

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2011

Dear Supporter,

Why Would Someone Want to Live this Way?

I often think to myself that I must be crazy to live this lifestyle. And it is my life since I have no time for anything else in my life. Not my family and friends, not my house, not for personal musings or political involvement. Each day begins somewhere between 3:00am and 4:30am and runs on into the evening, sometimes late into the evening if one of our pigs is sick or one is not doing so well after a surgery. The night checks are shared by Donna, Taryn, Ben and I as we shake off sleep to go out to see if the pig we are concerned about is doing okay.

This year and last have been the worst as we do hospice care for the many pigs we know are

beyond the reach of medical care or the help of our veterinarians and they have lived out their lives with us in peace. We give them juice, special foods, love and then the final gift of releasing them from their now tired and old bodies. So far this year we have let go of 37 of our dear friends and every one is a heart-wrenching experience. But we take comfort in knowing that they lived their lives with us in comfort and safety and with love. This is so personally

I am often angry, frustrated, always tired, but also often elated to know that one more little creature will have a life to live ...

painful that again I ask myself, why do I put myself through this? It matters not that we have hundreds of pigs. They are all special and often as they become ill and we spend more time with them we become very close to them.

Because of our size, staffing is essential and one of our most difficult tasks. We are remote on some unmaintained dirt roads, it is 110 to 115 degrees at times in the summer, the pay is not good, so getting and maintaining reliable staff is not an easy task. One person missing from a small staff makes the day more difficult and that is the case on most days. Everyone has their own issues; health, family, car problems, interpersonal. The list is long and as complicated as all of our busy lives. These are all issues in my 30 years of working as a medical



Queen Elizabeth

technologist I did not have to deal with. Again I ask the question, why do I do this?

I am not alone, not here at Ironwood where Taryn, Donna, and Ben devote their lives as well to caring for our pigs. Many thousands of people across the country work tirelessly to save

the life of the next poor animal who crosses their doorstep. The reasons are varied and personal.

Pictured here is a little pig we named Queen



Elizabeth to join our royalty King Charles. A few short weeks ago we picked her up in Phoenix from Sandy Hanks, a livestock officer. Sandy has

brought many pigs to us over the years. Queen Elizabeth was rescued near Kingman and the only pig among well over a hundred animals at a place where they were receiving little or no water. Several animals, including some horses, had to be euthanized. The lady was charged with 114 counts of animal cruelty. Elizabeth is not your picture book piggy. Today she came to me for scratching and attention and yesterday



she attacked me relentlessly. Her life has not been easy, so food and water are very important to her and she guards them both with every ounce of strength in her skinny little body.

When Queen Elizabeth arrived at Ironwood and was given a wallow, she spent hours rooting in the mud and lying in the muddy wallow. Her life has been changed forever. She now lives in a small field with Lily Mae and several others whose lives have changed forever as well. I stood and watched her for many minutes as she contentedly worked her snout into the mud again and again. She is one of hundreds and hundreds who have come to us over these many years. She and all the others like her provide the answer to my question. It is simple really. I am often angry, frustrated, always tired, but also often elated to know that one more little creature will have a life to live as we all wish for ourselves.

Mary Schan

President & Co-Founder

PS: Thank you for listening. Extreme heat, so many good-byes, and staffing issues have all contributed to making this a really difficult summer. I guess I had to put all of this down in words so I could regain my balance and know why it is so important to do this work.

Pink, Pink, Pinkerton

hen Ben, Mary and I all volunteered at Pigs*A*Lot, we got some firsthand experience with the three hogs there; Oreo, Licorice and Lily. After seeing how unintentionally destructive they could be and knowing how difficult they were to manage with medical treatments and hoof trimmings, we decided when

opening Ironwood that we would stick to pot bellied pigs only.

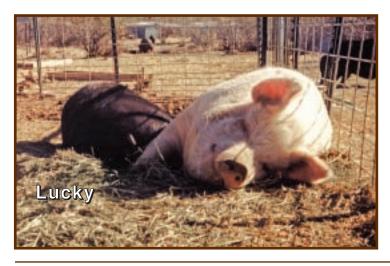
Well, we didn't even make it a full year before saying yes to a full grown hog! Pinkerton was a family's 4H project and when it came time to auction her off to slaughter, they just couldn't do it. After deciding to keep her, the neighbors continuously called Animal Control on them until, due to zoning issues, they were forced to find her another home. Pinkerton had become their buddy...coming in the house, opening the door by herself, turning on the water faucet and yes, even sitting on their couch. She had become as attached to them as they were to her.

When Pinkerton arrived at Ironwood, we needed to unload her up front then move her out back to her new home out in the field. The mom had a little baton that she tapped on Pinkerton's shoulder while repeating, "Pink, Pink, Pink" to get her to follow



along. Thinking she and her family were going on a great adventure, Pinkerton trotted right out there.

She was devastated to be left behind! A deep depression that lasted for weeks set in. She would barely eat and didn't want to get up. It also turned out that she was terrified of the pot bellied pigs. We had to build Pinkerton a pen in the middle of the field where she could feel safe and secure. Each morning I would make her come









out and walk beside her through the field to "protect" her from the evil pot bellies. She would scream if one got too close to her. It was all very silly since she was so much bigger than them! This behavior also went on for weeks before she became comfortable with the other pigs. Eventually another pig named Lucky became her close friend. Lucky would spend the night in Pinkerton's pen with her, they would have breakfast together then both come out to spend the day in the field. Those two girls were best buddies for nine years.

Pinkerton loved children! Whenever families or school groups came to visit, she would bask in all the belly rubs and



pettings from

the kids. That always seemed to bring her more joy than anything else.

We lost Pinkerton at ten years of age this summer. For a hog, that was a very long life. She had a special place in our hearts and we never regretted our decision to

take her back in May of 2002. Pinkerton is buried there behind her pen. We will never forget her and will always remember her fondly.

Goodbye Pink, Pink, Pinkerton! ---Donna





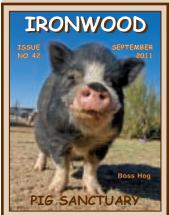






FRONT COVER

Many of you met **Boss Hog** in our March 2010 issue. We picked him up at a place near Kingman, AZ, where he lived in a tiny pen cluttered with trash with no shelter, blankets and no water at that time. He had lived for over a year in those conditions. The



people said they had rescued him from a place with hogs and he was very thin because he was pushed away from the food by

the hogs. He now is neutered and lives in one of our large fields, and I must say he is one happy pig now and one more reason why I do this job.

Ironwood's Facebook Page

Taryn, one of our resident staff, maintains our Facebook page with frequent updates about the sanctuary. Check out her Facebook page at: http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

Backhoe Donation

I know that this is a big ask, but we could sure use a landscaping backhoe similar to the one in the picture. We use it primarily to dig

our graves. It is not practical to dig them all by hand, particularly in the hot weather. We can also use it to put in water lines to dry areas of our many fields as we expand. We like the small CASE landscaping tractor shown because it is easy to maneuver around in our graveyard.





BACK COVER

Sarah is the cutest. She was one of 46 who came from St. Matilda's when they closed down. We took all of their pigs on the July 4th weekend of 2004. She was no youngster then, so I know she is quite old at this time. We found out later that Sarah had been rescued by friends of ours in Kingman. They had rescued her from a place in Kingman where she was hiding behind a piece of metal on a hot day with her babies. Her living conditions were deplorable. They took her to St. Matilda's. Ironwood did not exist at that time.

Dapple's history is unknown to us, as is true of most of the pigs who came from St. Matilda's in July of 2004. All I know about him is that he

changed colors and became dappled so they named him Dapple. He is one of our favorites, for the women at least. He is not so fond of men! His

looks are s u r e l y "u n i q u e" one could say. Not to be mean, but one look at Dapple and you do have to smile. Imagine the



surprise in the Sarah & Dapple

family when this precious little piglet grew up!

Use Mission Fish for Sales

eBay Sales Benefit Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

For those of you who use eBay to sell items eBay has a program called Mission Fish. Through Mission Fish you are able to donate a portion of the final sales price to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. The minimum donation is 10%. The purpose of Mission Fish is not only to allow you to support your favorite non-profit and give it some free publicity but to get a better response from buyers who like the fact that a portion of the sales price goes to a non-profit. To see the Ironwood Mission Fish site go to www.missionfish.org and type Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in the space for "Find nonprofits."

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



We appreciate our **Sponsors** who donate by credit, debit card or e-check each month and we also appreciate our **Sustainers** who do the same. We charge your credit card on the 8th or 22nd of each month. It is great for us to be able to count on these donations at those times. Just about the time our account is running low we say "all is well" because we are running the credit cards today.

You can be a **Sanctuary Sustainer** by making a monthly donation of \$5,\$10,\$25,\$100 or any amount you choose which is charged to your credit, debit card, or e-check each month.

The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution or go to the Support page of our web site and make your individual or monthly donation by PayPal (no PayPal account required).

Remember The Sanctuary In Your Estate Plans

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 wills.

The Mary C. Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your **Will** please use both names and the following tax ID number: 86-0999483. Thank you for your support.

You can make secure One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit card by going to the SUPPORT page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

Sponsor



I'm still pretty new around here. I just moved into a field this summer and I'm loving it! There's so much space to run around in, pigs everywhere, people petting me all the time, fruit and veggie treats...wow, I could go on and on. Become my sponsor and I'll tell you all about my new life!



I've been at Ironwood for several years and have never had a sponsor. Not that I've been avoiding you guys....no way! It's just that I'm a little shy. All my friends have sponsors now and say it's really nothing to be nervous about, that it's lots of fun. So here it goes...will somebody out there please be my sponsor? Whew, that wasn't so hard!



For many years I had a wonderful sponsor who shared the same name as me, but sadly who shared the same name as me, but sadly she passed away. I feel like I've lost a good she passed away. I feel like I've lost a good friend as well as my sponsor. Maybe one of you guys would be willing to cheer me up.



So there I was, walking around minding my own business (okay, I was struttin'....I admit it) when suddenly I was whisked away in a UFO and taken to a hospital. I was given a shot, had a mask put on my face then....I can't remember anything after that except hearing the word cuter, looter, neuter, hmmmm, something like that. I woke up at home and things just haven't quite been the same since then. Any of you have a UFO story like that?



I came to Ironw golden years. V put me in a field I am the only n you're thinking, driving me nuts!



UFOs? Can you're looki pig, then I'n I'm all abou is. Just ask never mind have to trus

Special



Wood to retire and enjoy my Well, let me tell you....they I with ten senior ladies and nan around! I know what but these old biddies are Somebody help me!



you believe that Adam?! If ng for a sensible truthful m your dream come true. It honesty and telling it like it the pigs I live with...well, forget I said that. You'll just at me.

I was abandoned by my owners, rater found by their landlord then rescued by Ironwood the day after I gave birth to my two babies who both died. It's been a tough summer but I'm ready to start a new chapter in my life. It would be wonderful to start it with a new friend.



My sponsor.....when I daydream about the perfect sponsor it is of someone kind and loving. Someone who will be my friend as well as my supporter. They will send me flowers and candy, fresh fruit baskets and coconut pies. They will fan me with palm branches while hand feeding me my treats. Just kidding! I know there are no palm branches in the desert!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

These wonderful, beautiful (and sometimes silly) pigs are just a few of those still needing a sponsor here at Ironwood. Your monthly contribution will go a long way toward providing for their share of



the sanctuary
expenses. In
return, I'll send you
pictures and letters
every few months to
keep you updated
on your pig's life.
Please join our
family of sponsors!

---Donna

Ironwood's New Arrivals

amlet came to us due to a home foreclosure, something we are still seeing a lot of. We were informed of the family's move-out date and had to act quickly. Donna and Sean went to Mesa to pick him up.



Hamlet

Hamlet had a lot of space to roam at his old home and is able to get around well. We knew he would need a field with room to explore.

Hamlet is already in one of our fields making his presence known. He didn't seem to have many altercations with pigs but is pushy during feeding time. He likes to try and eat everyone's food! Due to this we built him a separate feeding pen. He seems to have trouble seeing but has been exploring the field well and seems to know his way around. He doesn't seem to care for attention; he prefers to do things on his own. His human mom used to call him

Hammie, so we've been doing that often to make him more comfortable. We're pleased that Hamlet is already out and about and had a quick transition.

Meleah falls into the category of the product of divorce. Often times owners get divorced and cannot keep their pig due to finances, moving, or not having the time. Once part of a family, Meleah has now found herself at the home of many other pigs. She came to us already spayed, which is always a relief for us. Meleah probably hasn't been around other pigs and has had some rough meetings. She wants to show who is in charge. However, she has been caught snuggled along the fence with another pig. We saw you Meleah! We have learned that she does love getting attention and often follows us



Meleah

around hoping for a belly rub. She welcomes the times when we rub sun block on her. We hope to pair Meleah up with a playmate so that they can be adopted.

After a nearly nine-hour drive to



Sassy

the sanctuary, Punky, Sassy and Chico have found themselves at the happiest place on earth. Well, that's what we like to tell them. Ben and Bob, a volunteer, picked them up in July, one of the hottest months. Whenever we transport pigs in the heat we are sure to have extra water with us and stop to check on them several times. They traveled well and all arrived safely.

Sassy is quite stunning. She's the largest of the three and the most gentle. She was known for enjoying belly rubs in her old home and not much has changed. She really seems to enjoy getting attention and welcomes us when we enter her living area. She also loves spending her time flipping

water bowls and playing in the mud. She is often seen from a distance flopping around in wallows. Sassy already seems comfortable here, so we hope she transitions into a field just as well.

Punky is quite timid compared to Sassy. She is very curious and friendly but isn't quite sure what to do with all of the new attention yet. So far she loves exploring with Sassy and has been seen following the staff around and



Punky

watching them work. She's always very interested in what's going on around her. Punky has been taking treats from our hands but isn't too thrilled about being petted. Once she learns to trust us more I'm sure she will enjoy a bit more attention. We have already picked a field to place Sassy and Punky in along with Chico.

Before picking up the group we were informed that Chico was not vet neutered. We've received many boars so we knew what we were in for, and Chico is definitely your typical boar, very full of himself and full of energy! Since he is unaltered we have to be sure to keep him separate from our other pigs. He does get time to play in the yard and has a lot of human interaction. Without getting to know him one might be a bit scared of him because of his demeanor, but Chico is a sweet boy at heart. He goes down for

belly rubs quite easily and enjoys being petted. Everyone has become quite smitten with him.



Chico

We gave him a large ball to keep him busy, as you can never seem to wear a boar out. Chico will be neutered soon and placed into one of our fields where he can roam and hopefully make friends.

---Taryn

Our Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, or PetsMart are an easy way to give.
- * The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
- * VISA gift cards that can be used anywhere
- * Postage Stamps (44, 29, 20 cents)
- * Used Blankets and Sheets are always welcome (*Pigs Love Comforters!!*)
- * Antacid
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment

- * Sissors
- * Utility Knives
- * Vitamin E, 400 IU
- * Flax Seed Capsules
 Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Benefiber Powder Unflavored (NOT Metamucil)
- * Cranberry capsules 2000 mg preferred

Items in Purple are the Most Needed at this time

Companion Pigs

am often asked by people doing interviews and others pigs make good companion animals. The answer is a cautious yes and many of you have seen articles on some of our successful adoptions. We get letters and pictures from many of our supporters who love their pigs and say they are the best companion animal they have ever had. Therefore I would say they are good companion animals in the right home. But sadly I feel after many years of doing this work the majority of homes are not good for the pigs. A good home for the pig or pigs is my main concern.



Pictured here is Babe, a 2-1/2 year-old neutered male. He was so obese and his hooves were so long when he arrived that he could not see and could barely get around. He will remain in a pen here until he can lose some weight and the weather has cooled down somewhat so we can trust him to walk around safely on his own.

More often than not the pigs we get in from individual homes are



grossly obese. Please, if you are going to have a pig as a companion, learn what the feeding needs and amounts are.

Also shown here are pigs that are too thin. Both of these pigs came from families that loved their pigs. Ellen is 6-1/2 years old and is very tame and social, so she clearly was cared for. However she was very thin when we picked her up. I also looked around the whole property and saw no sign of water. A broken off water hose was there with a little bit of wet mud under it.

We were told that Lily Mae is 16 years old. She had a huge uterine tumor which we removed that could explain why she was so thin. It is not uncommon to pick up pigs with huge tumors like this and their caregivers are not even aware they have a tumor, let alone have it removed. We have been told, "well they are potbelly pigs aren't they."

We recently picked up two pigs from a nice home that were well cared for. However, they are young pigs and were in a tiny pen in the backyard with inadequate shade and they never got out of their pen. People get a young pig and think they only need a small On the contrary, young animals of any kind need space to run and play. While they remain in a pen here for now, we let them out in our large public area for a few hours each day. They LOVE having the space to run and Secondly, they are explore. barely socialized. We often see this with adoption returns of our own. We have adopted babies on several occasions that have been returned to us with little or no socialization. This says to me that they have gotten little or no attention. I am happy for my "two pigs only" adoption requirement.



They at least had each other for company.

When we adopt pigs to people I ask them to come here to see our pigs so they will know how pigs live and what their requirements

are. When we do yard checks we look for basic things like adequate water, shade, shelter, secure fencing, security from dogs, and space. These are basic and yet we so often pick up pigs from homes that do not have these simple requirements. Even when we pick up our own adoption returns we are often disappointed. shelter that was adequate when they were babies was never replaced with a larger one as they grew up. Or we were promised they would be in a small pen at night and have the run of the large yard, and we find that they never did get to use the large yard because the family decided to landscape it and didn't want the pigs in it.

I do know there are many good homes. There are times when we pick up a pig or pigs at a home and think, oh, what a terrible shame this pig has to come live with us, he or she lives in a wonderful place now. However, more often than not, that is not the For all the reasons case. mentioned above, plus a lack of veterinarians willing to treat pigs and people's inability to transport their pigs, a pair of unaltered pigs in a home, zoning requirements, and many other issues that we have become aware of over the years, I am reluctant to recommend a pig as a companion animal. Before adopting a pig, please do your homework and make sure you are prepared to give these animals a humane and happy home.

---Mary

Thanks To Our Supporters

You may remember our last newsletter had an article about our new water tank. Only days before our July newsletter hit the press, in the middle of an oppressively hot June, Mario and George called. They were concerned that the pigs needed more water



because of the extreme heat we were experiencing. When Ben told them that we were in the process of installing a new 65,000-gal tank, they offered to turn a loan into a donation and our new tank became a wonderful gift instead of a very big burden. Thanks So Very Much, Mario and George!

Charlie Boling responded to an appeal for an air compressor in one of our newsletters. He donated the compressor and when he delivered it he took a tour of Ironwood. He decided to do a fundraiser. He and many helpers, including Melody Hodges, organized a very special event called Peaks for Pigs. He got sponsors



and even made tee shirts for the event. Charlie and others hiked local peaks and donations were made to Ironwood for the number of feet they hiked up the peaks. He raised over \$1,000 and we did not have to do any work. That was the best part ever! Thanks so much, Charlie and friends.

In our March newsletter we had a picture of one of our poor worn-out chairs that we use in our Visitor Center. We asked if anyone could help revive these poor chairs. We actually received two offers. Steve Duriga said



he could cane them and recover them but it would take him some time. So Steve picked the chairs up and returned them to us in brandnew condition.

We hate to sit on them since our clothes are not exactly clean, but hey, this is a sanctuary after all. Thanks, Steve, for doing such a nice job!

We have so much to be thankful for and on so many levels and diverse areas. You are all special to us and most of all special to our pigs. Thank you all for all your donations of every

> kind; dollars, blankets, peanut butter has been flooding us, zinc oxide, bread and fruits and veggies and so many, many other things that we receive. Also your many notes, good wishes, and encouragement really mean so much to us.

> > ---Mary

Live-In Worker Wanted

e are looking for a person who cares deeply about animals to work and LIVE AT the non-profit Ironwood Pig Sanctuary located near Marana, AZ, a rural area of Southern Arizona, one hour's drive



Northwest of Tucson. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact me by e-mail or phone.

Send your resume with experience, interest and contact phone no to Ben at IronwoodJobs@yahoo.com. Or you can call Ben at 520-631-6015.

This is a hard but rewarding job working with our staff taking care of our sweet pot-bellied pigs. Job duties include, but are not limited to, cleaning pens and fields, feeding the pigs by carrying buckets of grain throughout a field, learning which pigs go into the many feeding pens, learning the more than 120 pigs getting preparing medications. medications and special foods, hands-on care of pigs who are disabled, injured, or sick, general animal care and help with trimming tusks and hoofs and other medical procedures and watering our 23 different fields. This is an outside job so the ability to work outside in the summer is necessary. The job requires that you be outdoors walking over our 15 acres of fields most of the day as you do your job. Summer daytime temperatures can be in the 100s. Previous experience



working outside in a hot climate is a plus.

Accommodations are a 40-footlong completely self-contained 5th wheel trailer. You must have your own reliable transportation to get into town. Utilities are provided except for telephone. TV and highspeed internet access is also References provided. and backgrounds are checked. Nonsmoker. Vegetarian or Vegan No drugs, period. preferred. Successful candidate must pass a drug test as a condition of employment.

Open House: Saturday, November 12th

ear Supporter,
I just wanted to remind all of you that our annual
Open House is coming up
Saturday, November 12th, from
11am to 3pm. Last year you guys
did fantastic with the blanket
drive! But you know what....we
used them all. I took care of my
blankie but some pigs like to
shred theirs to make nests, others
drag them around outside, and not
naming any names, but some



piggy wore his like a Superman cape all over the field, so you can imagine what it looked like. So

I'm asking you to once again start gathering up those used blankets, bedspreads and comforters (I LOVE comforters!) to bring

with you when you come to our Open House or you can send them in the mail if you can't make it out here. Hope to see you in a couple of months.....and remember, BYOB, Bring Your Own Blanket!

Love ya, Mrs. Piggy

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.

My Kindergarten class started a "Pennies for Pigs" project during the 2th semester of school this year. They didn't raise a huge amount by any means but I told them that "every little bit helps". Indeed, I hope this does help. Anna Lucia Pelletter her kindergarten kiddos



7/31/11 Dear Many, Carolyn and I so enjoyed our tour with you of the Sauctury last Thanksywing Day We have great read your July 2011 Issue No. 41 and remain in awe of the responsibility you and your steff and volunteers have accepted! So, Carolyn and I have douded to gree sail other lettly gifts of saile adopting a pig. This explains the two charles, carl for \$360.00 We would early like to adopt one of the pigs highlighted on your contespages. We have listed there in the privily that we like, but if one is not now available, any on the list is wooderful:) Kein Bocon; 1) Claire; 3) Fred; 4) Hug; 5) Herman; 6) Chaco; 7) Hero; 8) Missie Fartyear, we were "on thoroad" for 60 great days of travel; the day we met you and toured your Santany was the Greatest! Carolya + Huf.

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