

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 60

SEPTEMBER
2014



Big Momma

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2014

Dear Supporter,

I always love writing the letter for the September newsletter because I know with the coming of September the temperatures here will begin to dip below 100 degrees on most days. Weather is all important during the summer months. I watch the temperatures daily to decide how many additional wallows must be filled, how much afternoon watering we will need to do, if the misters must be on all day, are the air conditioners working for pigs and people and what is the level on the water tanks. The four staff members who water 5 to 6 hours a day had a hard, hot job keeping all of our pigs cool and their pools, bowls and automatic waterers clean.

This year Ben purchased and installed a large ice machine. It required buying a small building, insulating it, putting in an air conditioner then installing water and power to the building. Soon we had all the ice we needed this year to fill our ice buckets and make our towels cold to cool off our elderly pigs who now reside all over the sanctuary, not just in a few confined pens and assisted living areas. The ice maker was such a welcome change from buying and hauling bags of ice all season. Two University of Arizona students often assisted by myself and other staff, spent many hours cooling off pigs as the temperatures raged. In all fairness since our monsoon season was better this year, we had more overcast days that helped to keep us sane and functioning.

While many of us were walking the property with ice buckets, Ben and Julian were driving two four thousand gallon water trucks over rough and sometimes washed out roads to keep our water tanks full. Usually two days a week they hauled all day. The few times we got rain that filled our wallows were a welcome event that saved several thousand gallons of water.

In a hot dry desert like we live in water rules. It is the blood that surges through the veins of our pipes that run everywhere over 20 acres and keeps our pigs alive. I am certain for every sanctuary around the country the weather presents a challenge in one form or another. For us it is heat and water and for nearly six months a year that challenge is a life or death challenge that must be dealt with every day.

You help to make it possible for us to meet the challenge of caring for nearly 600 animals in an environment that is totally unnatural for them.

Thank you for caring,



Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder



Mary With Dali and Arnold

Two of our old folks wearing their summer cooling towels. Your donated towels at work.

Dottie's Difficult Beginning

Dottie is an adorable little lady that was found wandering down the road near our Annex in late May. A woman brought her to Andy, the caretaker there, thinking it might have been one of ours that had escaped (thank goodness, something we have never had a problem with). Andy took her in to keep her safe and later transported her to the main facility of Ironwood. Dottie was really sweet and seemed very happy to be taken care of.

Our first impression was that Dottie was either pregnant or had a uterine tumor. Her belly was rather large while the rest of her



body looked slightly gaunt. We took her to our vet for a sonogram which proved that she was not pregnant but was carrying a large tumor. Dottie's blood work showed that she was anemic and unable to undergo surgery at that point. We began giving her iron supplements as well as feeding her a high protein/high calorie diet to build up her system. Dottie is still getting served a lunch every day to maintain her weight gain. (We only feed our pigs in



the mornings due to the amount of time it takes to get so many taken care of. A handful of special cases get a lunch or an afternoon snack.) A couple of weeks later Dottie had some heavy vaginal bleeding. Dr. Page said regardless of her anemia status, she needed to come in for surgery as soon as possible. Two days later Dottie was spayed and had a 17 pound tumor removed. There was heavy blood loss during the surgery, but she did very well and was able to return to the sanctuary later that evening. The first night Dottie was still groggy from the anesthesia but seemed in typical condition for having had that type of procedure done. However, the next morning things began to go downhill for her.

Dottie was lethargic and weak. We kept her hydrated by giving her subcutaneous fluids. The second evening after her surgery, we felt sure she was not going to make it through the night. Her belly was bloated and she was

nearly unresponsive, both symptoms of internal bleeding. I got up every hour that night to check on her, but there was never any change until dawn. When I came over to see Dottie she was standing up getting a drink of water. I was shocked! She had made it!

Dottie was still not out of the woods though. The third morning she vomited several times. For days she would either eat nothing or just a few tiny bites if handfed. We had to syringe pureed food in her as well as continue with the subQ fluids to keep her hydrated. Her belly would bloat up in the late afternoons each day.



The next problem to deal with was that Dottie was not defecating. So now on top of everything else we'd been doing for her, we had to give her enemas and syringe mineral oil into her. The poor girl was getting pretty tired of us poking and prodding and doing all manner of rude things to her and she began to cringe whenever we approached her. Finally on the sixth day Dottie ate some food by herself and began defecating some semi-

normal poops. Things got progressively better over the next few days and we all breathed a big sigh of relief.

From that point on Dottie continued to recover nicely from all her post surgery problems and once again became the sweet happy girl we first met back in May. Once her incision was completely healed Dottie was moved along with several other recent arrivals out to Spike's Field, one of our mid-sized fields that is home to 25 pigs. We had enlarged the area adding several new houses and shade ramadas, so there was plenty for Dottie to explore. She didn't waste any time either! It wasn't long before she had wandered throughout the entire field checking out the other residents, mud wallows, pools and shelters. Dottie found a prime spot under a creosote bush where she dug herself a nice comfy burrow.



Sadly, this wasn't the end of Dottie's troubles. There are always fights and squabbles when new pigs are introduced to each other as well as to the existing herd in a field. At first Dottie avoided fighting with anyone and just happily went about her own business. Then someone pushed her too far and she got into it with another pig and managed to

sustain a serious bite to her ear. Pigs always go for the ears, a soft tender spot that they know they can inflict damage to. Dottie had



to have her ear cleaned and treated topically for many days as well as being put on oral antibiotics for infection. And of course, she was soon tired of us messing with her ear and began to shy away from us again.

It wasn't long though before things began to settle down in the field. The new pigs established their places within the herd and chose their territories. Everyone was getting to know one another better and the fighting lessened each day. Dottie's ear slowly healed up and we no longer had to bug her with daily treatments. She really loves living out in the field! Rooting around in the dirt

seems to be a favorite activity for her. When it's time to cool off from the intense summer heat, there is no hesitation. The nearest pool or mud wallow suits Dottie just fine.

We have no idea what Dottie's life was like before we met her, but her life now is a good one. With the tumor, anemia and bleeding she would not have lived much longer without getting spayed. With all the problems of her surgical recovery, it's surprising she managed to survive that. But now she is safe, content and healthy. Hopefully, Dottie will have a long happy life out in Spike's Field and establish some friendships with other pigs. Her future looks much brighter!

—Donna



Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. 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.



Front and Back Covers



Big Momma arrived at Ironwood with Fitzroy and Solomon in September of 2012. They were all part of a large rescue of nearly 75 pigs. The first large group came in 2002 and the other 55 over the past 2 to 3 years. Big Momma and all the

others came from another sanctuary and nearly all of them are older or seniors. Big Momma is surely one of the seniors even though we really have no records or information on her or any of her companions. We built a large field for her and many of her friends that arrived over time, although many did not know each other since most of the pigs from that rescue had lived in pens.

Now Big Momma, and many others from that rescue as well as other individuals have become a large herd. She and Fitzroy have become friends and one can find them snoozing together in one of their many shelters. Almost always pigs will find a friend once they move into one of our fields.

---Mary



Page 16 IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY Issue 60

Aida, Linus, Stephano and Kelli pictured below, are siblings. They are 5 1/2 years old now and still hang out together in one of our large fields. Linus was our cover boy in November of 2013. All four siblings and their mom Gwendolyn and dad Scott came from the Humane Society in Yuma in March of 2009, not long after the babies were born.



Kelli

Gwendolyn and Scott were rescued from the desert near Yuma. The babies were born at the Humane Society and they were all transported to us when they were two months old. These guys have made friends with many other pigs in their field, but they still come together and are bonded by their family ties.

---Mary



Fitzroy & Big Momma



Why We Neuter Our Males

We are often asked if we spay and neuter our pigs. We absolutely do! We neuter our boys for reasons similar to why we spay our girls. It helps with health and attitude and it keeps them from breeding. The surgery is quite different though, often making it easier for us to have all of our boys neutered.

Neutering is typically an easier surgery than spaying. There are of course exceptions. One issue can be the size or behavior of the boy. We usually bring our males into the clinic to be neutered, however, we have needed to have our vet, Dr. Page perform the surgery on our property for a few pigs. Ziggy is one example. He is one of our larger pigs; his arrival to the sanctuary was difficult enough. We left him out of his carrier during transport since he



was so stressed out. We knew that taking him to the vet would be quite the ordeal. Dr. Page agreed and came to neuter him at the sanctuary. It all went smoothly and was exceptionally less stressful than taking him to the clinic. Another scenario when we had to have Dr. Page perform the surgery at the sanctuary was for Thomas and Joey. They were very wild when they arrived and Joey in particular would get extremely stressed out if we approached him. Dr. Page



sedated them and was able to neuter both of them on site. We are very lucky that this was an option as stressing them out before the surgery can be dangerous and make the surgery more difficult.

Another complication we occasionally come across is cryptorchidism. This is when the male has at least one undescended testis. The surgery ends up being a bigger deal as there is a larger incision and often a longer recovery period. We have encountered this a few times and it makes for a tougher surgery, but



these boys would be even more prone to cancer if not neutered. Cancer is another reason it is important to have males neutered. As girls can develop uterine tumors, the males can develop testicular cancer. The tumors can become quite large if not dealt with. Several boys have come to us with very large testicular tumors. They all were neutered and recovered well. These surgeries can have a longer recovery time as well as possible blood loss and more trauma to the



surgical site. We may keep the cryptorchids and the males with tumors on pain meds longer than the males that have a normal surgery.



Once the surgery is done the recovery is also quite different for the males than the females. The day after the surgery, and sometimes even hours after, the boys tend to act just how they did before the surgery. They run around “talking” and still doing the boar dance. You would never know that they just had a procedure done. We do have to keep them clean so no wallows and they have limited yard time. Since the incision is much smaller than with a spay and the surgery is less invasive, the males tend to heal quicker and need to be pampered less. We do watch for any swelling or irritation and take action if we notice any issues. As they still act “boarish” for a short time after being neutered the surgery helps calm the boys down.



We get many calls from people saying they have aggressive pigs. More times than not the pig they have is a male that is not neutered. With so much testosterone running through their systems unaltered male pigs can often be aggressive and charge or bite. Once the boys are neutered and get the testosterone and aggression out of their systems they can be very friendly and calm down quite a bit.

It's apparent that it is much better for both the pigs and the people who are around the pigs to have them neutered. For the sake of their health and temperament it's

an easy way to help keep them healthy. We are thankful to have vets to neuter our boys whether it's a normal neuter or something a little more complicated.

---Taryn



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Postage Stamps (Forever, 49, 34, 2 cents) Other denominations can also be used
- Used Blankets are always welcome
- Children's Multivitamin - NO IRON
- Fig Newtons - Generic OK - Not individually wrapped
- Peanut Butter - Creamy Only
- Cytra Med - Sold online at www.healthypigs.com
- Ensure or Equivalent, Vanilla Only
- Animal Crackers
- Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU
- Swat Fly Repellent Ointment
- Advanced Cetyl M for Horses (granules only), sold online at www.heartlandvetsupply.com
- Zyrtec Allergy pills or equivalent

GIFT CARDS

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|--------|
| Fry's | Discover | Staples | Target |
| Home Depot | MasterCard | Petsmart | |
| Lowe's | Office Max | Office Depot | |

****We have wish lists on Smile.Amazon.com and Petsmart.com. The Petsmart list can only be found by email address, pigsponsors@yahoo.com. They do not have it set up where you can search by name of our organization.**

Sponsor a S



Dewey

I was passed around to different homes but nobody kept me because I, ummm. ...bite people. Now I live with lots of pigs and don't need to act that way anymore.



Roseanne

I've been at Ironwood for many years and have always had a sponsor up until recently. I got dropped! Can you believe it?!



Jimmy Dear

I came to Ironwood v Dawn after our parent trucking across the co here!

These are just a few of the pigs that need someone to support them during their time here at Ironwood. Your monthly donation of \$30 to sponsor a pig will cover that pig's basic needs and their share of sanctuary expenses. You will receive a letter and photos of your pig along



Polly Piggins

with an update and new pictures during the year. Please help support our pigs by becoming a sponsor!

---Donna



I was a speedy little pig younger. Now I sort of only when I feel like it.

Special Pig!



ean

od with Delta
parents started
e country. We like it



Delta Dawn

My parents became truck
drivers and left me at home for
the neighbors to care for most of the
time. I came here to get more
attention and better care.



Dottie

You know what I wish? I
wish that someone would pick
me to be their special piggy. I
really, really want to have a sponsor.



Speedo

e piggy when I was
rt of putter around but
e it.



Rambo

I'm big! I'm tough! I'm.....well,
actually I'm sort of a nervous guy. I
have not been here very long and am
not used to all this activity or this
many people and pigs.



Pumba

I came here
because my
parents got in
trouble for not
taking good care of me.
They overfed me but didn't give
me much water or shade.



Food For Piggies

In the last newsletter I addressed the question as to why we spay our female pigs. Another question we are often asked by our supporters and people who come for tours is what we feed our pigs and how much does it take to feed so many. First



let's talk about how many pigs we are dealing with. Our Annex in Picture Rocks has a population of 28 pigs. Our satellite in Maricopa is home to 24. Here at the main facility in Marana we have around 540 pigs, a number that fluctuates almost weekly due to new arrivals, adoptions and/or deaths



but stays pretty well balanced. This article will refer to the feeding of the masses at the main facility of Ironwood.

The basic food we feed our pigs is a pellet form of grain specifically

manufactured for pigs. Vaquero Feed and Livestock, a local feed



store delivers four tons of grain every three weeks. On average we are feeding 380 pounds of this grain every single day! The 50 pound bags are stored in a shed near the front of the sanctuary. Twice a week we load up the ATV wagons and haul grain to the 20 feed stations set up to service the 25 different fields as well as the three yards behind the houses and the individual pens for new arrivals or sick pigs. Here we have storage bins to be filled so that grain is readily available in each area.

On top of that we are also feeding some of our pigs special grain.



We use an average of 30 pounds each day of a Youth Food for any youngsters we may have rescued as well as some of the thinner pigs that we are trying to add some weight to. Other pigs are on diets and get an Elder Food with fewer calories of which we use an



average of 20 pounds a day. So combining all three types of grain, we feed around 430 pounds of grain daily.



Since we live out in the desert there is little edible vegetation available and the pigs can and will clear a field of anything edible in no time flat! To fill in for the absence of grass, we provide alfalfa hay for our piggies to graze on every day. Every six weeks we

have a “squeeze” of hay delivered to the sanctuary from Glover Ranch in Avra Valley. A squeeze consists of 88 bales and arrives in



a big stack. We then have to break down the stack and restack most of it inside the barn. Other bales are loaded onto the ATV wagons and delivered to the feed stations out in the fields just like the grain is. Each morning we spread clumps of hay around for the pigs after they have had their grain. We go through just over two bales of hay every day.

In the past we supplemented the grain and hay with a variety of fruits and vegetables donated from a local grocery store’s surplus. After new management took over the store, that was no longer available to us. We went many months with no produce at



all for our pigs until this past spring. Dana, a supporter in Tucson began picking up surplus fruits and veggies. She is wonderful!! Dana picks up the produce, chops it up at her home and loads it into buckets then brings it all out to the sanctuary before sunrise. She then transfers the buckets into the ATV wagons so that all is ready to roll out to the fields when the staff arrives to



begin feeding the pigs. Dana does all this once or twice each week. The pigs love the fresh produce and it’s a great addition to their diet.

To sum up the answer as to what our pigs are fed, it’s grain in the form of pig pellets and alfalfa hay

on a regular daily basis with fruits and vegetables as a supplemental treat when available. As for how much....a lot!! Your support goes a long way toward keeping these piggies well fed. Thank you from the staff and the pigs!

---Donna



Artists Love Pigs Too

I have often written about good people doing good things for our pigs and how wonderful it is that they raise much needed funds for Ironwood piggies without us having to do anything.

This time I am happy to feature four Artists, all of whom work with a very different medium to create pig art and donate a portion of the funds raised to our pigs here at Ironwood. As always we are so grateful that so many people from so many backgrounds and different areas of creativity come together to help our pigs.

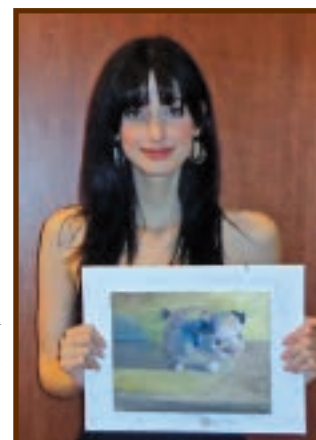
---Mary

Lauren Wyss - Art in Paint



Lauren Wyss is a Bay Area artist and animal lover. She is currently pursuing a B.F.A. at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she has studied since 2011. She enjoys bringing animals and people together through art and hopes to speak for animals with her work. Lauren has always had a special place in her heart for pigs and appreciates that they are beautifully unique. You can contact Lauren at sealsareseals@yahoo.com

“Thank you for all the work you do to support the pigs in need. I am a pig lover and fine art painter from Northern California. I would be honored to produce a few paintings of your pigs to donate to ironwood for a fund raiser”.



Anne Hetmaniak - Art in Ceramic

I fell in love with pigs as a child, the little pink ones that grow to be 500 lbs. For years I read everything I could get my hands on about pot-bellied pigs and waited until the perfect time and until I had the right place for a pig to call home. I learned that thousands of pigs need a home after I brought ‘Miss America’ home. While joining pig groups on Facebook I found Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

I had just begun commuting to Arizona to expand my art business and was able to attend Ironwood’s Fall Open House. I was amazed at how they could care for almost 600 pigs and wanted to help.

Having given a good percentage of my work to galleries over the years I had an idea. What if I created my own online gallery and could give that percentage to Ironwood? The Potter and The Pig came to life. I have been creating ceramic art for this gallery and plan to launch the site at the end of August, donating 50% of all of my ‘pig art’ to Ironwood. You can contact me at anne@thepotterandthepig.com or my web site at www.thepotterandthepig.com
Anne Hetmaniak



Ashley Weymouth - Art in Fiber

Ashley Weymouth is a fiber artist living in Tucson, Arizona whose pieces are made from alpaca, sheep, and goat fibers. In an effort to support farms that participate in humane and animal-friendly practices Ashley strives to purchase wool from local farms that treat their animals with dignity and respect.



In 2004 Ashley taught herself how to knit and began knitting afghans.

The tactile experience of working with wool felt right to her. Over time, knitting patterns started to feel limiting - she wanted to create her own images on wool and learned how to do it by combining the felting, fulling and needle-felting processes. In 2007 she created her first piece. Since then, the process has been an evolution but the main theme remains, Ashley's love for animals. Ashley expresses her passion for animal welfare by replicating animal images in fiber and sharing the animal's story with the public.



After an unforgettable visit to Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, Ashley has begun to create pot-bellied pig portraits and she is donating half of each of the sales to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Some supporters, like Cheesecake's sponsor, commissioned Ashley to do a piece for her. To see more images, go to her website, www.ashleysfiberart.com. If you're interested in having your pet's (or pig's!) image captured in fiber, please contact Ashley at ashleysfiberart@gmail.com.

Jo Brewer - Art in Wood

Obviously, at age 80, I could have an extensive autobiography, but I shall limit it to family, career and carving. 3 children; 8 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren. Physical Therapist for 45 years; East coast and Madras, OR; retired in 1999. Traveled x-country 10 times in 5 years with my dog in 24 ft. RV Work camper, 2 winters at Desert Haven Animal Refuge in Truth or Consequences, NM.

During employment in Madras took an evening Community course in wood carving. Have been carving since 1995.

Have never specialized nor embraced power carving but often use a Dremel and wood burning for detail. From a Carving Magazine, got the idea of magnets and latched upon it for family/friends' pets carvings for special occasion gifts. When I read about your annual fund raiser, it occurred to me that perhaps magnets of some of the Sanctuary pigs might be saleable items. Since I have more time than money it seemed that possibly I could contribute in that way.

Sincerely, Jo Brewer





Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary In Your Will

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from many generous supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetimes, but decided to link themselves with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

The Mary C Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names (although it is okay if you've already used only the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary name), the post office address from the back cover and this tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-0999483. Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the almost 600 Pot-Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.



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. Or if you have a PayPal account you can make a donation using our e-mail address ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

Donate Appreciated Stock

The stock market has more than doubled since the recession. If your stock has appreciated and you want to use that asset for a donation, then donate the actual stock. You will avoid the capital gain tax and receive a deduction equal to the current value of the stock. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you are required to take yearly distributions from your IRA. To avoid taxes on some of this distribution you can direct your stock manager to send the stocks directly to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

Take Advantage of Employer Matching Gift

You can easily make your donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary go even further if you work for or are retired from a Matching Gift company. Many employers will match and sometimes double their employees' or retirees' charitable contributions.

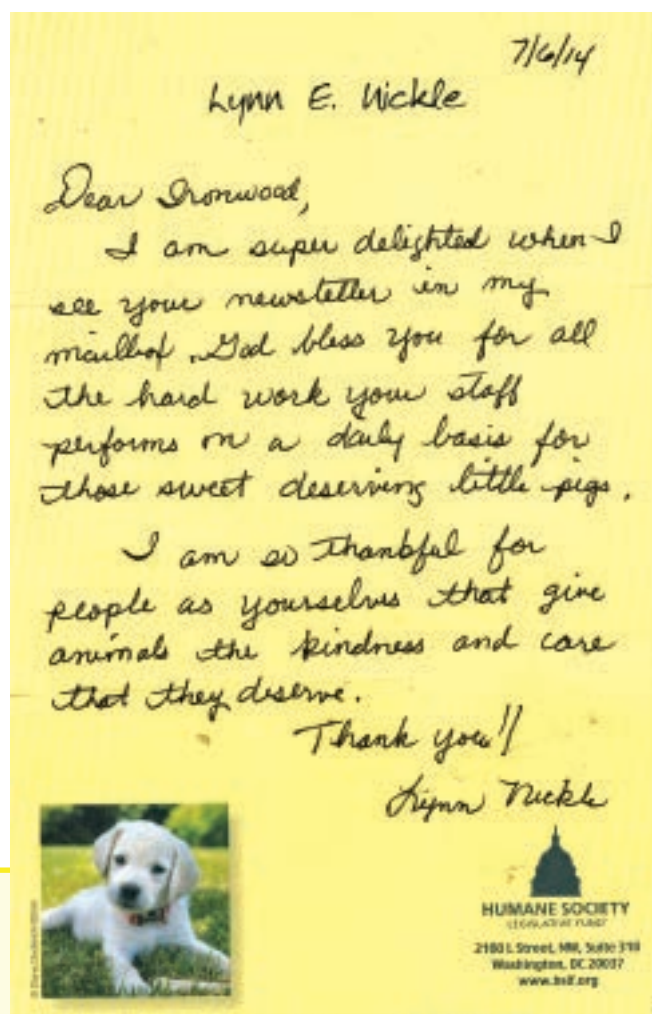
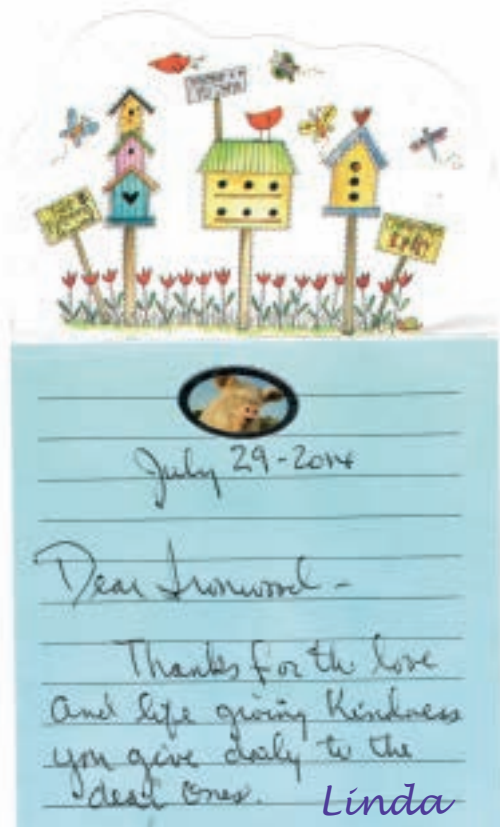
Request a matching gift form from the Personnel Department of your employer, fill it out and mail it to us with your donation or use it for one of your past donations. Your gift with your employer's match will go even further toward taking care of the almost 600 pot-bellied pigs at the sanctuary.

You can see if your company does matching gifts by going to the bottom of the Support Page on our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Thank you for all your support!

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.



Dear Ironwood-

Thanks so much for all you do to help the pigs and to help educate people about them.

They are wonderful creatures and so lucky to have you. I really enjoyed reading about the five babies in the July newsletter. So well done!

May god continue to bless all of you!

Lisa Heideman

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Aida

Linus

Stephano