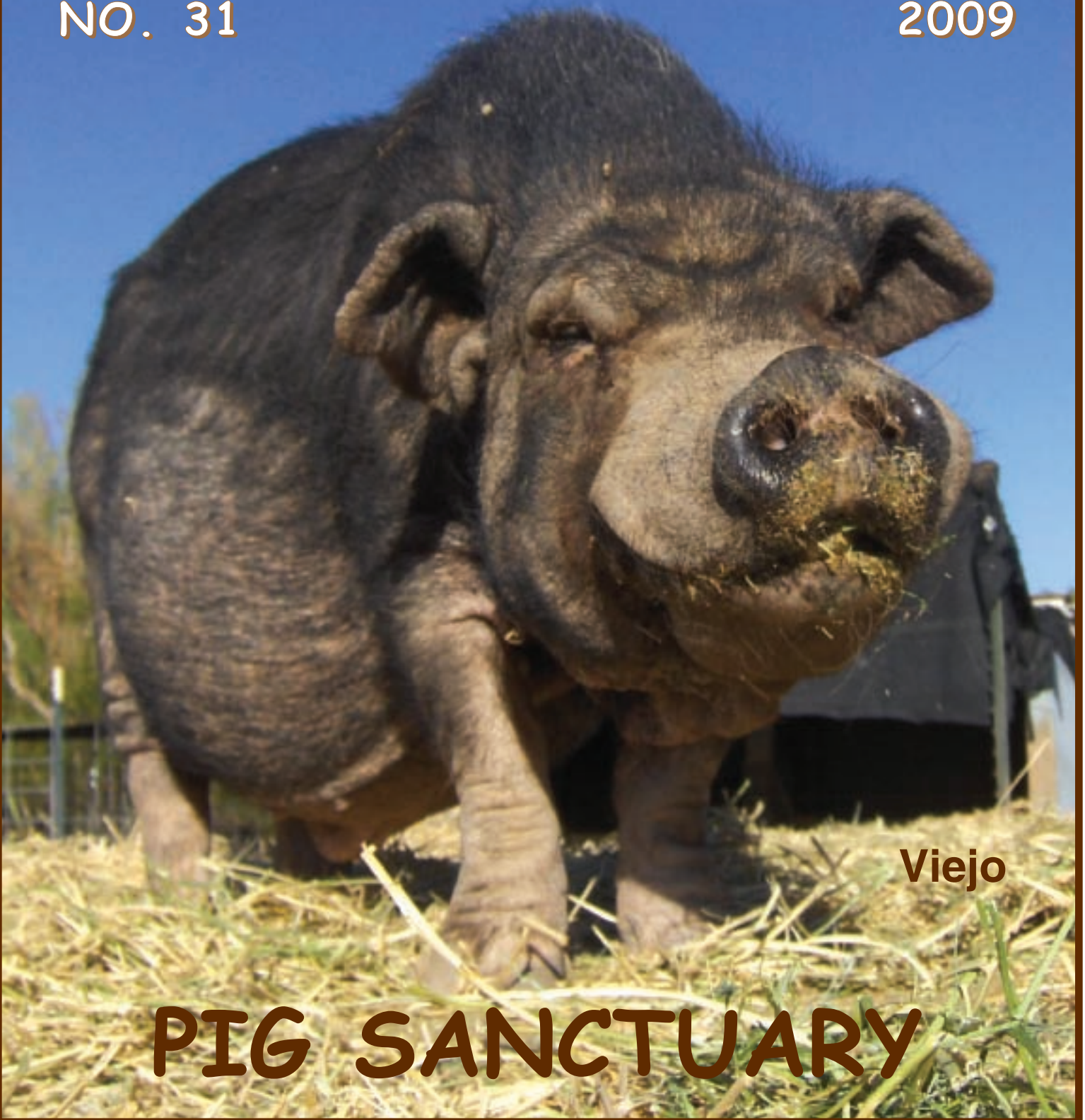


IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO. 31

NOVEMBER
2009



Viejo

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 2009

Dear Supporter,

The challenges of 2009 have been many. The state of the economy has put all the sanctuaries at risk as I am sure you are all aware from the numerous appeals you are receiving. Some have had to close their doors and work to place their animals. This is not an option for us, so we must continue to provide for all of our pigs.

Because you have continued to support us we have been able to continue to care for all of our pigs. We are blessed by your support. We know you are all hurting as well, but you are our lifeline so please do what you can. Each day, week and month we struggle to raise the money to provide food, medical care, and staffing to help with the care of our pigs.

Frank Wendland, Cofounder of W.O.L.F. Sanctuary recently wrote to another sanctuary having problems: "Unfortunately NO ONE who has not operated a sanctuary can comprehend the challenges involved with making and keeping it viable. I battle this concept daily and believe it is the biggest challenge that I personally face." This could not be more true. And no one can tell you ahead of time the toll it will take on you physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And yet the need to have people willing to expose themselves to these hurts is so great. There are so many animals of all kinds who need a place to call home where they can be safe and cared for.

Taking animals out of horrible conditions and bringing them home to Ironwood is one of the great rewards, but knowing that there will be no consequences to the people who kept the animals in these conditions leaves me angry and frustrated.

With all of these challenges, saying goodbye to so many of my dear friends each year is the hardest part of all. This year so many of my dearest pigs have passed away and it has left a big hole in my heart. There is little or no time to even grieve for them because the demands of those still with us are so great. Each time I wonder where will I get the strength to continue this mission, but through my tears, and there are many, I know that the strength will come from those left behind for all of us to care for.

May we all help one another, animals and people alike.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS I am pictured here with Miglet. He was the first pig adopted from our sanctuary on 12/22/01. He has come back home with us after all these years. Being able to welcome Miglet back with open arms helps to give me the strength needed to continue.



Miglet and Mary

In The Holiday Spirit

The holidays are on the way. This is the time of year we think of sharing, giving and good will. Each of the three families below made a commitment and got involved to save the lives of several pigs in peril. Because of their caring these little piggies have good homes for the holidays.

Tammy, one of our supporters, who already had four pigs who are mostly elderly, e-mailed us to say she had a tip that four pigs in her neighborhood were not being cared for and would soon be eaten. She went there and found that three of the pigs had been exchanged for a sheep and the new owners had planned to eat the



Penelope Waiting For a Treat

pigs. The fourth one, an older female, had recently come from someone who needed a home for their pig. They no doubt believed she would be well cared for.

Tammy had to pay for the pigs in order to save them. She took the



Mary, Tammy & Isabel Sharing a Special Moment

older female that day since the only water they had was dumped.

Tammy contacted us and we told her to get the others and we would help her. We picked up Penelope, Isabel, Mary, and Taz and brought them to Ironwood. We immediately had the three females spayed. Isabel was pregnant. We also had Taz neutered. Penelope, Isabel, and Mary were returned to Tammy once they recovered. These lucky piggies now have a good safe home.

M'Lissa e-mailed to tell us that she had managed to finally get Piggy Wiggy in a pen. He had been roaming their neighborhood since April of 2007. He had lost an ear and his tail, and dogs or coyotes also damaged his bottom. He was finally safe, but he was still a boar and very restless. We

told her he would settle right down once he was neutered. But the day we went to pick him up he had escaped from their pen. He must have become accustomed to regular food, water, a wallow and a safe shelter with lots of bedding to sleep in because he soon returned. We brought him to Ironwood and had him neutered.

In the meantime M'Lissa's neighbor had moved out and



Piggy Wiggy & Little Pig Relaxing Together



Piggy Wiggy at Ironwood

In The Holiday Spirit -- Continued



Little Pig and Piggy Wiggy at Dinner Time

abandoned their little pig. Since the water was turned off M'Lissa was hauling 5-gallon containers of water over to him so he would have water and a wallow in the still 100-plus temperatures. We moved Little Pig over to M'Lissa's house the day we picked up Piggy Wiggy to be neutered. Once Piggy Wiggy had recovered from his neuter we returned him to his new home and he and Little Pig soon became friends with very little arguing. Thanks to M'Lissa, Piggy Wiggy and Little Pig are safe in their new home and each has a friend to share his life with.

Near the same time that M'Lissa



Tucker and his Friend Joey

contacted us about her Piggy Wiggy, Kathy e-mailed us that she had taken in a stray baby pig in Queen Creek three months earlier.

He also needed to be neutered and she said she would be willing to keep him if she could get a companion for him. His present companion was Joey, an older sheep, who she felt would not be with her much longer and little Tucker would be alone. We picked up Tucker to have him neutered.



Tyler and Tucker Looking Out From Their Shelter

During his stay with us, while he was recovering, we introduced him to Tyler, another young stray male we had recently taken in from Phoenix. So Tucker and Tyler would soon go home together, but poor little Taz from Tammy was the odd "kid" out and needed a home as well. Kathy jumped right in there and agreed to take Taz as well. She said that they would be her Triple Ts. Tucker, Tyler, and Taz all went home to keep Joey company.

So eight little piggies, all whose lives were truly in



Taz Enjoying His Wading Pool

jeopardy, now have good safe homes because these three families cared enough to get involved. And because you care enough to get involved with Ironwood we were able to help them all in their time of need, pigs and people alike. These pigs and people have you to thank as well.

Happy Holidays.

---Mary



Mary and Izzy Receiving a Treat From Tammy

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

By joining as a Sanctuary Sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose, can be charged to your credit or debit card each month. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience.

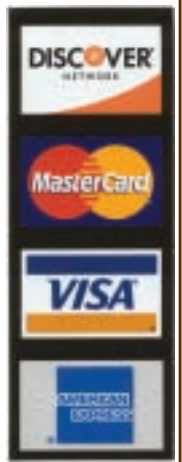
Ironwood's Sustainer program will benefit our wonderful pigs by providing a regular monthly income that will go directly to where it is needed most at the Sanctuary.

To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

The costs involved in maintaining a safe and healthy pot-bellied pig sanctuary are significant. Food and hay, medicines, medical care, supplements for arthritis and other ailments, shelter and fencing, and maintaining living areas are but some of the costs.

Thank You For Caring.

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



Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

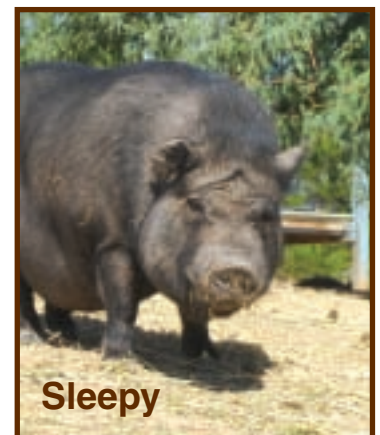
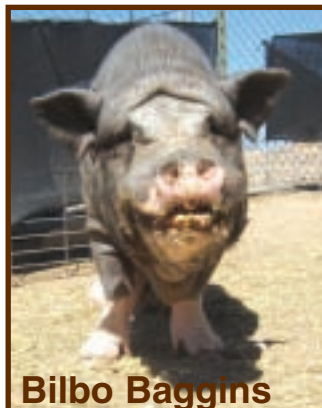
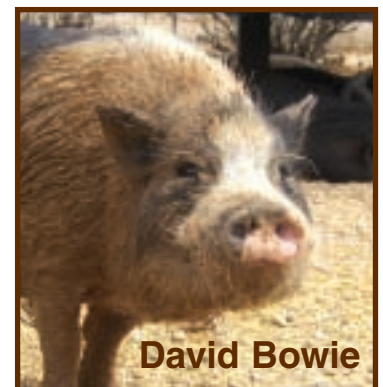
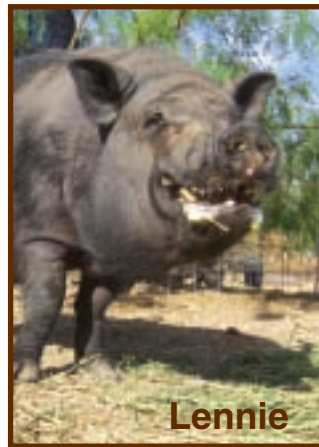
We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetime, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

You can make secure donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal using your credit card by going to the SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

Famous Pigs (Sort Of)

These pigs may not be well known outside of Ironwood, but you may recognize a lot of the names. We've got a wide variety of musicians, a few actors, a model and an artist. Then there are the fictional characters from books, movies, cartoons and TV series. How many do you know?





Shirley



Ellie Mae



John Coffey



Vincent Van Gogh



Frank Sinatra



Squealy Dan



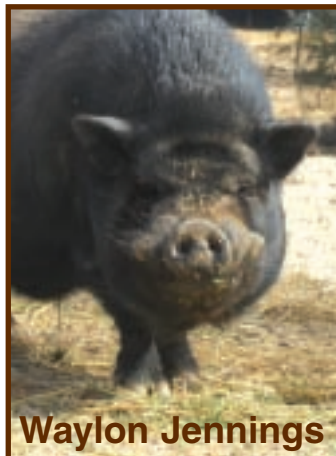
Moe, Curly & Larry



Denzel Washington



Bert & Ernie



Waylon Jennings



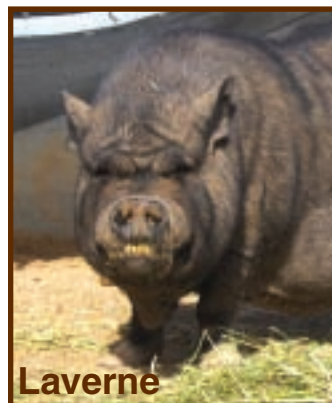
Doc



Louie



Kate Moss



Laverne



Fabian



Obi-Wan Kanobi

WANTED: SPONSORS

WANTED



DAISY

Considers herself a groupie but more notorious as a stalker of well known musicians. Relentlessly follows musicians to outdoor restaurants then eats their food and even invades their homes to take their blankets. Known associates: Ozzy and Elvis

WANTED



WILMA JEAN

Notorious for being too beautiful for her own good. Charms people with her good looks and gentle ways. Takes all treats offered then moves on to her next victim. Known associate: Mr. Pigg

WA



DEM

Impersonating this pig scares... handing over the... back his next fi... squander the mo... and moon pies, spotted in the sn... convenience sto... associates: Benn

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

These pigs, on the prowl for a sponsor, are on Ironwood's MOST WANTED LIST. With your help we can get all of these pigs and their known associates sponsored and eradicate this list.



Donna & Pigbody

For a \$30 monthly donation you can provide for one of these pigs' food, shelter, health care and their share of sanctuary expenses. Then I will send you a letter and pictures with a history of your pig with updates throughout the year.

---Donna

WANTED



LUDWIG

SORS FOR PIGS

WANTED



DENZEL

a famous actor, ms others into their life savings to film. Believed to money on twinkies Denzel is often back aisle at local stores. Known ie and Beulah

WANTED



ROBBIE

This handsome young man is relentless in his search for the perfect belly rub. Will approach anyone within range then persistently flop down to have his stomach rubbed. Note that he will not move until satisfied. Known associates: Lesley, Cowboy and Tripod

WANTED



PEPE'

Alias; Pepe' Le Pew, wanted in connection with repeated stalking episodes to anything with a white stripe. Can be easily distracted with food pellets or hay. Beware of prevalent odor. Known associates: Samson and Abby

WANTED



LUDWIG

Do not be fooled by the innocent appearance of this pig. Known to steal hearts with just a look. Quite shy, Ludwig will take your heart and run away with it. Known associates: Rosie and Stormy

WANTED



LAVERNE

Easily recognized by the permanent scowl and prominent underbite, this pig is wanted for recurring bouts of laziness. Known to nap almost anywhere but most often spotted in shelters. Known associates: Jeannie and Squiggy

Enrichment For Your Pig

I have been a pot-belly pig mom for 13 years. Over those years, I've struggled to give my pot-bellies opportunities to act on their natural rooting abilities and provide them with a stimulating environment. However, I do know that any activity you expect a pot-belly to be interested in will have some sort of food motivation and reward.

My current pot-belly, Amber, is 11 years old. Her days consist of two meals separated by hours of beauty rest. The most exercise she gets is going back and forth between her food dish at the far end of her yard, up a ramp through her doggie door and to her bedroom door, inside, to persistently remind me that it's time to eat (despite the fact she is routinely an hour ahead of schedule).

Recently I did some on-line research for new pig toys and home-made activity ideas and found one that seemed perfect. They called it a "rooting box." To start, it called for building a



plywood box, at least a 2' x 2', depending on the size of your pot-belly and the area available; sanded to remove splinter hazard. An alternative to building a box was to use a baby pool.

This year instead of discarding Amber's old pool, I moved it to another area of her yard and placed a few obstacles in it per my on-line findings. I used wood logs and baseball training balls (they look like wiffle balls).

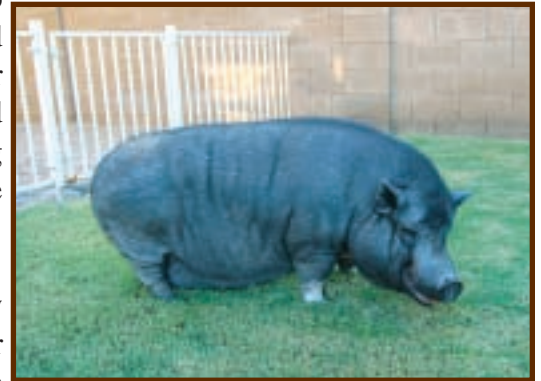
Then I scatter-poured some dry cereal (such as Cheerios or Honeycombs) around the obstacles and spread some hay on top of it all – sparingly, but enough to create a challenge.

Amber goes for the cereal first, which takes some effort; and over the next couple of days will eat the hay on her own time. (The web recommended wetting the hay down to minimize the mess. I am not sure what variety of hay they are referring to; I

am using Timothy Hay, because I had it on hand, and have not wetted it down.)

You can use river rocks, tennis balls, PVC pipe or other items you have handy that do not pose any harm to your pot-belly (avoid small items that would be a swallowing or choking hazard, and splintering wood).

The caloric intake is minimal, and all the while, Amber is forced to move the obstacles, be on her feet and engaged in what she is doing; instead of napping. I have been replenishing the cereal and hay in the early



morning or early evening when the sun isn't as hot.

I am excited and optimistic this simple solution for an inactive pig will provide long-term enjoyment for both mine and yours!

Angie Burton
Buckeye, AZ



Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Postage Stamps (42, 27, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens or Target
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Flax Seed Capsules
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment

Sanctuary Visits

We are sorry to say that due to the H1N1 (swine flu) risks to our pigs we are closing the sanctuary to all non essential visitors until the risk is over. We believe that based upon limited data humans can transmit swine flu to pigs. If the current epidemic is anything like the original we could have a 20-30% mortality rate.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is operated solely to provide a safe and comfortable refuge for the pigs that live here. We are a no-kill sanctuary and do not breed any pigs. Pigs are sentient, sapient beings and we hope you will view them with that in mind as you read their stories and see how they live.

Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down

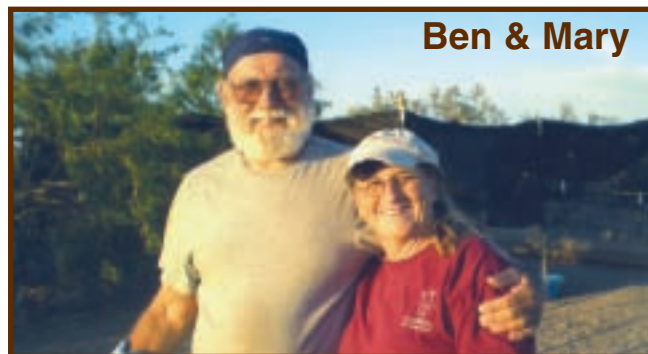
Thumbs Up to William, Laura, and Mickey. William started delivering a large load of produce for our pigs every Tuesday. He has been taking food to our Annex long before it was our Annex. It was Pigs*A*Lot when he started and he says it has been 15 years now that he has been hauling produce for the pigs. Also Laura and Mickey come to volunteer each Tuesday to cut up all the food, tear down the boxes and clean everything up for us. What a deal for our pigs and our staff.

Thumbs Down to the TODAY Show for airing a piece on Teacup Pigs on Wednesday, October 7th. They did a great disservice to the pigs and those of us who try to save them. A whole new round of breeding will begin and this is nothing more than lies about ultimate size. How could they be so insensitive? Please write to TODAY@nbcuni.com and express your concern.



Viejo looks like he has been around since the last century. I have no history on him except that he came to us in January of 2002 when we brought a herd of 58 pigs from what was then Pigs*A*Lot, now our Annex. He was one of 58 black pigs, most of which

were born on the property and never socialized. His age is unknown but one day while looking at all the pigs in the field he stood out like Methuselah. He is a grand old gentle gentleman and will live out his remaining days with his "people" in our East field.



Ben & Mary

Ironwood's Ecosystem

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is not only a home to over 600 pot bellied pigs, 5 hogs, 1 goat and 1 chicken, but many of the natural inhabitants of the desert have



Rabbit Enjoying Shade

taken advantage of our hospitality. We feed alfalfa hay in the mornings to provide roughage in our pigs' diet and to give them something to graze on since the desert is lacking in grass. Rabbits enjoy this hay as well and can be seen eating alongside the pigs.



Bird Nests

Early mornings and early evenings will reveal a bounty of bunnies gleaning through the leftovers.

This year we have seen an increase in the number of Harris's antelope squirrels which look like miniature chipmunks. These little critters are adorable! Like the rabbits, these guys are looking for stray bits of food as well as taking advantage of the shade and water.

The rafters of our holding pens have become a popular nesting place for birds. The nearby cholla cactus also houses many Cactus Wren nests. It's interesting to see what the birds have been using to build their nests. I've found pieces of the bailing rope from the hay bales, the paper pull tabs off feed bags, bits of torn canvas tarps, plenty of stuffing and material scraps from the pigs' blankets and even wads of pig hair that have been shed.



Sonoran Desert Toad

Back in July I lifted an overturned pool and interrupted the nap of a beautiful Sonoran Desert toad, also known as the Colorado River toad. These big guys come out only during our summer monsoon

season. They usually can't be found until after dark so we don't



Harris Antelope Squirrels

actually see many of them although you can hear them at night when it rains.



Horned Lizard

There is an abundance of lizards present throughout the sanctuary feeding on insects. Most common is the quick footed Zebra Tailed Sand Lizard and a wide variety of little whiptail lizards. We do have quite a few of the larger, fat-bodied Desert Spiny Lizards that tend to hang out in the shadier areas. One of the more interesting looking species is the Horned Lizard, commonly known as horny toads. These guys are helpful with keeping down the ant population.



Rattlesnake

Other reptiles often spotted among our pigs are snakes. The black Coachwhip seems to prefer our holding pens and can often be seen roaming from pen to pen or inside the shelters with the pigs. I recently spotted a Kingsnake slithering across the exercise yard between the holding pens. This



Black Coachwhip

must be a popular place because of the mice, lizards and birds in the area.

We also are home to many rattlesnakes. These are the only animals that we remove from the pigs' area because of the risk to people and pigs. When one is spotted we simply move it with the use of a long-handled snake catcher to an area away from the pigs.

The staff is always alert for scorpions that are frequently found underneath pools and water bowls and hay bales. We've also had rare encounters with tarantulas resting in our haystacks.



Bird

The desert is full of an interesting variety of creatures. We seem to invite quite a few with the hay, feed, water and shade provided for our pigs, but it gives the staff and volunteers a unique opportunity to observe and learn about these animals.

---Donna



Rattlesnake



Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Our Supporters Write



Dear Mary,

I wanted to send you a donation in memory of 2 very special friends, Sushi and Amos that I lost last year. They were both 17 1/2 yrs. old, I raised them from babies. Amos & Sushi went with me many places, Bible School, Nursing homes & Schools. I really miss them.

At one time I had 24 potbellies and 3 pet farm pigs. Over the years I've lost many of my special friends and only have 10 pigs left. What joy they've brought into my life.

Thank you so much for rescuing so many special pigs, I know how special each one is to you. I always enjoy your newsletters. Enclosed you will find my check.

Sincerely,
Glenda Boitcott

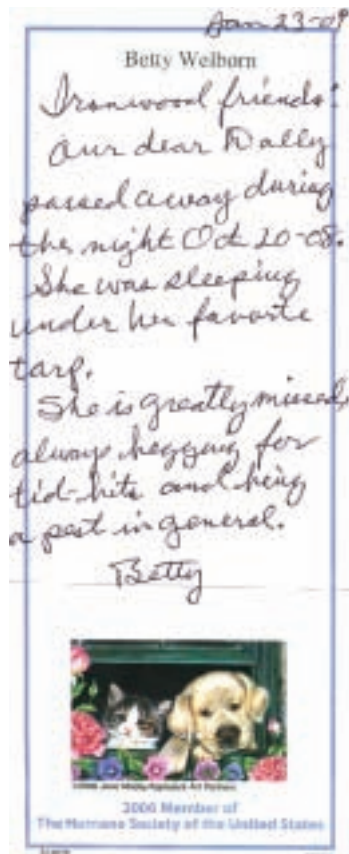
MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Betty Giving Dolly a Treat



Hi Ben and Mary,

We want to thank you again for allowing us to visit the Sanctuary today. You and your staff are providing such a peaceful, beautiful home for all the pigs. We truly are touched by the care and devotion you give. The pigs are precious, every one of them. We hope to come again and will promote the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to our friends, family, and co-workers.

Much love to the pigs,
Peace,

Barbara Leasor



Jimmy Dean - 7 years old - Spring 09

Our "Jimmy Dean" Loves his family - the goats and especially the cats.

Kathy LaCosse

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
POST OFFICE BOX 35490
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490
520-631-6015

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

Return Service Requested

Published at the above address regularly.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

NOVEMBER 2009

ISSUE 31

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Hogs Enjoying Their Tuesday Produce Treat