

# IRONWOOD

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Megan

# PIG SANCTUARY

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary  
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road  
Marana, AZ 85653**

February 1, 2004

Dear Supporter,

As we welcome in the New Year we also welcome many new readers of our quarterly newsletter. We hope that you all enjoy hearing from us and we hope you learn to love our pigs as we do.

Ironwood is an ever-changing organization and we are now faced with making hard choices about what pigs we take. We had hoped not to have to make these choices, but I am afraid it was wishful thinking on our part. Please see the article, Change in Direction, on this topic. It is a time for reflection and for learning.


We have learned much about pigs over these past few years. We have learned how to handle them, how to trim tusks and hooves, much about their medical needs, a lot about their habits and aggression.

But when it comes to their emotional complexity we have much yet to learn and to reflect on. As I read literature and newsletters from those who have lived with pigs far longer than I, I understand that I am correct in the realization that these are not simple beings and they have a wide range of feelings. We have witnessed so often expressions of joy, grief and depression, social interactions among friends and disagreements between them.

These insights make the decisions we make for their lives much more morally difficult. When we adopt a pig from among our herd we are taking him or her away from the social structure and friends they have learned to love and enjoy living with. The answers are not always clear or easy.

As I grapple with the decisions about these individuals who have come to join our lives at the sanctuary, I am ever more aware of the need to reach out to more people to teach them about what we have learned about our companions, and to impress upon them that we, as a society and a species, must broaden our circle of compassion.

Sincerely

  
Mary Schanz  
President and Co-Founder

PS: When Sadie was recently returned to her herd, after a period of time in a pen for treatment of an illness, she ran around the field and one by one chatted with all her old friends. We don't know exactly what they were saying, but we have a good idea. Just as we don't understand other human languages we understand the emotions.



**Jimmy Dean & Mary**

# Change In Direction

**A**fter only a short two years and a few months, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has found itself in the unfortunate position of having to turn pigs away as the calls continue to come in. We are full. Like most, if not all, other sanctuaries in the nation there are simply more unwanted animals than there are homes or sanctuaries to house them. We came to this very difficult decision to not take in more pigs over the past few months as we realized our resources both in money and ability to care for more animals was finite. We love our family of nearly 360 pigs and we feel that their care must come first and we are a very few hands who supply that care on a daily basis.

So where do we go from here? Having said we are not taking more pigs I really should qualify that and explain myself further. If an animal's life is in peril, we find a place for them. In cases of abandoned or abused animals we will make room for them. See Donna's article on "Meet Our Pigs" in this issue. Mickey, Sally and Hoss all were in such situations. Bonnie and Clyde were at the Apache Junction



**Sonya & Bill with Harley**

Animal Control Center. When I called to say we were full and could not take them, the office told me the animals would be taken by the livestock board to auction and probably be sold for rendering. They are not

humanely put down at their facility. Within an hour we had John and Kevin on their way to Apache Junction to pick up

Bonnie and Clyde. They had been abandoned by their owners with no food or water and the Animal Control Center had been called. Clyde "was" a young unneutered male and Bonnie is a sweet little girl who was no doubt pregnant. We took Bonnie to see Dr. Page the next morning for a sonogram. If

her pregnancy was not advanced we would give her the appropriate hormone shots to end her pregnancy and that was in fact what we did. These are the

pigs we make room for. What happens to all the others? First of all, when we get a call from an owner who wants to release their pig or pigs to us, we try to get more information on why they want or have to give up their animal. If it is a behavioral problem we can sometimes offer suggestions to help solve the problem. If their pig is getting out of their yard we can help reinforce their fence. We offer ideas on how to place their pig themselves such as asking friends or family if they know anyone who would want their pig, putting up a notice in feed stores or their veterinarian's office, or running an ad. We always make sure that the owners understand that they need to be very careful to screen the new owner. If all of that fails we also try to network. This is our most recent way of trying to place

unwanted pigs. You may recall our August 2003 newsletter included an article about Tina Benson who took six pigs we were unable to take.



**Tina's Willcox Pigs**

Recently Sonya and Bill Kramp, who adopted two of our little girls, Gladys and Anita, in June of this year, have now also taken Arnold and Harley who needed a home.

## Change In Direction Cont.

They were transferred directly to Sonya and Bill from the previous owners. Holly and Anthony Tubbiolo, Trena McLaughlin, and Holly Sokol and Donn Moseley have all returned to adopt additional piggies to help ease our burden. We have heard



### Chopper Needs a Home

from a couple in Snowflake who may be able to take a couple of pigs and others we have talked with may be willing to help with our overflow. This all takes time and effort. We have to visit these new homes to make sure they are adequate for the pigs and often we need to help with fencing and/or shelters. But this is the direction we must go. I know there are homes out there that can help with pigs we can no longer bring to Ironwood, and if you are one of those homes, or you know someone who is, please let us know.

We can not always find a home in a timely manner. On two different occasions I called owners back to say we had found homes for their pigs and they had placed them themselves. One had run an ad in the paper saying she had a breeding pair and she placed them the day I called. The other said she placed her female

at a farm with three other pigs. With further questioning I found out the pigs were at a petting zoo. One of the three pigs was a boar and the two others were sows, all to be used for breeding. I could almost not believe those words. The disappointment I felt was immense. Time is not always on our side as with these two cases. Networking to place unwanted pigs into new homes is new to us and we are trying to get a better system set up and it will take time. We will continue to network and although we will have disappointments we will also have successes, and more pigs will be placed in homes than would be if we did not continue to try.

**BEQUEST**

**Please consider including the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your will.**



**Prit and his friend "Oink"**



**Donated Pumpkins for the Piggies!**

### COVER

Megan has been with us for two years now after being abandoned by her owner. The owner's roommate, left with the responsibility of caring for Megan, decided she would be better off at Ironwood. Megan is very much a people pig and enjoys attention.

# Meet Our Pigs



**HOSS**

Hoss arrived at Ironwood on the same day as Sally. He was a stray that had wandered into a neighborhood in Phoenix. A family took him in for a while but was unable to keep him or to locate his previous owners. Hoss is a handsome gray pig, but yet another overweight pig that has been put on a diet. He is



**SALLY**

In mid October we received a call from a man whose neighbor had moved away and abandoned their pig. He had been feeding Sally but didn't want to take her into his home. Another neighbor planned to take Sally that day and barbecue her! A hasty trip to Phoenix was made to save her life. An extremely obese Sally



**MICKEY**

Mickey had a rough life before coming to Ironwood. First, his original owner abandoned him. His rescuer hogtied his legs and put him in the back of a van to transport him to their home. There he was put in a small enclosure with little space to get some much-needed exercise due to extreme obesity. This family also owns a wolf dog hybrid, which posed a great threat for Mickey. We were called because the family realized that it was not the best situation for him. Mickey is now on a diet and forced out to walk around every day. He is afraid to go inside his shelter (and we have tried different kinds for him,) so each night I cover him up with blankets and tuck him in so he won't get so cold. Hopefully, once he loses some weight and can move more easily, he will get up and move out of the rain and cold and get in a shelter!

All three of the above chubby pigs are very sweet and just need a second chance at a better life.

nervous and shy around people he doesn't know. Once he is comfortable with you, Hoss loves to get belly rubs and back scratches! He is a little chatterbox that would make a wonderful pet to converse with.

arrived at Ironwood; lame, stressed and grumbling. She is on a diet now and encouraged out of her shelter daily to get some exercise. Sally enjoys lying in the sun, getting pets and being talked to by any person who stops by to visit. She still grumbles a lot, but has adjusted well to her new environment.

# Open House

**J**ohn, hold the traffic, we have cars waiting to get out. John stopped 15 cars from coming down our narrow lane so that a group could get out. The small parking lot of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary was full with over 60 cars. Another 40 lined the narrow dirt road to the sanctuary with others waiting down the road for



**One of Mary's Tours**

room to get in. A line of visitors stretched over the front yard waiting to get into the crowded visitor center. Visitors were streaming down the road and into the sanctuary. At one point Bob looked up and saw the traffic and people streaming into the sanctuary and said it looked like Woodstock! We were overwhelmed by the traffic and visitors. People were everywhere. Bob, John, Justin, and Ben spent the entire day directing traffic at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary's 2003 Open House. Donna and Mary gave tours continuously throughout the day without a break. Our visitor center crew, Francie, Rita, Marty, and Mary,

worked non stop getting refreshments and food for all of our visitors. Nothing went to waste. Everything was consumed that day.

We were exhausted at the end of the day but pleased with the great turnout for

our open house. We estimated that there were over 300 cars and 750 visitors that day. It was a great weather day and everyone had a good time visiting with the pigs. Every pig that wanted a belly rub got their fill that day.

Our large hog, Pinkerton, seemed to be the center of attraction in our main field receiving all the attention she wanted.

We were pleased with the media



**Pinkerton Getting Some Attention**

**With all the people streaming in it looked like Woodstock!**

response in Tucson. Virtually all the press had multiple inserts of the Open House along with many announcements by the radio stations. The Tucson Citizen had a nice article about the sanctuary with wonderful pictures. We have

Roberta Vanderslice to thank for the great media coverage along with a stronger Ironwood Sanctuary presence in the community.



The life blood of a sanctuary is the support of the people. And what better way to get our message out than with such a successful Open House.

Thank you for all of your support. We are looking for an even better Open House next year.

# Who We Are

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**Mary Schanz**  
**President**  
**CoFounder**

After moving to Arizona fifteen years ago from CA, where we were avid sailors, I became very involved in environmental and animal rights issues. Helping animals of all kinds became my passion. After retiring from a career in medical technology, my husband and I had planned to travel extensively. But we had become involved with potbellied pigs by volunteering at another sanctuary and I was smitten. My life at Ironwood is very busy and often stressful, but when I am away from the sanctuary for any reason when I return I can't wait to visit every area to reconnect with all the pigs, for they have become my family.



**Ben Watkins**  
**Executive Director**  
**CoFounder**

My involvement with the creation and growth of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, after my retirement, is the most significant thing that I have ever done. I love all of our sweet pigs and it gives me great pleasure when I see them enjoying themselves in one of our fields.

I particularly like designing and building the infrastructure which keeps me in touch with my engineering background.

Editing the newsletter and keeping the sanctuary books are also my responsibilities.

We have created a great sanctuary and it gives me pride to think of what we have built and all the pigs we have helped.



**Donna Norton**  
**Sanctuary Manager**

Living at Ironwood and being involved in the daily lives of the pigs is the most rewarding job I've ever had. I don't really think of it as a job but just a part of my life. Being surrounded by pigs, the beautiful desert and the quiet solitude of country life make this the perfect surrounding for me. The long hours and physical labor make for tiring days, but taking a moment out for a belly rub with Hamlet, a nose kiss from Navajo or a good ear scratching for Pearl make all of this worthwhile. I love these pigs and can't imagine my life without them!

# One of our Pigs Would

Aaron  
Amos

Daisy-Mae  
Daley  
Danny Ray  
Desiree  
Dixie Lee  
Ebby  
Ebony



Angel  
Arnie  
Baldwin  
Bandit  
Bentley  
Betsy



Edith  
Ellie Mae  
Elliot  
Ferdy  
Frank  
Franklin



Blackjack  
Bobbie  
Bonnie  
Bradley  
Buster



Gracie



Gretel  
Hank  
Harley  
Harriet  
Hondie  
Hoss

Jackson

Chesney  
Chorizo  
Clyde  
Collie



Jethro  
Jimmy  
Dean  
Kris



# Love you as a Sponsor!

Latasha  
Lennie  
Little Pig  
Little'Un  
Loretta



Donna & Choriso

Regina  
Roger  
Rosie  
Rudy  
Sally



Louie  
Louise  
Manny  
Mickey  
Molly  
Monty  
Morgan  
Mr. Pigg  
Obie  
Otis  
Pete  
Piggy  
Sue  
Piglet  
Poncho  
Popeye  
Porgy  
Porky  
Precious  
Profit

*I would like to welcome the many new sponsors from our latest mailing and from our Open House! We now have many lucky pigs with a sponsor! I'm always excited to add new sponsors and tell them about their pig and how they came to be at Ironwood. Having the opportunity to share pictures and information about our pigs brings me a lot of pleasure.*

*If you would like to join our sponsorship program and receive letters and photos about your pig, please choose from one of the many listed here or send me a description of male, female, special needs, etc. and I'll choose one for you, or better yet, come out to visit and let a pig choose you! A contribution of \$30 a month will cover all your pigs expenses including food and health care.*

*Thank you for supporting the pigs and our efforts to provide a happy home for them all.*



Jackson

Samantha  
Sambo  
Scout  
Sexy  
Shannon



Regina

# Two Pigs Are Better Than One

**H**ere at Ironwood, we greatly encourage potential pig owners to adopt two pigs. Pigs are herd animals and it is best that they have at least one of their own kind for companionship. It has no effect on their relationship with you. But it gives them a buddy to sleep with, argue with, and just be with. It greatly increases the quality of their life. People, dogs and cats are fine, but another pig is a true kindred spirit. As they pal around together and fuss with each other, they get many emotional needs filled that we can't fill for them in any other way. A single pig may become lethargic, bored, depressed and sometimes even aggressive. Having a second pig to hang out with will make for a more active, well-adjusted pig. Pigs are very sensitive and emotional and need a companion who understands their needs, and who better for that than another pig!



**Waylon and Kris**

## Frances and Her Babies Three Months Later

**W**e thought you might all want to know the rest of the story about Frances and her babies. We have to admit we had a wonderful time watching the "little darlings" grow up. Frances was a wonderful momma and all her eight babies grew up healthy and happy. They were so cute to watch playing and running in their large pen and in the exercise field. They would roll in the mud and strut along the fence challenging the pigs in the assisted living field. But they were soon eight weeks old and it was time to wean them away from momma, so they could begin their independent life.



Except for one girl who is on the spay schedule all were either spayed or neutered before going to their new homes. Peanut was adopted first and went home with John and Tanalei. Raymond went home with Anthony and Holly with their family of pigs, most

of whom used to call Ironwood home. Bart and Lisa went to join Elmer and Edith with Holly and Donn. Jeannine and Della welcomed Louise, now Jet, to keep Little Pink company. Dutchess, now Noel also, joined Wilbur at Rick and Lacey's home. Noel #2 went with Sweetie to their home in Phoenix with Heather and Dennis and Thelma joined her family of pigs, all from Ironwood, and her human family, Sonya and Bill. We have spoken with many of the families and the little ones are all doing well. We wish them all a happy, healthy life. We miss them very much.

Frances has gained a lot of weight and wanders happily around the property. She can look forward to a healthy life without the stress on her body of raising another litter of pigs. Thanks to the Gibson family for socializing Bart and Thelma.

# How To Handle an Aggressive Pig

**B**en and Mary often refer people to me when they hear about problems with an aggressive pig. I had similar problems with my first pig and have had to deal with many of these problems myself.

When I got my first pig, Wilbur, in 1995, he was already 5 years old and had been raised in the same home since he was 8 weeks old. Though his owner did mention that her husband had never liked Wilbur and was not very nice to him, she never mentioned anything about him being aggressive. Oh course, she wasn't truthful about a lot of things and I soon learned that this was done in hopes of getting rid of him.

On the car ride home, (I sat in the back seat with him) he tried to bite me twice! Please understand that this can happen even with the sweetest pigs. They are fear biters. He was in a car with strange people leaving the only home he had ever known. I'm sure he was very scared and nervous.

Over the next week or so, his behavior got worse. I was at my wits end and had even begun thinking of getting rid of him. It was at this time that I called the veterinary office that my dogs' vet had referred. The vet's husband explained that pigs instinctively live in herds and each herd has its territory. Within the herd there is a "pecking order" and this is established by who can intimidate whom into submission. Since Wilbur had come into a new territory (my home) and a new herd (me and my pets) he was trying to instinctively establish that he was the top pig. Once I understood this, everything made sense. Wilbur used all of his

remaining power to establish that he was dominant over me. I had to establish myself as the leader of the pack as I had already done with the rest of my pets.

Some important tips for dealing with an aggressive pig:

1. Have your pig spayed or



neutered.

2. Never back down when your pig acts aggressive.

\*Back him into a corner or back him down in some way

\*Don't show that you are scared or startled; he's looking for some reaction that shows he has gotten the best of you

\*You can shove him to show your dominance. This is similar to what a challenging pig would do and they relate to this. This is best done with your knees or forearms. From the side of your pig, bend your knees as in a downhill ski position, and then bring one knee into his shoulder. Also, holding both arms straight out, bend at the elbows and use the forearms to shove them from the side.

3. Don't use your hands to hit your pig, it will only cause him to flinch and to fear you when you try to pet him, not respect you as the leader.

Every pig responds to things

differently. I have found that the most effective way to show my dominance with Wilbur is to get down on all fours and walk towards him face to face. I only do this if he is really behaving badly because it really scares him and sends him squealing away.

Other factors to keep in mind when dealing with an aggressive pig:

1. Their mouths do not open wide like a cat or dog so chances of a bite are less likely if you keep fingers and toes out of their reach.

2. Pigs have poor vision and poor depth of field.

If you have raised your pig from a little piglet and around 2 years of age it starts to act aggressively, there are different reasons for this. First of all, pigs are very intelligent. Many times the pig sees you as its equal rather than its leader, especially if there is no other pig around. Also, once they reach maturity, around two years of age, they come to realize that they are older (in their terms) and smarter than small children and will sometimes start to try to push them around as well.

Dealing with and overcoming aggression in your potbellied pig takes time and patience. With a lot of love and a firm knowledge of your position as the leader, I believe that these problems can be overcome.

I have now had Wilbur for over 8 years and I even got a second pig 4 years ago. I can't imagine my life without Wilbur and I actually refer to him as the love of my life. If I had gotten rid of him rather than deal with his problems, I might never have known the joys of owning a potbellied pig.

**W**hat a nice surprise it was when I opened the mail and found a letter from Susan Pascente wondering if we might have a need for a 40ft 5th wheel she was interested in donating if we could help her cover some of her expenses. We were delighted since we had just been discussing how we might add one more living accommodation for an employee that would be on site and private. We worked out the details and our new house has arrived. Thanks so much Susan and once we get it set up it will make a nice cozy home!

Thanks to all of you who remembered us at Christmas time and for our Open House. People came bearing all manor of gifts: blankets, towels, film, vitamins, sunscreen, first aid kits, aloe plants, and boxes of decorative piggies and many other items. The Christmas boxes arrived with similar gifts and sometimes with a bit of chocolate for the caregivers, and a necklace to be worn when we can get a rare night out. We also received so many wonderful cards and notes. Thank you all. I would like to say a special thanks to all of you who helped us prepare for the open house and to everyone

THANKS

who was able to help on that special day. Thanks to Laura and her friends, Lisa, Bob, Rita, Mary, Marty, Justin N, and especially John and Francie. Francie's cooking was a lifesaver.

Deanna Richardson and her dad Max, both anesthesiologists, are regulars now when Dr. Page is doing our surgeries. We feel our pigs are in good hands!

We had many special groups who came and helped this past quarter including a Boy Scout troop and a Girl Scout troop and many helped us with special events like the street fair. Pamala, Paul, Rita, Cerise, Carolyn and Opie the pig, and Lisa and Doris made it easy for me to stay at Ironwood and work. But I don't want to forget our regulars who work weekly or biweekly and can be counted on for special projects or when we are in a mess with broken water pipes or an emergency pig pick up. We thank you Bob, Jim, John and Francie, Tim and Herb, Justin N, and Mike and Jean. And thanks to all of you who help with my thank you notes: Lisa, Marty, Carolyn, Kristin and Martha. I could never do it without you.

## CLIVE

**I**n our November newsletter, there was an article about a group of pigs rescued from a woman named Ruby. One of those pigs was chosen by a sponsor and given the name of Clive. Clive always reminded me of a boxer, with his bent ear and large scar above his eye. This fall Clive went through a tough time with an internal infection and severe lameness in both front legs due to shoulder dysplasia and arthritis. The damage was irreversible and causing him a lot of pain. The difficult decision was made to euthanize Clive to spare him any further discomfort. Clive was buried in the cemetery in the far corner of the field where he had lived with his brothers and sisters. A couple of days later, I went out very early in the morning to place a marker on his grave. As I finished pounding in the marker, I heard footsteps behind me. Turning around, I saw all of Clive's brothers lined up a few

feet away watching me. They never come to this end of the field, having chosen shelters on the opposite side. It was as if they had come to pay their respects along with me. I was very touched by this.



As I made my way back toward the gate, I knelt down to give another pig a belly rub. Edith, one of Clive's sisters who is extremely afraid of all people, came up to me and touched my hand with her nose.

I am continuously amazed at the depth of sensitivity and emotions pigs can express. I truly believe that they were aware of the loss of Clive and shared the sadness I was feeling. --- Donna

# Support Your Sanctuary

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.



## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Almost everyday Ironwood receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, "where will the money come from to help this one?" The answer is simple: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$1 or \$1,000, will be charged to your credit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for your support!

## Pick a Name for Your Sponsored Pig

*How would you like to pick a name for your sponsored pig?*

*Maybe you would like to remember a favorite aunt, uncle, parent, child, or mentor.*

*We have a number of pigs without names because they came as a large herd of 57 pigs and most of them didn't have names.*

*Let us know your choice of name.*

# Employee Needed

Our current live in worker will be leaving in early April and we need a replacement.

**WANTED:** A trustworthy, caring person who loves animals to live and work at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a non-profit pot bellied pig sanctuary located near Marana, a rural area of southern Arizona one hour drive north of Tucson. No experience necessary, we will train you.

This is HARD work. Job duties include, but are not limited to, cleaning pens and fields, helping with feeding, help with hands-on care of pigs who are disabled, injured, or sick, or general animal care. Help with trimming tusks and hoofs. Handling 50# bags of feed and assisting with moving bales of hay to the various feeding stations. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays as necessary. Must be able to lift 50+ pounds. Four day work week.



MEL

Housing consists of a room with private bath in a modern late model mobile home used as the visitor center or a separate 40 foot 5th wheel with hookups. The housing will comfortably accommodate one person and a small companion animal.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is located in Marana, Arizona on 70 acres in a beautiful Sonoran desert habitat. The climate is moderate in winter and hot in summer. Summer daytime temperatures can be in the 100's with nighttime temperatures in the 70's. The surrounding mountains are perfect for hiking. Southern Arizona is a premier bird watching area.

We are looking for a dedicated person who is ready to commit to the care of unwanted and abused pot bellied pigs. Is that YOU?

## OUR WISH LIST

**Please let us know if you have any of the following items to donate:**

- \* Triple Antibiotic Cream
- \* Binocular oil immersion Microscope
- \* Centrifuge
- \* Blankets for our cold winters
- \* 2000 gallon Water Truck
- \* Any size Dog House but large preferred
- \* Any size Dog Igloo Shelter but extra large and giant preferred.
- \* All sizes of Wading Pools and Turtle Sand Boxes to be used for water
- \* Shade Cloth - black preferred.
- \* Towels
- \* Late Model Cargo Van
- \* Pool Repair Kits or Marine Goop
- \* Corrugated Roofing
- \* 1/2 inch Plywood
- \* Small Tractor with back hoe

# Ironwood

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is a pot bellied pig rescue, sanctuary and adoption facility. We provide a safe home for mistreated, unwanted, or rescued pigs.

## MISSION

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

## FACILITIES

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in November of 2000 in Marana, Arizona, a rural community northwest of Tucson, as a result of the overpopulation of other sanctuaries in Arizona. Our sanctuary consists of 70 acres with 10 being developed exclusively for pot bellied pigs and the remaining 60 serving as a buffer or for future growth. Recently released or rescued pigs are housed in one of 24 holding pens in order to give us the opportunity to evaluate new arrivals, treat them for specific wounds or illnesses and provide the pigs time to acclimate to a different environment and to each other through the safety of fencing. Over time, the pigs are transferred from their holding pens to a 6 acre field where they can mingle with the herd yet still have plenty of room to find their own space when wanted. Individual and sharable shelters as well as mud wallows and pools are available in all areas.

## ADOPTIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

**Ironwood** also places pigs in adoptive homes. All prospective “parents” are screened. We want to be sure that these lovable creatures are a welcome part of the family.

**Ironwood** has a number of resident pigs that have personality problems, have been abused or are too old to be adopted. Pigs not adoptable will live out their lives at the sanctuary. You can help them by sponsoring your favorite resident pig! A contribution of \$30 a month pays for all your pig’s expenses. Your sponsorship gives you all the background information available on your pig, including a photo, and periodic updates. Visit your very own pig as often as you like. They always like company and, of course, those special treats you bring.

## RESCUES

**Ironwood** accepts calls to rescue pot bellied pigs found wandering in neighborhoods or in the desert, those left in community shelters and any who are abused or abandoned by their owners. We also receive pigs from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

## BOARDING

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** has a boarding facility exclusively for pot bellied pigs that provides a peaceful setting away from the trauma of barking dogs and other stressful conditions that can occur at other boarding kennels. Please call for more information about our boarding program.

## SUPPORT

Even if you can’t adopt or sponsor one of our pigs, you can always come out and help. We always have an extra pooper-scooper or you can help with one of our ongoing projects or just give tummy rubs!

If you would like to help the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary call Donna or Mary for volunteer opportunities or send in your tax-deductible donation.

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# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

