

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

April 2016

Dear Supporter,

Next month Ironwood will celebrate its 15th anniversary. I remember how proud and excited we were as we put up the fencing, put in water lines and built the first shelters in preparation for the pigs to arrive.



Fixing A Broken Leg

The huge smiles as we led our first group of pigs to the Main Field where they would settle in as a herd.

Looking back at the list of pigs that came to us during the first and second years, we have lost quite a



Daisy - Spay Recovery

few of them but many are still with us. Some are doing great and still living out in the big fields while others have shifted over into the special care areas. As our pigs have aged, their care requires not only more staff time but also an increase in medical care. And it's not just those pigs from the early days.



Sophia - IV Fluids

Over the years we have taken in over 1,000 pigs that all eventually need medical care for the usual reasons such as spays, neuters, dental care, mammary tumors and abscesses. Then there are the out of the ordinary things like blocked intestines, amputations, broken bones and cancerous tumors. With a population bouncing around from 560-590 with many of those pigs in their teens, the occurrences of vet visits just grows and grows.



Smalls - IV Fluids

The only reason we are able to continue providing such good care for these pigs is YOU. These bi-monthly updates have provided an opportunity for me to tell you about a few of the pigs and their medical ordeals as well as make an appeal to you for financial help. Your generosity has been amazing! I wish there was a way to express how grateful and appreciative all of us are to you. I opened this letter with how proud we felt in the beginning of Ironwood's history. YOU are part of the team now and I hope you feel that pride as well. These beautiful, funny, loving and adorable pigs need all of us.



Eva-Abscess Surgery



Miglet
Arrived 8-6-01

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator

Archer

Archer is a 17 year old who has been a part of the sanctuary for 13 years. As many of our white pigs do, Archer has dealt with skin cancer problems over the years. Otherwise he has been a healthy, happy boy up until this past December. One morning Archer would not eat which is a big red flag for a pig. The next day he was vomiting massive amounts. Our vet, Dr. Barbara Page just happened to be here that day so we had her examine Archer. She prescribed some medication for him but felt he should come in to the clinic for x-rays if there was no improvement by morning.

Archer threw up again the next day so off to the vet we went. X-rays showed he was retaining food and stool in his intestines with little to no movement. Archer spent the next three days at the clinic during which he was



given IV fluids, enemas and mobility drugs all to no avail. The third day the vet gave him barium then x-rayed his intestines later to find that it had not passed through at all. An intestinal blockage or twist was suspected but needed to be confirmed by exploratory surgery. When Archer was opened up there was no movement in his stomach or intestines which were inflamed and discolored. As the vet was looking for blockages, Archer's stomach suddenly began moving and food started passing through normally into the intestines. The color of his stomach began to improve as well. She said it was truly amazing! Although she did not actually see a twist, there must have been a pinched section of intestine near the stomach opening that simply relaxed enough after Archer was surgically opened that things began moving properly. Dr. Page closed him up without needing to do anything more.

The following morning Archer was up walking around the clinic and acting more like himself. He stayed one more night then returned to Ironwood where we continued IV fluids as well as medications for pain and stomach inflammation. It was still another 4-6 days before Archer was totally back to normal with his appetite and bowel movements. After a week of normal behavior and action Archer was able to return to his field. For a 17 year old pig to have endured this ordeal then be able to rejoin his herd is just incredible. Archer is amazing!

---Donna

If you would like to help cover Archer's medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his x-rays, surgery, medications and after care at the clinic was \$3,417.29. Archer and everyone here appreciate all your support! Thank you!



The Frat House

You were introduced to five of these boys in the July 2014 newsletter. They were born at Ironwood on April 3, 2014 after we rescued their pregnant mother from a backyard breeder/hoarder. Many of you followed Taryn's updates on FaceBook starting in December of 2014 when Si was found to have a fracture in his elbow and multiple bone fragments "floating" in his leg. Si, just over 8 months old at the time, was diagnosed with Degenerative Joint Disease, a genetic condition that leads to poor development and/or loss of



Getting Their Meds

the cartilage that surrounds the bones. It often results in joint pain and weak bones prone to breaking. Si's ordeal involved multiple vet visits including a trip to California to see an orthopedic specialist. He healed up nicely but had to live in complete seclusion for months while he recovered.

One of Si's brothers, Jango suffered a similar problem five months later. Fortunately he had



Feeding Time

no broken bones but had a badly torn shoulder ligament. Jango was also diagnosed with genetically weak bone structure just like Si. Surgery was not a viable option for Jango. His recovery required a lot of "bed rest", so like Si he lived in total seclusion in a small pen to limit his mobility as he healed.

Due to the genetic joint disease as well as the severity of the problems both Si and Jango suffered through, we became concerned for the safety of the other three boys still living out in the Main Field with a large herd. To keep them safe and reduce the possibility of injuries, we decided



JoJo

to make a field just for this litter of boys. We sectioned off a piece of the East Field and set it up with new shelters and shade ramadas.

We moved the remaining 3 boys and their best friend JoJo over there a couple of weeks after Jango was hurt. JoJo is just a few months older than the brothers but had become very close to them and we felt would not be a threat. At the suggestion of Susan, a frequent volunteer from Phoenix, we called the boys' field the Frat House.



Riley and Ed

Si's leg healed and once he was given clearance by our vet, he rejoined his frat brothers in July of 2015. Jango followed in October of that year. Si is getting around just great with no signs of his previous injury. Jango still has a slight limp but is doing fine. Si, Jango, Riley, Huratio and Ed will celebrate their second birthday this month. The boys are growing up and getting so big! It's great to see them all together along with their adopted brother JoJo. The six boys are safe and happy in their Frat House.

---Donna

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UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



**Hoss
Resident
Since 10-11-03**