

IRONWOOD

Happy Holidays

ISSUE
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Dozer

PIG SANCTUARY



Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

November 2016

Dear Supporter,

Another big year is coming to an end here at Ironwood and a big year it has been for sure. As most of you prepare for your winter and snow we prepare for our best time of year with sunny and hopefully cool days. This makes the holiday season a welcome time of year for us. We celebrate by welcoming many of our supporters to our yearly Open House and more and more visitors are coming each Saturday to meet our pigs and enjoy seeing the sanctuary. We are happy to have you visit.

With a sigh of relief we welcome the fall when the intense heat of the summer begins to recede and the wallows will soon dry up and flies will die off. This summer's heat has been relentless. Our aging population of pigs throughout the sanctuary now means that two people are hired for the summer to walk the sanctuary and put cold towels on the pigs that are old and unable to tolerate the heat. We wonder what we have in store for us with climate change and the challenges it will bring to Ironwood in the future. However, as I watch while Hurricane Matthew destroys so much in its path I am very thankful we are not faced with those challenges.

Time has really taken a toll on our dear friends this year. The Sanctuary is now over 15 years old and likewise many of our old pig friends are well into their late teens and so many have come to a peaceful end here with us this year. Saying good-bye has been a huge emotional drain even though I am thankful they came to us and were able to live their lives out here with all their needs met and with family and friends. I remember when they were young and vigorous. They are part of my history and I was a part of theirs. Their time here is over, they will continue their journey and they have moved aside to make room for the many more out there that are desperately in need of a good home.

As we march toward years end and the Holidays ahead we have heavy hearts for all those we have now left behind. So many names and faces flash before me. But because of your wonderful support our Holidays will still be filled with cheer and happiness knowing that we can still continue to provide a safe haven and home for all of those who remain with us and all of those yet to come through our gate.

All of us here at Ironwood would like to wish you a happy safe and peaceful Holiday Season shared with family and friends, both two and four legged. We so appreciate your gifts that come to our pigs throughout the entire year. Their happy faces and chunky bodies are testimony to the care you help us give them.

Sincerely,



President & CoFounder



Jeffrey's Story

Well, my story starts during January of 2016 in South Tucson where I was on the run, but I can't remember what I was running from.... Anyway, I made my way into a horse's stall because I was tired and wanted to rest in the straw for a bit. Then some lady came out and saw me. I got scared and even though she seemed really nice I took off again. I decided not to go far because I really wanted to go back to that nice comfortable stall. As soon as she went back in her house I came back. We played this game for a couple of days until I let her coax me into a dog pen and she gave me some food and water. She told me that her name was Donna and that she was going to help me find a safe home. I was really hungry and tired by that time so I thought I would hang around. (Not like I had a choice at that point since I was locked in a pen but still....)

Donna got in touch with the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Ben and Mary came to pick me up but when they saw how skinny and full of sores I was, they decided to take me to their home in Tucson rather than the sanctuary in case I had a disease or something. There I was given plenty of food and clean water to drink. I had a nice comfy bed and blankets. Ben and Mary cleaned up my sores and put some stuff on them so they would heal up and not hurt any more. I stayed there for about three weeks



then one day somebody came over in a van and loaded me up in a crate and took me for a long drive. There were two other pigs in the van with me. We ended up going to a vet clinic where I was neutered and the two girls got spayed. Let me tell you, that was not a fun day and I was sure hoping that wasn't going to be my new home! Don't get me wrong, the people there were really nice but having surgery. No way! Not something I want to repeat ever.



It turns out that I only stayed at the vet's place for a day then I got to go for another long ride in the van with the girls. This time we went all the way to Ironwood and I was given my own pen with a house and a pool. I had to stay inside there for a few days while I was healing up from my surgery

but then the people started letting me go out into the Exercise Yard for a while every day. What a fun place! I had room to run, I could visit other piggies through the fencing and there was a pool to



splash in. Then one day I went into the yard and there were two other pigs there! I got to meet Boudreaux and Wallace, two older guys who were good buddies. They let me sniff and nuzzle them. Wallace would even let me cuddle up for naps! I loved getting to know them.

Later when I had grown up a bit more the people let me out into a place called the Big Yard. And man, was it big! I felt like I could run for miles! There were so many things to see and stuff to smell and wallows to roll in. It was amazing and so much fun. And just when I thought it couldn't get any better they started putting out two other young pigs for me to play with. One of them was Princess, the girl I met the day I rode in the van to go see the vet. She has a brother



Jeffrey & Rusty

named Rusty. We are all about the same age, so we started hanging out together. They are still my good friends! Every day we went to the Big Yard together and explored different places. After a while other pigs came out to play with us too. Sometimes we all fought a little bit until we got to know each other better so it was kind of intense at first. Things got



better though and now we're all buddies.

One day the people said all us piggies were going on a big adventure. They herded us through one field and around a corner into a huge place called Sunset Field. Me and all my friends were let loose where there was a whole herd of big pigs. It was awesome, scary and fun all at the same time! We had all these new places to explore but had to keep dodging pigs that wanted to beat us up because we were in their territory. I knew better than

to try to fight those pigs and just tried to stay out of their way and let them know I wasn't interested in any of that stuff. Rusty and Princess got to come live there with me and another girl named



Dolly that I really like. Dolly and I found this spot under a tree where we dug this huge hole to sleep in. That was tons of fun pushing all that dirt around and seeing how deep we could go. Sometimes it would rain though and then we had to go find empty houses that we could sleep in. There were plenty to choose from and it was sorta fun to try out different ones.



Something else new that I had to learn about was eating out of a trough and sharing my food. There are a whole bunch of troughs lined up through the field and people pour grain in those.

Then us pigs just run from one trough to the other and eat as fast as we can. It's totally cool! I love it! And then, they bring us hay and put piles of it all over the place. I eat the leafy stuff which is the best part then run to the next pile to do the same thing. Sometimes I'll share a pile of hay with Dolly or Rusty. Most of the other pigs don't really like to share hay so I get pushed aside sometimes. But it's okay because there's lots of it around.

When my tummy is full I usually go take a nap somewhere. I like it when Dolly and me nap in that big hole we dug. Later we'll go exploring through the bushes and



trees to find new smells and things to root around in. I love being out here and having the freedom to do whatever I want whenever I feel like it. I also love having so many friends and living with a herd of other pigs. And someone told me that I'm able to live in this place because you send donations to Ironwood so pigs like me can have a safe home. So, thank you very much for doing that for me and my pals!

Love ya,
Jeffrey

Open House



Don't forget about Ironwood's annual Open House coming up on Saturday, November 12th from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. Invitations with a map and directions have been sent out. You can also check our web site for directions if you did not receive one.

Please bring donations to help support the pigs. Check out this list for things that are ongoing needs. An * denotes items we use and need the most.

- ** **BLANKETS** (pigs love comforters!)
- * Sheets (no pillowcases please)
- * Peanut Butter, **CREAMY ONLY**
- * Cranberry/Grape Juice (cran/grape flavor only please)
- * Vitamin B Complex (small tablets please)
- * Ranitidine 150mg Acid Reducer
- * Flaxseed Oil Capsules
- * Prune Juice
- * Fig Newton Cookies (or equivalent brand)

Canned Pumpkin
Animal Crackers
Benefiber (not flavored)
Children's Multivitamins (NO IRON)

These happy, smiling pigs are just a few of those waiting to meet and greet you at this year's Open House! Come on down and bring your friends and family along too!

Saturday November 12th
from 11:00AM to 3:00PM



Miki



Betty



Stephano



Ashley



Joey



Gertie

Gomie, My Micro Pig

I had wanted a mini pig for many years, but was not zoned for one. The information out there was so confusing. You had breeders claiming to produce mini pigs, but others saying it was a scam. I did not understand why you could have a small dog, but not a small pig. Unfortunately, I fell for it and my pig paid the price.

My first pig was a so called Micro pig. I had saved up \$1,500 for it and moved to a pig friendly community. I was on a very long waiting list so I was so excited when he finally arrived. I had done some reading to prepare myself, but that was not enough. The first night was a nightmare. I woke up the next day thinking- did I just make a big mistake? I was in over my head. Pigs are not like dogs, and shouldn't be compared as similar. It took several weeks, but then I was hooked! Hanging around pigs before you commit is the best thing you can do for yourself and your future pig. It takes a long time to build a trusting relationship and get them comfortable in different settings. This is a great example of why they are far from a dog. A dog gets excited over a harness or a collar, but a pig will scream its head off unless you give it something to eat while you quickly put it on. Not to mention teaching the pig to walk on a leash. You can easily snuggle with

the average dog, but with a pig it is always on their terms, and that could mean never.



Gomie is a sickly pig at 1 year old and 8#

It took me a long time to figure out that small pigs only exist through restricting their food. The breeders call this their special feeding plan which consists of just enough pellets to get them by and no grazing or other food allowed. If you don't follow the plan, the opposite occurs, your pig will grow and be very happy and healthy. I followed the strict plan for a year and my pig's health was deteriorating. He started to develop shoulder issues. He also needed two dentals before the age of a year and a half. He never wanted to run or play. He was too small to safely play outside so now one of his hoofs is a bit deformed from not getting the outside activity needed. Seeing other pigs run and play and act completely opposite I realized I was starving him. I felt and still feel so naive for falling for the scam. When I reached out to the breeder to inform her about his

status there were many excuses. When I told her I was going to feed him more, she said I was going to ruin her best smallest male pig. That was the red flag for me. When I showed her this picture she said he looked great. It was not the health that mattered it was only the size to keep more people buying. I now have two other pigs from the same line that were too big for their previous owners, and one is 60lbs and the other is almost 100lbs. However, the pigs that are that size are hidden from the social media sites. It would be great for potential buyers to see how big the pigs will get so they do not get dumped. They truly do form a strong bond with their family and it breaks their hearts to start over.



Gomie at 2 years and 23#. What a difference! He is eating like a pig and has tripled in size.

Since I stopped the feeding plan over a year ago my little man is growing fast and now runs and



100# Pebbles, adopted from Ironwood, with Gomie when he was at 8#.

barks in the yard. For those who are confused about mini pigs, a mini pig is a term to describe a pig



Froto at age 3 is from the same breeder as Gomie. Same dad but different mother. His previous owner did not follow the feeding plan and gave him to Tina because he was not the size as promised and they couldn't accommodate a 100# pig.

smaller than an 800lb farm hog. A 60lb pig is a small pig in comparison, but not as common. To achieve an extremely small pig, food is withheld during their growing years. This will only produce a small, unhealthy, short lived pig. If you want a pig, it is always safe to expect it to be at least a couple hundred pounds and then you won't be disappointed. Also be aware of the breeders breeding babies and claiming this is the adult size. Pigs can keep growing up to the first 3 years.

After my first Micro pig I decided to take in unwanted pigs that people no longer wanted because they grew to be what they were supposed to be.



Arnie at age 5 years and 60# has the same parents as Froto. His previous owners also did not follow the instructed feeding plan. Both Froto and Arnie are healthy.

In conclusion, here are a few facts surrounding mini pigs:

- The term mini pig is anything smaller than a farm hog
- To achieve a small pig healthy feeding amounts are withheld
- Piglets can start breeding as young as 3 months of age
- Pigs can grow up to 3 years of age
- A mini pig can range from 60 - 200 plus lbs
- Mini pigs can live up to 15 plus years
- Withholding food to achieve a small pig will lead to costly vet bills, or worse - death
- Pigs are sensitive, intelligent and loving creatures that form strong bonds

---Tina

Sponsor a S



Gilligan

I had been used for breeding to sell babies at a pet store. We got in trouble for living in a place not zoned for pigs and came here. I like it much better here!



Cookie

My family moved away and could not take me and my friend with them. I lived at a foster home for a while before moving over to Ironwood. Now I live with a herd of friends!



I was a stray running in a rural area. I was able to see all my friends and plenty to eat every day to play with. Cool!

These sweet pigs have either lost their families or never even had one. They would all love to be a part of your family now! For a monthly donation of \$30 you will receive pictures and a letter about your pig then get



Donna

Sweet Tea

updates and new photos during the year. Remember sponsoring a pig will make a great holiday gift for someone special! What a fun way to support Ironwood's pigs!

---Donna



Baby Girl

I lived almost my entire life in a trailer with no access to the outdoors. In fact, I was forced to spend a lot of time in the bathtub to get up the house.

Special Pig!



Jeffrey

running around in a
was so skinny you
my bones! Now I have
very day and friends
Cool!



Dolly

A girl that used to work here
saw me at my house which had
a trash filled yard and big dogs
chasing me. She was able to
get the owners to let me come
here and be safe.



Miss Piggy

My owner found me running loose
and let me live with him for over a
year but then his dogs started
attacking me. He thought
I would be safer here.



entire life inside a
cess to the outdoors.
ed to spend a lot of
b so I wouldn't mess



Sarge

My family lost their home in a
foreclosure. It was very sad. They
tried to find a place to rent where I
could live but there wasn't anything.
I'm trying to adjust to my new life.



Hot Sauce

I had a home with people who
loved me and took good care of
me but our house burned down.
What a nightmare! Everybody
was saved but there was nowhere
for me to live.

Snakes & Pigs

One of the most common questions we are asked is if the snakes out here bother the pigs. In the many years that the sanctuary has been operating there have been countless snake



Sophie & a King Snake

sightings. We see several types of snakes out here including rattlesnakes. We are aware of when they are out most often so we are careful when we are out working.

The snakes move about the fields and sometimes even go into the shelters. They often go under the shelters or the hay stacks. They are aware of the pigs and don't seem concerned about them. They do get out of the way if a pig is walking near or getting too close. Snakes don't really have a reason to harm the pigs and are aware that a pig could step on them. We have had two for sure incidents of pigs being bitten in all of the years that we have been operating. Neither resulted in a serious injury or death of either pig.

The most common reaction from the pigs when they see a snake is to ignore it. The older pigs often notice them but don't pay them any mind. We have seen a few young pigs get curious about the snakes and try to get close and see what it is. The pigs will either watch them from afar or try to get closer to see what it's doing. The snakes usually move away quickly. We had one occasion where we had a young pig that got too curious about a rattlesnake. The snake rattled at the pig but as usual the snake moved away. Just to be safe we caught it and relocated it.

We only relocate rattlesnakes when they are near piglets, elderly pigs that may accidentally get too close, if they are in a high traffic area or around pigs

that are too curious. Even if the snakes do come back we at least know that the area is clear for a while.

Overall they seem to be able to coexist without much trouble. If no sense of harm is there then both the pigs and snakes appear to be able to be around each other without any issues. However, even if this is the case and we have seen them be peaceful together we are



always watchful and aware of the fact that there are poisonous snakes in the area.

---Taryn

Blanket & Donation Drop Offs

It's cold here in Arizona so collecting blankets for winter is a priority. We never seem to have enough and really need your help. For those of you in the Phoenix and Tucson areas there are three drop off locations for your convenience to save on shipping charges for blankets and other items from our wish list. Please note that no monetary donations can be accepted here. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated - don't forget the blankets.

For the Phoenix area you may drop donations off at Susan's in North Phoenix near E Union Hills Dr and N Cave Creek Rd. Call her at 602-339-6213 for directions. Also Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. You may call 480-981-8069 for directions.

For the Tucson area you may drop items off at Ben's in Northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call him at 520-631-6015 for directions.

We appreciate all your support!

Gus, a Life Saved

Gus is just one of the dozens of calls and emails we now get most every week fueled by the out of control “micro mini” pig craze and ads like those by Chase Bank. Why Gus and not others? It is hard to say what drew me to him but a number of things fell into place. In mid August we got the call from a woman who had a pig she wanted to sell and she said he weighed about 300 or 400 pounds. Who would buy such a pig except for food? We asked for his picture and this is what we got from her. A smiling 175 pound pig looking content with his life



and himself. We told her that no one would buy him except for food. We told her we would take him to save his life but her response was she did not care if he was for food as long as she did not know. His picture continued to haunt me so I could not let go of trying to save him.

She said she needed the money to buy books. Ben suggested she sell other possessions that did not mean the loss of her pig's life, but she was relentless. In the middle



of this banter Lisa, a nice lady, sent me a listing from Craig's List for another pig and offered to buy the pig if we would take it. I could not take the pig but I sent her Gus's picture and asked if she would be willing to help save Gus, who I had now become more attached to after weeks of emails trying to convince Gus' owner to release him to us. Lisa agreed to pay the woman and after yet more negotiating Gus finally came home to Ironwood. Thanks to Lisa for making this possible. He is a sweet shy guy who loves to have his belly rubbed and is slowly making himself at home.

By the way we were shocked to



drive up to a large beautiful home with nice cars and a huge backyard swimming pool. Gus had little space that was not tiled winding around the large pool.

Gus is one story out of over 50 so far this year who arrived at Ironwood and hundreds more over the past 15 years. Where does it stop? The battle to save these hapless animals will never



end as long as people continue to buy pigs with no knowledge of them or what their needs are. Please do not add to this problem by buying a pig and thank you so much for making it possible for us to provide a good safe home for Gus and so many others.

---Mary

Perks for Pigs

Some friends of Ironwood recently held a fundraiser for Ironwood. Jessica and Melody have started calling events like this one “Perks for Pigs”. They hold raffles and auctions at these events and collect donations in many forms.

At this particular event they were able to not only obtain a large cash donation for us but also items such as peanut butter and juice! Melody and Jessica held the fundraiser at Green, a vegan restaurant in Tempe.

The owner of Green, Damon, is gracious enough to allow several events for Ironwood to be held on location and Stacey always helps out. Green also created a dish and dessert for this event and donated part of the proceeds.

Thank you to all involved with this event and previous events and in all of the ways you help out.

---Taryn



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 47 and 34 cents)
 Other denominations can also be used
 Used Blankets are always welcome
 Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
 Animal Crackers
 Probiotics
 Children's Multivitamins (NO IRON)
 Fig Newton Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
 Mucinex
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules
 Stool Softeners
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
 Tarps, Heavy Duty 8X10 or 10X12
 Sheets (No Pillowcases)
 Utility Knives
 Duct Tape (Heavy Duty Preferred)

GIFT CARDS

Walgreen's
 Home Depot
 Lowes
 Discover
 MasterCard
 Office Max
 Walmart
 Amazon
 Office Depot
 Target
 Fry's
 Staples

We have a wish list on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).
 They offer free shipping on many items if
 you sign up for Amazon Prime.

Holiday Gifts

You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while doing your holiday shopping or for other special occasions like birthdays or anniversaries! The following make great gifts.

- *2017 Ironwood Calendar- different pigs pictured each month \$22
- *Jigsaw Puzzles- 252 piece puzzles of Ironwood pigs \$25
- *Sponsor a Pig- get a letter and pictures of an adorable pig
- *Donations “In Honor Of”- get a certificate of acknowledgement
- * T-Shirts and Hats- with the Ironwood logo, available ONLY at www.ironwoodpigs.org on the Support Page

You may purchase these gifts using the enclosed envelope or go to Ironwood’s web site and use PayPal or your credit card. Please note that the T-shirts and hats are ONLY available online and need plenty of advance notice.



Thank You For Remembering the Sanctuary in Your Estate Plans.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been included in the wills of many of our 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 (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 almost 600 Pot-Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

Front and Back Covers



Dozer could not have a more appropriate name. Dozer looks like a big dozer. I don't know how his family knew to call him Dozer when he was but a wee boy but he certainly grew up to be a dozer. He came to us a little over a year ago and while he is still a big

dozer indeed he has certainly trimmed down a lot and looks much more like a proud boy ready for what life has in store for him.

He is about 5 now. His family said they moved frequently and it was too much mental stress for him. If I had to guess I would say it was no easy task moving this big boy around from home to home. Stress for him or stress for them??

He was moved to our Phase II area where most of the, well, oversized pigs tend to land when they come in. They usually cannot cope with one of the large fields, so Dozer made his home there with the others who looked more like him when they arrived. He eats in a pen both so we can control his food intake and so he cannot live up to his name and go around dozing all the others out of the way in order to get their food.

He has had a grand time ripping up some of those nice comforters many of you go to so much trouble to send to us. In time he makes a nice comfortable bed for himself and is content to not have to move anymore. No more mental stress for him.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 73

Grandma is a success story for sure. She arrived back in March of 2013 with six others from a rescue that we eventually took around 75 pigs from over about 3 years. She was so obese she could barely move or barely breathe. In these three plus years she has trimmed down to the pig you see in this picture. We don't know her age but we felt she was in good enough condition to take her to surgery when in June of this year she started to bleed vaginally. We soon made an appointment to have her spayed. She had uterine tumors and pyometra. Our vet felt she was well into her teens. She had somewhat of a difficult recovery but was soon returned to her home field and she is clearly doing well. We are so glad we have been able to give her a new lease on life.

---Mary



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.

Our Supporters Write

6/6/16

This note is late in coming. But I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with the sanctuary when I visited at your Open House back in November. It was my first time to visit after being on my "To Do" list for many years.

I was so happy to see such a great turn-out! Everyone was so friendly and accommodating! The chili "pot luck" was delicious and it gave a real "family" feeling to the whole event. I was surprised that everything was free as I would have been willing to pay for the food + drinks! So I made sure to leave a nice donation in your jar!

The tour was wonderful - I had no idea how large the property was: how wonderful for all the pigs to have space to roam! And I was very impressed by all the different levels of care provided and how organized everything was.

You are doing a good work out there and I thank-you for all that you have sacrificed to help these dear pigs.

Although I can't support you monthly, I hope this additional gift will help with some of your costs.

I am enjoying reading your informative and educational newsletters.

May god bless your work + provide for your needs.

Sincerely, Constance



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Grandma