Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the New Year. I am sure many of you are glad to put 2020 behind you as am I. I am looking forward to 2021 when Ironwood will be able to open to visitors again in a few months and our pigs will be able to enjoy belly rubs from those who come to visit them.

I would like to say how grateful I am to have closed 2020 out by welcoming many new supporters to Ironwood. Also, I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has been with us already for your continued generous support.

Through all that has happened this past year we have managed to stay on track at Ironwood. We have not missed a beat in our efforts to keep true to our Mission Statement. We have spayed and neutered nearly two hundred pigs who were not in the confines of the sanctuary. This has eliminated the suffering of untold numbers of pigs by stopping the births of so many who would know no home where they could be safe and cared for. Spaying and neutering pigs in situations like many we have dealt this past year and continue to deal with even now may be our future. There will be no way to stop the demand on crowded sanctuaries if we cannot make some inroads in the breeding. We have also done goodwill veterinary care for some pigs where the owners were unable to afford the care themselves. And of course, we have opened our gates at Ironwood to 90 stray, unwanted, neglected or abused pigs as well as many others where life changes or loss of life has made it impossible for owners to keep their companion pig or pigs in their homes.

This is truly a 24/7 effort for which there is no light at the end of the tunnel which we hope we can see for COVID-19. We will continue to do the work of caring for the over 600 pigs at Ironwood, rescuing more as we are able, providing medical care to all that need it, and adopting those who we can find good homes for. None of this would be possible without supporters like you.

Since this is the beginning of a New Year, I thought I would take this opportunity to give everyone a small history on Suzi who appears on every donation envelope that has reached your home for so many years now. Some people have asked for her story. She was released to Ironwood in April of 2002 when she was 15 weeks old. She was adopted by a nice, young couple in May of 2002. Suzi was sitting on the couch with me as I was writing thank you notes to our supporters so many years ago. Suzi was recovering from her spay before being released to her new home. She lived out her life with them and their other pig.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder
One afternoon in November of 2017 we received a call from someone who said they had seen a small black pig running loose near mile post 10 on Park Link, a rural road not far from the sanctuary. Ben and I went up to investigate knowing there were no homes nearby that he could have come from. There was a dirt road leading to a small camping area where, we were told, he was running. Remarkably we found him in a wash and quickly put water out for him which he drank down quickly, but we were unable to get near him.

The next morning one of our staff, Don, and Ben and I went up with materials in hand to build a pen with the hopes of finding him again and hoping to be able to capture him. With an unbelievable stroke of luck he was still in the wash near where we had left him. We built a pen downstream from him then herded him down the wash where Don stayed ready to pull the gate closed after he entered. It worked like a charm and we were able to capture the frightened, little pig and bring him home to Ironwood. Don wanted to call him Miles since he was found near mile post 10.

The poor little guy was hungry and thirsty with lacerations and hundreds and hundreds of cactus spines in him which took hours of time to slowly remove. Over time he recovered, was neutered then became a part of our Lil’ East Field with a large number of other young pigs. He has grown up into a fine young boy and we hope the trauma of his early life is long behind him as he enjoys the comforts of Ironwood.

Wesley, Weston and Petrulla were living in miserable conditions with a man who reportedly was not completely functional. A neighbor called us to report the situation and we soon went to rescue all three pigs from a place where they were severely neglected. Wesley was a mere few months old. He recovered quickly, was neutered and soon was making friends with 10 other babies, all of which had recently arrived from various rescues, and KB, an adult male who we have kept with this wild and crazy group since he and Byron, one of the babies, are good friends.

Wesley is the “man” in the field and these pictures show that he gets a lot of attention from the girls. Donna said every time she goes into their area to take pictures, he ends up on the ground surrounded by girls who adore him. Sounds like Wesley struck it rich here at Ironwood.
F or more than nineteen years we have provided a permanent place of sanctuary to hundreds of pot-bellied pigs. With your help we have been able to give the pigs a home safe within the security of chain link fencing to protect them from coyotes and dogs. The pigs have shelters to accommodate various sized groups of friends along with piles of blankets for comfort and warmth. There are pools and mud wallows under shade ramadas where pigs can stay cool on hot days. With your generosity the pigs never lack food, hay or water. Medical care is available on site as well as in the veterinary clinic. The 620+ pigs living at Ironwood have YOU to thank for the life they have here.

Because of You - Brazil, a resident of Ironwood since April 2008, was able to have some much needed dental work performed at the vet clinic. This 14 year old girl had a cracked molar removed as well as a few other bad teeth and got a thorough cleaning of her remaining teeth which had a buildup of plaque. All this work greatly improved her ability to eat.

Because of You - 35 youngsters under the age of 3 years were rescued during 2020. Steve and Dustin are two brothers that arrived in September after their owner was arrested. The boys were seized by the Sheriff’s Department and taken to Pima Animal Care Center, the county shelter, who then called Ironwood to take over. These cuties now have the opportunity for a safe, comfy life.

Because of You - Neutering all incoming males is of utmost importance since there is definitely no need to create more of an overabundance of pigs than already exists. Edgar, who came in February 2020 as a long term boarder while his owners looked for a home, was neutered shortly after his arrival. He became a permanent Ironwood resident in October. He was one of 31 males altered in 2020.

Because of You - Pepper was able to find sanctuary with a medium sized herd in Comanche’s Field. She had become overly aggressive with her family and was a danger to the children and visitors. Pepper still occasionally has her moments of “the devil made me do it” but has come a long way with her attitude. These days she can be found relaxing in her favorite spot with friends Gretel, Chicky, Pooah and Becky.
Because of You - Roger Dodger has been able to grow up and grow old with many friends in the Sunset Field. He was a stray about 4 months old when he was finally captured and brought to the sanctuary in March of 2007. Roger Dodger is now 14 years old and has been in great health during his time here. He no longer dodges around as quickly as he used to but happily spends his time resting with good buddies.

Because of You - We were able to purchase a portable sonogram unit to detect issues such as an enlarged bladder, hernia, blocked intestines or other problems that would need to be dealt with by the veterinarian. We are able to determine if a trip to the clinic is necessary. Jack Jack’s bladder was empty with no blockage, so a prescription medication and cranberry supplement was all that was needed.

Because of You - Dante got immediate veterinary care for a fractured leg sustained while playing with his 7 littermates in the exercise yard. Being just a few weeks old meant frequent trips to the clinic to get the cast resized as he grew. X-rays were needed each time to check the progress of his healing. Dante recovered but will most likely be left with a permanent limp and will face early onset of arthritis as he ages.

Because of You - Sisters Peaches and Patches have led a safe, comfortable life in a large field since they arrived as youngsters in March of 2007. They were purchased by Ironwood at the Arizona Livestock Auction. The girls have a very close relationship and have always been best friends. They have several good buddies they enjoy hanging out with as well as spending lots of time together.

All of this and more is possible with team work. Caregivers are trained to deal with the day to day needs of feeding, medicating and observing the pigs during their daily activities. The watering team spends hours each day cleaning and refilling pools, bowls and wallows to provide fresh water for the pigs while also reporting any abnormalities or problems they observe as they work. The maintenance staff provides a safe, secure environment by constructing or repairing housing, troughs, shade ramadas, etc. It takes all of these people working together to provide a home where the 620+ pot-bellied pigs can be well fed, sheltered, medicated and comforted over the years as they are nurtured through independent herd life, to retirement in assisted living then on to hospice care as needed.

And none of this could be done without YOU!

You are the asset that makes this team possible. Your gifts enable Ironwood to continue to take in pigs that have been abandoned or abused. Your generosity feeds Mayzee, Douglas, Abraham, Chardonnay, Sweet Cheeks and many, many others. Your support allows for spaying and neutering, dental work and the many other necessary medical procedures that crop up. Thank you for being a part of the Ironwood team.

...Donna
Going into the New Year I thought I would share some helpful medical tips we have learned from experience and from our veterinarians. None of us here are veterinarians, but we have a lot of experience with numerous medical issues since we have a large population of pigs. I frequently get questions on email about health issues and try to help when I am able.

When I started this article I had intended to talk about many health issues, but it morphed into just two important conditions; one not so common but critical and the second one far more common that can develop into a critical condition.

**Urinary blockage** is one of our most critical issues requiring immediate veterinary care. If your pig begins to strain to urinate, is hunched over and pulling up, jerking and trying to pee for a prolonged time, he may have a urinary blockage. Sometimes it is difficult to tell if your pig is trying to urinate or to defecate because often, if he is straining hard, he will appear to be trying to defecate. It is important to tell the difference since his life depends on it.

This condition most often occurs in young males who are neutered at a young age, but we have seen it occasionally in an older male as well. When we see this condition in one of the pigs and have determined that we feel he is blocked, we immediately call the vet for an emergency appointment. They will check his bladder by sonogram and if they find his bladder is distended, they will either do an immediate tubal cystotomy or if surgery is not possible at that time, they will drain his bladder and perform the surgery as soon as possible. They generally find urinary stones or sand in the bladder, but also a stone or stones can be wedged into the urethra and cannot always be removed. Sometimes a severe urinary tract infection may cause a blockage as well.

This is a life-threatening condition that really cannot wait or their bladder will rupture causing their death. It is an expensive procedure, but the only other option is euthanasia. Thankfully, this is not a common condition. However, we have saved several of our sweet pigs who have lived many years beyond their surgery.

**Intestinal blockage** is far more common than urinary blockage. It is not as much of an emergency but can become serious or life-

Wilbur had an early tube cystotomy. He had developed severe cystitis and later had a blocked urethra. He was four at the time of surgery and lived a long life here after his surgery.

Toby had a tube cystotomy in 2011 and continues to live in the Peoria Field. He has turned a beautiful silver gray color over the years.

Petey came to us when he was a very young recently neutered baby. In March of 2020 little Petey was having a difficult time trying to urinate. A tube cystotomy was done on him as well. He is now a happy boy growing up in the Sunset Field.
threatening if not addressed. One of our vets told us two things that are emergencies: not urinating or not defecating, so we try hard to keep a close eye on both of those important functions. When a pig becomes blocked or nearly blocked, they will begin to show signs by hanging back in the herd and not wanting to eat normally. The pigs living in a pen are easier to identify since we are able to check for the quantity and quality of their stool. If they are not urinating or defecating, so we try hard to keep a close eye on both of those important functions. When a pig becomes blocked or nearly blocked, they will begin to show signs by hanging back in the herd and not wanting to eat normally. The pigs living in a pen are easier to identify since we are able to check for the quantity and quality of their stool. If they are

For the pigs in the fields, it is more difficult to detect and the same may be true if you have multiple pigs at home. We look for signs such as straining to defecate. Other signs are a pig hanging back, not eating its food with much vigor or not getting up from its shelter. Another sign is finding vomit from a pig or vomit in its shelter. We bring any pig showing such signs in to a pen, take its temperature and observe it. If signs of constipation are observed, we begin treatment with some of the products mentioned earlier. If they do not show signs of improvement or they begin to vomit, it is time to take them to the vet. They will generally do blood work, take x-rays of the intestinal track and begin to give fluids and either mineral oil or Miralax. Most often the problem is solved by this treatment. Because the pigs live on sand and dirt, we often see sand and gravel in their intestines and stomach. We frequently give psyllium to help with that problem. However, on occasion there is a more serious condition like an

intestinal cancer, blockage from a foreign object, a mega colon, or constipation that is so severe surgical intervention is required.

There are so many other health issues to look out for, especially

in a pen, we can quickly make adjustments to their diet or begin giving them corrective measures. You will see on our Wish List we have a need for pumpkin, Miralax, stool softeners, Benefiber and cran/grape juice. All of these products are used to help alleviate intestinal blockages. We also frequently give enemas. Pigs that have chronic problems will be on diluted juice every day to help keep them hydrated and/or grain mashes with plenty of pumpkin to provide fiber and moisture. Hay in moderation is also a good source of fiber since we don’t have normal foraging like some parts of the country. However, if the pigs don’t drink enough, hay can be a cause of the obstruction.

Rubble began to show signs of not feeling well on 11/30/20. We gave him Miralax but saw little progress. On 12/1/20 we took him to the vet. X-rays showed he was very full of stool. He had no evidence of a blockage, so they began fluids and gave him barium. Since the barium was moving through, they continued fluids and started Metoclopramid and Miralax. He improved and came home where we continue Miralax for now.

...Mary

Henley would not get up to eat in the field one morning. He was found with a large amount of vomit and brought to a pen. We gave him Cerenia then took him to the vet. X-rays determined he was backed up with stool. An enema was given and fluids started as well as mineral oil. It is important in these cases to try to determine that the inability to defecate is caused by constipation rather than an obstruction as treatment can be very different.
I was a “toy” for the grandkids to play with, but they didn’t like me much. Then the house burned down and I was abandoned in the yard. A neighbor helped me get here.

How about making a New Year’s resolution to help a pig have a better life? Join our family of sponsors with a monthly pledge of $30 to help cover the basic needs of one of the pigs featured here. You will receive an introductory letter and pictures of your pig with an update and new photos later in the year. Start your New Year as a piggy parent!

...Donna
I came here with Nacho because our owners couldn’t take us along when they moved the school we lived in. It’s more fun living here with a herd of other piggies!

I lived with other pigs in a tiny pen built out of pallets. We hardly ever got fed or watered. The neighbor fed us sometimes then called Ironwood to get us all out of there.

I came from a home with 4 pigs. Our family didn’t care much for us and got tired of us fighting each other all the time. Life is much better here living in a big herd with lots of space.

Wesley

I was loved and well taken care of, but my owner lost his job then later got evicted from our home. He was happy that the sanctuary let me come live here.

Carlotta

Pancakes

Homer

www.ironwoodpigs.org

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
If you visited Ironwood during the past three years, you probably met Marty, the marvel of the North Field. He was a large, white hog weighing around 600 pounds. Marty was full of life and energy, super sweet and always ready for a hug, back scratch or belly rub. Sadly, we lost Marty on Halloween 2020, at just over three years of age. That particular breed of hog is notorious for problems with their joints, feet and hooves due to the massive amount of weight they bear. Marty dealt with severely cracked hooves, toe infections, multiple vet procedures, etc. until it all became too much. It was an emotional blow to all of us and anyone who ever met this sweet boy. It was also the end of an era as far as Ironwood’s full-sized white hogs.

When Ironwood opened over 19 years ago, we had decided after much discussion to only rescue pot-bellied pigs. The fencing, shelters and shades were designed with that in mind, sized for pigs averaging 120-150 pounds. It wasn’t long before we ended up making an exception to that rule and took in Pinkerton, the first of several hogs to come through the gates of the sanctuary. Later came a family of four babies who delighted visitors for years as they grew up to become Ironwood’s largest residents. Many of you may remember Mojo Jojo, Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup who all lived beyond the normal 3-6 year life span of hogs which is much shorter than the pot-bellied pig’s average of 14-18 years. Overlapping the demise of the last of this group was Churchill, another large white hog who, like Marty, we lost at a young age. There are others still with us that are mixed breed hogs like Big Charlotte and Hercules who are much bigger than the pot-bellied pigs but still only half of Marty’s size. Eleanor is also a hog but a different, smaller breed that fortunately hasn’t shown the hoof and foot problems we saw with the others.

The hogs and big breeds present special challenges. First, just meeting their basic needs of safety and shelter required us to build larger housing, install taller and more reinforced fencing and purchase stronger less destructible pools and water bowls. Feed troughs, tossed about like toys with these guys, had to be chained and bolted to the fence. Getting their hooves and tusks trimmed turned into a big deal that involved a lot of time and expense. Pinkerton and Marty
would allow us to do some hoof trimming while lying down for a belly rub but once it got into a painful, cracked area that was out the window. The other hogs… forget it! You couldn’t even get started with them. The vet had to come out and give drugs to calm them enough to be masked down with anesthesia before the work could begin. The same procedure was necessary for any medical issues that had to be dealt with. Just giving the preop injection could take multiple attempts.

Despite the difficulties with meeting the medical needs of the hogs, they were all dearly loved and will always be missed. Each was a unique, wonderful individual. Saying goodbye to Marty was painful but brought back a lot of memories not only of his life but the lives of the other hogs who made their home here; Pinkerton, Bubbles, Buttercup, Blossom, Mojo Jojo, Churchill and, last but not least, Marty. We love you guys and will never forget you!

...Donna

**Donation Drop-Offs**

Winter is finally here and the piggies are needing blankets and comforters. There are three locations to drop off those as well as other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

**East Phoenix:** Carolyn’s in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069.

**Northwest Tucson:** Ben and Mary’s near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015.

**East Tucson:** Sandra’s in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296.

We are in need of someone willing to serve as a drop-off point for the North Phoenix area. Please email ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com if interested.
Why Pigs Fight

There are many reasons why pigs might fight with each other. Territory, hierarchy, weather changes or new members added to their herd throwing everything out of whack can cause pigs to fight. Another reason is one that is less thought of but just as problematic. When a pig is pulled from their herd or regular living environment for any amount of time, there can often be reintegration issues. This is often the case when a pig is sick or injured and needs to be pulled from their field.

We see this most often with pigs who have a close relationship with each other, often family or close herd members. They have a stable environment and a known hierarchy. One of the pigs will come into the pens to either be treated onsite for an injury or illness or to go to the veterinarian. They might be away from their group for one day, one week or for a couple weeks. Once they are treated and healed, we take them back to their field only to see that someone or everyone wants to beat them up! This does not happen all the time, but it happens often enough that we must stay with the pigs for a while to make sure they are going to ease back into their living environment.

A recent example is two girls that are boarding at the sanctuary, Luna and Stella. These girls are used to share a living space at the sanctuary but have had to live with a divider between them for months now as they will still get into fights when unsupervised.

To try to get them back to cohabitating well, we were initially giving them supervised exercise time. They would do well for a while but every now and then if we tried to leave them, they would get into a squabble. It was taking weeks for these two to chill out, so we introduced another pig to them to break up the tension which has really helped. They are now able to have unsupervised exercise time as a trio without any fighting, but the girls will still sometimes get into it when left alone together.

Other instances are much like Cowboy’s experience, where there is less fighting. Cowboy always hangs out with the same group in his field, which is Peoria. He was brought in from Peoria to have a dental done. When he was healed up and ready to go back to Peoria things went smoothly, no one even raised their hair at him. (Pigs often raise their hair or mohawk when they are about to fight another pig.) A couple days later one of Cowboy’s field mates was shoving him around before breakfast. This was broken up easily and was the only instance for him. After this, Cowboy was able to enjoy his field without any other issues.
We have also had times when the pig being reintroduced to their field was having such a tough time mixing back in that we must have them stay in a pen within the field. This way they can fence fight with the others and let it be known that they are back, but no one is able to actually fight. We let them out when we can monitor them, but they have to sleep in the pen until things are calm enough that no one will get hurt.

We know to expect this each time we bring a pig out of a field for any amount of time. We’re sure to check on them that day and the following days as you never know when one of their field mates will realize they’ve returned to the field. We always say pigs are like people and fighting for silly reasons is just another way we are similar.

...Taryn

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**Used Blankets are needed year round.**

- Canned Pumpkin
- Animal Crackers
- Antibacterial Wipes
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Fish Oil Capsules, 1000mg
- Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)
- Sheets
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg
- Fig Newton Cookies (NOT Individually Wrapped)

**GIFT CARDS**

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry’s
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Office Max
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Walgreen’s
- Tractor Supply

**Don’t Forget Fry’s....!**

An easy way to support Ironwood is for Arizona residents who shop at Fry’s Food Stores. Each time you shop at Fry’s and use your Fry’s VIP card, you can help the pigs! Just go to [FrysFood.com](http://FrysFood.com), click on “Save” and scroll down to Fry’s Community Rewards. Follow the prompts to designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. There are 150 households currently signed up and Ironwood earned $387.29 during the last quarter.

*Remember, you must renew your charity of choice every year. It only takes a few minutes to renew then you are able to help the pigs for a full year every time you shop at Fry’s.*
Back in 2017 there were a lot of new arrivals in their young adult years that had completed their isolation time in the holding pens where new pigs first live. There they were evaluated for medical issues, got spayed or neutered, were wormed and had their hooves trimmed if necessary. During that time we also observe personalities...how do they get along with people and other pigs? Are they timid, easily frightened or overly aggressive? All of that helps us determine which herd/field they should join. There were two in this particular group, Mayzee and Stinkbug, that had shown a lot of aggression toward people and had injured a few of us. Because of that, they needed to be placed in an area that did not receive a lot of human traffic and was not on the route of our visitor tours. Because of the size of the group, we ended up taking a third of a large field whose herd had dwindled down over the years and no longer had need of such a big space and fenced that off to create a new field. It is located on the far east side of the property, so we simply called it Far East. In January of 2017 a new herd of 24 moved in to call this field home.

Those 24 pigs settled down, many of them finding friends right away and others taking their time to begin a relationship. Some like Otis, Herbie and Wilbur, had arrived here together and remain the best of friends spending the majority of their time together. The sisters Thelma and Louise are still close but have also become members of a clique that includes Torpedo, Puppy, Oscar B. and Natasha. They hang out together under a favorite shade ramada on hot days or lounge around in the sun during cooler weather. Eli, Stinkbug, Mayzee and Poinsettia prefer a more solitary lifestyle and chose individual homes in the less populated section. They will mingle with one another or others in the herd but like having quiet time to themselves. Part of that comes from growing up in a home as a “single child” and never developing the social skills that pigs learn when raised with their litter. Despite the differences, these 24 all learned to get along and share the field peacefully. Volunteers and visitors are not allowed in this field, only staff who quickly learned to identify Mayzee and Stinkbug, the two who sometimes like to chase and nip at us.

In March of 2019 another group
of 13 new arrivals joined the existing herd of Far East which shook things up for a while. It’s always a bit of a fiasco as the pigs establish territories, choose housing, readjust the hierarchy, learn the feeding routines and simply get to know one another. This new group also had a handful of aggressive pigs. Jasmine, Luna, Priscilla and Oinky all earned a reputation of being snippy with people during their time in the holding pens. Many times, once a “mean pig” mellow out as they realize that the world doesn’t revolve just around them. Being a part of a herd can make them feel more grounded and at ease with their surroundings. Jasmine, Luna and Oinky are good examples of this. That doesn’t mean I’m going to be snuggling up to take a selfie with Oinky any time soon, but he is no longer on the defensive, ready to attack for no reason. Priscilla is still one to watch out for. She is definitely better behaved, but you still want to keep an eye on her when you’re in her part of the field. She has developed a very close friendship with Mama Cass and Oinky which helps put her at ease.

The boys are much more social and actively wander throughout almost the entire area. Sully and Stitch are buddies but also have lots of other friends. Siblings Mork and Mindy who were part of the first group, remain in a close relationship and share a shelter. Mork is a nervous type and for over a year spent his time on the outer edges of the herd. Mindy is much more social and enjoys being in the crowd. She convinced Mork to join her and he eventually felt at ease enough to go along. He is now confident and relaxed with all their friends.

Thanks to your support, the 35 pigs of Far East have plenty of space to find the perfect spot where they are most comfortable. Ironwood has 25 separate fields with herd sizes ranging from 8-41 as well as 7 smaller areas set aside for the elderly and hospice care residents. Your generosity provides the opportunity for over 620 pigs to find the place that best fits their needs.

...Donna
We love & care for our pigs.