Thumper & Faline
PIG SANCTUARY
Dear Supporter,

I am delighted to come to you this month with the good news from Ironwood that so far we are surviving COVID-19. None of our staff has caught it so far and thanks to all of you we are still able to care for our pigs and beyond. We have had many employees out on quarantine, at one time as many as five, so it has been a difficult time for sure. They were unable to come to work because of exposure and testing was not available, so I had no choice but to ask them to stay home. Also two of our staff have left to care for their children who were unable to attend school. We have taken many measures like installing outdoor tables and chairs for meetings and lunches, outdoor handwashing stations, and outdoor port-a-potties, plus the usual social distancing and not allowing tours and volunteers. My biggest concern is that a staff member will get the virus and the entire staff will have to quarantine at home. It would not be possible to feed, water, and care for over six hundred pigs with a skeleton crew, especially not now that the temperatures are soaring above 100 degrees.

In addition, we have had to hire extra seasonal staff for our usual ice toweling of old or sick pigs and for extra watering in the summer months plus replacing people who have had to leave. Therefore, we remain on alert and anyone with any illness is asked to remain at home. These are trying times indeed but at least our people are still employed and willing to continue to come to work. The vets are open for the pigs and the pigs are continuing to live their lives as though the world is not upside down. All they know is we come every morning as always to offer food and the waterers follow behind with water to drink and to provide wallows and pools to cool off in. Thankfully, and mostly thanks to you and the staff, the pigs’ lives are normal. I really feel thankful not to be in the position of so many people and animals in this country at this time.

In the meantime, our efforts to rescue pigs continues without a break. The number of pigs in need of a safe home does not stop. Since the rescue in Tonapah that Carrie has once again updated in this issue, we have been involved with three more situations where breeding is out of control ranging from 9 to 61 pigs. Legislation is needed to help with situations like these. There are little or no laws that protect pigs. However, passing legislation is a long and hard road. Simple changes often take years and long hours of work and lobbying. Who out there has the time and passion to take up this task? It takes replacing people in the legislature with people who are sympathetic to the plight of animals or your time is wasted trying to pass good legislation. Your vote is so important from the City Council up to State Legislators, Governors, Federal Legislators, and all the way to the President. Rescues like ours can only do so much. Your continued support makes a huge difference for the animals at Ironwood and because of you we have been able to reach beyond our gates to help in these situations. However, laws are needed that can be enforced so there are consequences to those, perhaps not out of malice, who stand by and do nothing as numbers of animals spiral out of control on their property as we have seen in these past months.

Thank you so much for staying with us during these difficult times. It means everything to the pigs.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder
There was an article in our March 2020 Newsletter titled “Neglect and Hoarding” about the rescue of 41 pigs at a terrible hoarding situation where Ironwood and two other organizations worked together to make it happen. We received responses from a number of supporters asking what happened to the other animals. In our May 2020 issue we had an update on what happened to the other animals and a short update on the pigs. And finally, in this issue we have the good news about how all the rescued pigs are doing. —Editor

At the beginning of these large scale rescues, especially when neglect and hoarding are present, it can be overwhelming to see these amazing animals in such a horrible state and living in conditions that aren’t conducive for a happy, healthy life. It can be especially debilitating when you realize how sick, emaciated and close to death a pig is and the limited time you’re working with to try and save it’s life.

The Tonopah rescue was filled with heartbreak, angst and worry. Every day was a test of our patience and perseverance but in the end we were blessed with some amazing stories of recovery, rehabilitation and a bunch of happy endings.

When we met Minnie and Cocoa, they were obviously bonded. Minnie was one of the worst off pigs we’d seen, skin and bones, extremely emaciated, shivering because she couldn’t maintain her own body temperature, lethargic and clearly very unhealthy. As they lay together huddled under a tarp, there was a third pig, Rico, who kept watch over them. He never left their side and when we went to take them to their foster home, it was clear he was distressed. These pigs had already been through so much. It was obvious to all of us they needed to stay together. One of the women from our rescue team, Samantha, stepped up to take these pigs home and get them started on a path of recovery. It was slow going at first. They needed small meals throughout the day, a watchful eye to make sure they were accepting nutrition and lots of time, patience and love. Things were progressing very well, everyone was gaining weight and their personalities started to come through. They became more and more social, loved attention from their foster family and things were definitely looking up for the wonderful trio. Then we got the call that Minnie wasn’t doing well. She appeared very bloated and uncomfortable. She was taken to the vet and we soon learned she’d need to be spayed immediately as a result of pyometra.

Since surgery, Minnie has made a complete recovery and was reunited with Rico and Cocoa. As a matter of fact, they’ve done so well since being taken from Tonopah back in January, we’ve recently put this beautiful, healthy and happy threesome up for adoption.

Oscar the Kune was another of the critical pigs. We’d found a picture of this big healthy guy when he’d arrived at the Tonopah property and his weight loss over such a short time was staggering.
Although he didn’t look completely emaciated when we pulled him that day, we knew he’d been starving for the duration of his stay and the internal parasites he had were only making matters worse. After being treated and getting a hoof/tusk trim, he was brought to foster care right away. It was only a day or two when we learned this beautiful boy was deaf and he was a complete love bug. He slept in bed every night with his new human sibling and very quickly settled into his brand new life. I’m thrilled to report that Oscar will never have to worry again. He’s been adopted by his foster family and gets to lay his head down on a soft comfy bed with a full belly for the rest of his life.

Ellie was one of the pigs that concerned us the most, not because she appeared sick or emaciated, but because it seemed like she had given up. She was always alone, sad, depressed and even disinterested in food. We feared she wouldn’t recover from being abandoned and we knew her placement was very important.

We found an amazing family that had a pig that needed a friend and after talking with them, they sounded like a great fit for this terribly sad girl. It wasn’t long before we started receiving pictures of Ellie and her new companion grazing in the back yard, sleeping together and enjoying time with her new family. She looked happy and loved and exactly as she should be. The best news is she was the first to be adopted so now this beautiful girl has the life that she deserves.

We’d received a call from Amy, one of the women we’ve worked with in rescue many times. She’d seen a post about the need for emergency foster homes and she reached out right away. Her generous offer gave us the opportunity to keep several of the bonded pigs and more critical pigs together. She had a barn with a great pasture and plenty of space and graciously took in nine of the pigs that needed extra care. The change in their personalities, energy levels and interest in socializing with their humans was just incredible. They suddenly had the perfect shelter, warm comfortable beds, proper nutrition and plenty of space to move around. Amy gave them the time, environment, healthy diet and all the love and attention they needed. They’ve been doing so well and now this happy, healthy group is up for adoption and looking for their forever homes.

Greyson became a fast favorite among the entire rescue team and she never went anywhere without her sweet bonded friend, Chet. They were taken in by a wonderful woman who was new to pigs and wanted to help. Greyson was one of those challenging pigs who tried to be the boss, but her foster family didn’t give up and asked for lots of help. Soon enough this bonded pair settled in and made themselves comfortable. Last month we got a call that Greyson had a growth on her cheek that had grown considerably over a very short time. We got her into the vet right away and with results from the biopsy showing it was cancerous, she had surgery to remove it. She is home now,
completely recovered and reunited with Chet. The time Greyson spent at the vet made her foster mom realize she never wanted to spend another day away from this dynamic duo and they were officially adopted and are living the good life, well loved, happy and healthy.

Gizmo, Katie, Flower and Penny were all taken in by Bill and Sherri, an amazing couple on the rescue team. The pigs have had behavioral issues, an entropic eyelash/eye infection, food aggression and a few illnesses that needed to be managed with medications. It's been several months since they arrived at their foster home and they’ve all come such a long way. Gizmo was hit the hardest from his time at the Tonopah property and his recovery has taken the longest. He’s been officially adopted by Bill and Sherri, so he never has to be worried again. Katie, Flower and Penny have recovered very well, have really come around socially and will soon be ready to find their new homes.

Zeus and Onyx didn’t have a home to go to right away and we were given an opportunity by the Humane Society to house them in their barn until we could arrange a foster home for them. They spent three weeks with the wonderful staff that absolutely fell in love with them and spoiled them rotten. They were then brought down to Tucson where they currently reside with a foster family while they await their forever home. Onyx was a shy, reserved pig that was scared of human touch and relied heavily on his companion Zeus, but he’s come around so much and they’re both very young, amazing pigs.

Wilbur and GG went to a home that had their work cut out for them. GG was pretty friendly, but Wilbur was very fearful and untrusting of humans. Their new mom spent countless days/hours/weeks to get close to them. The first time Wilbur allowed scratches and pets it was a huge cause for celebration. Everyone was so happy to see him turning that corner. They’re doing so well now. They have the security, safety and love of a family they have probably never had. In addition, their new family has added more rescue pigs to their family and now the boys are a part of a real herd and loving every minute of it.

A pair of bonded sisters made their way to a farm in San Tan Valley. The most recent update of these girls had us pleasantly surprised to see them spoiled, happy and in the company of other pigs. I was also happy to hear they’ll be officially adopted after their spays.

Lucy and Ethel, Cagney and Lacey and Sweet Pea, have all had great reports from their foster homes. They’ve all recovered well and are living the very best pig lives but are looking for their forever homes.

Several other pairs and trios made their way to foster homes on that day back in January. They’re all doing extremely well and have settled into their new lives. There is no way we could have made such an impact on these pigs if not for the amazing rescue efforts of the team we were lucky to have advocating for them. Some pigs will need to have their spays done before they can go to their new homes. Some aren’t quite ready because they just don’t trust yet or they have really strong food aggression from their lack of nutrition for so long. Whether they’re still in their foster homes or they’ve been officially adopted, they couldn’t be happier or healthier.

—Carrie
Support The Pigs

GIVE THE GIFT OF LOVE
Donations of any amount from long term supporters and new pig lovers alike help Ironwood have the resources necessary to maintain the health and comfort of the more than 620 pigs in our care. When you give a one-time donation online or by mail, you are providing financial support to cover the pigs’ daily needs as well as the unexpected medical expenses or repairs to equipment that arise. Every dollar benefits these wonderful piggies that want nothing more than food, water and a comfy place to sleep with their buddies. Becoming a Sustainer by setting up an automatic recurring gift on a monthly basis will ensure that Ironwood can continue to provide a safe, comfortable environment for the many abandoned and unwanted pigs that arrive here.

SPONSORING A PIG
Ironwood’s sponsor program gives you the chance to support a particular pig that grabs your heart. A $30 per month donation whether given yearly, quarterly or monthly, helps cover the basic needs for your pig. You will receive a letter and photos of your pig with an update later in the year to keep you informed of your pig’s life.

FUNDRAISING FOR PIGS
Make your next special occasion…birthday, anniversary, graduation or “just because” party… an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for Ironwood’s pigs. Invite others to donate money or material items from the Wish List. What a great chance to have others participate in saving the lives of so many pigs! It’s a Feel Good by Doing Good opportunity for everyone involved.

DEDICATE YOUR GIFT
We have certificates and cards for any occasion to present as a unique gift “In Honor” or “In Memory” of a loved person or pet. Your donation can celebrate special times or express sympathy.

WISH LISTS
Each bimonthly newsletter includes a list of material items that can easily be shipped to the sanctuary. You can also go to AmazonSmile Charity Lists to find things currently needed at the sanctuary as well as those items that are used every day.
FRY’S VIP CARD

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, click on “Savings” in the Menu then scroll down to Fry’s Community Rewards. Follow the prompts to designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice then start shopping. *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.

Meet Marine, a member of Ironwood’s watering team. She has worked here for almost a year keeping the pigs supplied with fresh, clean water. She was excited to share her love for Stormy, her favorite pig.

It was so hard to pick just one pig as my favorite. They are all so unique, but in the end Stormy won me over! Stormy was very large when she first arrived at Ironwood. She could barely walk and had clearly been through a lot. Despite this she was the sweetest girl and would do her best to roll over for tummy rubs! Now that she’s lost some weight and has become much more mobile and happier, her personality has really started to shine through. She has this tough girl attitude, it’s kind of like, “Leave me alone but also touch my belly and tell me how pretty I am.” I call her my big baked potato because she looks like a big beautiful potato and she’s often lounging about in the sunshine. She lets you give her giant hugs and has the sweetest little chubby cheeks!

— Marine
I was born in Puerto Rico. I came here after a big storm and made a huge mess. I’m lucky to have my sisters here with me.

These piggies need your love and support. A $30 monthly donation will help provide the basic daily needs of the pig of your choice. You will receive pictures along with information on your pig’s background. Later in the year you’ll get an update to keep you connected to your piggy. Please join Ironwood’s family of sponsors today!

—Donna

www.ironwoodpigs.org ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
My owners killed and ate my companion and I was next! Luckily the wife decided she couldn’t do it and sold me to a nice lady that wanted to save me and bring me to the sanctuary.

I had been running loose near a hiking trail for months when some hikers caught me and I ended up at the Livestock Dept. One of the officers brought me here. His name is Conner too!

I was a stray running around with my brother and sister. All three of us made it here, skinny and hungry, but we’re doing great now. How nice to never worry about food or water again!

I came here with my mom and 2 best friends after our teenage owner/breeder got bored with “the business”. His parents asked us to take all the pigs.

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In October of 2019 the Sheriff’s Department was called to investigate a case of animal abuse in Oro Valley, AZ. The deputy evaluated the obviously half starved pig and made the wise decision to have him confiscated. Pima Animal Care Center, the county animal rescue, was contacted to come and get the young boar. After seeing his condition, their officer chose to take him directly to Adobe Veterinary Center. Ironwood was asked to take over his care from that point and the emaciated boy was signed over to the sanctuary.

The yet unnamed fellow was deemed too unhealthy and thin to undergo surgery to be neutered. He was sent home to the sanctuary with orders to take vitamin supplements and gain some weight. With his long, thin snout some commented that he looked like an anteater. I used Google to look up famous anteaters, real or animated, and discovered that Salvador Dali once had one as a pet. It was decided that Salvador would be a great name for this sweet guy. (And just FYI…there aren’t many famous anteaters!) About a month later Salvador was already looking a great deal better and was able to go in for his neuter surgery. It was a complete success with no complications. He recovered quickly and it wasn’t long before he was clamoring to get out of his individual pen where all newcomers stay during their evaluation period. He did get daily turns in one of two exercise yards but was restless during his time inside his pen. He had to complete 45 days of quarantine, the time period during which males remain fertile after being neutered. Once that was done, it wasn’t long before he and 18 other pigs moved out to join the herd in the Sunset Field bringing the total up to 41.

Salvador is almost three years old now and near his full adult size. He is a hog mix, taller than the pot-bellied pigs. This boy is adorable and sweet but my goodness, he is a character and a handful and a prankster! It’s like he has ADHD or something. Most of his shenanigans involve water. He is totally obsessed with dumping water bowls and pools. Not just any water bowls either. It’s ALL the bowls! There are bowls at the ends of each of the feeding troughs so the pigs can eat and drink as they scurry from one trough to the next. Salvador eats, flips, eats, flips, eats, flips…all the way down one line of troughs then
During his play time, Salvador discovered various uses for the wading pools. He shared his list with me:

1. Napping - There’s not a better spot to sleep when it’s 100+ degrees! I fit perfectly inside then pretend I’m at the lake.

2. Cooling Off - If I’m not sleepy yet, I’ll sometimes just hang out in the pool sitting or standing up so I can keep my eyes peeled for other opportunities while keeping my feet cool.

3. Butt Scratcher - This is a cool one! Every pig gets an itchy posterior once in a while especially after rolling around in the mud or dirt. The edge of the pool is an excellent tool! Give it a try!

4. Umbrella - I found this one sort of by accident. One day I was tossing the pool around then lay down to rest in the mud. Voila! Instant shade! And it’s portable if I get the urge to move around.

5. Drinking - I saved this idea for last because it’s kind of boring. I walk up to a pool, drink out of it then…nothing except that I’m not thirsty anymore. Useful but not exciting or even very fun.
For a few weeks after first moving into the Sunset Field, Salvador spent most of his time on the south end of the field where most of the other new pigs like to hang out. His behavior during feeding time got worse and worse. It wasn’t just the constant bowl dumping, but he would jump on the person trying to get the other pigs put into pens then put grain out into the troughs. Salvador is a big boy and when you’re juggling a stack of feed bowls full of meals and a bucket of grain, having him stand up on your chest or shoulders is crossing the line. Some of the pigs are fed in small, individual pens for a variety of reasons. Our thinking was to get Salvador trained to go into one of the feed pens to keep the feeder safe while taking care of the rest of the herd. Well, he went in just fine because that’s where the food was, but as soon as he finished eating he simply hopped over the gate and joined the others in the troughs. Plan B…build a taller, stronger pen that he can’t get out of. The logical spot to do that was up near the front of the field next to Big Charlotte’s “jail cell” that she gets fed in. Hers was built for basically the same reason as Salvador’s need. She is a hog mix (with lots more hog than Salvador…she’s a BIG girl) and she was also wreaking havoc on the feeders. Her pen is doubly enforced hog panel with triple latches on the gate. We just used one side of Big Charlotte’s feed pen to build off of and made Salvador’s the same size. One difference though is the little door at the bottom where his feed bowl can be slid inside without him mauling you. It’s just like the bean slot on a jail cell. So getting Salvador safely inside is a trick. He likes to stand up on things…the fence, the gate, YOU! Add in the fact that he’s super excited with the thought of eating and he’s wacko. Notice the triple latches on his gate. He’s not busting outta there once he is locked inside! The feed pen works to keep the feeders safe when dealing with the rest of the herd, but it’s still not 100% safe with getting him in there. It’s a work in progress.

Okay, the next problem the little scamp came up with involved the cut out section of the fence. We have these in a lot of the fields where many individual meals need to be prepared for the “pen pigs,” those who have specialized meals. When you have your hands full of bowls, buckets and juice containers, it is easier to step over the spot where one level of the squares were cut off the hog panel rather than trying to maneuver through the gate with all that. Salvador recently discovered that he could jump over that and “help” the feeders get stuff ready or just gorge himself on hay as fast as possible before someone ran over to make him go back inside. Plan C…keep a raised cover over the cut out until you put him in his pen early with a grain dispensing toy to keep him occupied. He just didn’t grasp the concept though. Instead of playing with the toy and eating, he pushed frantically on the gate, stood on the fence and
maniac chasing the ATV up and down the slopes to the south end feed station. He then “helps” get the bin filled or stack hay on the pallets. You can just imagine how much his help is appreciated! He can be a real pill although other adjective phrases were used when I was asking staff about their dealings with him. No need to mention all of them.

Salvador gets along fine with the other piggies. He has become casual friends with several of them and is still getting to know others in different parts of the field. Down on the south end he and Manteca share pool time. He sometimes sleeps in a house next door to Biscuits. Wilbur is a nice little buddy to nap with. Once Salvador started using his feed pen in the front part of the field, he began spending more time in that area hanging out with Slater, Tori, Heather and others. He hasn’t quite settled into a tight relationship with anyone in particular but is enjoying playing four-wheeler comes through once or twice a week with the wagon attachment filled with either bales of hay or bags of grain to replenish the bins at the two feed stations. Salvador knows there is food in there and runs like a tried jumping out. He was definitely going to hurt himself. Plan D…line the inside of his pen with shade cloth so that he couldn’t get his feet through the hog panel to discourage standing on the fence. Also, a piece of hog panel was put over his pen like an open panel roof to prevent him from trying to jump over. Like I said earlier…it’s a work in progress.

Another antic from the Saboteur of Sunset is chasing the ATV. The four-wheeler comes through once or twice a week with the wagon attachment filled with either bales of hay or bags of grain to replenish the bins at the two feed stations. Salvador knows there is food in there and runs like a maniac chasing the ATV up and down the slopes to the south end feed station. He then “helps” get

Salvador is trying to be a good boy. He will grow out of his annoying behaviors. Really, he will. Yes, maturity is on the horizon. Do you see it? We look for it every day but, alas, it’s not there yet. We have to keep telling ourselves that it’s coming. Salvador will grow up……one day.

—Donna
Faline and Thumper are two of 11 pigs we took from Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) on June 29, 2018. They came from a hoarding situation where 146 animals total were removed from the property. Nine of the pigs were KuneKunes. They were featured in our September 2018 issue and here they are again nearly grown up. We have not had KuneKunes in the past. They are truly a delight and well, sometimes a nightmare. Trying to carry a bucket of grain to feed the troughs with six large friendly pigs jumping on you is a challenge indeed. Thumper is the biggest trouble maker, so we had to make a large pen next to Marty to confine her for breakfast after having her jump in the feeding station and up on the shelters after the grain. But they are so friendly and they will all gather around to rub against you to get attention. They love to be hugged on. When you enter their field, you have to be prepared to come out blotched with mud since they get in the mud wallows and then come over to say hi and rub themselves against you. What a wonderful experience it is to have this family of Kunes living with us. Just another example of what loving, delightful animals pigs are, notwithstanding the challenges they present as well.

Karter and Taz are two pigs from very different rescue backgrounds who came to live with us. Karter was part of a six pig rescue on June 19, 2013. She and her family were living in the desert in southwest Tucson. There were six remaining pigs from several generations of pigs who had been turned loose many years before from a defunct resort. Squatters had been living on the property and providing some care for the pigs, particularly water. The property was sold and the man caring for them was evicted, so the pigs had to fend for themselves. With the help of a caring person who caught the pigs by constructing a pen where he chummed the pigs into, we were able to rescue them. Karter and her surviving companions live in the same field with Taz who was part of a seven pig rescue in January of 2012. All seven pigs were an assortment of rescues themselves from a lady who took them in but due to a divorce had to release them to us. Over time the herds have merged along with several other rescued groups and individuals and many new friends were made from these diverse backgrounds. Taz is a star this month since he was also featured on one of our thank you notes. Taz remains friendly with us while Karter and her family have remained shy of people all these years, but how nice that they enjoy their lives together living and sharing the companionship of pigs.
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.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**Used Blankets are needed year round.**

- Sheets
- Antibacterial Wipes
- Canned Pumpkin
- Desitin
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg
- Swat Fly Ointment
- Animal Crackers
- Heavy Duty Duct Tape
- Boost Breeze Nutritional Drink (Orange Only)
- Fig Newton Cookies (NOT Individually Wrapped)

GIFT CARDS

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

Our Wish List

Planned Giving

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

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

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