

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

June 2019

Dear Friend,

Recently a supporter asked why the pigs fight with each other. If you think about it, whenever you have any species of animal including humans in groups, there will be discord at times. The altercations may be mild or can turn ugly depending on the situation and personalities. This is particularly true when you put together groups of strangers that have to live with one another. It's rarely an instant bed of roses.

Some of Ironwood's pigs come in as family groups, but later they are put out into fields with other pigs who are not related. The majority of the pigs come here individually and are put into a mix of others. So the main reason for fighting is to establish a hierarchy. As with any herd animal, pigs must determine a

pecking order. Then again, there are times when pigs that have lived together for years end up in fights. Some are possessive of their

"stuff"...blankets, shelters, etc. and don't want anyone touching their things. Pigs are territorial and if one wanders over into an area that he normally doesn't hang out in, the pigs that live there can get defensive. Herd animals also instinctively tend to pick on the old, sick and weak members.



Big Charlotte Holds the Alpha Position in the Sunset Field

Many times pigs bought from breeders are taken from their litter too soon and miss out on the opportunity to learn social behaviors for living with others of their kind. Most are sold singly and never get to experience the bonding or behavioral aspects of being part of a herd/family. Food is also a big contributor to arguments breaking out. It's the survival of the fittest mentality

that causes pigs to turn on one another during meals. And sometimes it's just a matter of having a bad day and being grumpy. Who doesn't have one of those on occasion!

The above issues are why we spend a lot of time and thought to determine

which of the many different fields pigs will be placed in. We consider a combination of physical ability, temperament, age and emotional status to find a match that will most likely work for each individual. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide numerous field divisions to meet the various needs of the pigs.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator



Georgie & Miss Lady Gray, New to the Northeast Field

Bailey

Bailey is a 2.5 year old girl that was let loose by her owner who no longer wanted her. Neighbors informed Pima Animal Care Center who picked her up then called us to take her. Bailey was later spayed by our vet and after recovering from her surgery, moved out to join the herd in Lil' East Field.



Mazuri Youth grain to make a mash. A month after her surgery Bailey was getting a small amount of hay added to her diet in preparation for returning to her field. She will soon be returning to Lil' East Field but at that point it will be like introducing a new pig to the herd. Bailey will have to go through the usual adjustment issues to make her way back into the swing of things. She will be fed in an individual pen to give her privacy to eat a soft mash and drink plenty of diluted juice to prevent

In early March of this year there was a morning when Bailey did not come out of her shelter and refused food. Her temperature was also very low. She was taken to Adobe Vet Clinic where blood work was done and she was put on IV fluids. Over the next few days Bailey had an ultrasound and multiple x-rays trying to pinpoint the problem. She was not eating

compromised blood flow and loss of peristalsis in the intestines. A large portion of her intestine was dried and black with ulcers and adhesions on the omentum. All of that section was removed and the healthy ends of the intestines were reattached. That is a very difficult surgery with a long recovery period.



Nearly two weeks after rushing off to the vet, Bailey was able to return to Ironwood to live in one of the holding pens for the duration of her recovery. She was on a lot of medications but luckily had an IV in place that we could inject the medicines into to prevent having to give her so many shots.

well and food was not moving through. It was finally decided to do abdominal exploratory surgery because something was definitely wrong with this little girl. The culprit turned out to be a

Bailey was on a liquid diet for a while to make digestion gentler for her healing intestines. Gradually we began to add canned dog food to her shakes then later increasing amounts of

impaction within her intestines. Bailey is a very lucky little girl!

---Donna

If you would like to help with the cost of Bailey's medical bills, please designate your donation to "Bailey". Her veterinary bill was \$8,126.74. Thank you for caring!

Meet The Henrys



Age: 6 years old
Came: January 2014
Home: Comanche's Field with a herd of 14 pigs
Likes: *Eating- grain, hay, fruits, vegetables...I like it all!
 *Hanging out with friends
 *Getting pets and belly rubs
Dislikes: I don't have any. I'm always happy!
BFF: I have 5 good friends but love Maddie the most
Best known for: Being the "cute, little guy"

Age: 8 years old
Came: March 2012
Home: Main Field in a herd of 35 pigs
Likes: *Sleeping- I can sleep all day!
 *Eating- the best part of any day!
 *Napping (like sleeping but shorter)
Dislikes: Cold rain! Yuk!
BFF: Two sisters, Amelia and Jeni but spend more time with Amelia
Best known for: Being first in line for meds and sitting nicely

Age: 5 years old
Came: November 2017
Home: Phase 6 with one other pig
Likes: *Rolling in a muddy wallow when it's hot
 *Getting my head and ears rubbed
 *Mealtime!!
Dislikes: Getting my hooves and tusks trimmed
BFF: Eleanor
Best known for: Being the pot belly that lives with a hog



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Goliath, Ironwood Resident Since 2013