

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 110

JANUARY
2023



Ralphie

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary
Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

January 2023

Welcome to 2023 and Happy New Year to all who have been with us from as early as 2002 and to all who have just recently joined us. It has been a long journey from zero pigs in 2001 to our first newsletter in 2002 which saw the beginning of our mailing list. We have since seen the development of a large mailing list with many sponsored pigs, sustainers and donors of all manner then lo and behold, 670 pigs on site and many more in foster homes. I never could have imagined we would have grown to such a large and wonderful sanctuary. I remember Donna, Ben and me agreeing to keep our number to a maximum of 125. That was, of course, a pipe dream that quickly disappeared once our mailing list began to grow and your donations made it possible for us to hire some regular help to care for the pigs.

For those of you who have followed us all these years, you have seen so many stories, so many rescues, so many wonderful faces and personalities pass through our gates. Some do move on to adoptive homes, but most remain with us their entire lives. Families and bonded pairs remain together and many new bonds are made along the way. Many hundreds have ended their lives here after sharing their lives with us, sometimes for as long as 19 years. As I look back through the old newsletters, I see pictures and stories and sponsor page pictures where every pig is now gone from us. They live on in my memory and in our historical newsletter pages for which we have kept copies. I look at them with sadness but also joy knowing they had a safe, caring environment for all the years they were with us.

So we begin a New Year much like the last. Hopeful that the tidal wave of unwanted pigs will slow but knowing that it won't. Because of you and your wonderful support, we will continue our mission. As many of our beloved pigs say goodbye to us, we will rescue more in need of Ironwood. Our outreach continues to grow and we are providing spaying and neutering to many in foster care and for community pigs. We are helping pigs to stay in their rescue homes by providing feed, medical care and often fencing. Sometimes it just takes a little extra help to make the difference between a pig or a herd of pigs losing their home or remaining safe there. One of our supporters said to me that if it were not for us, the outcome would be very different for these pigs. This is so true, but if it were not for this supporter and for you, the outcome would be very different. Together we can save the lives of many more pigs and provide them a life worth living.

Have a Happy, Healthy New Year and Thank You.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Mary and Ralphie

Pigs Aren't the Only Ones

As we humans go about our work at the sanctuary, we are blessed with the pleasure of seeing all kinds of wildlife native to the Sonoran Desert sharing space with the pigs. Some are cute, some are dangerous, some are pesky, some are fun to watch, some are amazing in a variety of ways and one we wish would just go back to the desert.

There are a wide variety of birds common to this area. The Gila woodpeckers and curve-billed



Curve-billed Thrasher

thrashers are two that we see a lot of. They can be a bit bothersome because they get into the wagons and totes that carry the special



Gila Woodpecker

mashes, meals and meds for the pigs. At least once weekly, someone calls over the radio that they need a med replaced because a bird stole it. The meds are in sandwiches that are placed in individual Ziploc bags and sets of bags are clipped together that go to one field or another. We've had ravens swoop down and grab an entire set of clipped bags and fly away with them.



Hawks



There are several hawks that hang around the area, sitting in the saguaro cacti screeching and calling to one another. That's pretty cool to hear! They feed off the mice and other small critters that come in to nibble on the pigs' hay and grain. Gambel's quail are



Gambel's Quail

another common sight, particularly in the mornings when the pigs are getting fed. Quail families will scurry into a field, hopping in and out of the feed troughs to grab bites of grain then stick around to pick through the hay for yummy tidbits. It's always exciting to see the babies following their parents, learning how to mooch off the pigs' meals. A rarity to see within the pigs' living areas is the roadrunner. That's always worthy of an announcement over the radio. "There's a roadrunner in Northeast Field!"



Roadrunner

One of the attractions for the roadrunner are the lizards teeming around the sanctuary. Some are just run of the mill gray or brown lizards, but there are also beautiful, brightly colored varieties. The only venomous lizard native to the United States is found here; the Gila monster. It's rare but occasionally one is seen lumbering through a field. They pose no threat to the pigs or people, being a slow-moving creature.



Lizards



Gila Monster

Also part of the reptile family that lives at the sanctuary are the snakes; most commonly the rattlesnake but also gopher snakes, racers and coachwhips.

The staff are aware of the places the rattlers like to hide...up under



Gopher Snake

the edge of the tarps covering the hay bales, wrapped around the base of the large water bowls or tucked up under the bushes. Whenever one is sighted, the location is announced over the radio so others will be aware, but we do not normally bother the snakes. Sometimes, if it's in a spot that could be threatening for human or pig such as up inside one of the shelters (yes, that happens!), we'll catch and release it in a safer place. The snakes are helpful in that they eat pack rats and mice.



Rattlesnake

And speaking of pack rats, they are the ones we wish would go away! These annoying critters love the pig houses and the engine compartments of our vehicles.



Pack Rat

They collect pieces of cholla cactus as well as pig poop, sticks, blanket fluff and any odds and ends of trash they can find. All of that is piled up in and around the spot they choose as a home. Several pig houses around the property have just been given over to them since they



Pack Rat Midden

continuously get filled with cactus, etc. even though we've cleaned them out over and over. Pack rats are cute little things but boy, do they create a mess!

Other mammals that are adorable but who can also be pesky are the Harris's antelope squirrels. They look like tiny chipmunks and are found all over the property. Like the birds, they love to jump in the

wagons and eat the pigs' food and meds. They'll hop into a feed bowl while a pig is eating to steal food away from them. At other times, the squirrels can be so cute when stretched out flat on their bellies in the damp soil near the pools and water bowls or drinking from the automatic waterers. The



Desert Cottontail

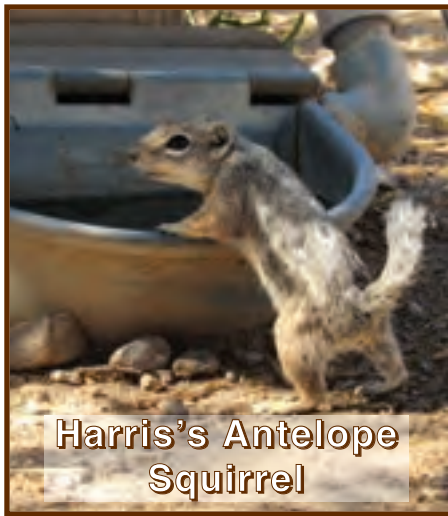
often right beside the pigs. The pigs pay little attention to them and have no qualms about eating hay together or relaxing in the shade next to the pool. It will definitely bring a smile to your face to see the bunnies and piggies side by side. Once I even found a nest of baby rabbits tucked into the back of a big shelter where Sue-E was sleeping. Sweet!



Tadpoles

summer rains are done, the toads remain out of sight for an entire year.

Another beautiful event brought about by the monsoon rains are the butterflies. During the summer of 2021, one of the heaviest rainy seasons in many years, there were butterflies everywhere. A small sized variety would hover around the



Harris's Antelope Squirrel

round-tailed ground squirrels don't cause any trouble. More along the lines of the quail, they just eat leftovers from around the troughs. They'll pop out of their

One of the seasonal wonders in the Sonoran Desert where Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is located



Desert Toad

is the appearance of the desert toads who only come up out of their burrows during solid rainstorms. Their nighttime mating songs are amazing! Many of the pigs' wallows turn into breeding grounds for the toads and can't be bailed out for cleaning until the tadpoles grow up and hop away. Once the



Butterflies

mud wallows, creating clouds of butterflies for the pigs to walk through.

While we love watching our pigs, it's also a pleasure and privilege to be able to observe the lives and habits of the other animals that inhabit the desert. We have all expanded our knowledge of the various breeds and species of animals in the area. How lucky to have that extra benefit to being a part of Ironwood!

—Donna



Round-tailed Ground Squirrels

holes, run over to grab a bit of hay then dive back down to eat in peace. Their babies are absolutely adorable!

The desert cottontail is a very common sight. More than any of the other animals that share space with the pigs, the rabbits are most

Insects, Birds & Mammals

Some of our pigs are named after the staff's family members; Margo, Elma and Liz just to mention a few. Others are animated cartoon characters; Master Shake, Olaf and Frylock. Some are food; Cheese, Waffles, Popcorn and Pancakes. A few are literary; Shakespeare and Hemingway. The group you're introduced to today get their names from members of the animal kingdom.

Our only insect is the adorable Cricket. She was part of a family rescue back in the summer of 2021. This little girl is almost 2.5



Cricket

years old and will continue to grow until the age of 3. Her family was given a field to themselves called Kingman named for the town they were rescued from. Cricket is a curious girl but remains wary of being touched by humans.

Birdie looks to be the same age as Cricket and is probably her sister. Her personality is the opposite in that she loves getting pets and belly rubs, never seeming to get enough.



Birdie

Another birdie living at the sanctuary is Puffin, a beautiful black and white youngster. She was a stray lucky enough to be lured into a fenced yard and taken care of while the lady tried to find the owner then called Ironwood when her attempts failed. Puffin has been here since July 2022 and is about a year old. This cute gal is very lovable and was obviously socialized at her previous home.



Puffin

The last of our feathered friends is Chicky who has been a resident of Ironwood since July 2019. She ran loose in the neighborhood, not seeming to belong to anyone. Concerned for the pig's safety, one lady coaxed her into the only safe enclosure she had, the chicken coop. Chicky lived with

the chickens for a while until the woman found us and asked for help. By that time, Chicky had gained a lot of weight from eating chicken feed and had to diet for a long time in order to lose enough weight to safely be spayed. She is



Chicky

around 5 years old now and lives in Comanche's Field with a herd of 17 pigs. She is very social with the other pigs, living in a cluster of homes with her friends Gretel, Pooah, Pepper and Piggie Smalls.

The fierce Tiger is a 12-year-old girl that came here in August of 2021 after her owner passed away. She lived with the woman's daughter for a while but had overstayed her welcome. Tiger can be a bit of a handful. She enjoys stalking people, lunging and nipping at legs. A more



Tiger

appropriate name might be Jaws, but we're sticking with her given name of Tiger. She also likes back rubs and petting, but you need to be in a safe position away from her mouth.

On the other end of the behavior spectrum is Puppy, a very calm, gentle boy that has lived at the sanctuary for the past 6 years. His family moved to Texas and left him with friends who



Puppy

immediately began finding another place for him to live.

They had no desire to have a pig as a pet. It has worked out well for Puppy, now 9 years old. He has made several good friends out in the Far East Field but is particularly close to Phil. The boys love snuggling together in the shelter they share.



Chipmunk

Representing the smaller mammals are Chipmunk and Mouse. Chipmunk was just a baby still nursing from her mom when she arrived in September 2020 along with her 7 siblings. Now at 2.5 years of age, she and

her family are living out in the Main Field with a herd of 51 pigs. Chipmunk has a very quiet personality and enjoys spending time with her brothers, sisters and mom. She likes attention from people but is never demanding about it. What a sweet girl!



Mouse

Mouse is another little sweetie. At a guess, she is around 8 years old and has lived at Ironwood for almost 2 years after being dumped in a rural area. In the beginning she had trouble walking due to old, untreated breaks in both of her front legs. After taking joint supplements and getting proper nutrition, she made an amazing turn around. Mouse scurries all over the place these days. This little gal has never met a stranger and will just melt to the ground for belly rubs.

Your support provides a cozy shelter, plenty of food, medical care when needed and a safe place to call home for Cricket, Birdie, Puffin, Chicky, Tiger, Puppy, Chipmunk, Mouse and all their buddies. Thank you for being here for them!

—Donna

Ironwood's Online Store

You can shop for Ironwood products on our website, www.ironwoodpigs.org. On the Home Page find "Support" on the menu bar then choose "Store" from the drop-down menu. You'll find fun things for yourself or gifts for any occasion!



Sponsor a S



Foxy

My family and I got kicked out of our rental home and had nowhere else to go. I'm really happy that I got to stay together with my mom and siblings.



Oscar

My humans moved and left me with the guy's dad. He didn't like me much, so I came to live here. Woohoo! Now I've got a huge field and lots of friends!



Jessie

My mom, dad and I have sponsors now. I can catch up with the other pigs. I want a sponsor too! We got lots of sponsors.

Start your New Year with the resolution to become a sponsor! Your \$30 monthly donation provides the basic needs for the pig of your choice. You'll receive background information and photos of your pig. Later in the year, there will be an update and new photos. Celebrate the New Year with a pig!



Cole & Donna

* Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



Moonpie

My human had a surgery at the hospital, unable to walk. It's actually been a long time. I'm losing weight surely, and feel better.

Special Pig!



and 3 siblings all
ow. Please help me
em! I want a
ouldn't it be cool if I
ors...



Rupert

I lost one of my ears when I was
attacked by a dog. I'm okay
though and can still hear. I'm
listening for someone to
say, "I'll sponsor you
and love you forever!"



Ethan

I was rescued and brought to
Ironwood when I was a little
baby. How lucky am I to grow up
here with my mom and
brothers in a safe, fun
place!



stroke and was in
ble to care for me.
good for me here.
t, slowly but
etter.



Daffodil

Before coming here, I was having
one litter after another. It was
exhausting! Thank goodness that's
over. I am happily living with my
last set of babies.



Olaf

Once upon a time, there was a
rescued pig named Elsa who
gave birth to 6 adorable babies...
including me! Now I'm growing
up and ready for a sponsor
family.

Thanks to You

For more than twenty-one years we have provided a permanent place of sanctuary to hundreds of pot-bellied pigs, several hogs and many hog/pig mixes. With your help we have been able to give the pigs a safe home within the

security of chain link fencing to protect them from coyotes and dogs. The pigs have shelters to accommodate various sized groups of friends along with piles of blankets for comfort and warmth. There are pools and mud wallows under shade ramadas

where pigs can relax on hot days. With your generosity the pigs never lack food, hay or water. Medical care is available onsite as well as in the veterinary clinic. The 660+ pigs living at Ironwood have **YOU** to thank for the life they have here.



Boudrette

Thanks to You - Pigs like Boudrette are able to spend many long, happy years living in a herd with family and friends, comfortable shelters and plenty of space to roam. Boudrette, now 16 years old, has been a resident since 2007. She has grown from youngster to senior citizen while living in the Sunset Field. Her days are spent relaxing with her sister Little Charlotte and friends John Wayne, Screech and Jerome.

Thanks to You - During 2022 we were able to take in 22 new piggies under 1 year of age. These youngsters are growing up in a safe environment with plenty of food and water. Because they are all spayed and neutered, they will never become part of the cycle of producing unwanted babies. They will never fear attacks from dogs, coyotes or other predators. They can look forward to long, happy lives.



Anna

Thanks to You - We are currently helping 16 pigs with joint problems by giving them monthly injections of Adequan, a prescription drug that treats cartilage loss in joints and can prevent arthritis from worsening when used proactively. The majority of the pigs on it are young like Ellie Mae with many years ahead of them. There are limits on how many we can help with this drug due to the high cost.



Ellie Mae

Thanks to You - Twenty stray pigs that were running loose in danger of getting hit by cars, attacked by dogs, starving to death or suffering in the heat found a home at Ironwood during 2022. Some were picked up by Animal Control officers while others such as Tammy were saved by concerned people in their vicinity. Although their backgrounds are unknown, their futures are secure because of your support.



Tammy



Latoya

Thanks to You - The pigs of Ironwood can receive medical attention for routine procedures as well as emergencies. Latoya somehow broke 3 of her lower front teeth down to the pulp requiring an emergency trip to the clinic. Unforeseen expenses like this can be covered due to people like you providing us with the means to give the pigs the medical help they need when they need it.

Thanks to You - Around 660 pigs have a safe, comfortable home at the sanctuary. They have space to wander around and explore, pools and wallows to play in on hot days, blankets to snuggle in when it turns cold and shelters where they can relax with friends. Dennis and Gummer are two of the many piggies who are thankful for these things. These boys became buddies after joining the herd in Lil' East Field.



Dennis & Gummer



Thanks to You - A total of 66 pigs were altered, 38 spays and 28 neuters. This prevents unwanted pregnancies but also decreases the chances of uterine or testicular tumors as the pigs age. All males are neutered soon after their arrival. Females must work around heat cycles, weight issues, weather restrictions and recovery room availability. A big dent was made in the spay waiting list this year.

Valerie & Garnet

Thanks to You - We were able to make room for 8 pigs from 4 different households where the owners had either passed away or were nearing death and needed to find a home for their pigs. This is always a sad situation and one where we are thankful to be able to help. Pigs like Truffles sometimes get lucky to have a neighbor willing to step in temporarily but still need a permanent place to call home.



Truffles

All of this and more is possible with team work. Caregivers are trained to deal with the day to day needs of feeding, medicating and observing the pigs during their daily activities. The watering team spends hours each day cleaning and refilling pools, bowls and wallows to provide fresh water for the pigs while also reporting any abnormalities or problems they observe as they work. The maintenance staff provides a safe, secure environment by constructing or

repairing shelters, troughs, shade ramadas, etc. It takes all of these people working together to provide a home where the 660+ pigs can be well fed, watered, sheltered, medicated and comforted over the years as they are nurtured through independent herd life, to retirement in assisted living and on to hospice care as needed.

None of this could happen without YOU!

You are the asset that makes this

team possible. **Your gifts** enable Ironwood to continue to take in pigs that have been abandoned or abused in appalling ways. **Your generosity** feeds Milady, Hercules, Eleanor, Russo, Bart and many, many others. **Your support** allows for spaying and neutering, cryosurgery, x-rays and the many other necessary medical procedures that crop up. Thank you for being a part of the Ironwood team. We're all in this together!

—Donna

Matching Company Donations

Many companies offer programs to match charity donations made by their employees, sometimes doubling or even tripling your gift. When making a donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary on our website, it's easy to see if your employer will match your donation. On our Support Page in the Donate box, select an amount then enter your company's name. It will immediately tell you if your company will match your gift. Your gift along with your employer's match, will go even further toward the care of over 660 pot-bellied pigs currently living at the Sanctuary.

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

***First Class Forever Stamps**

*Canned Pumpkin *High Priority*

*Ensure, **Vanilla Only** *High Priority*

*Animal Crackers *High Priority*

Prunes

Stool Softener

Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)

Antibiotic Ointment **with Pain Reliever**



Joan Jet

GIFT CARDS

Master Card

Discover Card

Fry's

Home Depot

Lowe's

Office Max

Staples

Walmart

Amazon

Walgreen's

Tractor Supply

When shipping donations through USPS, please ONLY ship to POB 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740-5490. Do NOT use the physical address.

My Favorite Pig

Kimberly has been a part of Ironwood's team since 2021 and has served in many capacities. She began her "pig career" as part of the watering team then as a caretaker and currently as an assistant manager to the sanctuary. She and her husband have adopted 5 pigs from Ironwood since she began working here. Her favorite pig couldn't be narrowed down to just one.

When I was asked about my favorite pig at the sanctuary, I said I couldn't do it. I had FIVE brothers that were my favorite, the Frat Boys. They struck a bond with me after I went through raising two of my own babies from hours old, and knew the trials they went through and the sacrifices that were made to bring all these boys into the amazing young "men" they have become.

Every time I go up to see them, they all make their happy noises and gather around for whatever special treat I might have for them on that day. Si, Jango, Huratio, Riley and Ed are all so very gentle even though they are on the large side. The smiles on their faces are undeniable and always bring a smile to my face. I truly love these boys dearly and consider them a part of my family even though they live at the sanctuary! They are blessed to be a part of Ironwood and Ironwood is blessed to have them!!



Kimberly & Frat Boys



Fry's Shoppers

Arizona residents who shop at Fry's Food Stores can help the pigs every time you use your Fry's Shoppers card! Just go to [FrysFood.com](https://www.frysfood.com), click on "Savings" then choose "Community Rewards". Follow the prompts to designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. The number of households signed up did NOT increase during 2022, so get your friends and family involved. It's easy to raise funds at no extra cost to you!



Lando & Chewbacca

Front & Back Cover



Ralphie is such a big, lovable teddy bear. When we are feeding the others in his field, he likes to stick right with us bumping us with his body. It is sort of intimidating to people who are not used to him, but he

never means to hurt you. Since he is nearly blind, he just sticks close to be sure we know he is there and he will get his food and juice, which of course he always does, but he is not taking any chances. He used to hang in the back of the field and wait for us to get him up to eat, but now that he has gained confidence and knows his way around, he happily joins us as we deliver the bowls.

We picked Ralphie up at an abandoned house in September of 2019. We guessed he was 4 or 5 years old. The neighbors called Animal Control because he was left outside and there was a dog as well left in the house. Animal Control called us and asked if we would come get him. He was very obese when we first got him, but he is slim and trim now and much more mobile. It has been such a delight to watch as Ralphie metamorphosed into a happy, healthy pig.



Page 16

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 110

Since this is the beginning of a new year, I thought I would take a trip down memory lane and feature Johnny and June again 10 ½ years later. You can see them in the July 2012 newsletter and now again in 2023. They were dropped off at the Tucson Humane Society in August of 2008 when they were tiny babies. We adopted them to a nice family, but after four years they had grown quite large and Johnny had become intimidating to the family, so they were returned to Ironwood. They were soon released to one of our large fields where they have lived for the past 10 ½ years. During all these years, they have remained close friends and are always together. Just a few days ago, I was walking their field and they were lying together taking in the warm afternoon sun. They are slowing down now as they age and Johnny is no longer the boss in the Sunset Field, but they are still enjoying their life with us and will do so for the remainder of their lives. It is so rewarding to have been able to give them all the comforts and security of life with us all these years. You have made this story possible. Thank you.



Pig Riddles

See answers at the bottom of the page.

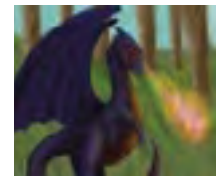
1. What do you get when you throw a pig into the bushes?



2. What do you call the story of "The Three Little Pigs"?



3. What animal can you make when you take the beginning of a **lamb**, the middle of a **pig**, and the hind and tail of a **dragon**?



4. What do pigs and ink have in common?



5. How do pigs share top secret messages?



- 1. A hedgehog.
- 2. A pigtail
- 3. Lamb, Pig, Dragon = lion
- 4. They both go in a pen.
- 5. Invisible ink

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
POST OFFICE BOX 35490
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490
520-579-8847

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com

www.ironwoodpigs.org

www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

Published at the above address regularly.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

JANUARY 2023
ISSUE 110

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Johnny & June