

# IRONWOOD

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JULY  
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Arthur

# PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

July 2023

Welcome to Arizona in the summer time! After a relatively cool spring and early June, we are in full swing with the AZ heat. I always like to talk about our seasonal change during this time so you can get some appreciation of the enormous effort we make to get our pigs ready for the summer. Summer, of course, is always the most difficult time of year for us and for our pigs. It is a time of change. Blankets, oh the blankets; shredded, dusty, some full of cactus or sticks from being dragged by the pigs from the shelters around the fields and under trees, but how the piggies love them. Mountains of them from over 450 shelters. They all need to be brought in from over 15 acres and sorted for either the dump or kept and stored for next winter. And what about the sheets that you all drop off or mail? As the blankets come out, the sheets go in. Even though the summers are hot and often the pigs sleep out under the stars, many love the security of a sheet to nestle into. We like to give them the comfort of a small blanket or sheet. I still hear them in the evenings pawing at the floor wondering what happened to their blankets. This all has to happen ahead of the monsoon rains or we are faced with thousands of soggy blankets that are needed for the winter ahead. There is no way to replace all the blankets we use in the winter, so we have to preserve as many as possible. So thank you for your generous donations of blankets and sheets. Keep them coming!

Not only are blankets a huge issue to be reckoned with in such a large sanctuary, but as carpet doors come down, they are also sorted and many of them end up going to the dump as well. Therefore, some of our staff head out to the carpet and flooring stores to go dumpster diving for acceptable used carpets that can be readied for the next season when carpet doors go back up.

Shade is at the top of the list along with pools, wallows and water in order for our pigs to be able to withstand the searing heat that lasts for months. We start well ahead to roll out the shades that have been rolled up for the winter. We also replace the old and tattered ones that are destroyed from the spring winds and the heavy SNOW we had this winter. Wallows often have to be dug out again and hundreds of wading pools, also sorted and made ready, have been distributed under the shades near the wallows. And as we have mentioned before, we now have staff on hand during the summer to keep our old or disabled pigs comfortable by putting cold towels on those in need. They often will not get themselves up to get to a pool or wallow and will overheat if we don't provide them a way to stay cool. I always wet my shirt and wear a cooler towel so I know how important it can be to provide them a means to stay cool.

Most important of all is WATER. The water trucks are running all day now on many days and sometimes up to three 4000 gallon trucks at a time are hauling the life-giving water that keeps the sanctuary alive. Our well does provide some water but not nearly enough to supply our needs on a day reaching 104 degrees or more which is most days throughout the summer. Since pigs don't sweat, they are dependent on us to provide the water in pools and wallows and the shade to keep them safe. Of course, one of my biggest concerns that keeps me awake at night, is what happens as water shortages increase and restrictions are placed on our supply. We have dug several wells in an attempt to have our own supply, but none have been sufficient to supply water for all of our pigs so at this time we need to haul most of our water. We use around 10,000 gallons a day in the hottest part of the summer.

I have talked about all these issues in past summers but want you to know what a monumental task it is to make the seasonal changes and how important they are for the safety and comfort of our pigs. None of this would be possible without the staff and they would not be possible without your support. Thank you. The next time I visit with you, we will be on the downhill slope from yet another summer. Yay!!

Sincerely,



President & CoFounder

**W**e think each and every one of Ironwood's pigs are "rock stars" for their own unique reasons. All 660+ pigs have names and are treated as precious individuals. The piggies you'll meet in this article are true gems, deserving this chance to sparkle in the spotlight as they tell you their stories. These beauties come in all shapes, sizes, colors and ages.

**DIAMOND** I've lived at Ironwood for a long time! My family was brought here in April 2008 after a judge ruled in an animal



**Diamond**

neglect/abuse case that our owners were not allowed to have us any longer. That was a true blessing for all of us! There was continuous inbreeding, not enough food, only one shelter for around 50 of us plus a lot of goats and only one wading pool as a water source. It was a bad situation! After coming here and getting spayed, I lived most of my life in the huge Peoria Field with my family until I started having trouble with arthritis. In the

## Gem Show

summer of 2021, I "retired" to a smaller area called the Cat Shelter. (I know, it's a weird name for a place where pigs live but there is a cat story behind it.) My dad, Tank, lives there too. I'm 16.5 years old now and my dad is around 19. There are 7 others pigs that live in the Cat Shelter with us. Even though I'm elderly and have arthritis, I still like to putter around everywhere. Life is moving at a slower pace these days, but I am super happy!

**ONYX** Remember the foreclosure crisis back around 2010? When my humans lost their house in July 2011, they had nowhere to go with two piggies in tow. My brother Babe and I came to the sanctuary then. For a while we lived in a pen together to be evaluated, wormed and all that sort of stuff. Then we moved out to the Main Field which is real big and usually has a herd of 35-45 pigs. Life was great out there with so much space to explore and places to root around in the dirt. Then a couple of years ago I had one of those weird, sudden onsets of arthritis and got so lame that I could barely get around in the field. I started taking medicine every day to help combat the pain. Actually, that

part is kind of cool because the pills come wrapped in a peanut butter sandwich. Yum! Anyway, I had to go live in a pen for a bit to rest and relax. I got better but not good enough to handle living in such a big place anymore. Now I live in a smaller area called Lifers and have 5



**Onyx**

others in my little herd. Okay, don't judge me because I really can't help myself, but I tend to be bossy and pushy with the other pigs. I love, love, love being with people and getting pets and belly rubs, but for some reason I can't stand for anyone else to get the same attention. I get in trouble sometimes but... I promise I'll try harder to be good but at 14 years of age, it's hard to change.



**Amber**

**AMBER** Donna told me that amber is an organic gem which sounds sort of exotic and made me feel really special. Back in October of 2012 when I was just a baby, a man found me in his yard. I had been mauled by a dog and was all bloody, but he never took me to the vet. A couple weeks later he finally called Ironwood to take me. By then I had infections all over, all the skin had been ripped off my face and there were maggots everywhere. I had a bunch of operations and had to be bandaged up like a mummy for months. But the people here pampered me and took good care of my wounds. I'm all healthy now and have been living out in the Northeast Field with a herd of 15 pigs for almost 11 years. Most of the time I sleep in a big community shelter with Albert, Miss Lady Gray, Miss Pig Newton, Baby Girl and Polly. It's great having so many good friends, but I'm secretly in love with Albert. Don't tell him!

**JADE** I've been here since July 2017 and came here with my mom, Daisy. One of our owners is physically disabled and the other one lost her job. They couldn't afford to keep us after that. I'm 8 years old now and



have been in good health all the years I've lived here. (Counting my blessings!!) Like all the other girls in this article, I got spayed after coming to Ironwood so I'd have a better chance for a long, healthy life. I live in the North Field with a herd of 33 pigs. My mom is kind of shy and chose to live on the east end of the field in a quiet corner section. I like the more populated areas and enjoy visiting with lots of friends. My home is in the middle part of the field where most of the action occurs. I sleep in a big shelter with a bunch of other piggies but usually cuddle up next to Patsy. I love it here!



**SAPPHIRE & PEARL** We're sisters! We came here with our mom in May 2016. Our human died and one of her family members stuffed all 7 pigs (us and the 4 boys) into a horse trailer sitting out in the sun and left us there with no water. Later, the neighbor heard us crying and took us to her house. She kept the boys and the girls came to Ironwood. We are 8.5 years old now and were spayed after coming here. We live in a big field called Peoria with a herd of 40 pigs. That's where Diamond first lived with her big family. Our home



territory is in the back part where there's a big open-sided shelter that we usually sleep in. It's fun because lots of pigs go in there and we always have friends to chat with. We've stayed in a close relationship all these years even though we both have other piggy pals too.

**ONYX** I know what you're thinking. "I've already read about Onyx." You did, but I'm the other Onyx and I'm around 8 years old. I came to Ironwood with my granddaughter Iris in August of 2019. Our owner was elderly and was having trouble taking care of us. We were both badly overweight back then and



were put on diets. I lost a lot of weight and even though it was hard to do, I'm so glad for it! I feel so much better. I can breathe easier and walk all over the field

without even getting tired. I even got spayed once I was down to a safe size for surgery. Iris and I live in Galaxy Field with a herd of 13 others. We stay together almost all the time and love each other so much. We both like for people to pet us and talk to us too. This is a very nice place to live.

**GARNET** My family was involved in an abuse case. The police had to come out and supervise while all the animals were taken off the property and moved to safe places. The piggies



Garnet

first went to Pima Animal Care Center, the county animal shelter. From there we were taken to a horse rescue. Me and the other girls needed to be separated from

the boys so the ladies then came to Ironwood. What do you want to know about me? I'm 4.5 years old. I've been spayed. I had a metal identification tag in my right ear but the hole got all infected so the tag was taken out. I have a bum leg that makes me limp, but I can still get around okay. I get a shot of Adequan every month to help with that. Because of my bad leg, I live in a small field called Special Needs. There are 10 pigs in the herd which means I don't have much competition. A wash runs across the field, so we have good shade trees growing there. It's a comfy, quiet place to live.

**AMETHYST** I came here with Garnet, so she has already told about my background. The other two girls that came with us are Harper and Valerie and I still live with them. The 3 of us are in a field called Apache's. There are only 10 pigs there now, but the plan is to move a bunch more out there later. It's a cool place though because there's still a lot of bushes and other vegetation



Amethyst

where we can play hide and seek. There is a big tree in the back. The limbs hang down low so that when I go lie down close to the trunk, you can hardly even see me. I love it! I'm only 2.5 years old so I will grow a little more until I'm 3.

I hope you enjoyed meeting these girls and learning about their lives here. Their rescues as well as providing the secure fields where they all now live could only happen with your help. Your support gives each of these gems plus their families and friends a safe, comfortable place to call home. Thank you!

...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 a \$ 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.



Pepito

# Medications

A variety of medications and supplements are used for the pigs of Ironwood in order to keep them comfortable and healthy. Some of the pigs have their pills, capsules or powders mixed in with wet grain to make a mash. The vast majority get their daily dosage tucked inside a peanut butter sandwich, something quick and easy to hand out to the pigs. A few of the pigs have mastered eating the sandwich then spitting the pills out on the ground. That's when they are switched over to getting their meds hidden inside a fig newton cookie. It's difficult to work a pill out of that sticky fruit center. Now you know how the pigs get their meds, so let's take a look at what sort of things they are taking.

The number one ailment for pigs is arthritis. Those short, stocky legs are holding up a lot of weight and it takes its toll on the joints as they age. It is usually the elderly pigs like Stella, Twix and Chaco



Stella, 17 Years Old

that are given Novox (generic Rimadyl) or Prednisone, the two prescription medications we use for arthritis. There are younger pigs like Si, Kendall, and Inferno with early onset arthritis, elbow dysplasia, or degenerative joint problems that also get those meds as well as supplements such as Cetyl-M to help with the pain and inflammation.



Carl

Dry, flaky skin is most often an issue for the white pigs. Finn, Piggy Spears, and others get Flaxseed Oil, Fish Oil and/or Vitamin E capsules. Severe cases like Carl and Richard also have a supplement called Mini Pig Skin & Coat added to their daily regime.

One of the short-term supplements used are children's multivitamins. We give those to any pigs who arrive at the sanctuary suffering from malnutrition until they get back to good health. Also, any expectant or nursing rescued moms get vitamins as well as their babies when they are old enough to eat

them. Our most recent mother, Kiwi and her four boys, love getting their gummy vitamins.



Hammie

A variety of oral antibiotics can be used for pigs to combat illnesses or when they have dental work done. There are a few pigs like Hammie, Stinkbug, and Cowboy that have chronic recurrences of abscesses and are on a rotating schedule of antibiotics.

Living in the dry, dusty desert can lead to weak hooves prone to cracking and splitting. Just as some people have stronger nails that grow long and healthy while others deal with breaks and splits, the pigs also differ with their hoof growth. Biotin and Complex Vitamin B are supplements to help strengthen hooves for Rusty, Thumper, Sarge, and more.

Urinary tract infections and stones are most often seen with males. Citric acid can be given for several months after neutering as a preventative measure. Those



Petey

with frequent or serious problems like Petey, Jack Jack, and Durango, stay on the citric acid for life as well as take daily doses of cranberry supplements and DL-Methionine.

Pigs can suffer from seasonal allergies just like people do. Over-the-counter allergy medications work just fine for Mr. White and Piggy Spears. For a more serious allergy reaction with a lot of itchiness, Richard, Carl, and Baby Face take hydroxyzine, a prescription medication.

Stool softeners are another over-the-counter med we use frequently. Cookie, Douglas, June, and a few others stay on this daily because they are prone to constipation. Frylock, Gracie Mae, Ricky Jr. and a few others take Omeprazole before every meal to help with acid reflux and indigestion. Other acid reducers are given to pigs when they are taking oral antibiotics or daily anti-inflammatory meds.



Douglas



Mr. White

Constant observation and monitoring are involved with the medication process. Lots and lots of peanut butter sandwiches are made every day to have the meds prepared to go out with the caretakers to hand out to the pigs. Without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank you for helping us to take care of Ironwood's piggies!

...Donna

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- \*=High Priority
- \*\*Used Blankets are needed year round.\*\*
- \*First Class Forever Stamps
- \*Canned Pumpkin
- \*Animal Crackers
- \*Sheets
- Probiotic VSL#3 **ONLY (No Substitutes)**
- Prunes
- Peanut Butter, **Creamy ONLY**
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)



Bluebell

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.

# Sponsor a S



Silas

My brother and I were bought at the Swap Meet but were in real bad shape. We had to live indoors and be pampered for a while to get strong. But look at me now!



Buffalo

I'm a little Kunekune, a gentle, colorful breed of pig. My family and I were rescued on a freezing cold night. Now we have shelters and blankets. So comfy!



Janelle

I have been here but my sponsor wind. I have high new one soon. is another day!

These piggies, many from harsh backgrounds, are now living safe, comfortable lives. A monthly donation of \$30 for one pig of your choice will provide for its basic daily needs and medical care. In exchange, you will receive a letter and photos to learn more about your pig.

Later, you'll get an update with new pictures. Help one of these sweeties today!

*\* 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](mailto:sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org)



Baby Face and Donna



Polar Bear

I was abandoned cold winter night a pile of blankets kept me company Ironwood people



# Special Pig!



e for over 6 years,  
is gone with the  
gh hopes of getting a  
After all, tomorrow



Valerie

I'm full grown but look small  
because I didn't get fed properly  
when I was young and growing.  
All of that is behind me now  
though. Things are great here!



Adelida

I was rescued from a life where  
my family and I were starving.  
All the girls came to live at  
Ironwood where we have our own  
yard. We're safe and well fed  
now!



in a park on a  
with nothing but  
. A policeman  
y until the  
came to save me.



Garnet

I was part of an abuse case where  
the police got involved. We went to  
the county animal shelter then to a  
horse rescue before finally finding a  
home at Ironwood.



Truffles

My owner died and the landlord  
fed me for over a year before  
finding the sanctuary. I had been  
stuck inside a teeny, tiny pen that  
was never cleaned.

# Apache's Field

**D**uring 2006-2007, we expanded Ironwood Pig Sanctuary by fencing in six acres on the west side of the property to accommodate the ever-increasing number of incoming pigs. It was divided into four large fields which have since been further subdivided as the need has arisen. One of the original large fields was ready just in time to provide a home to a group of feral pigs captured in New Mexico in May 2007. That group needed lots of space to run and roam, being large, wild pigs. As their numbers have dwindled with the demise of herd members, their field has been divided at various times to create living space for new pigs. This spring, when the New Mexico herd was sadly down to the last 3 pigs, we again took a portion of their field they were no longer using for a group of ten pigs that were ready to move out of the holding pens. The new field was named Apache's Field in memory of one of the New Mexico pigs.

Apache's Field was easy enough to create by closing off the large back corner section. Preparing it for the pigs took more time and work. New water lines were run then hose bibs and automatic waterers installed. New shelters were built and moved into place. Shade ramadas were built over the three "neighborhood" clusters of homes as well as one that is over



Apache's Herd

an open spot, perfect for an additional pool and mud wallow. Feed troughs were built and brought out along with plenty of pools and water bowls. A row of four small, shaded pens were built along one fence line in case any of the pigs would need to be fed individually. We were soon ready to bring out the pigs.

The group of ten pigs had been living in the individual pens in the Quarantine holding area. We had been introducing them to one another in the exercise yard. For weeks their yard turn as a group had to be done under supervision in order to keep the pigs safe from one another. Because pigs are herd animals, there is always a hierarchy in place. When pigs are introduced to unknown pigs, they will fight with each other to establish their pecking order. Our staff serve as referees to break things up when it starts to get out of hand. We need to allow them some space to work things out or they'll never settle down, but we

are there to step in to prevent injuries. Over time having "recess" in the yard together, the group became tolerant with one another which made the move into the field a much easier transition.

In April, each pig was loaded into a carrier, placed in the wagon on the ATV, and transported out to the new field one by one. Valerie, Harper, Amethyst, Norris, Brady, Chauncey, Nutmeg, Fig, Mickey, and Tofu officially became the first herd in Apache's Field. There are plans to add another group of 18 pigs who are now having their "get acquainted" turns in the exercise yard on days when staff are available to supervise. In the meantime, the 10 herd members needed some supervision during the first week or so as they established

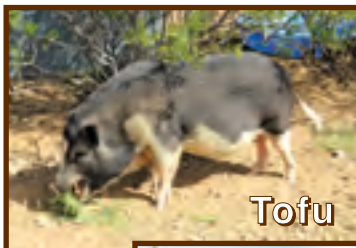


Mickey

territories, claimed shelters, and became familiar with the feeding routines. Overall, it was a quick, easy transition for the pigs because they had already gotten to know one another in the Quarantine exercise yard.

We had hoped that all of them would be able to eat from the troughs together. As it turned out, we had to make use of two of the four feeding pens that had been built. Norris got picked on during meals and began losing weight because he was unable to get his fair share. Chauncey acted afraid to be in the rush of pigs feeding from the troughs. The two boys quickly learned to go into a pen where they get their meal in a bowl, ensuring the proper amount

giving them the time and room to get their fair share of grain. Water bowls are placed between each of the troughs for those pigs that like to grab a drink during the meal. That allows them to quickly get back into the mix and not miss out on the food.



Tofu

calmed down a lot but was extremely aggressive in the beginning and still has his scary moments.



These ten pigs' personalities and attitudes toward humans varies.



Chauncey & Norris

Harper, Valerie, and Amethyst were rescued from the same home and have remained in a close relationship. They were not tame when they arrived but have become friendly with us over time, especially Harper

Mickey and Tofu were companions that came here after their humans moved to the east coast. Tofu enjoys being petted and Mickey does too, but he can be unpredictable and lash out for no apparent reason. Nutmeg and Fig were also companions in another household. Nutmeg is

as well as the privacy to eat it. The other eight pigs showed no hesitancy and happily trotted from

who lost both ears after a dog attack at her previous home. Brady and Norris arrived ten days after the three girls did, having been taken to a horse rescue first. Ironwood was asked to get the boys neutered then return



Harper

Valerie

Nutmeg



trough to trough eating their grain. There are six troughs in a line across the field to allow plenty of space for the pigs to spread out,

them, but as often happens, they ended up staying with us. There has never been much interaction between the boys and girls and you would never think they had once lived at the same home. Brady is a real sweetheart that is very gentle and loves attention from people. Norris has

not a fan of humans and can be particularly aggressive toward women. She gets a kick out of



Chauncey

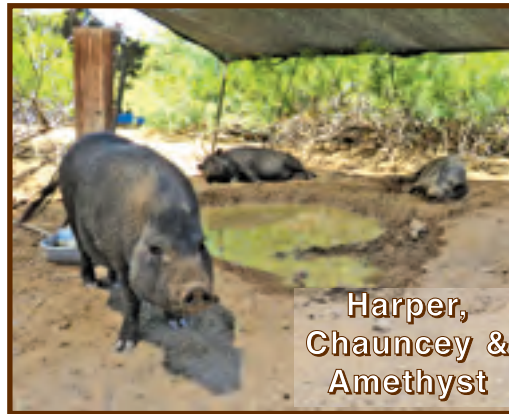
charging at us out of the blue to test our reflexes. Fig is much quieter and calmer than his friend. Chauncey arrived alone; an aggressive boar who hasn't changed much even after being neutered. While it isn't actually dangerous to go into Apache's Field, it isn't one of the herds that you want to plop down on the ground with and end up with pigs lying in your lap. One of the snippy ones is bound to sneak up behind you while your guard is down. It's best to stay on your feet, pet the friendly pigs, observe the others, and watch your back all at the same time.

The ten Apache's pigs are happily settled into their home now. There is a lot of vegetation in their area because the New Mexico herd had never gotten as destructive as the pigs normally do. Most of Ironwood's numerous fields have been stripped down of nearly all the plants other than the trees and saguaro cacti. However,



Nutmeg

Apache's Field still has huge creosote bushes providing plenty of shady nap spots. The back corner has a large mesquite tree which has become a favorite hangout for several of the pigs. Nutmeg has proclaimed herself to be Queen of the Mesquite Tree and sometimes runs off others who want to rest there, but most often she'll peacefully share her

Harper,  
Chauncey &  
Amethyst

kingdom with others. There is a nice shade ramada next to the tree



where the pigs can still get cool and comfortable if Nutmeg is in a bossy mood.



Mickey

The Apache's pigs are absolutely loving their freedom of choice. They have plenty of space to roam around grazing on hay tidbits from the morning meal or nibbling on the blooms on the creosote bushes. If they get hot along the way, there are pools and mud wallows scattered throughout the field to hop in and cool off. Naps can be taken in a shelter, by the pool, under the mesquite tree, in a burrow rooted out under the bushes, or even in the wallow. There are places to hang out with friends as well as quiet spots to spend time alone. It's a piggy paradise!

Whether you knew it or not, you are a part of these ten pigs' lives! Without your support we would not have been able to bring them here in the first place nor have the means to build and stock a field for them. Thank you for being there for them!

...Donna

## Amazon and Chewy:

Both are easy! On Ironwood's website [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org), go to the "Support Page" and click on the links in the drop-down menu to go directly to our wish lists on both sites.

# Do You Need a Will?

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a will legally protect your spouse, children, and assets, it can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on.



A will is a legal document that spells out your wishes regarding care of your children or ani-

mals, as well as the distribution of your assets after your death and the executor for your will.

\*Some people think that only the very wealthy or those with complicated assets need wills.

\*Failure to prepare a will typically leaves decisions about your estate in the hands of judges, state officials, or an attorney and may also cause family strife.

\*You can prepare a valid will yourself, but you should have the document witnessed to decrease the likelihood of successful challenges later.

\*To be completely sure everything is in order, consider having your will prepared by a trusts and estates attorney.

\*You can be clear about who gets your assets and decide who gets what and how much.

\*You can identify who should care for your children or animals. Without a will, the courts will decide.

\*You can plan to save your estate money on taxes. You can also give gifts and charitable donations, which can help offset the estate tax.

\*A gift by will, also known as a bequest, is an easy and flexible way to make a meaningful contribution to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Let your legacy reflect your heart. For your will use The Mary C Schanz Foundation as our parent company along with Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Use EIN 86-0999483.

## Donation Drop-Offs

Currently needed items can be found on our Wish List then dropped off at any of the following locations. (No monetary donations can be accepted here.)  
Don't forget the blankets!!

**East Phoenix:** Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. Call 480-981-8069.

**Fountain Hills:** Geri's in Fountain Hills. Call 480-229-8318.

**Tempe:** Anne's near McClintock and US-60. Call 480-720-5168.

**Northwest Tucson:** Ben and Mary's near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call 520-631-6015.

**East Tucson:** Sandra's in the Civano neighborhood. Call 804-840-5296. **\*Please notify Sandra before dropping off.**



Arlo

# Front & Back Cover



**A**rthur is a real cutie. So cute that he made it on one of our post cards and now he is our cover boy. He and his two sisters, Winky and Clementine, and his brother Hobson all came to us from another rescue in January of 2019. They were two years old then. They

were being sold in a Walmart parking lot from the back of a truck and the lady from the other rescue took the mom and her whole litter. All the others were adopted.

Arthur and his siblings settled into the Northwest Field very nicely. His sisters have some notoriety as well. Clementine and Mavis, her good friend, were once on one of our thank you notes and Winky was a huge hit with her wreath of flowers on our coffee mug during the holiday season in 2021. Hobson is the only one who has not been in the spotlight, but it has not hurt his ego. He knows he is a cutie as well. They often hang out together but also have made other friends especially with Mavis, Douglas and Cookie. It is so nice they are in a large field with a large herd and have been able to bond with others as well over the years.

We always try to keep families together and find they will wander but still stay in close contact as Mavis and Douglas have as well. Donna recently snapped this picture of Arthur, Winky, and Clementine sharing one of the larger shelters.



Winky, Arthur & Clementine

**H**ermosa and her four siblings, Manteca, Azul, Kirbita, and Zantina, are our Puerto Rican Girls along with Petey who came to us a short while before



the girls. After Hurricane Maria caused devastating damage to Puerto Rico in Sept. of 2017, many animals were left homeless and some of them were pigs. They began breeding and soon became a big problem for Puerto Rico. An organization called Women United For Animal Welfare started to capture them and many were sent to the United States. Hermosa and her siblings arrived in February of 2018 when they were a mere 4 months old. They settled in nicely and were happy, healthy little girls but the USDA soon came a-knocking. It seems all the paperwork we had lacked some of the proper blood testing. Lucky for the girls and us, they allowed us to have the blood tests done here. If they were negative, we had permission to keep them, but they had to be retested 4 months later and no animals were allowed to come in or leave the sanctuary during that time with the exception of going to the vet. They were all negative on the first round of testing, but it was a tense four months. In the end, all the tests were negative and the girls were free to be released to a large field as was Petey. He went his own way since he was not part of Hermosa's family. Five years later, the girls all live together in the Sunset Field and the bond between them has remained. Azul is very friendly and there was some interest in adopting her, but we felt it was better to keep her with the family she knew and loved. Our Puerto Rican girls have grown up in the AZ desert instead of their lush green Puerto Rican home, but they are happy and healthy and content to live here with us at Ironwood.



Zantina, Hermosa, Manteca & Kirbita

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

**Across**

2. What is the main health issue for elderly pigs?

5. Ironwood's pigs get support from their \_\_\_\_\_.

9. What do you call a pig doctor?

10. What do you call a male pig that is not neutered?

11. Always spay or \_\_\_\_\_ your pig.

12. Where can a pig go to cool off?

**Down**

1. Three important things a pig needs are water, food and \_\_\_\_\_.

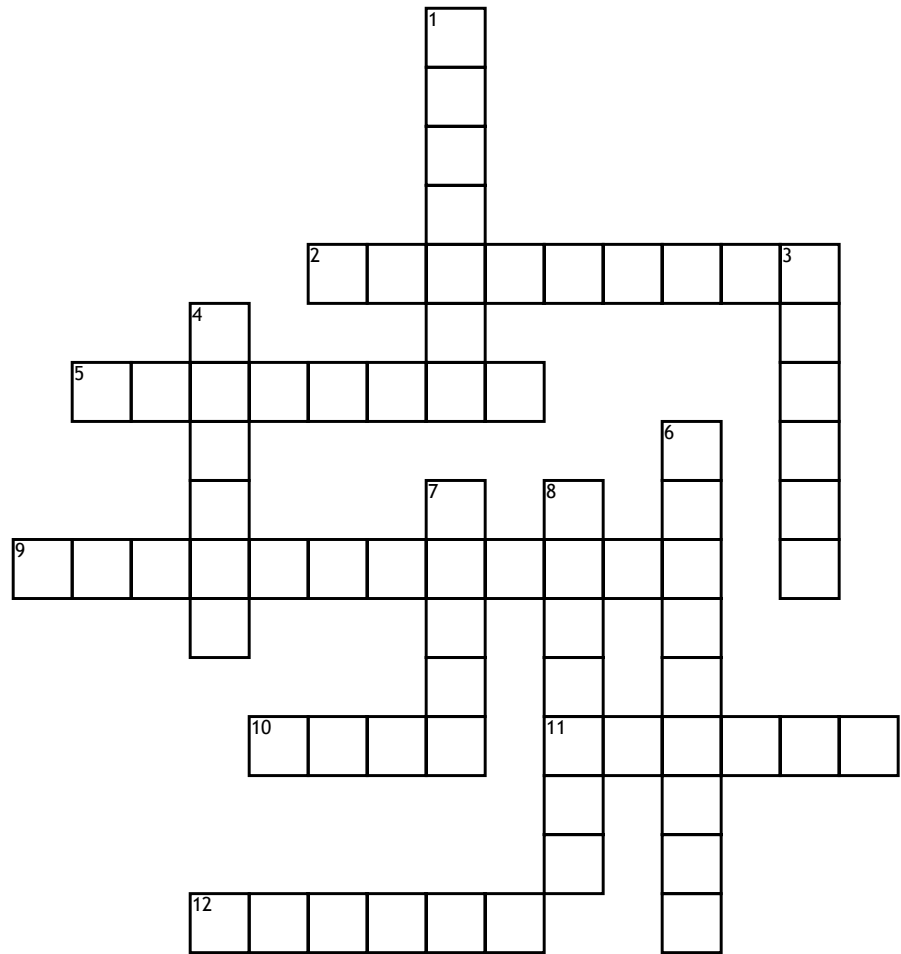
3. Many of Ironwood's pigs were found as \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What needs to be trimmed on the pigs on a regular schedule?

6. What is a place where pigs can be safe and well cared for?

7. What is the most important thing a pig needs?

8. What country did pot-bellied pigs originally come from?



Sarge



Bitsy



Rambo

**IRONWOOD**

Make words using only the letters in IRONWOOD. I only made 32. How many can you make?

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**Hermosa**