

IRONWOOD

16th ANNIVERSARY

ISSUE
NO 76

MAY
2017



Danny Ray

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2017

Dear Supporter,

June 10 will mark the 16th year since we took Claire and Popeye in as our first pigs at Ironwood. By the end of the month fourteen more had joined our family. Two of those are still with us, Flapjack living in Hospice and Collie, featured on the back cover. Our Anniversary issue is usually one of celebration and a look back at our development and our dear friends we have grown old with.

But this year is different. Ironwood has experienced an illness among the pigs since the middle of January for which I do not have the words to describe the emotional pain and physical exhaustion we have lived with these past four months. To date over 300 pigs have been sick and 18 have died.

I want to share this with you because so many of you have known every detail of the lives of our pigs over so many years and what goes on here at Ironwood through the many stories you have read and pictures you have seen in our newsletters. Even though you may not have been aware of this illness, your support has made it possible for us to save many lives that otherwise would surely have been lost. Our veterinary bills, medicines, nationwide testing to identify the cause of the illness and staff time have all combined to consume a huge amount of our resources. You have been our lifeline to fight this illness and deserve to know the details.

The illness started on January 10th with diarrhea in one of the pigs in the holding pens and spread quickly to several of the other pigs in the pens. Culture results were negative for pathogens and parasites and the pigs usually recovered within a few days. Soon it spread to the west side of the sanctuary and began rapidly escalating through the herds. So many pigs were becoming sick each day that we were soon out of pens to put them in. We rapidly made a new field where many of our recent arrivals could be placed in order to make room in the holding pens for our sick pigs. Of course the new field required more staff time watching pigs and breaking up fights while they became accustomed to one another.

By February 11th the illness was beginning to show up on the East side of the sanctuary and within two short days Thomas was the first of our pigs to succumb to the disease. We took him to the University of Arizona for a necropsy and extensive testing was done but no infectious agent could be found. Specimens were sent to Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory from both Thomas and Bonnie who had also succumbed to the disease. In both cases thorough testing including Virology Electron Microscopy did not produce a cause for this illness.

As the disease progressed Dr. Glock, a veterinarian at the University of Arizona Diagnostic Lab, came out of retirement to help. He sent four samples to Iowa State University for additional testing. Again extensive testing was done for viral, bacterial and parasitic



Ganesha Receiving Nutrition From Mary

organisms but all the tests came back negative. Our vets, Dr. Page, Dr. Staten and Dr. Grumbleby were of course doing all they could to save the ones we took to them. We were trying different treatment plans for the symptoms, not knowing what exactly we were treating them for. We prepared a spread sheet with the data of the pigs who became ill, their location in the sanctuary and information on their condition. Dr. Page and Dr. Glock visited the sanctuary and examined some of the ill pigs, the stools and the grain, but again no real conclusion could be made. A vitamin B3 deficiency was suspected since the symptoms of a deficiency are very much the same as what the pigs are experiencing. But that does not seem likely either since of the 73 pigs we have on Vitamin B pills for other reasons, 61% of them became ill. We also sent Dr. Carr, a swine expert, the results of our testing to see if there was any advice he could offer that would be helpful. Logic tells us it is caused by an infectious agent of some kind since it spread from one field to another and as one became sick in a field many others followed. For weeks two staff people picked up diarrhea and sprayed the areas with bleach.



Penny Getting Meds From Taryn

Of the 18 that have died from this condition seven of them were very old and had other health issues that would have taken their lives soon, but eleven were young to middle aged pigs that were otherwise healthy and could have enjoyed several more years here at Ironwood. Of the over 300 that have been sick, some have gotten sick again and some have not completely recovered. Big holes have been left in their fields where those who passed away once roamed happily and each time I go to one of their fields to feed I am reminded of the loss of these dear lives. The diagnosis from the necropsies performed was necrotizing enterocolitis and a definitive cause could not be determined. As of the time of this writing we are working hard to recover those who are still sick. Thankfully new cases have almost come to an end these past couple of weeks.

This quote from Evelyn of Mulberry Hills Farm Sanctuary expresses my feelings. “The sense of helplessness can easily become overwhelming because we care for them as our children and feel as responsible as parents. Our greatest strength and weakness is our empathy because it drives us to step up when others don’t care, but it also causes deep emotional pain and grief when it seems we have done everything humanly possible and it still isn’t enough.”

Last evening I drove home with the last two remaining pigs from Adobe Veterinary Center that were there for treatment. They are not yet well but now there is hope that they will recover. As I drove down our lane in the fading light of day and looked over at the fields I felt a sense of hope that peace may soon come once again to this beautiful place called Ironwood. I hope soon our doors may open again to welcome pigs in need of a safe place to call home.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

President & CoFounder

Dr. Page &
Dr Glock



Medicine Magic

This May marks the 16th anniversary for Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Things have certainly changed over the years. One of the big differences is the number of pigs that are taking daily medications and how we handle that. One reason for the increase is that much of our population is now composed of pigs in their teens. The biggest culprit for elderly pigs is arthritis. It can actually affect pigs at any age but is most often seen with pigs in their teens. Elbow dysplasia, another common ailment, exhibits similar



Taryn Feeding Meds to Peoria

up affects several of the older male pigs. The lower tusks begin to deteriorate and the gums to recede, creating an area ripe for infections and abscesses. Charlie, Wrinkles, Martin and many others are on a cycle of two alternating antibiotics which they will continue taking for the remainder of their lives. Other types of antibiotics are used for pigs that have undergone dental surgery, occasional infections in surgical incisions or for wounds that occur while out in the fields. Some of the pigs on anti-inflammatories or antibiotics can get an upset stomach and have acid reducers added to their daily regime.

The boys have another possible issue that can strike at any age....the development of crystals or stones in the bladder causing a blockage of the urinary tract. We have found over the years that it seems to almost exclusively involve neutered males. As a

preventative measure we give citric acid granules to the boys to help acidify their urine. Katrina gets frequent urinary tract infections and also takes daily doses of citric acid but it's not something we often see with the girls. Those boys that have had episodes of urinary problems also get 2 tablets of DL-Methionine twice a day as an acidifier. For some like Nico, Squeal and Speedo who have a history of severe problems with crystals and stones, prescription medications are also part of their daily dose of pills.

Achy joints, bad teeth and urinary tract problems take up the bulk of issues requiring medications but there are a few other things that crop up along the way. Patrick and Hopper have a type of irritable bowel syndrome. Both take probiotics on a daily basis for maintenance with prescription



Med Sandwich For Roxanne White

meds on hand for bad flare ups. Sometimes we will receive pigs suffering from malnutrition who need to take multivitamins and/or



Med Cookie For Snuggles

symptoms of lameness and pain. A handful of younger pigs that have come to us with severe lameness have been x-rayed and examined by our vets and found to have leg and/or joint injuries that occurred from abuse or mishandling as babies. The lameness and joint problems are treated with steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines.

Another problem that has cropped

iron. When a pregnant female arrives on our doorstep, the vitamins are a must for her and her litter once they're eating solid food. We also give vitamin E with selenium to the babies until they are a few months old. Pigs with skin problems like Erin and Luke may take flaxseed capsules, fish oil capsules, vitamin E capsules or any combination of those. Still others such as Big Charlotte and Johnny suffering from weak or cracked hooves get a serving of Biotin 100 powder with a side of B Complex vitamin. After a pig has gone to the vet clinic for any sort of abdominal surgery, we give them glucosamine/chondroitin for a couple of weeks to prevent



Med Sandwich For Lincoln

these delicious little pill pockets to tuck in a pill or two. Or if they're cooperative, you can just poke the pill down your dog's throat. Want to try that with a 150 pound pig with jaws like an alligator? I didn't think so. This is where the peanut butter and the fig newton cookies come in. People see those items on our wish list all the time and wonder why we're feeding our pigs junk food. It's not a regular part of everyone's diet but is simply the means of distributing medication. We are currently handing out 339 medications each morning, 3 at noon and 115 in the late afternoon. We have found that the most efficient way to do this is to



The Next Day's Meds

internal adhesions from occurring as they heal. Wilbur in Assisted Living Phase Two has allergies that pop up every summer, so he takes Zyrtec. Nate with his chronic nasal problems gets Mucinex daily. Myron needs stool softeners to keep him regular. Walter, Doc and many other elderly pigs need Benefiber added to their meals.

So with all that said, how in the world do you get a pig to take its medicine? Cats and dogs have



Med Cookie For Celie

prepare them the day before and put all the pills, capsules, powders and granules in peanut butter sandwiches. Each individual pig that is on medication has a sandwich bag with their name and their field name on it in which their personalized sandwich is placed. The bags are clipped together by field or by sections for the larger fields. Some pigs that have just 1 or 2 pills can have half a piece of bread folded into a small sandwich. Those with powders or several pills will need a full piece folded over. The more



Donna & Nick Loading Bread

bitter antibiotics or steroids almost always get a full piece of bread. There are a few pigs that can eat a peanut butter sandwich, swallow it then magically spit out all their pills. These sneaky piggies get a fig newton cookie or two with their pills stuffed inside. It's hard to refuse a cookie and even harder to work a pill out of



Catina Preparing Meds

the gooey center. However, it can be done by a talented few! The next step for those tricksters is to pull out the cereal fruit bars or Little Debbie oatmeal pies. We have our own bag of tricks!

When you add up all the morning, noon and afternoon medications being handed out to the pigs, it's just over 450. That's a lot of peanut butter sandwiches!! I mentioned that we always have peanut butter on our wish lists in the newsletters as well as on Amazon.com and always ask



Evening Meds For Fields

visitors coming to Open House to bring some too. Making 450 sandwiches every day also uses up a lot of bread. I go to Fry's grocery store every Thursday to buy supplies for the sanctuary and have a standing order for 90-120 loaves of wheat bread each

week. Nick and the rest of the staff at the Fry's on Silverbell Road do a fantastic job of making sure to have enough bread ordered for the pigs and always load up the van for me. I also pick up lots of other supplies there... cran/grape juice, apples, yogurt, eggs, cleaning supplies, paper products and more.

Catina works hard every day making the pigs' sandwiches and loading them with the proper



Deeanna With Morning Tub

medications, bagging them up then putting the bundles in the correct tubs for each field. Every morning the feeding crew grabs the loaded tubs and heads out to the fields to begin the feeding process. One of the chores is to hand out the medicinal sandwiches which really is a chore because you have to know each pig's name and be able to recognize them. There are sometimes imposters posing very cutely as if they're supposed to get a sandwich too, so you have to know your pigs. Some of the sandwiches or cookies get placed into the bowls of those getting specially prepared meals. These pigs eat in individual pens to ensure they get their full meal and

their meds without interference from the rest of the herd. Those



Lisa Feeding Meds to Main

that free feed from the troughs and bowls scattered through the field are hand fed their meds before the grain goes out. The pigs know the routine and all the "med pigs" along with a few that wish they were a "med pig" gather in a circle around the



Gertie's Meal & Meds

person with the bags to wait for their turn, some more patiently than others. A lot of work goes into the planning, making and distributing the pigs' daily medications to ensure they are getting the help they need to live a healthy, contented life at Ironwood. It's your support that makes all of this possible. Thank you for helping us keep the pigs feeling good!

---Donna

Why Should I Include Ironwood in My Will?

A bequest is easy to implement and simple to change at any time. You can give specific property or designate a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. You can also designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy. Making a bequest is a future gift and a way to support Ironwood without affecting your existing assets or cash flow. There are no substantial costs and you can continue your current lifestyle. A gift by will supports Ironwood's impact on the lives of many sweet pot bellied pigs in the Southwest, primarily in Arizona. Be a part of our exciting future and designate your legacy gift to fund any specific purpose that speaks to your heart and mind. Including the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your will demonstrates your commitment to the future of Ironwood. A bequest can allow you to increase your support to a level you may have always aspired to achieve.



Blanket & Donation Drop Offs

It is hot now, but we are collecting and stockpiling blankets for next winter. The pigs can never have too many blankets! For those of you in the Phoenix and Tucson areas there are four 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 & Mary's in Northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call them at 520-631-6015 for directions. Also Sherry's in southwest Tucson near Swan Road and 22nd Street. Call her at 520-622-6304.

We appreciate all your support!

Tax-Smart Giving From your IRA

Still need to take your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA? Using these funds to make a charitable gift may be a tax-smart choice. Starting at age 70 1/2, you can direct a qualified distribution to a public charity like the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary to satisfy your RMD and this transfer will not increase your taxable income. By minimizing your total taxable income, you may pay less income tax than if you took a distribution first and then sent the distribution to a charity. You do not itemize your deductions? No problem. Making a qualified charitable distribution eliminates the need for taking a charitable deduction, so you don't have to itemize on your tax return to recognize a tax savings!

Sponsor a S



Torpedo

I was a stray living in a dangerous rural area with lots of dogs and coyotes. Someone caught me and dropped me off at one of Ironwood's foster homes then I came to live here. I got lucky!



Mike

I was running around the neighborhood minding my own business when I got picked up and thrown in the slammer. I was destined for slaughter when a man saved me by taking me to Ironwood. Whew!



Poinsettia

My mom got evicted and we were living in a trailer. It didn't work out so she asked Ironwood if they would take her. She was super shy but look at her now!



The pigs pictured here are all youngsters who have joined us at some time during the past year. They are just a few of many that need a sponsor family. Your monthly donation of \$30 will provide for their daily basic needs. You will receive your pig's background story with pictures



Donna

Amelia

then get new photos with an update later in the year to keep you connected to your pig's life at Ironwood. Join our sponsor family today! Thanks for caring!

---Donna



Miss Piggy

My owner died leaving her to be passed off to a snake. She was given to a teenage boy, given to me as a gift then handed off to me because she didn't want her. I'm so glad she's here now! I miss her but I'm not in grief!

Special Pig!



a
evicted from our house
iving in her car. That
it so well for me, so
wood to take me in. I
er skinny back then
k at me now!



Benjie

I got picked up by the police but I was innocent! Really though, they helped me find a home but the couple couldn't handle me and dumped me off at Ironwood. I have made lots of friends here.



Sapphire

My family was treated badly by our owner's family after she passed away but a nice lady got Ironwood to help us. She named us girls after jewels. My name means spiritual truth and wisdom. Cool!



aving me to get
ake breeder, sold to a
n to his grandma as a
off to Ironwood
t want me. Good



Wylie

I was being attacked by two coyotes, sure that I was a goner, when a lady heard me screaming and came to my rescue. She scared them off then took me to Ironwood who rushed me to the vet. Scary!



Pearl

I came here with my mom and sister after our owner died. Her family didn't want us and were really mean. We got locked in a horse trailer with no food or water but the neighbor saved us all.

Pig Boards

When people come to visit the sanctuary and take a tour of the place, they are anxious to meet the pigs and ask many questions about them to learn about their lives and personalities. They are also curious about some of the things they see along the way and want to know how certain items are used with the pigs. One of those is the “pig board” which is simply a rectangular piece of plywood with handles cut into it. These are stationed near the gates of every field, in the exercise yards and by the pens. For something so



simple, it has a variety of uses and is something we depend on every day.

For example, say that Cookie out in Northwest Field needs to be moved in to the holding pens because she will be taken to the vet clinic in a couple of days to be spayed. We have to walk her through her field, out the gate into Main Field, across that field, out the gate and down the hallway to the exercise yard then through the gate into the pen where she'll be staying. Now Cookie is not just going to follow us all that way

without getting distracted by unknown pigs in Main Field or getting nervous about going through a gate into strange territory. This is where the boards come in handy. We simply get 2 or 3 people, each with a board to walk behind and beside Cookie to guide her in the direction we want her to go. Having the boards around her



the holding pens, we cannot walk them in through other fields. It may be too far of a walk with too many fields to cut through or the pig may be sick or lame. In those cases we will load the pig into a carrier, put that in the wagon on the ATV and drive them in. The boards are still used though to herd the pig into the carrier since 99.9% of the pigs refuse to get in a carrier just because you want them to.



keeps her focused on moving forward. The person manning the gates in and out of each field may



need to use their board to block other pigs from getting out as Cookie passes through.

Sometimes when we need to move a pig from a field to one of

Another use of the pig boards is when we need to trim hooves and/or tusks. Doing this out in the fields involves having several people with the boards to herd the target pig to a corner or up against





the fencing. Cecil who lives in Princess Field has his hooves trimmed more frequently than most because of one toe that grows faster than normal and needs to be kept cut back. When he sees the trim team approaching, each armed with a board, he knows exactly what is about to happen and starts looking for his escape route. We spread out with the boards to surround him then start moving in closer to herd him toward a usable corner. Shifting your board back and forth when Cecil is coming



toward you will cause him to reconsider and turn back the direction you want him to head. Once we get him to a good spot, we close in with the boards to hold him in place so that one of the guys can get behind him and pick him up to be gently placed on his back and straddled in the common trimming position.

Cornering pigs and holding them in place is often a needed tactic for medical purposes. While a lot of the pigs are easy to give injections to, others will fight it every step of the way. James Dixon had to be maneuvered into a corner and held there by two people with the pig boards while a third person gave him his shot. Giving a pig an enema is another exciting event that requires at least two people with boards to hold the pig in place while one or two others do the procedure. Can you imagine a pig just standing there voluntarily for that? Not happening! Even simple things such as cleaning a pig's eyes or ears which lots of pigs thoroughly enjoy, can be a chore with certain pigs. Grab a handy board from



nearby, block the pig into a corner and you're ready to get the job done.

We have mentioned in previous newsletter articles what an ordeal it is to introduce new pigs into an existing herd. Upsetting the pecking order causes an uproar that the pigs settle with one another by posturing and fighting to see who will be the submissive ones. If things get rough and a fight breaks out, the safest way to break it up is to slide your pig

board between the two and push them apart. When we're monitoring a field where new pigs have recently joined the group, there is always either a board in hand or leaning nearby ready to grab and put into action. The board is also handy for your own protection in case someone with an attitude such as Stinkbug or Eli comes nosing around with "that look" in their eye. Just having a board between your leg and their teeth is comforting.

I have talked about the uses that people have for the pig boards,



but the pigs use their imaginations and come up with their own ideas. Earlier this year we built a new field called Far East for a group of 24 pigs that came from various homes and situations. Putting



them all together required us being on watch for fights as they



worked out their issues and learned to live together in peace.



There were pig boards scattered all over the field during that introductory phase so they would be close at hand when needed. Mayzee found one leaning against the fence and immediately climbed up on her surfboard and started humming Beach Boys' tunes as she rode the waves of her imagination. Benjie daydreamed about popping an Ollie with his skateboard and could picture himself flying over a water bowl.

Wylie stepped onto the stage to delight his piggy pals with a rending presentation of a scene from Shakespeare's Hamlet. Meanwhile, Mike found his board to be a soft, comfy bed and took a little nap during Wylie's performance. (But don't tell Wylie in case he didn't notice.)

So whether being practically used by the staff or playfully used by the pigs, the pig boards are a must around the sanctuary. Functional and fun, there are multiple uses for these handy, simple boards.

---Donna



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are needed year around.****

Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
 Vitamin E capsules 400 IU
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules
 Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
 Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 47 and 34 cents)
 Other denominations can also be used
 Animal Crackers
 Probiotics
 Stool Softeners
 Utility Knives

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.

GIFT CARDS

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

Front and Back Covers



Since this is our sixteen year anniversary we have chosen pigs for our front and back cover who have been with us since nearly the beginning of Ironwood. Danny Ray and his family arrived at Ironwood over a period from 3/28/02 to 4/9/02, fifteen years ago as I write

this article. The rescue required three trips to Stanfield which is about a 180 mile round trip.

Danny Ray and his family became known as the Baldwin family since we rescued them from a farmer whose name was Mr. Baldwin. A family of six pigs had taken up residence on his property and they were causing problems. He said if we were not able to help him he would shoot them. On our first trip we were able to catch one pig and enclosed a corral with fencing so that Mr. Baldwin could chum the remaining pigs into the corral. On our second trip we were able to catch all the pigs except Daddy Baldwin, as we named the adult male pig, who had escaped the pen that was made for the remaining pigs. Mr. Baldwin was running out of patience with him. With our urging he agreed not to shoot him and to try once more to get him in the pen. We got a call telling us that he had exhausted him by running him with his horse and then lassoed him and dragged him to the pen. A horrifying experience for him for sure. On our third trip we were successful in getting Daddy Baldwin. Danny Ray and Baldwin still live together in the Main Field after all these years while Betsy, Danny's sister, lives in one of the special care areas. His two brothers and mother have passed away in the past two years. We featured the Baldwin family in our first Ironwood newsletter September 2002 and to the right is a picture of Daddy Baldwin watching his three sons play in the pool shortly after they arrived at Ironwood.



Page 16 IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY Issue 76

Collie and Franklin are two senior pigs who are friends and are still living in our Main Field. They are enjoying the big pile of dirt that they liked to lay on to sun themselves on the cool days this past winter.

Collie came to Ironwood in December of 2001 from a litter of babies who were at Pigs*A*Lot that we had agreed to neuter for the owner at that time. He had been beaten up by his litter mates and thus the cauliflower ear and the name Collie. We agreed to take him to Ironwood to live here. He has lived in the Main Field with many of our remaining seniors, including Danny Ray and Baldwin all these years. The Main Field was once six acres where all of our original pigs lived. Later as we grew, we subdivided it to make other fields. Collie is sort of the granddaddy of the field and is now surrounded by many youngsters we have put out these past two years.

Franklin also arrived at Ironwood during the early years. He came in July of 2002 from Pima Animal Control. He was a welfare case and had been abandoned in a trailer park in Tucson and picked up by PACC. He was about 1 to 2 years old at that time. Franklin was very shy and for many years did not want anyone to touch him. But now in his older years he has

become much more mellow and welcomes pets and rubs from us. Now that he is getting a daily arthritis med he comes around to get his treat more easily as well. Since Collie lost his good friend Spike he and Franklin have become close buddies.



Baldwin Family

Our Pretty Poinsettia

Last summer we got a call from a woman who had been evicted from her home. With nowhere to go, she planned to just live in her car...with her pig! Living in a car is not suitable for any living being but especially during the hot summer time in Arizona where the temperatures were already beyond 100 degrees. Putting a pig in that situation was simply not going to work and it didn't take long for the woman to realize she was going to have to give up her piggy. So in late June Pancetta became part of our family.

When a pig arrives with a name like Pancetta which is an Italian style bacon, we will change their name to something more suitable but try to choose something similar or rhyming. After tossing some ideas around we settled on Poinsettia which is a much prettier name! One look at Poinsettia and we knew something wasn't right. Not only was she very underweight, but she was hairless around her eyes, mouth and snout. It looked similar to mange. Not wanting to



expose any of the sanctuary pigs to that, she was taken into Tucson to live at Ben and Mary's house. Poinsettia was soon taken to the vet clinic for a health exam, hoof trim and skin scrapings. Thank goodness, it was not mange. The hair loss was contributed to malnutrition, but the vet suggested keeping her isolated for a while just to be on the safe side.

A few weeks later Poinsettia was deemed healthy and able to come out to Ironwood. She lived in one of the holding pens for a while. During that time she was able to go out into the exercise yard each day to putter around and visit with



other pigs through the fencing. By this time Poinsettia had shed all of her hair which is typical for pigs living in the desert during the summer. So although she was gaining weight and getting healthier, she still looked a little scraggly. Once Poinsettia was settled and comfortable with us, she was allowed to go out into what we refer to as the "Big Yard." This is the fenced in area at the front of the property where

our Visitor Center, staff residences, barn and other outbuildings are located. It's a large area that Poinsettia loved exploring each day. As fall approached her hair began to



grow back. The bald area around her eyes and face filled in completely and her winter coat came in a glossy, healthy black.

With our holding pens full of younger pigs like Poinsettia we decided that rather than introduce groups of them into existing herds, we would create a new field



just for them. The East Field had been built for a group of 54 pigs that we took in from an overcrowded sanctuary over 15 years ago. That herd has

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.

dwindled down to ten pigs, all in their upper teens that were no longer utilizing all of their space. We fenced off a portion of that field and joined it with Special



Needs East Field to make one large field that we call Far East. Next we added some shelters,

built shade ramadas and put out some pools and water bowls. Poinsettia along with 20 other pigs moved out there to join Herbie, Otis and Wilbur who were the only remaining members of Special Needs East. There was all the usual sparing and scuffling as this new herd created their own hierarchy and found their positions in the pecking order. Poinsettia settled in nicely with the group and stayed out of most of the hoopla. She has a very quiet, calm personality and enjoys meandering around the field then napping in various spots.

Today Poinsettia is a very happy, healthy four year old gal with a beautiful full coat. She is really sweet and loves getting attention from people. Often when I'm petting her, she'll quickly melt down to the ground to get a belly rub. What a loving girl! And it's thanks to your support and generosity that we were able to take Poinsettia in when she needed us. She went from a bleak future of living in a car to a comfortable life with many friends in the Far East. We love happy endings!!

---Donna

ARIZONA GIVES DAY



Tabitha's Babies

On the first Tuesday of April each year is a statewide, 24-hour, online giving campaign called Arizona Gives Day. This year on April 4th your donations brought in just over \$23,000 for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. How awesome! Thank you so much for your generosity!

If you would like to participate next year, please make sure that Ironwood has your current email address as that is how the information is passed on for this online campaign. From young to old, all the pigs appreciate and need your support!



Dwarf

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MAY 2017
ISSUE 76

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Collie

Franklin