

IRONWOOD

A black pig with a grey mane is lying in a field of green grass and yellow wildflowers. The pig is looking towards the camera. In the background, there are some structures and a fence.

ISSUE
NO 40

MAY
2011

Claire

Ten-Year Anniversary!
PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2011

Dear Supporter,

As we celebrate our ten-year anniversary we are looking back at milestones and I would have to say that celebrating ten years as the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a milestone in itself. Ten years of joy and sadness, hardships and successes, laughter and anger; and through it all never losing track of why we are here and what our mission is. Pigs need a home and we are here to provide a home for them. It seems simple enough at first glance, but simple it is not. Our first realization that our original goal of 125 pigs was unreasonable and the fact that adoption and attrition would keep our numbers stable was naïve, brought us to the reality that we would need to raise money to provide for our pigs.

We have had to learn to run a business, be managers, hire staff, build a facility, deal with all the day-to-day emergencies, and most importantly care for six hundred pigs and raise the funds to care for them properly. Our newsletter and sponsor program were born to help with the task of raising the funds and they have become the lifeblood of our organization. You, our supporters who receive our newsletter, breathe life into our sanctuary and keep our pigs alive. We would not nor could not have expanded to our current size over these ten years without your help.

We all walk out to the fields in the early morning to start the daily routine of feeding and watering as we have done for ten years now, and the anxious pigs run and squeal with delight and anticipation of being fed. Their tails are held high and the young ones leap over things to be there first. It has certainly not always been true in their prior lives, but since their arrival at Ironwood they have never missed a meal - ever. And when the ATV arrives loaded with produce every pig in the field begins to converge on the gate. We have followed their lives from leaping and squealing to the final days when we must hand feed them and help to lift them so they can get up, to the final dignity when we help them continue their journey into the next world.

For these hundreds of pigs that have passed through our gates in these past ten years, this has been our promise to them and their lives are our celebration. We are proud of our sanctuary that has developed over these past ten years and we are so grateful to all of you who have come along with us, some from our early beginnings.

Thank you for caring,



Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder

PS: Having spent some time reviewing our records for this anniversary edition, although histories and ages are not exact with rescues, we now have nearly 400 pigs who are over 10 and of these the majority are 13 and older. The face of the Sanctuary has matured in these 10 years.



Oreo & Mary 2003
He Was My Special Friend

How We Started

Who would have thought that when Mary and I read the article in our local newspaper, the Arizona Daily Star, about a pig sanctuary in the Tucson area that needed help, that 12 years later here we would be at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, the largest pot-bellied pig sanctuary in the country by some estimates.

At the time Mary and I had very little contact with Pot-Bellied Pigs. Well, we soon found out and learned to love them. We got deeply involved with the sanctuary in trouble and put in a much needed water system, built numerous shelters, enclosed the large car port for a barn, bought feed and hay, took care of the medical needs, and produced a quarterly newsletter.

The sanctuary was overcrowded with over 200 pigs on 2 acres. Pigs were everywhere including the front and back yards of the house and even living on the porch, the "Porch Pigs" we called them.

Mary and I would make the rounds twice a week to all the grocery stores that would give us their throw-away



Preparing Produce For the Pigs at the Annex



Ironwood's Property

produce. We would bring it home and spend the day preparing it for the pigs. The next day we would load up our pickup and take it to the sanctuary. The pigs loved it. A volunteer, Willy, would also bring a large load of produce once a week and all the other volunteers would prepare it at the sanctuary.

Calls kept coming in to take in more pigs. The sanctuary was overcrowded and could take no more pigs. We started a list and had many pigs on it when we decided to start the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

We started looking for a suitable piece of property for the sanctuary. It became apparent to us that land in our home county of Pima, because of zoning, would not allow a large sanctuary. After a number of months of searching we found the ideal piece of land in Pinal County which was adjacent to Pima County and about 30 miles from Tucson. We sold a property we owned in California to help us get started on our new, and what has become, gigantic project. We purchased raw land with no water, power, sewer, or facilities of any kind.

We approached Donna Thomason about joining us in building the sanctuary. We wanted her to be

the manager. She jumped at the chance since she was ready for a change from her teaching career.

We installed the first mobile home which was to be Donna's residence. We were still working on drilling a well, putting in a septic tank, and installing a generator for power when Donna moved in. You can read what it was like for her in her article on page 5.

Somehow with much work we got it together and took in our first two pigs, Claire and Popeye, on June 10, 2001, in the middle of the hottest month of the year here in Arizona.



Breaking Ground

Over the next year we rapidly grew to 200 pigs with about 90 pigs coming from the sanctuary where we volunteered and 19 coming from a struggling sanctuary in the Phoenix area.

Ironwood continued to grow. In May of 2002 we took in 7 pigs from a rescue in Florida along with many individual pigs in Arizona needing a home. Later that year we took in 10 pigs from a rescue in Tucson.

Continued on next page--

How We Started - Continued

In mid 2003 the original sanctuary where we started went into foreclosure. We bought the property along with the 85 remaining pigs there in the foreclosure sale and



New Arrivals From The Annex In The East Field

named it our Annex. We felt that this was our best option since it would have been very difficult for Ironwood to absorb the 85 pigs.

In late 2003 Ironwood received certification from the American Sanctuary Association that the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary meets the highest standards of animal care.

By early 2004 our population of pigs had grown to over 360!

In late May of 2004 we received a call that St Matilda's Pig Sanctuary was in a crisis. The main caregiver and her two sons had left and the remaining owner, Frank, could not care for all the animals and wanted us to take 46 of his pigs. On July 4th we brought St Matilda's pigs to Ironwood. We were now at 412 pigs.

In September of 2004 the previous owner of the Annex returned the 30 remaining pigs that she took with her when we purchased the property. At this point we had a total of 440 pigs.

Our new 6-acre expansion field was

completed in late 2006 in order to accommodate the increasing herd at the sanctuary. The main motivation for this field was to have a place where the Annex pigs could come if it was necessary to move them from their location in Picture Rocks, Arizona.

During three weeks in March/April 2007 Ironwood took in 17 pigs. It started with 2 males, a female and a baby male from Cornville, AZ and ended with the rescue of 9 pigs that we saved by purchasing them at the livestock auction.

Mid 2007 we were involved in another rescue of unsocialized pigs from a cruelty situation in New Mexico. Ten adults and 10 babies arrived. We were able to adopt out the 10 babies. However, 4 of them have been returned because of the caregivers' moving.

Along with taking in individual pigs during 2007, we also took in 5 abused pigs from a terrible situation in Show Low, AZ and Tina's 6 pigs when her husband passed away and she was unable to keep her home.

On April 15, 2008, we headed to Peoria, AZ with a large truck, volunteers and staff and every carrier we had in order to pick up 45 pigs from an uncontrolled breeding and abuse situation. We took hog panels and t-poles so that we could build a holding area and chute in order to corral the unsocialized pigs and direct them into carriers for transportation to the Sanctuary. When they arrived at Ironwood, they had their own temporary fields waiting for them, one for the males and one for the females. Once the males were neutered they were all moved to their



Ben, Mary and Donna

own field in our new 6-acre expansion area.

Today we still receive many calls to take in another pig from a divorce, home foreclosure, moving out of state or to a another home that won't allow pigs, abuse situation, or from someone that just doesn't want their pig. We struggle to take them all but that is impossible, so we do what we call triage and do not take the pig from a home where they are receiving good care and attention. Our numbers peaked recently at about 600 but we



Mary And Donna Enjoying A Moment With Their Friends

are down to about 575 now with 19 still on the waiting list.

---Ben

Ten Years...Already?!

Wow! Sometimes it's hard to believe it's been ten years since Ben, Mary and I made the decision to begin Ironwood. I had been teaching elementary school for eighteen years and had decided I was ready for a career change. I wanted to follow my heart's desire to work with animals full time and Ben and Mary wanted someone to live on site at the sanctuary.

Without my teaching salary, I could no longer afford my home in Tucson so renting out the house and moving to Ironwood was the perfect solution for all of us. Renters were quickly found, a lease was signed and



Solar Panels For Donna's Home

suddenly it was time for me to move out. We already had a double-wide trailer in place at the sanctuary but there was no water or electricity. But first things first...a fence was put up to make a yard behind the trailer so I would have a safe place for my two pigs and my deaf dog. Ready or not, here I came with the pigs, the dog and two cats!



Donna's Home At Ironwood

I lived out here for several weeks with no water or electricity during a hot May with the temperatures surpassing 100 degrees. It was so hot inside the house that all my house plants died, candles melted and I feared for my cats. I brought water from town in 5-gallon containers for my animals and myself. I would set gallon jugs of water out in the sun all day so I would have warm water to bathe with at the end of the day. I ate foods that needed no refrigeration or cooking (a sure way to lose weight if anyone wants to try it!). It was sort of like a camping trip that never ended! Ben eventually got a Port-A-John brought out which made life a little easier. I would go to my sister's house in town on Sundays to take a "real shower." It was a rather primitive way to live, but it sure made me appreciate things like running water, lights, refrigerators and air conditioning!

I was working a part-time job in town at night. I remember driving home from work one night, coming down the dirt road and seeing a glow through the trees up ahead. I was

holding my breath thinking I must be imagining things. As I pulled into the driveway there was a light shining outside my door. I began to cry when I realized I really had electricity!! My first thoughts were thank goodness the cats will be cooler and now I can buy ice cream! Ah, luxuries!

We've come a long way since those days ten years ago. It was an adventure but one with no regrets.

...Donna

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for 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.



Molly

Sometime early in October 2010, Pig Placement Network, Sewell, New Jersey received a call about a pig in Central Pennsylvania. She was six years old and her owners were moving to a location where they could no longer keep her. Everyone got to work trying to arrange housing and transportation. It was not working out. People who could live too far away and those who lived nearby were prevented by other circumstances. By December we had not had any luck and the owners had moved out weeks before. They said they were going to the home each day and feeding the girl, but the heat in the home had been turned off. It had been cold in the area, below freezing and colder weather was expected.

Although I had a permit for only two pigs at my home – and that quota had already been exceeded by one - I knew two things; that without being moved this pig would freeze to death and that I could not live with myself if she did. On a Saturday in December my husband and I got directions to the home and started north from Virginia.

The house was a small bungalow on an unpaved road. Snow was on the ground and more was in the immediate forecast. The people who owned the pig could not meet us there as it was “the last day of hunting season.” What we found at the house shocked us both.

The pig was lying on wet and tattered blankets in an unheated house. The odor was wretched. It was in the low 30's that day and got into the high teens at night. There was a bowl of dried food about ten feet from where the pig lay but no water. In fact, the pipes in the house were frozen, so we knew she had not been receiving water and it appeared she had not been eating the dry food. Her feet had obviously never been trimmed and her hooves looked



like starfish at the bottom of her legs. She favored her left shoulder area and could barely walk.

She was frightened and appeared to be in shock. She squealed and bit out at us when we got near her, but she was so stiff and weak we were able to force her into a large crate. She made the 3-hour trip south without a word in a crate that did not accommodate her lying completely down. At home we got her into the house and into a dry warm bed for the first time in weeks. She refused food and water.

The next morning I got her up and out of her bed. Once outside, she just stared at the outdoors. She would not approach a food bowl and I tried to hand feed her bread soaked in wet pellets and mineral oil. She was torn between fear and hunger and the hunger finally won out and she accepted food. She was afraid of the bowl. We trimmed her feet. She would wince and protest at any human touch.

Twice a day for the next week we went through the same routine. She would try and bite, howl in protest when asked to move outside, and then eat, only from a hand which she alternately looked to for food and tried to bite. Her urine was cloudy and sparse and she had great difficulty having any bowel movements. Her skin was patchy and flaking, like the remnants of bad sunburn.

Sometime into the third week, she

began to approach a pie tin in which I put the watered pellets, mineral oil and pieces of fruit along with vitamins. She would sleep until noon, unless I got her up earlier for her breakfast and morning bathroom time. Each day we could see improvement.

By mid January, she was no longer afraid of being touched. Her skin was peeling and the flakes easing from her frost bite. I would brush them as she ate. Her bowel movements became easier and her urine was clear and plentiful. I could see her smile and I spoke to her and she perked up whenever I approached her. She still has a “hitch” in her shoulder, probably arthritis but has settled into her routine and ours with surprising speed and ease.

On Valentine's Day, we renamed and christened her “Molly.” She is



becoming part of our family. She will roll over exposing her belly when scratched. She knows her name and responds to a whistle which we made whenever there was food coming her way. During November I had actually prayed for God to show me a way to save her and he did. I had not reckoned that He would have made me such a large part in that effort. Whatever benefits Molly has gotten from us bringing her into our home, we have gotten more. Like every pig we have had the pleasure of having intersect our lives, she's brought in so much more pleasure and gratification than she has taken. They are certainly one of God's creatures. ---Nan

Toby's Doing Great

We first heard about Toby when the Humane Society of Phoenix called us. Toby was part of a neglect case where he was in poor living conditions. Knowing the chances of Toby finding a home were slim, Mary agreed to take him.

From the day he arrived he's been known for his sweetness. He loves getting attention and has a refreshing energy. Toby is very gentle and has a modesty about him. He arrived as a boar, so we had him neutered and were discussing which field he would go in or if he could be adopted. To our surprise, Toby pretty much told us how it was all going to play out.



Toby & Gracie

Soon after being neutered Toby met another one of our pigs, Gracie. They immediately fell in love. These two would explore the property together and lay next to each other. We couldn't bring ourselves to separate them, so we let them stay in the same pen together. We thought all was



Toby With His Foley Catheter

well but learned differently as winter approached.

One cold morning in January we found Toby in his shelter acting as though he was in a lot of pain. He was shaking and it was clear that he was trying to urinate without success. There was no question that he had a severe urinary problem. We immediately called our vet, Dr. Page. We learned that he had an infection and was also blocked. Toby had many trips to the vet and ended up with a Foley catheter.

We had many late nights with Toby. We were constantly checking on him as he would often be up straining and in pain. We were unsure if his catheter was working as he was still having issues urinating. There were times when he would be rushed to the vet and sometimes stay there for days. When we finally got him back we

kept a close eye on him. He had his catheter in for over a week before we were able to have it taken out.

With a new medication and extra care Toby seems to be doing well. He has even been integrated into one of our fields. Toby enjoys exploring the field and knows to go into his feeding pen to get his urinary food. He quickly found a shelter and sleeps in it every night. Many of the staff like to go out and visit Toby often. We



Toby

still have to keep a close eye on him to make sure he is urinating well.

We know that Toby may still have some rough days ahead of him but we are so happy that he made it through this round. He was such a trooper and put up with a lot.

He's a great reminder to not take anything for granted. Thank you, Toby, for being such a big part of our lives.

---Taryn

Sponsor a S



I was just a kid when my whole family was rescued and brought here three years ago. It's been a great place to grow up. I would love to share news of my adventures with you!



Gumby

I heard through the grapevine that some people are looking to sponsor an older pig. Well, I'm your man! I've been waiting a long time for a sponsor and I'm ready, ready, ready!



Porkcho

I've never been before because I bite people. E too! And right a sponsor. Ma visit me and getting too close behave *when* I on when!)



Heidi

Well, all I have to say is "PICK ME! PICK ME!" I really, really want to have a sponsor and this may be my only chance to ask for one, so come on. Pick me! You'd make me the happiest little piggy in the world if you would just....pick me!



My family lost their home to foreclosure last fall and that's when my friend, Patsy Cline and I moved here to Ironwood. Everyone has been so kind and loving to help us with this transition. I don't really care to be a burden to them in my old age and would appreciate a sponsor to help support me. Please consider choosing me!



Okay, Donna something clean someone to be don't have a never get in manners and never, ever b someone to b

Special Pig!



en on the sponsor page
e I'm crabby, mean and
But, hey, I have feelings
t now I feel that I need
ybe you'd like to come
make the mistake of
se. Just kidding! I can
want to (emphasis



Autum

I've been here for more than 9
of Ironwood's 10 years and I
must say it has been fabulous!
I love living here with all my
piggy friends and having all
these nice people taking care
of me. Could life possibly get
any better?! Well, maybe with
a sponsor!



I know....everyone always wants
to know what happened to my ear
but is afraid to ask. So let's just
get that out of the way....a dog at
my previous home attacked me
and ripped my ear completely off.
That's why I ended up here and
thank goodness I did!



said I had to think of
ever to say to entice
e my sponsor, but I just
clue! I'm a nice guy, I
trouble, I have good
unlike Porkchop, I would
ite anyone. I just want
e my friend! Is that good

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

Aren't these pigs adorable! And there's more where they came from! They're all waiting for that special someone to come along and change their life. A \$30 monthly donation will take care of one pig's



needs. You'll receive pictures along with their history as well as updates a few times throughout the year. Come join our family of sponsors! You'll be glad you did!

---Donna

The Baldwins

We have a family of pigs that we refer to as “the Baldwins” that were rescued during our first year of operation. A rancher named Larry Baldwin had a family of six stray pigs that had taken up residence on his property and were causing problems for his animals. He called us for help and thus began an interesting rescue that involved three separate 180-mile round trips and took three weeks to complete. (That story can be found in our first newsletter from September of 2002. You can view this issue by going to www.ironwoodpigs.org and selecting the September 2002 NL at the bottom of the home page.)

The family consists of dad, whom we named Baldwin, the mom, Elizabeth, the daughter, Betsy, and three sons, Elliott, Otis and Danny Ray. Since the pigs had been living out in the wild, they all arrived with injuries except for Betsy. Baldwin and Elizabeth were both missing their tails, presumably from dog or coyote attacks. All three of the young boys had bite wounds, scratches and either chunks of ears missing or ripped ears. Their time at Ironwood began with daily cleansing and doctoring of those wounds, none of which was easy with that wild bunch!

Once everyone had healed up and no longer had issues with infections, the males were ready



The Baldwins 2002

for neutering. On the day of their surgery, we loaded up Baldwin, the boar, in a carrier first. While herding the boys into carriers, Baldwin, in a mad panic, burst the gate completely off the carrier and got loose. Plan B: drill some holes around the gate so that when the pig is back inside we can reinforce the gate by attaching it to the carrier with zip ties. (And that is now standard practice around here thanks to Baldwin!)



Elizabeth - Mom

Later we got to the vet’s and began the surgeries. When Baldwin’s turn came up, Ben handled him for the mask-down

of anesthesia just like he’d handled many males in the past, but with Baldwin being so wild and so frightened things took a turn for the worse. While being lifted up, Baldwin whipped his head around and gored Ben’s arm with his tusk. (Another lesson learned: when trying to anesthetize wild crazy boars with big tusks, wear elbow length welders’ gloves!) I rushed Ben to the hospital while the surgeries



Baldwin - Dad

continued. Some stitches, some antibiotics, some worrying and all ended up well.

Baldwin wasn’t the only pig in the family to make history with some firsts. A few years ago Betsy was taken in to be spayed and to our surprise she had a 42-pound uterine tumor removed! To this day, she still holds the record for the largest tumor. Most pigs with big tumors have long difficult recoveries. Again Betsy amazed us by quickly recovering from the experience as if it was no big deal and was soon back home in her field.

Happily, the entire family of six is still with us after more than nine years. They all live in our Main Field which is home to the pigs that arrived during our first and



Betsy

second years. Elizabeth and Betsy stayed together and made friends with Joann and Lucky. These four ladies have spent many a lazy afternoon hanging out by the pool on hot days or lounging inside their shelter together. Both Elizabeth and Betsy are taking supplements for their joints and pain medication for arthritis.



Otis

The three young boys, Elliott, Danny Ray and Otis went off to another part of the field and were

“adopted” by Lullubelle. This talkative little gal took the boys under her wing and the four of them shared a shelter for many years. Lullubelle has recently reached the stage of her life where her arthritis has her so disabled that she now needs to live in a pen for her safety. However, the boys are still together. Otis and Danny Ray remain very healthy and have rarely needed any special attention over the years. Elliott is dealing with his own joint issues, suffering from elbow dysplasia and taking medication for that.

Throughout the years, Elizabeth, their mom, has occasionally gone to the boys’ section of the field and spent time with them. They always seem to welcome her attention.



Elliott

When the whole family moved out into the field, Baldwin immediately took off on his own and has never had anything to do with any of his family. For many years he was a loner, sleeping in a pigloo by himself. He remained wild and untouchable, making hoof and tusk trimming quite an adventure for us. A few years ago, Baldwin began to gradually calm

down, moved in with a group of several other pigs and is often seen cuddling with Pammie, Charlotte or Wilbur. He will even take treats by hand now although he still doesn’t want to be petted. Baldwin remains very strong and healthy.



Danny Ray

They are no longer a complete family unit, but the Baldwins still live in the same field together. I think back to the way their lives began and how they’ve grown and changed over the years since moving to Ironwood. If that rancher had never called us, there is no doubt in my mind that none of these six pigs would be alive today. They are lucky to be here and we are lucky to be able to provide a safe home for them.

...Donna



Become a Member of our Family of Sponsors

Our pigs are eager to share their lives with you. You can provide for a pig's food, shelter, health care and their share of Sanctuary expenses by making a \$30 monthly donation. You will receive current pictures and updates of your pig throughout the year. Please become a member of our family of sponsors! Please see page 8 and 9 for pigs needing a sponsor.

Sponsor a Special Pig!



Be A Sanctuary Sustainer

You can become a **Sanctuary Sustainer** by making a **monthly donation** of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose which is 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 or go to the Support page of our web site and make your individual or monthly donation by PayPal (no PayPal account required).

Apply For A Sanctuary Credit Card

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



Share your passion for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and make donations with your everyday purchases. Just use our custom credit card and 2% of gas and grocery purchases and 1% of all other purchases made with the card will be donated to the Sanctuary. Plus, Ironwood will get a \$50 bonus donation when you make your first purchase. Apply today by visiting www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary



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.

Front Cover



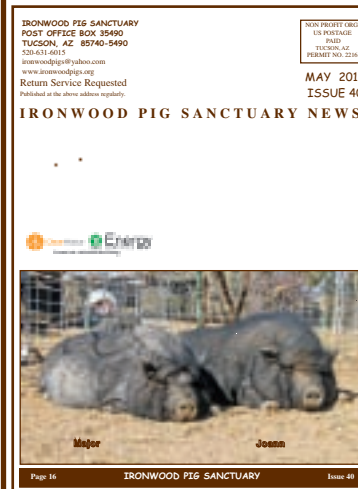
Claire was born at Pigs*A*Lot, now known as our Annex. She was adopted from there when she was a baby. She was a house pig, indoor & outdoor for a few years and is very social. Joan adopted Popeye, another pig from Pigs*A*Lot, to keep Claire company when she became too

big to live inside. She is quite large and strong and when she became more insistent on getting her breakfast by screaming earlier and earlier, it was time for her to come to live with us at Ironwood. She and Popeye opened Ironwood since they were the first pigs to arrive on June 10, 2001. She is in her teens now and is slowing down but still is quite active and still enjoys the company of her longtime companion Dixie Lee. Claire has lived in her same field with her same companions for these ten years and only left once to be spayed. This is her home.

Ironwood's Facebook and Blog

Taryn, one of our resident staff, maintains our Facebook page with frequent updates. Our Facebook page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary>. She also updates our Blog less frequently. Our Blog page is at: <http://ironwoodpigs.blogspot.com/>. We have over 1000 supporters who have signed on to our Facebook page to receive almost daily updates on the happenings at Ironwood thanks to Taryn.

Back Cover



Major arrived in March of 2002. He was followed by the General in April of 2002 and then later that month the Colonel arrived. These were all unneutered adolescent males. Major was from the Humane

Society found as a stray and the others were strays as well.

All were neutered and placed in our main field as were all new arrivals at that time. They all are about 10 or 11 years old now and are healthy and happy. Major and Joann are sharing a quiet moment together here.

Joann has a long history with us. When we were volunteers at Pigs*A*Lot, now our Annex, we got a call to pick up a stray pig in the neighborhood. A lady down the road had been looking after her but could not keep her. That was in 1999. Ben, Lynnette and I went down and loaded Joann in a truck and brought her to Pigs*A*Lot. She was always such a friendly pig and was certainly someone's pet who had been cast off. She was already well into adulthood and soon developed a mammary tumor. Very soon after we opened we brought her to Ironwood and had her spayed and her tumor removed. Joann has to be in her late teens and has had three more surgeries to remove mammary tumors, but she is still healthy and up every day for her breakfast. I think she would still rather be a house pig but has adapted to her herd life and made some good friends.

Our Supporters Write

February 25, 2011

Dear Everyone & Ben,

I wanted to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for allowing us to have our beloved Oscar (Odie) live out his final years with your sanctuary. We do not know what we would have done. We had Odie since he was an infant piglet after his mom passed away. We bottle-fed him, taught him how to use a litter box, open the refrigerator door and come in and out of our sliding door. He was our joy, sidekick and our sweet "little boy." It was heartbreaking to say the least when we realized our time with him was coming to an end. He used to walk behind my horse when we traveled the roads in the Cave Creek area for years. There wasn't a person in our neighborhood who didn't know Oscar and his sister Lucy. They made the neighborhood laugh with excitement when they showed up at the local team penning nights. Everyone knew Oscar, he helped me deliver newspapers on lonely, cold mornings in the North Phoenix metro area for years. He was the pig with the red bandana. Oscar went with me to Fountain Hills Schools to delight the young children on days he was allowed open visits. He was a therapy to most and a joy to all that knew him. You are our angels who assisted us to make this decision to find him a home; allowing us to relocate; unfortunately, by no choice of our own; to California. Again, we are forever grateful for what you do for Oscar and all the pigs under your care. We know he will be happy and well taken care of. As soon as we get settled in, Oscar will be sponsored by us. With deepest gratitude,

DiAnne and Bill Albanese

December 31, 2010

Dear Ironwood Folks,

Enclosed is a quilt my son (16 yrs old) and I made for the piggies. It is made from old sheets and pillow cases, with old bath towels as the middle layer. It is completely washable. I hope the piggies enjoy it.

Best Wishes for a wonderful new year.

Elizabeth Smith (and Paul)



Ruthann With Elizabeth's Quilt

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 Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, 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 (44, 28, 17 cents)
- * Used Blankets and Sheets are always welcome
- * Antacid
- * Veggie Laxative
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin
- * Cranberry capsules 2000 mg preferred
- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters
- * Flax Seed Capsules
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Utility Knives
- * Benefiber Powder - Unflavored (NOT Metamucil)
- * Children's Multiple Vitamins - NO IRON
- * Sun Screen Lotion (NO Spray) SPF 30 or above
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- * Zinc Oxide Ointment 1 pound container
Best Value is from Rugby Labs

Donate Peanut Butter!

If you would like to make a donation, peanut butter would be a good choice. A good deal can be had by going to www.amazon.com and shipping pairs of jars of Skippy creamy peanut butter to the Sanctuary. If you pick 5-8 days the shipping is free! The price is very attractive and with free shipping it is a good deal.

Peanut Butter is one of the staples for our sick pigs. We use it to encourage the pigs to take their medications by putting a thin layer of peanut butter on a piece of bread, add their meds, roll the bread into a roll, and place the roll into a sandwich bag with their name and field. The next morning during feeding the pigs are given their meds which to them is a treat. We use a 4 pound jar of creamy peanut butter and 9 loaves of bread every day. We have over 120 pigs on medications.



**Without Donna, Mary and Ben
there would not have been an
Ironwood Pig Sanctuary**

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