

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
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NOVEMBER
2008

Lucy

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
PIG SANCTUARY



Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 1, 2008

Dear Supporter,

Happy Holidays once again from Ben and Mary, all the Staff and most of all from the 560 Piggies here at Ironwood. Because of you all these pigs sleep with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads. This year we have grown dramatically because people continue to let these animals breed, others encourage the continued breeding by buying a pig from the breeders, and also because of an economic downturn people have found themselves without homes and jobs. As we all are aware foreclosures and evictions are very common at this time. Fewer animals have been adopted and many that have been adopted have been returned to us. We feel for all the families and their companion animals who are finding themselves in these very difficult situations. Therefore, we are stretching ourselves to try to do our part to help the pigs who are becoming homeless. This gives some families a little less worry knowing their pigs have found a lifetime home where they will be safe.

We have reason to Rejoice this season since, as I write this letter, our large family here at Ironwood is still held together by the cement of your donations and love that keeps us moving forward. As I look through our mailing list I am amazed to see support from every corner of the country and everything in between: Kihei, HI, Sitka, AK, Walla Walla, WA, Longmeadow, MA, Fruitland Park, FL, Agua Dulce, CA, Carefree, AZ, Lovelady, TX, Hatchechubbee, AL, Olive Branch, MS, Cattanouga, TN, Cockeysville, MD, Little Egg Harbor, NJ, Poughkeepsie, NY, Woodstock, CT, Kalamazoo, MI, Skokie, IL, Stillwater, MN, Muskogee, OK, Bozeman, MT, New Harmony, UT, Cripple Creek, CO.

You have all heard the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child.” In our case it takes a country to provide for so many homeless pigs. Many of you have never visited our pigs and may never visit, but we are humbled by the trust you have given us and we will continue to do all that we can to be worthy of that trust.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS Today as I write this letter little Raychel here with me was taken to our vet in an emergency since her spay sutures had failed and she was bleeding, a full month after her surgery. Thanks to you there was no hesitation in my decision to get her immediate care. She is recovering well.



Mary & Raychel, One of the Peoria Babies

Pearl's Christmas Present

Pearl and I have a long history together. As things go she is an ordinary black pig living in our Special Needs field. She is like so many other potbelly pigs living in one of the many fields we have to house what is now our 560 pigs. But, like looking into a crowd of



hundreds of people, none of them is really ordinary. They all become special when you learn their story and Pearl is no exception.

When I was volunteering at our Annex, which was at that time Pigs*A*Lot, Pearl arrived one day with a fat little baby. Lynnette said Pearl was abandoned in a horse trailer with no food or water and was trying to eat the flooring to ease her hunger and provide for her baby. She was skinny indeed and a small young pig at that time. The moms will give their all to make sure their babies are fed. In spite of her treatment she was friendly. Her baby was adopted almost

immediately and the new owner returned with Pearl's fat little cute piglet walking on a leash.

My heart went out to Pearl so when I was volunteering there she would follow me around the property. I often took a large pan of fruits and vegetables and grain and got her in a hidden spot so I could be sure she got her fair share. Soon thereafter a nice woman who had a cat sanctuary adopted her and her friend Piggy Sue so I lost track of her for some time. I later rescued some feral cats and was offered a place to house them at her home and once again became acquainted with Pearl and Piggy Sue. She was no longer the skinny little pig I knew but had grown very fat. After some discussion the two had their rations reduced and over time they began to loose weight.

Pearl, Piggy Sue and Arnold, a third pig living at the cat rescue, came to us after the property at the cat rescue went into foreclosure. They have lived in our Special Needs field since their arrival. Recently Bob, one of our staff, and I were looking for another pig during medical rounds, and Bob noticed

poor Pearl lying there with a prolapsed rectum. Lucky for her Bob noticed her and lucky for us we were able to get her to our vet that afternoon. However, the repair did not work well and soon we realized she had tumors that would require surgery. With the expertise of our vet, Dr. Barbara Page, she was able to remove three tumors, all of which were benign. They were located right at the base of the rectum so no damage was done to the intestines.

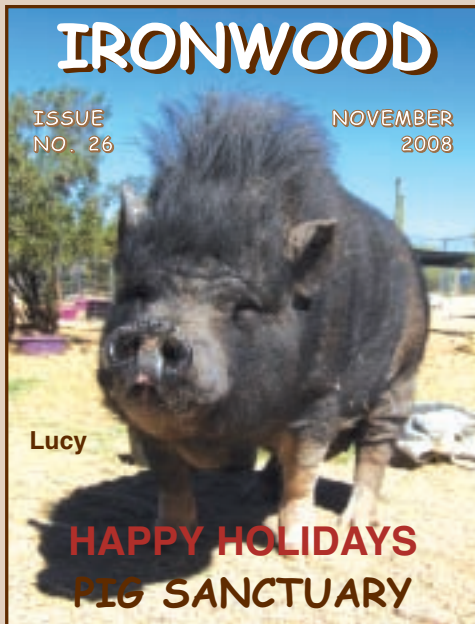
I am so glad that Pearl is still with us and she is well and happy again and back in her field with her friends. With your help we were able to give her the treatment she needed. Pearl is one "ordinary" pig of 560 who all have their stories to tell that are often quite complex. Pearl is a Pearl of a girl.

--Mary



Pearl and Mary

Cover



We received a call from the Sheriff's department saying that there had been a death and a pig was left behind that needed a home. We met the Sheriff and he took us to Lucy's home. We easily got her in a carrier since she was hiding in her shelter. I asked the officer for some information for our records about what were the circumstances of her owner's death and we were told it was not to be released to the public. While we will never know for sure we assume there may have been some foul play around Lucy's owner. She is a fearful pig but if you take the time to sit quietly with her she very much enjoys belly rubs and attention.

COLOR Newsletter

I would like to remind everyone, particularly our new supporters, to not worry about the cost of our full color newsletter. Because of the number of newsletters we print each quarter and our printer's relatively new efficient printer, the cost of color is only slightly more than black and white and the upgrade in paper did not cost us anything. In addition, the savings in postage due to mailing the newsletter folded more than paid for any cost due to color. We always try to make sure the maximum amount of your donation goes directly to take care of the animals.

And as a bonus, Newsletters Ink, Murray, Utah, has made a very generous donation of printing, including paper, for at least 2 more issues of our newsletter.

Our Volunteers

We have many jobs here at Ironwood and I often find myself falling behind on many important things; especially related to correspondence, organization, and transportation. Alan and Sarah have recently begun picking up donated items for us and picking up and delivering pigs from as far away as the Phoenix Humane Society. This can save Ben and/or I the whole day and we really appreciate their help.

Donna, who you all know from the sponsor letters and newsletter articles, has helped a lot with transporting pigs to be spayed or neutered and she and Bob, our long-term volunteer, spend most Wednesdays raking our large fields which goes a long way toward keeping Ironwood clean. Laura continues to rake the entire Annex on Fridays. Barbara L continues to help us with much of our office work and comes

every Friday with treats for the pigs and waters all the fields for the pigs. Barbara D and her husband Bruce write many of our thank you notes and Ellen, Donna S, and Cindy help out with many of our thank you notes as well. And thanks to Stacey for doing all our proofing.

As always thanks to Danielle for bringing the fruits and veggies that we use for all of our pigs on special foods and treats for the others.

Again I want to thank the staff for the great work they are doing. They have hung in there through this long hot summer.

Thank you all so much. All of your help together saves Ironwood and our pigs many dollars that we don't have to spend on more staff and buying special foods.

--Mary

We Couldn't Do It Without All Your Support!

Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetime, but decided to link themselves forever 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.

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Ironwood's Sustainer program will benefit our wonderful pigs by providing a regular monthly income that will go directly to where it is needed most at the Sanctuary.

By joining as a Sanctuary Sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose, can be charged to your credit or debit card each month. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience.

To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

The costs involved in maintaining a safe and healthy pot-bellied pig sanctuary are significant. Food and hay, medicines, medical care, supplements for arthritis and other ailments, shelter and fencing, and maintaining living areas are but some of the costs.

Thank You For Caring.

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



If you would like, you can make secure donations to the Sanctuary using your credit card by going to our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

Our Staff's Favorite Pigs

When asked to pick a favorite pig for this section, everyone said the same thing.... "How do I pick just one?" We love all our pigs and it wasn't an easy decision, but these are some of the special ones.



Lee and Wilbur: I like the way Wilbur hangs out with me at my work station. He has made a spot for himself under the table.



Bobby and Petunia: Petunia started hanging out with me, following me around and even sleeps under my RV.



April and JJ: I just love JJ! He's the sweetest pig.



Dalton and Tripod: Tripod was the first one of the babies to come up to me. I like his "socks" even though he's missing one.



Glen and Sedona: Sedona is different and has a personality of her own.



Travis and Poky: I like Poky because he looks funny with his tongue poking out while he walks around.



Matt and Pigbody: Pigbody was the first pig who would let me give him a belly rub. He is gentle, calm and has a cute face.



Tim and Buttercup: The hoglets are special because they have grown up with me and I've known them their whole lives.



Beth and Boris: Boris' owners left him long ago as a boarder and are not able to visit often. He just seems so lonesome and I feel for him.



Donna and Pearl: Pearl has been a favorite of mine since she arrived 7 years ago. Her response to my voice and her willingness to let me lavish her with attention is very special to me.



Brian and Monkey: I like Monkey because she's curious about everything I do, she follows me around and she's cute.



Mary and Arnold: Arnold has so much character and personality. He is always in some kind of mischief and I so often get a good laugh when I see what he has been into. I just love him!



Ben and Annie: Annie is such a sweet pig. I love it when she sees me coming into her field and comes over for a belly rub. I have a long association with her starting with the time we took her brother to the vet to get neutered and saw the terrible conditions under which she lived. I was so happy when she finally came to Ironwood.

Thanks to all the staff that make it possible to take care of these and all the other pigs at Ironwood.

Sponsoring

Why not make sponsoring one of our sweet pigs a group effort? We have had school classes sponsoring a pig as well as office groups. We will send pictures of your sponsored pig to post on the bulletin board.

Newsletter

If you have friends or relatives that you think might enjoy our newsletter please send us their name and address and we will add them to our mailing list. Also consider giving a donation to the Sanctuary as a birthday or Christmas gift or even sponsor a pig as a gift for that special person.

Extra Support

We want to thank you so much for your continued support during these hard economic times. Our needs are greater because of the Peoria Rescue, reduced income and increased calls to take in more pigs due to pig owners losing their homes because of foreclosure and evictions.

We know you have been very generous and we appreciate it very much. If you can send a little extra that would be great but don't forget your donations have made it possible for us to care for the 560 pigs at the sanctuary.

Sponsor One of



Cookie

I give thanks that there are such comfortable shelters here at Ironwood. We get cozy blankets in the winter and nice shade ramadas over our mud wallows and pools in the summer. Now, I would really be grateful if everyone would just go away so I can continue my nap!



Princess

I am thankful that my hair grew back so I don't look like this picture anymore (at least until next summer!). Seriously though, I have been shuffled around to several different homes over the years and am grateful that I am here to stay in a field with lots of friends and people who take good care of me.



Mr T-Bone

I am thankful that I moved from the Annex to a field at Ironwood so I don't have to compete for food with other pigs. Things are so much more peaceful for me here.

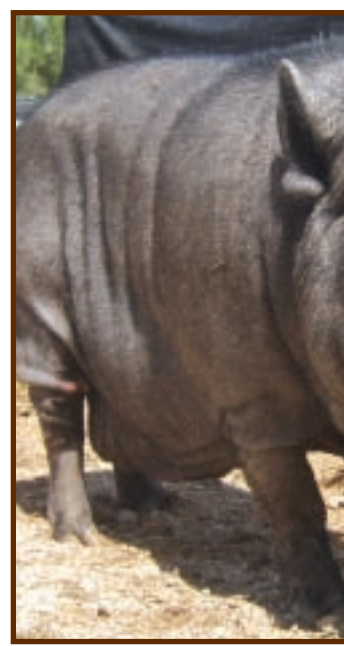
PLEASE JOIN OUR FAMILY

I am thankful for these pigs as well as all my other piggy friends here at Ironwood. All of us here are grateful for those who already sponsor a pig or pigs. Please join our family of sponsors by making a \$30 monthly donation to receive periodic updates and pictures of your special pig. Happy Thanksgiving!



Donna's Pets Jennifer & Vanessa

Donna



Our Sweet Pigs

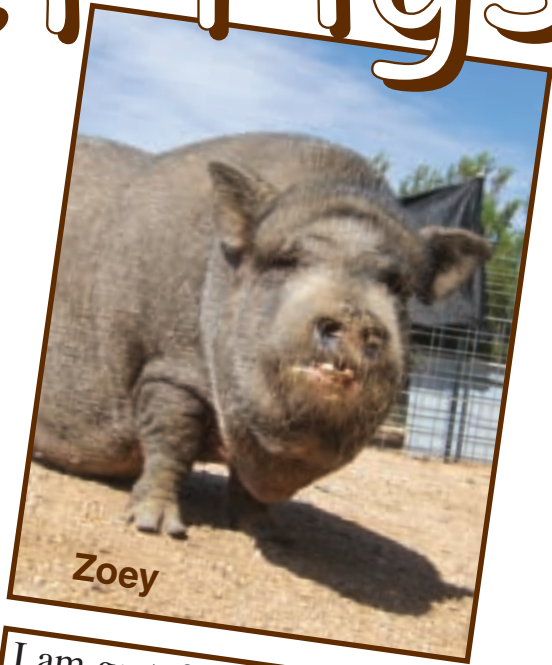


I was moved to a smaller area at Ironwood. I don't have to worry about anything with so many people here. It's much easier to live here now.



Penelope

I am very, very, very thankful (as is everyone who ever met me) that I got spayed after coming to live here. You would not believe the uncontrollable mayhem I caused every month!!! It was driving us all crazy. Thank you Dr. Carter and the people at Ironwood!



Zoey

I am grateful that Ironwood was able to take me in after my owner lost her home due to financial problems. I think this place is fabulous! All I need now is a porcine orthodontist!



Mickey

I give thanks every day that I was able to lose so much weight after coming here! I used to be SOOOO FAT! And look at me now... pretty handsome for an old man, don't ya think!



Apache

I'm thankful for this great big field with really cool hiding places under the palo verde trees, I'm thankful that my family is still with me, I'm thankful for the grain and hay we get every day, I'm thankful for mud wallows, I'm thankful for....(Somebody get Apache to shut up or we'll never get to eat!)

Open House!

You all are welcome to come to the Open House on Saturday, November 8, 2008, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You won't be disappointed. It is a nice experience seeing our sanctuary and visiting all of the pigs. Everyone had a great time during the last Open House touring the facilities, visiting with the pigs and relaxing in the Visitor Center. We will have snacks and drinks and there is no admission charge. I think the pigs had the best time of all! They certainly enjoyed all the company and attention including the petting and belly rubs. Let's make this year's annual Open House an even

bigger success! Invite your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to come on out and enjoy a day at the sanctuary. You should have received an invite with a map in the mail. If you didn't, please call Ben at



Mary With One of Her Tours

520-631-6015 or e-mail at ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com for directions, Mapping programs such as MapQuest are not correct. We will be conducting tours all day so don't miss visiting the pigs. If you were at the last Open House you will be surprised at all of the changes and the increased number of pigs. Come and visit the Peoria pigs. Our Peoria rescue pigs will be on the tour this year. All of you who read about them in our August newsletter will delight in seeing what a wonderful group they are and how happy they are that you all are supporting them. Ironwood is a special place and we are sure that you will enjoy the serenity of being away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Please mark your calendar and come out for a good time.

Good Bye Pamala

Many of you have seen articles about our Annex facility and from time to time pictures of Pamala and the pigs at the Annex. After more than six years with Ironwood, of which five of them she lived at our Annex facility and was the caregiver of the pigs there, Pamala has returned to her family in Texas. Good Luck Pamala and thank you for all the years you took care of the Annex pigs. Nipper, Lilly, and all the others will miss you, as I am sure you will miss them.

Shannon, Jeff and their son Gunner as newcomers to the Annex. We are very happy to have them with us and are very pleased to be able to leave the Annex pigs in their home. This is where many of them have spent their whole life and others have been there in excess of 8 or 9 years so we are very reluctant to move them and are delighted to have Shannon to take care of them.

---Mary



Pamala Feeding the Annex Pigs Fruits and Vegetables

We would like to welcome

Let There Be Light!

When we purchased the land for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary we knew that we were remote from power and accepted that we would need a generator and maybe solar to satisfy our power needs. We always thought that we would eventually get power which was over a mile away.



Power Comes to Ironwood

The early sanctuary had very modest power needs. We had a mobile home for a visitor center and one for the primary residence that the manager used. Cooling during the summer was accomplished with what we call here in Arizona “swamp coolers” where air is drawn through wet porous pads. The evaporating water cools the air except that during the Monsoon season, when we receive one half of our years rain in a two month period, the humidity is high enough that the cooler doesn’t work effectively and the house is warm and muggy.

In the early days, before we added the two 5th wheel trailers that we now use for staff housing and our new well with its larger pump, we

were able to run the refrigeration cooling in the houses while the generator was running. This gave us a two-hour break from the humidity three times a day. But today with all the loads on the generator we are not able to run everything during the summer when the need is greatest for cooling. We have a complex system where we power one house and the well and when the load drops somewhat we can add the other house. This way over the two hour period we are able to charge all the batteries needed to provide power when the generator is not running.

About three years ago our only neighbor within a mile radius and I decided that we should try and get “real” power to our respective facilities. There was a lot of work to do. We needed to acquire easements for over a mile to bring the power to us. As it has turned out this has taken a lot of time. With a combination of buying land along the right-of-way and getting easements from owners we were able to finally get easements from the source of the power to our properties. This has taken two years. Then we started working with our local power company. We were going to do poles, which was the cheapest and fastest option, but a complaining property owner sent us back to the drawing board to put the power underground; all 6000 feet!

Well we suffered through a series of design changes and delays and

finally after an additional year our neighbor’s son, Ryan, started digging the 5-foot-deep trench for the 14,400-volt power line

. Finally we now have power. As it turned out we connected the most important house first, the Visitor



Ben Turning off the Generator for the Last Time

Center which houses two of our staff along with the medicine and food preparation area for our sick pigs, on September 11, 2008. After a few days everything had been connected to power.

We expect to save a substantial amount of money because of the new power. We were paying \$4.50 a gallon for diesel fuel for the generator along with maintenance and battery replacement.

Mary and I went out last evening to check on the pigs and it was wonderful not having to listen to the generator’s evening run for the first time in 8 years. I’m sure the pigs liked it too.

--Ben

I've Heard It All



My name is Benjamin and at 16 years of age, I am one of the oldest pigs here at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. A little more than 7 years ago, my owners decided because of their advanced age and declining health they could no longer care for me and my friend, Oliver. That is the story for quite a few of the pigs who have arrived here. Seems I've heard all the excuses and reasons in the world for people having to turn their pigs over to Ironwood.



Desiree

Desiree was a stray running loose in the desert. Can you imagine someone dumping their pig in the desert of all places!? There's no

water! We can't survive on our own out there. Desiree is just one of several that ended up in that situation. A few others like Joey, for example, were strays wandering the city streets, which is also bad, but at least they have a better chance of finding water and getting rescued.



Roland

Roland was abandoned at his home after his owners moved away. There were many animals left behind that the new owner was willing to keep but poor Blind Roland wasn't one of them.



Dixie Lee

Dixie Lee's owner lost his job and couldn't afford to feed her and

Hazel any longer.



Megan

Megan said her owner just up and moved leaving her behind with the roommate who was not prepared to care for Megan. The roommate was able to find her a home at Ironwood.



Molly

Molly belonged to a young girl who graduated from high school and went off to college. Of course Molly couldn't go with her and live in a dorm room! The girl's parents didn't want a pig and the first thing they did was get rid of Molly.

This is one of my favorites! Tulley was living at a school run by nuns. He has epilepsy and the nuns thought that he was frightening the children every time he had a seizure. I think it must have been the other way around with the children frightening Tulley into having one! Oh well, he's been real happy living here.



Tulley

One of my good friends, Pearl, has a very common story. Her owners got divorced and neither one of them wanted to take her.



Pearl

Nowadays with the economy being so tough, many people have had their property put in foreclosure. They have nowhere to go, much less with a pig tagging along. Several had gotten evicted because of not being able to pay the rent any longer.

Difficult situations for both owners and pigs. Some things just can't be helped like when the owner dies. Most times, the surviving family members don't have a place to keep the pig or simply don't want the pig.

Then there's the excuses from the group of owners that just didn't think things out too well before getting a pig. "My homeowners' association won't allow me to keep a pig." (Hmmm, maybe you should have asked first!) "That pig is tearing up my grass/yard/flowers." (Well, what do you expect from an animal that naturally needs to root!) "My pig is destroying the carpet and the furniture." (Gee, do you think the pig might be happier outdoors?) "The pig keeps breaking out of the fence." (Perhaps building a stronger fence would solve that one.) "This pig has gotten too big." (My, my! Imagine a pig that has grown up to the size of, well..... a pig!)

I'm sure I'll hear some new and imaginative stories as the years go by as well as repeats of the above. Like I said, some reasons are totally legit and unavoidable, some are rather silly and others are just plain excuses to get out of something they just don't want anymore. Every pig here has his or her story, but you know what? None of it is our fault! We're just pigs trying to get on with our lives and we're darn lucky to have somewhere like Ironwood to call home sweet home.

---Benjamin

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-682-4686 or e-mail at hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Donna trimming Navajo, one of her Pigs.

e-mail address

Our e-mail address has changed!

The Starband address is no longer valid. Please change your address book to ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

We are sorry if we missed any of your messages.

Memory Board



Many of our pigs are fed in feeding pens within their fields. They might not be able to compete with the others for food or in some cases they are able to get too much food. Some may be on diets so this is the best way to control the amount of food they eat.

We used to have the gates for these feeding pens closed with bungee cords so that the pig could push out when it was finished. However, pigs are pretty resourceful and the excluded pigs were able to figure out how to get into the feeding pens. We were forced to secure the gates and were concerned that if a pig was not released from the pen it might perish during one of our hot days or cold nights without shade or shelter. We added shade cloth and a bowl of water to each pen. But to really make sure no one was forgotten we have these memory boards. When a pig is released from its pen its feeding dish is placed in the memory board. By checking the memory board at the entrance to a field we can verify that all the pigs are out of their feeding pens.

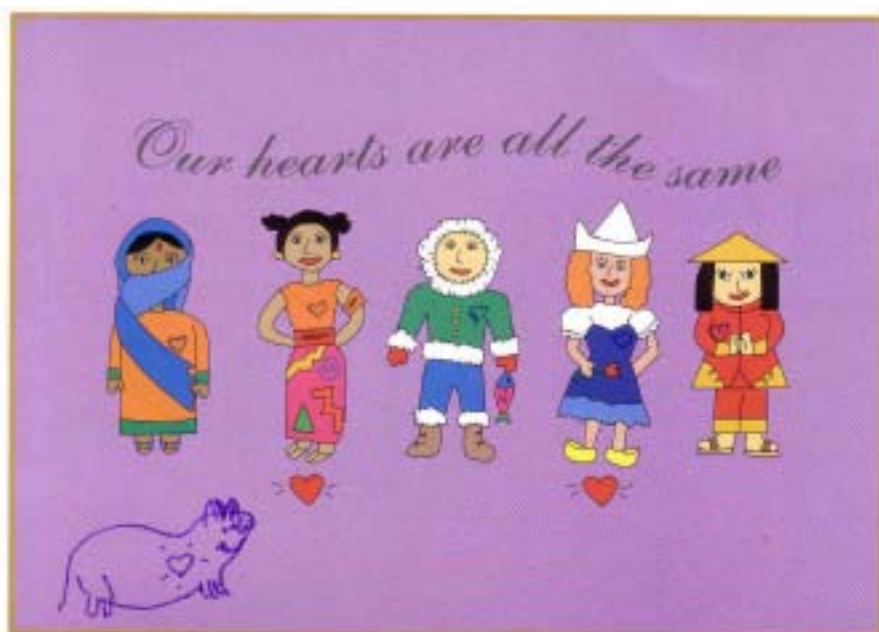
Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Stamps (42, 27, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, or Walgreens
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * New, Industrial Water Hoses
- * Zinc Oxide Ointment Such as Desitin
- * Antiacids such as Prilosec

Sanctuary Visits

If you can't make the Open House on November 8, 2008 from 11am to 3 pm and you still want to visit please call for a reservation. We do not have tours every day due to a vet visit, picking up new pigs, or short staffed. Please plan ahead if you are visiting from out of town and schedule a visit. We are a little over one hour from Tucson and two hours from Phoenix. Please call or e-mail for directions.



From Otis and His Person Char Feum

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.

Our Supporters Write:

Dear Ironwood -

I am so pleased to be able to help a pig. I think what all of you are doing is so important. I have 2 Cats - Both Strays, + we fixed them both - + Am very excited to have A Pig in our extended family. We are really going to enjoy getting pictures + info on our Sponsored Pig. Keep up the good work. Oh - By the by - Please do not sell my name to Any other Shelters, etc. Thank You!!

Love, Loralee and Vincent



Joey was recently adopted from the Sanctuary by Steph and Matt. He was a little unsocialized so when we hadn't heard about how He was doing we were a little concerned. A picture really is worth a thousand words. It seems that Joey has fit right into his new home. He also has two pig companions that were also adopted from Ironwood.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Even though many pigs and dogs get along together we ALWAYS recommend that you separate your dogs and pigs when you are not home.

Dear Mary,

Enclosed find a check in the amount of \$100.

I'm happy to say this is yet another opportunity to give a donation to Ironwood Pig Sanctuary from my efforts of collecting and recycling cans and bottles.

I continue to collect the containers in gutters, empty lots, I have friends, and neighbors, that save them for me as well, and have now given over \$10,000 to organizations that save animals.

I just received your latest newsletter, and also just accumulated another \$100 -- perfect timing!!

No matter what kind of animal -- spay/neuter works. It's too bad people don't "get" it.

Thank you for all you do for these wonderful pigs.

Judy

Scout, Alf, Rosalyn, Rooney & Friends



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