

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO 86

JANUARY  
2019



Sandy & Dee

PIG SANCTUARY



# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

January 2019

Dear Supporter,

Once again as all of us at Ironwood ring in the New Year, we would like to wish you a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We are leaving behind one of the most challenging years that we have experienced here at Ironwood. While we did have a few more adoptions this year and we did not have to say goodbye to as many of our lifelong friends as in previous years, we have had a dramatic increase in pigs arriving at Ironwood. We have about 129 new arrivals at this point. This number is certainly more than we have ever taken in during any one year. So we have been scrambling to get pigs into fields where they will be compatible, spaying and neutering many more pigs as well as dealing with the health issues they arrive with from situations of neglect and abuse. The problems we are seeing here at Ironwood are just like those that all other pig sanctuaries are seeing across the country.

We have been involved in two hoarding situations this year which, in part, accounts for the large number of pigs we have taken in. Also nearly everyone has multiple pigs now, many of which are unaltered male and female combinations so it has been necessary for us to act immediately when picking up these pigs to avoid any babies. We have taken in a large number of strays this year as well since so many people are buying pigs only to find out they did not do their homework and a pet pig is not what they were expecting.

As I have mentioned in the past Carrie from Adopt a Pig California and Danielle from Better Piggies Rescue have helped so much this year. We help them with spays and neuters and they do a lot of the foot work and placement of so many animals that never make it to our gates. Without them our burden would be much heavier.

As we move into 2019 I am finding it more and more difficult to have or hold on to an optimistic attitude for ever solving the problem of the overpopulation of pigs in this country. After 33 years of them being in the USA I think we have reached the tipping point beyond which rescues and sanctuaries can no longer offer the promise of a good safe home for these homeless animals. We will of course continue our mission to try to eliminate the suffering of pot-bellied pigs by providing a safe home for as many as we can. We will also continue our outreach to spay and neuter as many as possible but our ability is limited, as it is with all sanctuaries.

And so my friends, as we begin 2019 I will hold on to the fact that because of you 129, and more before the year 2018 is out, little or big lives have been saved and they will live here at Ironwood and reap the benefits of your generosity as will many others who join us in 2019.

A New Year always carries with it new hope, so let's embrace that **Hope** for a better year for our dear pot-bellied pig friends.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder



# Where Are They Coming From?

**A**t the time of this writing, Ironwood's intake of pigs for 2018 had reached 129 pigs. Crazy, right?! And that's only the ones we were able to take. There were many more requests than we could possibly keep up with. Where are



**Momma, Smokey,  
Piggy Pooh**

all these pigs coming from? Why doesn't the breeding and overpopulation ever stop or at least slow down? Questions that haunt us, for sure!

During the 18+ years that we have been open, we have heard some stories over and over. But sadly, for this past year the most common theme that was repeated was just plain stupidity....letting pigs breed and get out of control. "I have 28 pigs and they just keep having more babies." "I have two pigs I can't afford to feed. Oh, by the way, one of them just had a litter of babies." "I'm not zoned to have pigs and have to get rid of them but there are 11 and most are pregnant." Really?! Do these

people not understand how this happens? It gets really frustrating to keep getting these kinds of calls and emails when there are other people with justifiable reasons for needing to place their pig or pigs with us.

One of those frequent reasons is divorce. Unfortunately, it happens a lot in this day and age and when it does the couple usually has to sell their home and each move to smaller places or apartments where neither can take pigs. Nine different pigs came in from divorces last year. It's a good thing Momma and her family of five ended up here though since none were spayed or neutered.



**Princess**

Some owners become too ill or too old to continue to care for their pigs properly. Oreo, Princess and Precious all found themselves in this predicament. Mama Cass, Rudy, Wilbur and a few others were abandoned by their owners. Moo's owners were evicted and were living in their car so they just left the pigs behind. Those are the pigs we really want to help and do our best to make room for.



**Moo**

Some people get caught with zoning issues. They either moved to an area where pigs are not allowed or bought a pet pig without checking HOA or zoning regulations. Pig Newton's owners



**Pig Newton**

live in a neighborhood with an HOA that does not allow pigs but bought her anyway. Later a neighbor filed a complaint about the noise. A breeder had complaints filed against her



**Mama Cass**



because she was living in an area not zoned for pigs and was told by the county she had to get rid of



Chet & Leroy Lee

them. Chet, Leroy Lee and their five siblings are here due to that situation. Every year we get calls from people who are moving away and either can't or won't take their pigs with them. Jasper, Lyla, Daisy and Gummer are just a few examples of those that became Ironwood pigs in 2018 because their families moved.

And then there are the people who have pigs that never should have



Stitch

gotten them in the first place and just don't care about them. Mr. White and his sons Sully and Stitch were being sold for slaughter. The man explained that he gets and breeds animals to teach his children about animals. He then sells them off and just

gets more. Disgusting! Dawson's owner didn't want him because he needed surgery and she couldn't afford the medical bills. Sounds like a justifiable reason until you hear the rest of the story. The woman is breeding to sell, but poor

Dawson was "defective". Christopher and Lorelai's family said they couldn't afford to keep them any longer. Well, come to find out Lorelai is pregnant and both have medical issues due to inbreeding. Java and Kava also came here when their owners were experiencing financial problems while the husband was injured and out of work...totally legit excuse and we were happy to be able to help them out.

Behavioral problems often crop up and almost always from pigs that are being raised as the only pig in the household. How many times have we preached..."two pigs are better than one"? Pigs are social, herd animals and are



Gam Gam



Chewey

much happier and more stable when they are sharing their home with another of their kind. Priscilla, Gam Gam and Chewey were each an "only child" that caused trouble in the household. A big factor in Chewey's case was simply because he was not neutered. Boars can get pretty aggressive and neutering is always recommended.

There are always a few pigs that come in each year because of the family dog or neighborhood dogs attacking them. Luna is missing an ear. Bettina had numerous wounds from dog bites. Charlotte had lived in the garage for six



Nick

months without seeing daylight because of the dogs in the household. Nick was lucky and got out before anything more serious than scratches occurred.



Teddy

Another 26 pigs arrived during 2018 that had been abused, neglected or simply lived in deplorable conditions. Teddy's home was tiny and completely



Mac &amp; Cheese

filled with trash and garbage. Mac and Cheese along with ten others came from a home where there were 34 pigs being bred to sell along with numerous other kinds of animals and the water well had gone dry. We were able to save a dozen of them with most desperately needing medical care, but despite our efforts and pleas with county agencies to get all the pigs, the rest were doomed to stay. Another breeder/hoarder in the same area was arrested not long after that nightmare and we took in 11 pigs of mixed breeds from that situation.

Some reasons are not common. Georgie is at Ironwood because

her owner is in the Air Force and was deployed. Andre was bought off Craigslist only to discover he was a gigantic boy that the woman couldn't possibly transport to her home. He was way more pig than she expected! We also get the stories of people "rescuing" pigs that have no intention or desire to keep them and just expect sanctuaries like Ironwood to take them in. The heart is in the right place but don't just assume sanctuaries always have room. If you want to rescue animals, you need to be prepared to take care of them or make advanced arrangements for placement.

The largest category of incoming pigs for 2018 was the strays...more than we normally get. Skeeter, a tiny baby covered with scratches and bite marks found at a ballpark. Crystal found half-starved wandering the streets...brought to Ironwood during a rainstorm just in time to give birth to six babies the following night. Hal dumped near a hiking trail at a park.



Andre

Payson found starving and wounded at a campground. Bailey, Hollis, Cornelius, Hershey...the list goes on and on. These poor pigs have unknown backgrounds. Were they dumped? Did they simply escape their yards? Some appeared well cared for while others had obviously been on the run for a



Geena

while, dodging dogs and coyotes and suffering from lack of food and water.

We would love to be able to immediately take in every pig that needs our help but realistically that simply is not possible. Ironwood's population is currently 589 pigs. It takes a lot of hands to care for that many pigs, especially considering that many of them have lived here for years and as seniors, need special care. With your support we were able to bring 129 needy pigs to the sanctuary during 2018 and give them a safe home. Who knows what 2019 will bring? What we do know is that we cannot do this without YOU! We appreciate your help and look forward to a healthy, happy partnership with you in 2019.

---Donna



# My Favorite Pig

**E**veryone at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has a favorite pig...or lots of favorites! Sometimes it's hard to narrow it down to just one. Meet Catina, one of Ironwood's animal caregivers and her favorite pig Sarge.

*Sarge is one of my favorite pigs. Every morning when I come to feed his field he gives me a pep talk. Sarge will stand on the fence while I am making up his food bowl (along with all his friends' bowls) letting me know I am taking too long. Even when I walk by anytime during the day, if he sees me he will start talking to let me know he saw me and that I had better stop to say hi! When I am in his field Sarge will let me give him hugs any time day or night. He is a cool guy!*

---Catina



## YEAR OF THE PIG

It is the Chinese Year of the Pig. Let's make 2019 the best year ever for Ironwood's pigs! With your support Maple and Little Pig can get spayed. The girls have lost enough weight to have surgery now. Your donations help provide dental exams and care for Cecil, Hopper

and others. Your contributions purchase arthritis medication for Nestor, Penny, Grandma and many other elderly pigs. Keeping all the pigs fed with grain and hay cannot be accomplished without your help. Sharing your newsletters with friends, family and coworkers helps spread the word about the sanctuary and gain more support. YOU will make 2019 Year of the Pig the most awesome year for all of Ironwood's piggy residents!!



2019 YEAR OF THE PIG



# Open House 2018



**I**ronwood's annual Open House was a beautiful day with perfect weather for touring the sanctuary and visiting with the pigs. There were around 430 visitors this year not only from the Tucson/Phoenix areas but also from other states. Many supporters were making their first trip to Ironwood while others were familiar faces coming back for more fun. Visitors took tours of the sanctuary and got to meet the pigs up close and personal. Lots of petting and belly rubs were given and enjoyed!

Visitors were greeted by Miles, Gam Gam, Floki and Andre who took turns being the "mascots" hanging out up front to greet the guests and pose for pictures. There was plenty of great vegan food prepared by our staff and volunteers. There were games to play and knick knacks for sale plus plenty of Ironwood gear...hats, shirts, calendars and more.

If you were not able to make it this time, we hope to see you next year. Open House is always held in November. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make the day a huge success. A big thank you also goes out to all of you visitors, supporters and sponsors who brought donations and enjoyment to all our pigs!





# Sponsor a S



Precious

My friend Princess and I came here because our owner got too old to take care of us anymore. She never let us live together but now we're best friends!



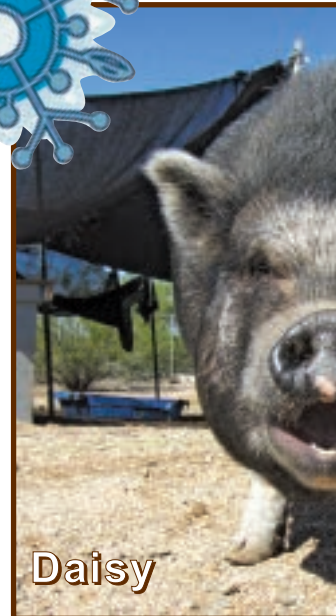
Samson

I was born at Ironwood in 2008 then got adopted. Ten years later my sister and I came back to the sanctuary after our owners got divorced and moved.



Woody

I was a stray that I lam for a while. my feet were bloo What a relief to g heal!



Daisy

My owner had real b had to move away. I her because she want plenty of space and c

*Happy New Year! Why not start off the new year with a new friend that needs your help? For a \$30 monthly donation you will receive a letter and*



Chet

Donna

*pictures to introduce you to your piggy pal. Later in the year you will get new photos and an update to keep you connected to your pig. Please join Ironwood's family of sponsors today!*

*---Donna*



# Special Pig!



that had been on the  
e. When I got here  
bloodied and bruised.  
o get some rest and



Smokey

I'm another product of divorce.  
My whole family had to come  
here when our owners split up.  
At least none of us will be  
having babies again!



Johann

I kept getting out of my pen and  
the neighbors were tired of me  
and my brother running loose so  
one of them called the county  
Animal Control Center. Busted!



al bad allergies and  
y. I didn't go with  
wanted me to have  
nd other pig friends.



Mozart

When my brother Johann and I kept  
getting out and running through  
everyone's yard, one of the  
neighbors threatened to shoot us.  
Our owners didn't even care.



Delilah

The lady that adopted me and  
Samson passed away and her son  
took us in for a few years. But  
then he got a divorce and had to  
sell his house so we had nowhere  
to go.



# A Time To Heal

**A**t Ironwood, since we have such a large population of pigs, we often are faced with difficult decisions about their health. Over the past several months we have had more than our share of such decisions with major injuries occurring to several of our young pigs. When making these decisions we take into consideration the various options. Some of the things we consider are their age, what is the chance of acceptable recovery without a life of pain and will they ever be able to return to a near normal life and continue to have pig companions. Because you are such great supporters the cost has never been the deciding factor for a life or death decision for one of our injured pigs.

A couple of pigs you may be familiar with having seen articles about their injuries are Amber and Dory. They were both mere babies when they came to us;



Amber

Amber with severe injuries from a dog attack and Dory, a stray found with a broken jaw. Amber recovered and has lived a



Dory

perfectly normal life for over five years now being one of the more assertive pigs in her field. Dory also recovered from her broken jaw and lives in a field called Lil' East where all the young happy pigs reside. Si and Jango, featured several years ago, have



Si

both suffered broken elbows but remarkably recovered on their own. They are now 4 ½ years old and living happily together .

So knowing how well these pigs have done, when we were faced



Jango

with similar decisions for Finn, Miley, Christopher, Drummer and Randy these past few months we decided to do what was necessary to save their lives. Most of these injuries were the result of fighting or what we believe to have been fights. Finn did get in a fight around breakfast time and was seen to be very lame after the fight. Believing it was a pulled muscle that would soon recover, we moved him into an individual pen and started him on an anti-inflammatory. When he did not recover he was taken for X-rays and found to have a dislocated shoulder that would require surgery by an orthopedic surgeon. It was more difficult because of the time between the injury and the surgery. He did require a great



Finn



deal of care needing hot packs on his shoulder and manually maneuvering his leg several times a day. Later Finn had to walk for slowly increasing increments of time to build up strength. He is



Finn - After

well on his way to recovery and received a good report on his follow up X-rays. Miley was also in a fight and immediately could not put weight on her front foot. Having learned from Finn's



Miley

experience we took her for X-rays soon after the injury. She was found to have a pretty bad break and after discussing all options from euthanasia to amputation we once again opted to do the surgery. Miley has recovered to the point of barely having a limp.

Christopher had a congenital spinal problem. We were aware of his problems with his back legs for some time and had him on the watch list with our vets to see how

he progressed. When it became obvious he would not recover our vet recommended a specialist who did surgery on spinal injuries. The surgeon did a CAT scan and said that he would soon not be able to walk unless he had surgery. Christopher had a bone protruding into his spine that



Christopher

would soon close off his spine. With surgery his condition would not get better than it is now, but he would also not get any worse. He has had a remarkable recovery from his surgery and seemed to not even experience much pain throughout his whole recovery.



Christopher

We were in disbelief when we discovered Drummer unable to walk on his left front leg. How could this be happening yet again? This time there was no



Drummer

delay and the X-rays revealed a dislocated elbow. Our vet put a cast on his leg and surgery was not required. She felt his leg would be stiff and the joint would fuse, but then there would not be pain.



Drummer

And finally Randy was found in the morning at breakfast time not putting any weight on his back foot. Once again we were off to



Randy



our vet and sure enough, the X-ray showed he had a broken foot. The vet put a cast on Randy's foot. He too is now nearly recovered without surgical intervention. He will be able to return to his field after a final checkup with the vet.

Why so many injuries in such a short period of a few months we will never know. We hope it was just a fluke and not an omen of things to come. All of these injuries were in fields where the pigs had been for some time. They were not new to the field, but still pigs often fight and while most injuries are torn ears or surface scratches, severe damage can and does occur.

All of these pigs, with the exception of Randy, are young pigs with their whole life ahead of them. We felt we would have been remiss since we had the resources to have made any decision other than the ones we made for these young pigs to have the best life they could given the circumstances.



Finn, Miley, Cookie, Billy



Billy, Cookie, Christopher

We have prepared a field for them and several others that have life long congenital problems where they can all live without having to compete in a larger field with more able pigs. Sadly some, like Miley and Drummer especially, have lost their family unit, but we are hopeful with time they will form friendships among each other.

When Ben and I were in Costa Rica years ago managing a wildlife rescue and sanctuary we picked up a dog off the street suffering

from distemper. With the vet's care the dog was able to recover but was somewhat wobbly and unstable. At that time we questioned whether she should be put down. The vet's reply to us was would a human be put down because he or she had a disability? When we returned to the states we were later told the dog had been adopted and had a good life with her family. I always keep what he said in my mind. When there is a chance of recovery after temporarily suffering, it is my opinion that it is worth saving a life and so we saved the lives of all of these sweet young pigs.

---Mary



Shakey & Drummer



# Wyatt Earp; Legend or Pig

**T**he man Wyatt Earp is definitely a legend, especially here in Arizona. My name is also Wyatt Earp and while I'm not as widely known, I do make an impression with staff, volunteers and visitors at Ironwood bringing a smile to everyone's face. My history at the sanctuary is rather circular. My mom, Bernadette, was a pregnant stray that came here at the end of 2007 then gave birth to a litter in January of 2008. Weeks later after we were weaned, two of us boys were adopted by a man in

Doc and I had a super close relationship, but sadly Doc had lots of trouble walking and ended up in one of the special care areas. I stayed in the Main Field and was

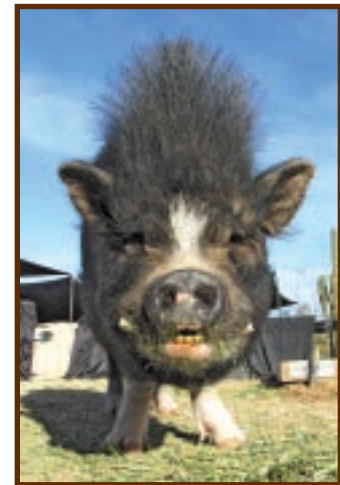
of the field up under the shade. It's nice back there.

One thing you might notice about me is my crazy hairdo. My mane grows really long in the winter and when I'm happy which is almost always, it stands straight up. When people talk to me or pet me, up goes the hair! And I do



**Wyatt & Doc Holliday  
January 2014**

on my own for a long time. I was kind of sad and lonely for a while. But then I met Louie Gray! During the past year we have become best buddies. He moved into the house I used to share with Doc which was cool. I don't have to be alone anymore! Louie Gray is younger than me (I'm 11 years old now) so he likes to roam around more than me, but he always comes back home. Sweet! We have a quiet spot in the back



love to talk to people! And get belly rubs...the best thing ever! If you come to visit and go to the Main Field, ask for me. Wyatt Earp is the name and I'd love to meet you!

---Wyatt



Phoenix who wanted companions for his piggy, Amy. He named us Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. We had a fantastic home with a backyard full of trees and bushes with hidden pathways and a small pond and lived there happily for over three years. Unfortunately my dad was one of many during that time period that was laid off from work. Unable to find a job, he later lost our home to foreclosure. He was heartbroken with no choice but to relinquish all three of us to Ironwood on September 11, 2011.



**Louie Gray & Wyatt  
June 2018**





# Front & Back Cover



**S**andy and Dee are mother and daughter. We were permitted to take Sandy from a hardship situation on May 16, 2018 and a few days later we were allowed to take her daughter. We took Sandy directly to our

vet since she appeared to be pregnant. She was not pregnant but that trip saved her life, at least for now. Her abdominal cavity was full of fluid and she had multiple tumors in her abdomen and uterus. Sandy also has a large tumor on her umbilical cord area that could not be removed. All of this may be the result of an untreated umbilical infection when she was young. We had her spayed and she recovered but her long t e r m



prognosis is not good. The man let us take Sandy's daughter Dee on May 20<sup>th</sup> saying he wanted them back after they were spayed. He later told us we would not be permitted to come on his property again then told the sheriff's office he did not want Sandy and Dee back.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 86

**F**ebruary of this year we received an email from Carrie, who now works for us. She was trying to place three pigs living in New River. They were literally going to be left behind for animal services to deal with by the following weekend. When no home could be found we said we would take them. She was able to find transportation for them. Unfortunately on the way to Ironwood the older pig, Wilbur, got out of his carrier and fell out of the truck. By some miracle he was not injured and the volunteers remained on site until a U-Haul trailer could be rented then all three pigs were safely brought to Ironwood. Wilbur, Moo and Teddy are now safe and sound at Ironwood away from a filthy cramped home. We began rehabilitating them and had little Teddy neutered. Teddy has been moved to an area with many other young pigs like himself with plenty of room to roam and companions to play with.



Wilbur and Moo remain together and will do so for the rest of their lives within the safety of Ironwood. They are doing well and we hope to soon have them out with other pigs in a small area where they can adjust to interacting with others.



# Our Wish List

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**\*\*Used Blankets are needed year round.\*\***

Animal Crackers  
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg  
 Ensure Or Generic, Vanilla Only  
 Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU  
 Peanut Butter, Creamy Only  
 Children's Multi-Vitamins, NO Iron  
 Canned Pumpkin  
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules 1000 plus milligrams  
 Stool Softeners  
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)  
 Prunes  
 Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets  
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 Home Depot  
 Lowes  
 Office Max  
 Office Depot  
 Staples  
 Walmart  
 Amazon  
 Walgreen's

# Blanket and Donation Drop Offs



Andre

Cooler nights are here and the piggies are burrowing into their blankets inside their houses. The need for comforters and blankets is ongoing, so please keep collecting them! There are now three locations where you may drop off blankets and other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

In the east Phoenix area, please drop off donations at Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call her at 480-981-8069 for directions.

For north Phoenix near the 101/Cave Creek Rd area, we have Danette as a volunteer. Call her at 602-376-1086 for directions.

For northwest Tucson, please go to Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call them at 520-631-6015 for directions.

For far east Tucson in the Civano neighborhood, we have Sandra as a volunteer. Call her at 804-840-5296 for directions.



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# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



**Wilbur**

**Moo**