

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

April 2022

There are currently around 650 pigs living at Ironwood. The calls and emails from owners needing to rehome their pigs or from people finding strays come in on almost a daily basis. We simply



Cinnamon

do not have enough room or staff to take care of all the pigs that need help, so we prioritize the incoming

requests for those in dire need. We took in 22 pigs during the first 2 months of 2022 as well as placed a few others in temporary foster homes.

Of the 22 incoming pigs, 6 were strays that were in danger of being attacked by coyotes or hit by cars. Sport, Pillsbury and Cinnamon had been picked up by the county animal shelter while Sgt. Terry Lee, Miki Jo and Doyle were rescued by caring people in the community.



Elsa

Sport had both ears torn off and Cinnamon is still recovering from leg wounds from what appeared to be coyote or dog attacks.

Harper, Garnet, Amethyst,

Valerie, Brady, Zane and Norris were all part of an abuse case where the owner is currently facing charges. D-S Rescue in Tucson was a big help in taking the bulk of pigs from that case and accepted our assistance with feed and neutering services.

Daisy had to be rescued from her home after the dogs there attacked her. The owners had no way to keep her safe from the dogs or even to get her to the vet clinic afterwards.

Elsa's owner died and someone from the neighborhood called us to take her in. Frankie's mom was evicted from her home and had nowhere to go with a large pig in tow.



Frankie

Patchouli was left here to board

with us temporarily, but her owner did a

disappearing act.



Patchouli

The 22 new Ironwood residents had no safe options other than the sanctuary. Thanks to your support, we can continue to help as many as possible when

they end up in grim situations. There just seems to be no end to the number of homeless and unwanted pigs. Thank you for caring!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

A Boar No More

Boar by definition is “an uncastrated domestic male pig”. The majority of stray pigs coming to Ironwood are boars. The priority upon their arrival is to get them neutered ASAP to prevent any accidents from happening. In nearly 21 years of rescuing pigs, we have never had a pig pregnancy occur onsite. Not only does neutering prevent overpopulating an already



Curly - Was Cryptorchid

and all were promptly neutered. The cost of the surgery varies according to each pig’s weight and physical condition. Po-Boy, Pillsbury, Larry and seven others had “normal” neuters with easy recoveries. Brothers Curly and Moe were cryptorchid. Cryptorchidism is a genetic anomaly in which the testicles do not descend into the scrotum. When that happens, the neuter surgery is more invasive with an abdominal incision required to find and remove the testicles. The recovery period is longer and requires more sterile conditions due to the size of the incision,

neuter. Curly and Moe are both doing well, having recovered completely with no complications.

Neutering is very important and essential in our line of work. With over 650 pigs to care for, the last thing we want is to add to that population unnecessarily. It is your financial support that gives us the ability to get these boys



Brady Displays Agression

overwhelming pig problem, but it is healthier for the pig. Boars are prone to testicular cancer. We have had adult boars come here with huge tumors. Boars are almost always aggressive to other pigs and to people. They also smell awful and can be rather destructive while displaying their male tendencies. So even though our biggest concern is pregnancy prevention, there are many reasons to make all the males a boar no more.



Zane - Before Surgery

neutered, thus giving them a healthier, happier life. Thank you!

—Donna



Sport - In Recovery

much like the recovery for a female’s spay. A “crypt” surgery has a higher price than a normal

The 12 neuter surgeries during a six-month period came to a total of \$7,373.56. If you would like to contribute to this important cause, please designate your donation “Neuters”. Gavin, Doyle and the others send their thanks!

During a six-month period (September 2021-February 2022), 12 boars arrived at the sanctuary

Sprinkles

Sprinkles' story began like so many other pigs that ended up in the unwanted category. A woman bought her granddaughter "the perfect pet", a



baby pig from a breeder, without doing any research first or getting any education from the seller. The family lived in a condo with a tiny patch of yard. The baby pig was locked in the bathroom the majority of the time because she was too active and noisy. The woman took her to a feed store and attempted to trade her for a kitten. The store owner knew Donna Scoggin who fostered a large number of pigs for Ironwood. Sprinkles went to live there in 2008 and became fast friends with Virgil, another baby



Sprinkles & Poke'mon

Donna had just taken in. In 2016 as Donna's health began to fail, Sprinkles, Virgil and several others were transferred to Ironwood.

The next chapter of Sprinkles' life started in the Peoria Field with a herd of 70 pigs. She and Virgil had become good buddies with Poke'mon and

Blue. The four of them found a house to share and remained very close. Virgil passed away a few years ago, but the remaining three are still best friends. Sprinkles is very loyal to Blue and Poke'mon and has never attempted to befriend anyone else. She doesn't like when other pigs get near them and will chase them away. She is 14 years old and taking life a bit slower now. Sprinkles has always had a feisty side to her when it comes to pigs other than her friends. That attitude still pops up when she deems it necessary, but she is starting to realize she can't push things as far as she used to.

Blue is an early riser, wanting to be out rooting around for tidbits to snack on. Sprinkles and Poke'mon sleep as late as possible, getting up only after they hear the feeding team arrive to prepare breakfast. Sprinkles will meander up to the feed station to

get in line for her peanut butter sandwich that has her daily medication for her arthritis tucked inside. Last month, she was



Blue & Sprinkles

trained to go in an individual pen to eat because she was losing weight, typical for many elderly pigs. In her heyday though, Sprinkles would power her way through the troughs, knocking pigs out of her way if necessary. After the meal, she and Poke'mon head off for a nap with Blue joining them later. The rest of the day is spent relaxing with occasional outings for a drink or to reassess the hay piles. As the afternoon moves on, Sprinkles



and her two pals settle into their house to rest up for the next day. Thanks to your support this beautiful gal can live out her life in comfort.

—Donna

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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NEWSLETTER UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Gavin

**Resident Since
September 2021**