

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

August 2022

During 2022, the sanctuary has taken in 67 pigs that were in need of a home. Ten of those are overweight. Pigs do not have the best of leg and shoulder joints to begin with, but when extra pounds, sometimes to the point of obesity, are added to the stress, it can cause multiple problems for the pig now and in their future. Pigs are notorious for being bottomless pits when it comes to food. They have no restraint and most will eat as long as you continue to feed them, so a weight problem can quickly develop. It is up to the pig's human to set the limits and control what and how much the pig is fed.



The excess weight on a pig can settle in different places. Hazel carries most of her extra pounds in her lower

belly. What we have found with others like her is that after the weight is lost, there may be problems with a lot of saggy skin dragging the ground and getting stepped on and torn. There have been a few that eventually needed tummy tuck surgery to remove that extra skin. Olive, who is very lame with weak legs, also has a heavy belly. That certainly contributes to her physical disability.

Gorda has excessive heaviness across her forehead. The roll of fat over her eyes causes a condition known as fat blindness. With long term nonuse due to being covered, damage can occur to the eyes. Sometimes, if the weight is lost soon enough, the condition can reverse and a pig will recover their eyesight but often permanent blindness occurs. Gorda gets around okay but is constantly bumping

into things as she putters about in the exercise yard. Only time will tell if her blindness continues as she hopefully loses weight.



Juliet has what we refer to as linebacker's shoulders, very wide and heavy. She also has a hefty double chin and chubby cheeks. Her brother Romeo, both featured on the cover, also has a heavy neck and cheeks. Excessive weight leads to lethargy which inhibits muscle and bone development. Another issue is that five of the



girls taken in this year can't be spayed until they lose a lot of weight. That could take a year or more.

These chubby piggies are all dieting and if they follow the pattern we've seen in others, they will become more active, friendlier and happier as the weight comes off. To these 10 pigs in particular, welcome to the fat farm otherwise known as Ironwood Pig Sanctuary!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Dollop

If you Google **dollop**, you'll see "a shapeless mass or blob of something" and "an indefinite large quantity, lump or glob of something soft or mushy." Neither are very flattering, but thinking in terms of food, the common use of the word, who wouldn't want an extra dollop of chocolate sauce on ice cream. Sounding better, right! Our Dollop came to Ironwood in



As her wounds continued to heal, Dollop then developed new symptoms; labored breathing, loss of appetite and fever. In mid-June, another vet visit resulted in the diagnosis of a bad strep infection in her throat. She was at the clinic 4 days getting IV fluids and antibiotics. After returning to the sanctuary, Dollop continued to be picky about her food but fairly good about taking her meds and was breathing well.



fat blindness, a condition caused by rolls of fat covering the eyes for so long that eyesight is lost due to nonuse. Dollop is on a diet and has lost 21 pounds already. It's a slow process, but there is a trim piggy in there that will one day be strutting around the yard.



February 2022 after being attacked by the dogs at her home, dogs she had lived with peacefully for four years. Afraid of further incidents with the dogs, Ironwood was asked to take her in.

The bite wounds in Dollop's "arm pits" got infected, requiring extra attention. A deep puncture near her left eye filled with gray tissue. She made a second trip to the vet clinic in early May to have those debrided. Near the end of the month, the hole by her eye was getting larger and smellier, so yet another vet visit was necessary. Beneath the necrotic tissue pulled out of the wound, there was good granulation (presence of healthy tissue), so we were instructed to be more aggressive with her cleanings. The hole gradually got smaller and stayed a healthy, pink color even as we pulled out bits of necrotic tissue over the weeks. Dollop will have a sizable scar but is lucky the bite landed at the corner rather than directly in her eye.

Dollop went directly to the vet clinic to have her wounds examined. There were bites on her head and front legs with several being very deep. She was sent to the sanctuary with pain medication, antibiotics and ointments. Other factors affecting her health are obesity, limiting her mobility and activity level, and

It's been a long road to recovery that Dollop has not yet come to the end of, but she is around that last bend to the finish line. Your support to help her along will be much appreciated.

—Donna

Dollop's 4 clinic visits came to \$3,484.15. To help with her medical bills, please designate your donation in her name. She'll send a "dollop" of love your way!

Saved By The Bell

In March of 2007, a woman named Tori called asking us to take 3 young piglets that she no longer wanted. Since it was a 17 hour round trip drive, a few days were needed to make arrangements. When we called back to confirm the plans, Tori had already dumped the pigs at a local feed store to be sold. Thankfully, a nearby supporter was willing to go buy the pigs and keep them until we could get up there. The four-month-old babies did not have names and someone suggested Tori for the female.



Tori

Another staff member, a fan of the sitcom *Saved By the Bell*, gave the boys the names of Slater and Screech, two other characters from the early 1990's TV show.

Once the trio of siblings had been spayed or neutered and gone through the obligatory waiting period, they joined the herd in the Sunset Field where they have been living for the past 15 years. Tori has been in great health all these years but is currently dealing with arthritis, the most



Screech, Slater & Tori

common ailment for aging pot-bellied pigs. The boys also have joint problems but not to the extent of their sister's. Screech's only health issue in all this time was a rough bout of a gastrointestinal disease that hit a huge number of our pigs back in early 2017. Last fall, Slater had a mast cell tumor removed from his belly. The margins were all clear, but we keep an eye on that area for regrowth. It's easy to check since he needs quarterly hoof trims because a back toe has an edge that flips up and cracks. While he is on his back for the trim, we can thoroughly examine him for lumps.

Tori, Slater and Screech remain good friends but have also established relationships with other members of the herd. Tori



Screech

has been in love with Roger Dodger for years and can most often be found in a shelter with him. The two like to lie down facing one another, looking as if they are holding hands. Adorable!! Slater

enjoys spending his time in the large community shelter with his girls Rene, Heather, Geena,



Slater

Gizmo and Big Charlotte. He loves the ladies! Screech splits his time with two groups. Sometimes he hangs out with the guys, John Wayne, Petey and Salvador near the front of the field. Other times he goes to where Tori and Roger Dodger stay. There is a shelter that backs up to theirs where he sleeps with Little Charlotte and Boudrette.

These 3 lucky pigs, saved in the nick of time, have spent nearly all of their 15.5 years together in a big field with lots of friends. Thanks to your support, they will continue to do so.

—Donna

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Romeo & Juliet