them have been strays, 1 abandoned, 4 from a hoarder and the balance of 6 were

routine owner releases. Last year counting the babies born to Jezebel who was a pregnant stray from Animal Control in CA, we took in 31 strays. The changed pattern is that most of these pigs have been young as well as both male and female. It is not uncommon to get a young stray



Minnie

I was a tiny little girl when a kind lady found me wandering in her neighborhood and brought me here.

unneutered male (boar) in since they often break out of unsecured fencing. However, the past year and this year we have taken in many young females abandoned in parks or running in the streets.

Once again I lay this at the feet of the breeders and those buying what they think are "micro mini" pigs without knowing a thing about what they are getting into. This crisis continues to rage and sweet pigs continue to become homeless. All of these pigs have had to be spayed and neutered at our expense thus delaying the spaying of females already in residence waiting their turn.



Pamela

I just love people so I'm not sure how I ended up on the streets of Casa Grande.

An additional impact to the community we try to serve is that people who are legitimately trying to find a home for their pig for



Polly

How lucky I am that a lady in Wittmann found me and made a pen for me just days before I had my nine babies. We were all saved.

whatever reason, are being pushed to the back of the list. When a person does the right thing and takes in a pig that they find wandering the streets or abandoned in a park we must help them out first.

Please help us spread the word by getting on all your social media and by telling family and friends



Princess & Rusty

Cord used to work here, so when he found us he knew if he brought us to Ironwood we would not be eaten like most hogs are.

Do Not buy a pig under any circumstances.

These pictures are some of the many pigs we have recently rescued as strays. They are now safe here with us and some have been adopted into good homes.



Sweet Pea

I was running the streets of Peoria when a lady coaxed me into her yard and called Ironwood. She gave me a cute name.

Their lives now have a good outlook because of good Samaritans plus our ability to take them in made possible by your support.

---Mary



Tennille

I am one of Polly's kids. Seven of my brothers and sisters got adopted so I made friends with Jezebel's kids.



Miss Piggy

A nice man found me on the street and kept me for a year, but one of his big dogs tried to eat me so he called Ironwood.



Amelia & Jeni

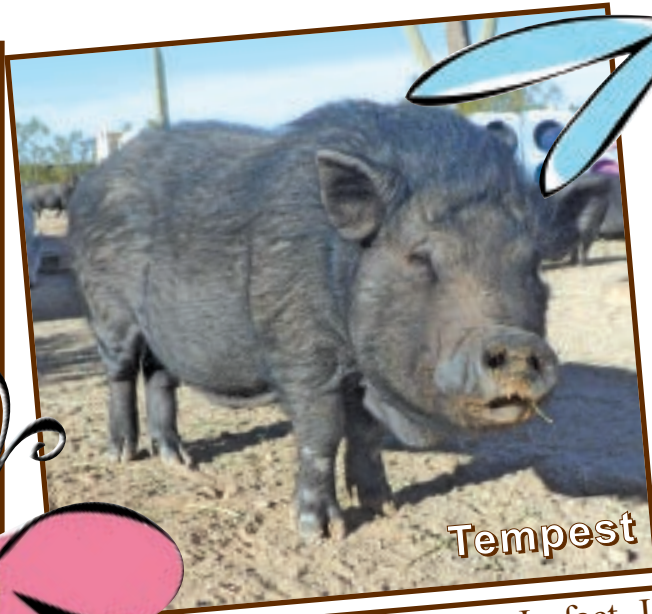
I was found first by a young couple riding a bike in a desert park and a few days later my sister Amelia was found by the park ranger. They all knew to call Ironwood to save us.

Sponsor a S



Hammie

My sister and I were being sold on Craigslist as a "breeding pair". Yikes! Thank goodness someone saw the ad and got Ironwood involved to prevent that.



Tempest

I have been here a while. In fact, I was the Cover Girl for the August 2008 newsletter right after my rescue! I had a sponsor once but it didn't last long.



Edgar

I was a stray around a rural nei nice people tried owners but had n got me plac

Most of the pigs featured this month are long time residents of the sanctuary that had sponsors in the past but are now available again. I hope you will consider choosing one of them to be an "honorary member" of your family. Your \$30 monthly donation will go towards the daily care of your pig. You will receive pictures and a letter telling your pig's background. Updates and new pictures will be sent out again later in the year. Please join our family of pig sponsors today!



Donna & Barton



Boudrette

My family and I mountains. Our wat had no food and had by dogs. We would Ironwood's help.

Special Pig!



I was found wandering in my neighborhood. Some people tried to find my owner but had no luck, so they placed me here.



Noah

I was part of a huge rescue in an abuse case. Most of my family members have sponsors now but I never got one. I would love to have new "parents"!



Vittles

I destroyed my owner's condo and terrorized the family. But hey, what do you expect a 200 pound pig to do in a tiny condo? I claim temporary insanity due to boredom!



I lived up in the mountains where the water was frozen, we had all been attacked and I could have died without support.



Princess

I first came to Ironwood over 12 years ago. I live in one of the special care areas now and never thought I'd be in my golden years without support.



Flower

After ten years together, my family moved away and left me behind. That really hurt my feelings, but I've made a home here and have new piggy friends.

AND THE WINNER IS....

During a tour of the sanctuary this spring, one of the visitors asked me which pig had lived here the longest. Although I could rattle off names of pigs I knew that had come during the first year or so that we were open, I had to do some research to pinpoint exactly who was the answer to that question. And the winner is Oliver! Ironwood officially opened its doors to receiving pigs in June of 2001 with Claire and Popeye being the first to arrive. Sadly, both of those pigs have passed away; Claire in January



Oliver

2015 and Popeye in January 2016. Oliver came with his elderly friend Benjamin in August of 2001. Oliver is still with us at the age of 18, living in Phase One of the Assisted Living Fields. He has arthritis, as do most of our elderly pigs, but he still putters around his area each day. Oliver sleeps in the barn with his pals Sylvia and Bruce.

Now, Miglet a resident of Assisted Living Phase 5 would like to argue that he should win that



Miglet

honor because he came to the sanctuary thirteen days before Oliver. But there's the slight issue of him getting adopted not long after that. Miglet, a 17 year old whose hairy facial features remind me of a werewolf, lived with his adopted family for many years before returning to the sanctuary. So technically he has not actually lived here as long as Oliver. But Miglet still thinks he deserves a prize of some sort....perhaps something edible!

Looking back at the pigs that arrived during our first year, Oliver and Miglet are the only ones from 2001 that are still with us. However, there are over 45 that came during 2002 still enjoying life at the sanctuary. These pigs range in age from 14 to 17 years old. A few of them have been transferred into Assisted Living or Hospice due to their physical limitations but 37 of them are still out in either the Main, East, West or North fields. That's a pretty amazing number considering that the average life span of a pot bellied pig is 14-18 years.

The Main Field was the first field built at Ironwood. Seventeen of the current population of forty-six are pigs that arrived during the year 2002. Over the years we have rescued numerous strays running loose in the desert, but Flapjack was one of the first of those. His brother Eddie passed many years ago, but Flapjack is still going strong at age 15½.



Flapjack

Georgia and Waylon, the 16 year old parents of Bobbi were released to us by their owner over 14 years ago. These three pigs are still enjoying life together out in the field. Collie was just a tiny



Waylon

baby when he came to the sanctuary. He has lived nearly his entire life in the Main Field. Collie is proudly hanging on to his alpha position within the herd and is quick to let the newest



Collie

youngsters know who's boss.

In January of 2002 we took in 76 pigs from an overcrowded sanctuary to help ease their burden and give their remaining pigs more space. The healthiest of those, 57 in all, were placed in the East Field which was built



Gumby

specifically for them. Today there are 16 pigs still living in that field and 3 others who have moved to one of the assisted living areas due to increased problems with arthritis. Gumby, Summer, Martin and Shannon just to name a few are all in their upper teens. They have enjoyed over 14 years of a peaceful life at Ironwood.



Summer

Over in the West Field Jumper is the only one remaining of the pigs that came in the early years. He was part of a group of seven pigs that came from a huge rescue



Jumper

effort in southern Florida. A large number of badly abused pigs were taken from their home and transported to several different sanctuaries across the south and southwest states. At age 15, Jumper is doing amazingly well. He does have arthritis but is still strong and getting around fine. Although all of his original buddies are gone, he has continued to make friends with the new pigs that have joined his herd over the years.

During the fall and winter of 2002



Squiggy

any young healthy pigs that arrived were placed in our North Field to join the growing herd there. None of that group are still part of the herd, but Squiggy, Lisa Marie and Latasha do live in North inside a fenced off area that

was created for a few of the elderly pigs that weren't quite ready for Assisted Living but couldn't physically handle the youngsters that were joining their herd. In this special area these pigs have a quiet calm place of their own living with pigs they've known for years who are all in similar physical condition. Shirley and Duane, also two of the early North Field pigs have been transferred to special care areas.



Latasha & Lisa Marie

As I prepared for writing this article, it really made me stop and think hard about these pigs and their lives. Ironwood has been here for 15 years now and we have given the pigs I mentioned as well as many, many others a long, peaceful, happy and safe life. We have been able to provide them with shelters, blankets, pools, food and medical care. But none of it would have been possible without YOU. Your support is what has made the past 15 years the best years for these beautiful, lovable animals. These pigs are very dear to me and I love them as my friends, but I would never have met them or been able to help them all these years without you. Thank you!!

---Donna

Woolly Bully

Most of you know about our popular couple Sarah and Woolly Bully. They have been known as quite the inseparable pair. Pictures of them spooning and smiling have often graced our calendars, newsletter and social media pages. Sarah even wrote an article in our January newsletter.



Woolly Bully & Sarah

good as now she still has someone to cuddle her. Most recently she has been seen with Samuel and often with Ferdy. We've always worried about when Sarah and Woolly Bully would get split up, how lonely the other would be. It's nice that Sarah has been preparing and was able to make that transition.

Our older pigs have been really great about being there for each other during these times. They really seem to know when someone needs a friend. It's not only hard for us to say goodbye to our pig pals but it's tough and important for them to say goodbye to each other too.

We recently had to say goodbye to Woolly Bully. We knew he was nearing the end and he let us know when he was ready. He will be greatly missed. Not only was he a great friend to Sarah, but he was known as a gentle giant who always had a smile on his face. It was hard seeing him get older and slower. He will always be remembered, by us and by Sarah.

We knew Sarah was preparing for Woolly Bully's passing as she was acting differently with him in his last days. She stayed near him the night before we said goodbye. We know that she was aware of what was going on.

In the last couple of months Sarah has been making some new friends in the barn. This has been

---Taryn

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 49 and 35 cents)
 Other denominations can also be used
 Used Blankets are always welcome
 Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
 Animal Crackers
 Probiotics
 Children's Multivitamins (NO IRON)
 Fig Newton Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
 Mucinex
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucial & NOT Orange Flavored)
 Utility Knives
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules
 Stool Softeners
 Duct Tape (Heavy Duty Preferred)
 Denosyl (425 mg ONLY)

GIFT CARDS

Walgreen's
 Home Depot
 Lowes
 Discover
 MasterCard
 Office Max
 Walmart
 Amazon
 Office Depot
 Target
 Fry's
 Staples

We have a wish list on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). They offer free shipping on many items if you sign up for Amazon Prime.



Planned Giving

Thank you for considering the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your estate plans.

Creating a will is an essential part of securing your legacy and your family's future. Without a will or trust, state laws will determine how your estate is distributed and your wishes may not be fulfilled as you intend. By thoughtfully constructing an estate plan, you can ensure that your family and your legacy are protected as you desire.

A gift by will, also known as a bequest, is an easy and flexible way to make a meaningful contribution to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Let your legacy reflect your heart. If your heart is in the animal rescue and care work of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a bequest will ensure that future generations of needy pigs will receive vital support.

Sanctuary Sustainers Urgently Needed

Almost everyday Ironwood receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, "Where will the money come from to help this one?" The answer is simple: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$1 or \$100, will be charged to your credit or debit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution. Or if you prefer, go to the Support page of our website at www.ironwoodpigs.org and make your monthly donation by PayPal.

Thank you for caring!

PayPal Donations

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 Or if you have a PayPal account you can make a donation directly by using our e-mail address ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

We accept donations with the four shown credit or debit cards for your convenience.



Front and Back Covers



Little wonder since this is our Fifteen Year anniversary issue that we would be featuring some of our pigs who have been with us fifteen years or nearly fifteen years.

Huey and his brothers and sister arrived with 13 adult pigs from an over

burdened rescue in Apache Junction on April 6, 2002. They were a litter of six babies. Savannah, the only girl, was adopted and moved to Missouri. Two of the little boys were adopted and later returned to us. They had been named White Socks and Black Socks and were put in a different field upon their return. Huey, Dewey and Louie remained with us and they were the best of friends. Sadly Dewey passed away years ago during surgery. He had a large stone in his urethra.

Huey and Louie have remained in our Main Field these past fourteen years and are totally bonded to one another. As you can see from Huey's ears he has had his issues over the years, but he and Louie are both pretty mellow now and don't get into many fights. Until recently, since they are now getting older, one could go down to the Main Field any evening and they would both be there grazing on any last scraps of hay that they could find, then they would retire together to one of the shelters. It is adorable to see how they both get crammed into one of the smallest shelters for two large pigs even through there are plenty of larger shelters for them to choose from. Even if one gets sick and has to come into a pen for a period we bring them both in so they will still be with each other. They are friends forever.



Page 16 IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY Issue 70

Sneezy and Dwarf are part of our history for sure. Sneezy was at the sanctuary that is now our Annex when we started there as volunteers in late 1998. Dwarf may have been there when we started volunteering as well or he may have been born in 2000. Sneezy and Dwarf both stayed at the Annex for many years after it became our place in 2003. But when it became too difficult for them to get around due to arthritis, we brought them here to our main facility where they now live in our Special Needs East Field. This field has a few of the old timers who have come from the Annex as the need arose or who are retired from the East Field.

Sneezy, Dwarf and the 18 pigs remaining at our Annex as well as 24 others living in our East Field or special care areas are all that remain from the 200 plus pigs that lived at the Annex when we first volunteered there. They remind me of the World War II veterans who will one day soon all be gone and with them a lot of our history. All these pigs are 16 years or older now. They have enjoyed the past 15 years with us and have all been able to remain together even as they are retired to smaller fields. We are so thankful we were able to step in and buy the property in 2003 when it went into foreclosure and keep these gentle souls together to let them live out their natural lives. ---Mary

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.

Archer

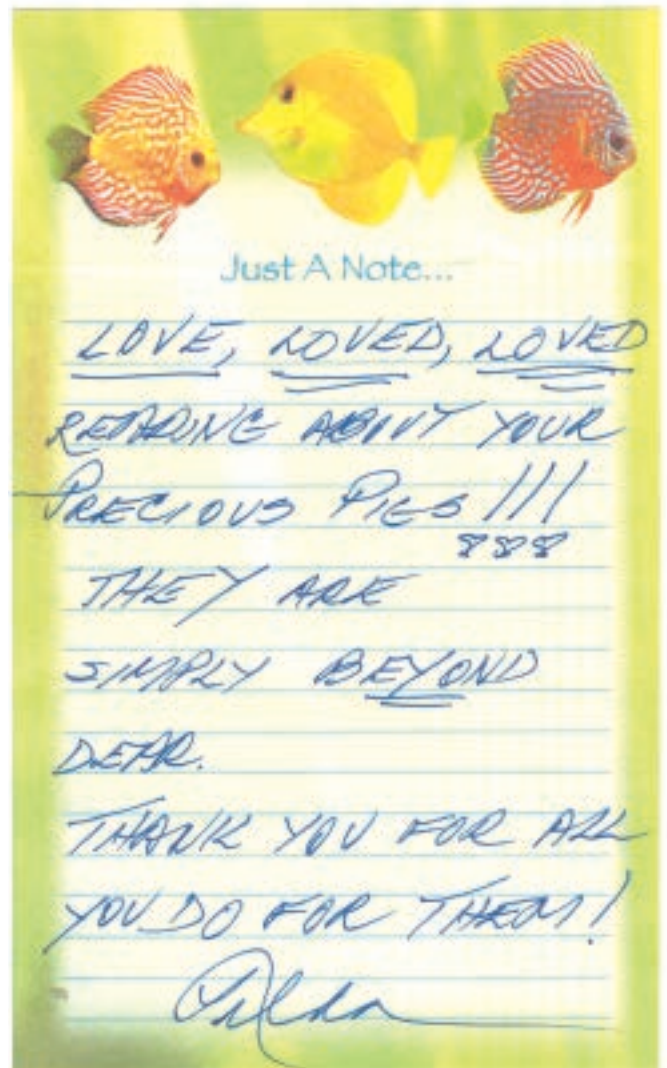


Thank you to everyone who sent in the loving donations to help with Archer's extensive medical bills.

On April 1st Archer was rushed back

to the vet clinic, fearing that his intestines had twisted again. X-rays confirmed that he was blocked and nothing was moving through. Archer's blood work showed severe anemia and kidney failure. He spent three days at the clinic receiving IV fluids and medication. A recheck on x-rays and blood work at that point showed further deterioration in his condition. The vet felt that further efforts would do nothing but postpone the inevitable and put Archer through unnecessary trauma and discomfort. After our agreement with her assessment, Archer was euthanized to end his suffering. Our boy put up a good fight, but his age and health problems proved to be too much. Thank all of you for your kind words of concern for Archer.

---Donna



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Sneezy

Dwarf