

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

April 2021

The sheer number of calls and emails Ironwood receives about people with pigs having babies then those babies having babies can be very frustrating. One couple called saying they had too many babies they couldn't find homes for and wanted us to take them off their hands, BUT they wanted to keep the breeding pair of parents and one of the babies. Are you kidding me!? Another couple in the same rural neighborhood where the sanctuary is located gave away free baby pigs on FaceBook without doing home checks or having the babies spayed and neutered first. Not long after that a man showed up

has been spayed and given a clean bill of health. We can only hope the others in her litter landed in safer homes than she did.



Siblings, Dante & Inferno



Berry Biscuits

late in the afternoon to "dump" his new pig that he'd had for less than a month because his dogs kept attacking her. The poor thing had to go immediately to the vet clinic because of the severity of her unattended injuries. Berry Biscuits had infected, necrotic tissue in gashes up to an inch deep and had to make weekly trips to the clinic to have all her wounds debrided until they healed. These days Berry is looking great. The wounds are closing, she

This is just the tip of the iceberg of an overwhelming problem across the country...too many pigs, not enough good homes and people that just don't think things through. We want to solve this problem locally and offer a spay/neuter program to help owners, but they need to reach out before it's a nightmare situation with 20-30 pregnant pigs running around. We're hard workers here at Ironwood, but we're not miracle workers!



Nurse Judy & Son

You are a huge help with your continued donations to support our Mission of not only



Sisters, Kendall & Skyler

providing a home for over 620 pigs but also spaying and neutering to prevent more births. You can also help by spreading the word about Ironwood and encouraging people to spay and neuter their pets, whether they be pigs, dogs, cats, etc.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsorship Coordinator

# Payson

**N**ear the end of March 2018, we got a call from a couple camping near Payson, AZ which is located three hours north of the sanctuary within the Tonto National Forest. They kept seeing a pot-bellied pig that was covered with scabs and sores coming through the area. They gave her food and water, as did several other campers although some were being mean and harassing her. Two trips were



made up north in attempts to capture this poor frightened, hungry girl. The second time a pen was built then she was lured inside with food making the rescue a success.

The piggy, who was named Payson, was taken to the vet who reported that the wounds all over her body were in the later stages of healing and surprisingly, none were infected. It seemed that her skin had been scraped and cut up from running through the thorny bushes and trees in the area. Payson did heal up just fine although she has scars on both

sides of her body. Those are more obvious during the summer after she has dropped her hair for the hot season, but her winter coat conceals most of them. Payson remains wary of people and avoids close contact with us. She is approximately six years old, was spayed soon after her arrival and has been in good health for the past three years.

Payson lives in the Far East Field with a herd of 35 pigs. Her home territory is on the south end of the area. The pigs that live in that vicinity all have quiet personalities like hers and enjoy



being in the less populated spot where they can have their independence and privacy. Payson was a loner for quite a while but in the past few months she has been developing a friendship with Poinsettia who is a couple of years older. The two girls are often seen cuddled inside a shelter together. While Payson is comfortable being around the other pigs, grazing on hay with them or eating from the feed troughs, she is seldom seen relaxing next to anyone. It made us very happy to hear reports of the two girls sharing a home.



Payson has come a long way in the three years of living at Ironwood. We hope to see her gaining even more confidence in herself and accepting the friendship and attention of other pigs. Becoming friends with Poinsettia is a huge step in that direction. Payson's safe life here with food, a friend and a house full of warm blankets is only possible because of your generosity. Thank you for being there for her!

—Donna

# Spays

A part of Ironwood’s Mission is to promote spaying and neutering pigs. The males that arrive at the sanctuary are neutered as soon as possible, but the females usually end up on a waiting list for various reasons. Because the girls’ recovery takes longer and is usually more difficult, we normally do only 1 or 2 at a time. The temperatures here average 100-110 degrees for many months and the heat can be detrimental to recovery, so we avoid doing spays during the hot season. Some come to us too overweight to safely undergo anesthesia for the surgery and need to diet first.

We’ve been asked, “Why bother spaying if all your males are neutered?” That’s a good question and the answer is for the health of the girls. As intact female pigs age, 85% of them will develop uterine tumors which will shorten their lives as well as cause pain and discomfort. During January and February of

Maple, Pixie and Charlotte had been on the waiting list for as long



Cecilia

as two years while they were dieting. Unfortunately, Maple still managed to tip the scales to earn the extra “obesity fee” on her vet bill.

Cecilia was the first pig to be released to Ironwood in 2021. Someone is interested in adopting her, so she

pictured with their catheters still in place in their ears which is normal procedure in case IV fluids are needed during the early recovery days.



Chardonnay

Chardonnay came to the sanctuary in the fall of 2020 with a litter of 8 babies.



Chipmunk & Foxy

She and 2 of her girls, Chipmunk and Foxy, were successfully spayed in February and made a quick, easy recovery. The other girls, Squirrel and Inferno, were in heat and had to wait until March for their turn. There are many others on the waiting list, but thanks to your support, they too will get their turn at a longer, healthier life.

—Donna



Mallow & Marsha

was spayed to be ready to go to her new home. Marsha and her daughter Mallow arrived in February, both in the early stages of pregnancy. They were spayed to prevent two more litters entering a world already overrun with pigs. They are

*If you would like to help with these nine girls’ medical bills, please allocate your donation toward “Spays”. Their total is \$6,073.09. These lovely ladies appreciate your donations!*



Charlotte



2021, we were able to get nine of our girls spayed.

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**

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**NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**



**Mork - Resident Since 2017**