

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 103

NOVEMBER
2021



Fozzie Bear

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

November 2021

As we draw close to the end of 2021 with our last communication until next year, I want to wish you a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season. We are delighted to be entering our wonderful time of the year in Arizona with cool sunny days. The seasonal changes have begun at the Sanctuary. We are filling our 450 plus shelters with blankets that you have donated to keep our pigs warm in the cold nights ahead. Carpet doors are going up, shades are coming down, and the pigs are moving in with each other now, even if they slept independently during the summer months. They know how to stay warm. We hear the sounds of protest around the sanctuary as another pig says, "Move over! I am coming in," and pushes his or her way into an already occupied shelter. So life goes on at Ironwood as it has for the past twenty years, and the pigs, young and old, new and long-time residents, will know their caretakers will be there to change a wet bed, tuck an extra blanket into their shelter to keep them warm or give them a pat on the head or a belly rub.

It is a sense of purpose that moves us through the outside world of discord and keeps us focused on our mission. We cannot stray from our purpose to save innocent animals, now at 76 so far this year at Ironwood with many others in foster homes, who are often in dire circumstances through no fault of their own. There are thousands of important and worthy causes to pull us away, but our purpose is to save and provide sanctuary for these often forgotten pigs. With your support, we will enter the Holiday Season and on into the New Year knowing the next stray or abandoned pig, like Mr. Stewart Pig who we picked up a few days ago on an abandoned property, will have a place to call home and not be abandoned again.

When I begin to falter in my purpose because of an overwhelming number of requests to take more pigs, I draw strength from your donations and letters of thanks and encouragement which helps me take a deep breath and get back to the work ahead of me. You are so generous with your support both financially and emotionally. I read every note and look at every check knowing that a part of your purpose is to keep us up and running so these innocent pigs will have a home this Holiday Season and into the New Year.

Be well, Stay Safe, and I'll see you next year!

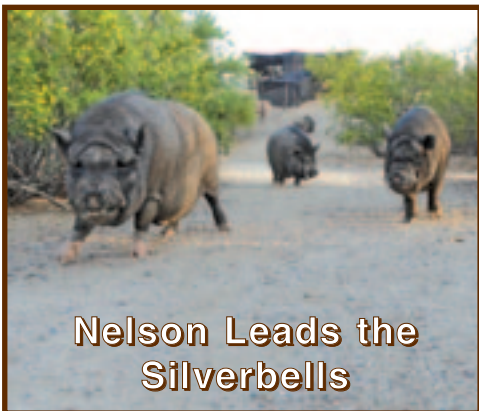
Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



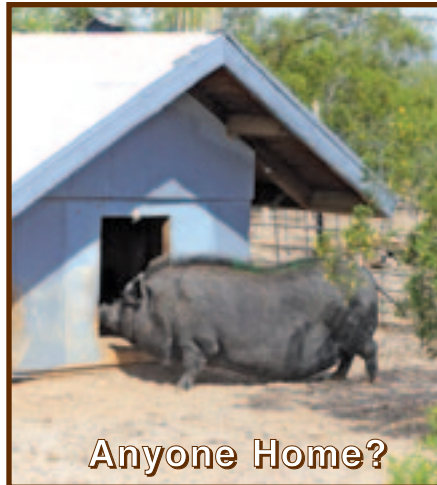
The Path to Peoria

Pigs are herd animals and enjoy being together, forming close relationships with one another. Family units usually remain together over the years. But what about those that arrive at Ironwood on their own, either having been raised in a household as an “only child” or picked up as a stray roaming the neighborhood on their own? It’s not always easy to fit in with an established group. The sanctuary is divided into numerous fields of various sizes to accommodate the different needs of each individual pig. A lot of thought goes into which herd a pig should join based on their personality, emotional status and physical ability.



Nelson Leads the Silverbells

The Peoria Field was established back in 2008 for a huge rescue of 50+ pigs from the same home plus 17 others from varying situations. Over the years, that original group diminished due to age related deaths or retirement to special care areas because of arthritis. The remaining herd of 37 was still occupying a space for 65+ pigs. It was decided to add a



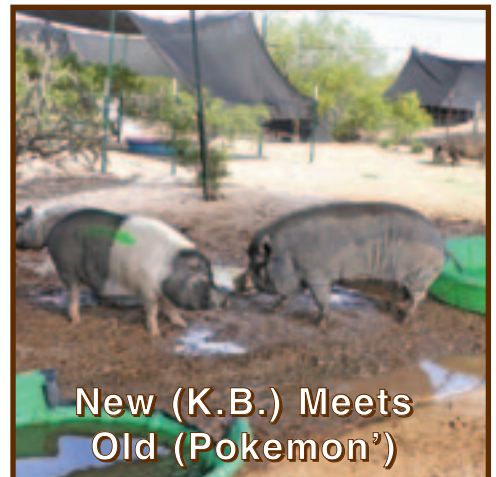
Anyone Home?

group of 25 pigs, most of them youngsters under the age of 4. There were concerns about how some of the more elderly pigs in the Peoria herd would handle this intrusion. Rather than risk injury, 12 of them ranging from 12-15 years of age, traded places with 12 of the incoming youngsters who had been living in a smaller nearby field. We renamed that area The Silverbells, in honor of the senior pigs retiring from Peoria. On the morning of the big move, we first got Celie, Mr. Piggles, BB King, Loni and the rest of the 12 retirees out of Peoria



Watching the Herd

and blocked them off in a section of the “hallway” between fields. The new pigs who had all been marked with temporary green spray paint for easy identification, were walked down the hallway and entered Peoria through the lower gate. Once they were all in, the 12 Silverbells meandered down to their new digs and began exploring. Since they all knew each other, they could be safely left on their own to check out their new living quarters.



New (K.B.) Meets Old (Pokemon')

Meanwhile, back in the Peoria Field, things were already heating up. When new pigs join an existing herd, there will be scuffles, fights and lots of posturing. Imagine having a handful of strangers come into your home uninvited and just start using your stuff, sitting on your couch, eating your food and sleeping in your bed. That is exactly what it’s like for the pigs. The Peoria herd had been skating along, comfortable in their routines and established in their shelters with all their friends

when suddenly there are new faces everywhere. The new pigs



Breaking up a Fight

have to decide where to have their home territory and claim a house. They don't know which shelters are already being used or not, so they sort of poke their nose in everywhere checking things out and it's not always welcome. Actually, it's never welcome! Of course, the established members of the herd get defensive and have every right to feel that way. It is a rocky experience for all the pigs and takes time to work things out until the pecking order is redefined.



Chucho Defends Territory

During the adjustment period which can take several weeks, extra staff are needed to watch over the pigs and play referee. They carry "pig boards" which can be slid between scuffling pigs to break them up before anyone gets hurt. Sounds easy enough

but it can get hairy! You can be on patrol with nothing happening other than a few pigs raising their hair and chomping their teeth in posturing moves then suddenly have fights break out in three different directions. The most scuffles occur before the morning meal when the pigs are hungry and start gathering near the feed station. The "watchers" come an hour or more before feeding time to be on patrol as the pigs wake up and begin wandering around.



Posturing

Even with all our precautionary efforts, injuries still occur. The most common wound is to the ears. Pigs have thick skin and they know that the ears are the most sensitive spot, so grabbing and shaking an ear is a sure way to get an opponent's attention and let them know you mean business. Pigs also use their heads and I don't mean that they're being sensible and thinking things out. They pull a move called a head slam, swinging back and slamming their head up against another pig usually near the neck or shoulders. Cuts happen as tusks or teeth scrape during the slam. Pigs are heavy and very strong, so when two of them are going at it in a scuffle, getting a board

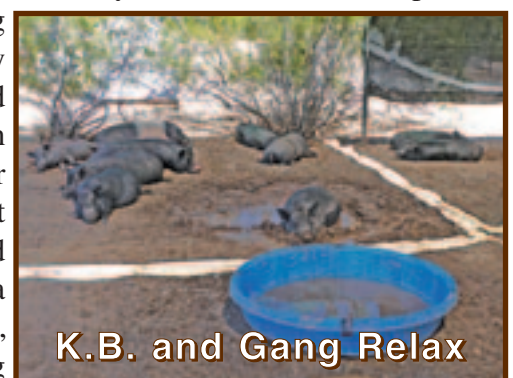
between them to break them apart can take a lot of effort. The watchers stay alert for fight



Monitoring During Meal

signals...chomping teeth. When you hear that clicking, clacking sound, start looking around for a pair challenging one another. They need to do some sparring to get the hierarchy worked out, but you never want it to go too far and have a pig get hurt.

The group of 25 new pigs split into three sections of the field. K.B., his best friend Byron and their 10 friends, all the pigs who had lived together where the Silverbells now reside, chose to stay in the front portion of Peoria. They remain friends and spend a



K.B. and Gang Relax

lot of time together relaxing under the shade ramadas or in the wallows. There are several shelters in their area that have become their homes. Established members of the Peoria herd that had been living in that section,

Chucho, his girlfriend Priscilla, and Ramon, all defended their houses and remained there. Others like Phil, Uno and Kate let the newbies take over their shelters and simply moved down toward the middle of the field.

Emmie and Sebastian, who were already a set couple, found a shelter they liked in a secluded part of the field without dislodging anyone. They do like



Sebastian and Emmie are Comfy

to wander around and explore other portions but enjoy relaxing together in their quiet spot. A group of 6-8 new ones found a cluster of homes under a shade ramada on the opposite side of the field that they claimed as their home base. The large community shelter in the back remains home to several original herd members including Marilyn, Murphy, Pearl and Aida.



Aida Shares Trough with Newbies

Sir Elvis, one of the new “singles” that had come to Ironwood as a stray, had a hard time learning how to behave with others. He got into a lot of fights in the beginning but eventually settled



Priscilla (Right) Lets Them Know Who’s Boss

down. He picked out a house up front near K.B.’s group but always sleeps alone. Two friends, Santa Baby and Peppia Girl, also had difficulty adjusting to life within a herd. They ended up in the back corner of the field which has been home to Sal, Peaches, George and Gertie for many years. Peaches took the most offense at their intrusion but eventually accepted their presence.



Duncan Looks for a Home

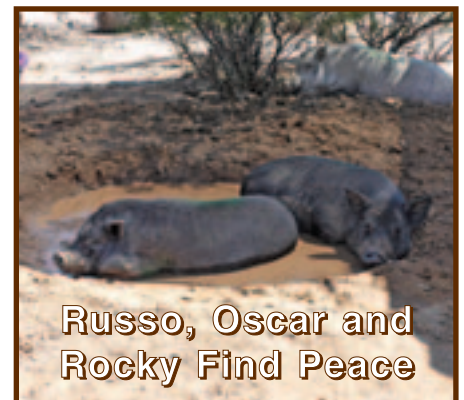
An introduction of new pigs into an existing herd is always a big ordeal and involves a lot of staff time and patience. For as many pigs as were added to the Peoria



Watching a Confrontation

herd, it was actually a smoother ride than expected. The fact that most of the new ones are young, some not even full grown yet, helped because they have not yet reached the age when they want to get serious about the pecking order or with becoming the alpha. It really makes the transition easier and quicker. It’s the adults that have more issues that take longer to resolve, but they’re working it out. Once the herd is at peace and no longer needs the constant supervision, we can move on to getting the next group out. Watch out herd in the Main Field...you’re next to get your world shaken up!

—Donna



Russo, Oscar and Rocky Find Peace

Online Wish Lists

Chewy It's easy! On the Ironwood web site's "Support Page" just click on the link in the drop-down menu and go directly to the wish list. Or you can:

- Sign in to www.chewy.com
- To the right on the navigation bar, click "Give Back"
- On the drop-down menu, click "Donate to a Rescue"
- In "Find a Rescue", type in Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

**Note: You will need to create an account in order to make a purchase.*



June

Amazon It's easy! On the Ironwood web site's "Support Page" just click on the link in the drop-down menu and go directly to the wish list. Or you can:

- Sign in to Smile.Amazon.com
- Go to the drop-down menu under your "Account & Lists"
- On the left side click on "AmazonSmile Charity Lists"
- Type Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in the search prompt

**Don't forget to make Ironwood your designated charity on AmazonSmile!*

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Used Blankets are needed year round.****
- *First Class Forever Stamps**
- Canned Pumpkin - *High Priority*
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg - *High Priority*
- Fig Cookies
(NOT individually Wrapped)
- Miralax
- Stool Softener
- Animal Crackers
- Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)

Leon



GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- 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.

Good News for the Year's End

To end the year with some good news, I would like to talk about some very recent adoptions that were very special. —Mary

Hibiscus came to us in May 2021. He was yet another pig who had been abandoned on a rental property and he was, to put it mildly, huge. Over the months of being on a diet, he was gradually losing weight but was still far from reaching an ideal weight. But then something surprising happened. Lisa was trimming



the hooves of a very obese pig who Karen had rescued. Karen said she would like to adopt a companion for her Peggy Sue and it would be good if the new companion was

also in need of a diet. Bingo! Hibiscus was the right fit, so he was picked to get a new home. Karen said Hibiscus, now Herbie, is doing wonder-fully. He is quite the character and loves playing ball with the grand-kids. He also made friends with Peggy Sue so they can have a competition to see who can lose the most weight. I think Herbie got a head start however, having several months already behind him. We so often get very obese pigs at Ironwood but have never had one get a good home before. We are so pleased that one of our “big” Kiddos got a good home.



Andrea and Jason moved from Texas to Arizona and brought their Truffle with them and boarded her with us. Truffle was older, but they wanted to adopt one or two pigs from us to be Truffle's companion when they were settled into their new home. Sadly, Truffle suffered a back/spinal injury for no apparent reason



and had to be euthanized. Even after that sad, unexpected loss of Truffle, they still wanted a home with land where they had hoped Truffle could wander with

her new companions. Andrea had become attached to two of our sweet girls, Hannah and Meg. In the months that passed while they were buying their home

and getting settled, we had moved two more girls in with Hannah and Meg. Cecilia had lost her home when her mom became a traveling nurse and Berry Biscuits, a young baby, was simply dropped off at Ironwood with festering dog bites that needed immediate veterinary care. So when all was ready, we hated the thought of separating the girls who had now become companions. Andrea and Jason



Gathering For Breakfast

delighted us by agreeing to take all four girls. They have a wonderful place where they can live their lives together. How happy I was to have four of our sweet pigs get adopted at once. A first for us!!

Sponsor a S



McMuffin

I lived in a dirty place where we were only fed scraps and trash and seldom got clean water. Fifteen of us were rescued and now live at Ironwood. Woo-hoo!



Fastie

I'm Elvis' brother. We have lots of fun running and playing in the yard here. We have a bet on which one of us gets a sponsor first! I hope I'm the fastie-est!



Elvis

My human family... their rental home... foreclosure. My... lucky that Ironwo... all six of us to con



Lady

I'm lucky to be able... here with my family... have food, clean water... blankets... all things... our other home.

Pick a favorite pig to sponsor as a gift or for yourself! Your \$30 monthly donation will help provide the basic daily needs for the pig of your choice. You will receive a letter about your pig along with photos then an update later in the year. What a great gift idea!



Faline & Donna

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

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org

Special Pig!



My family got evicted from our home that went into a trailer. My pig family was happy and my wood had room for me to come live here.



Birdie

I'm the littlest in my family. We got saved from a place where we were fed trash...plastic, old produce, paper. It was gross! Now we're safe and well fed. Yay!



Panini

I'm only 2 years old and already had babies at my previous home. No more of that! The sanctuary people take good care of me and won't let that happen. Whew!



Lady Macbeth

I was able to grow up with my family. We'll always have clean water, shelter and things we lacked at our old home.



Shakespeare

My old home only had 2 piggy houses for 15 of us. We have lots of shelters to choose from here plus plenty of room to run around and explore. It's great!



Mallow

My mom, Marsha and I were strays that got attacked by a horse when we tried to get water. A neighbor got us to safety then called Ironwood. We're so lucky!

Holiday Gifts

You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while doing your holiday shopping or for other special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The following make great gifts. The prices include shipping.

You may purchase these gifts by:

- (1) Go to Ironwood's web site and use PayPal or a credit card. Use the Donate box at the top of the "Support" page. After filling in the amount of your order/donation, click on "Write Us a Comment" and fill in the name of the items you wish to order.
- (2) Call 520-631-0894
- (3) Use the enclosed envelope.



Please indicate **by name and/or size** the mug, water bottle or puzzle you prefer. For gift Sponsorships or Donations "In Honor Of," please include the occasion for the gift plus the name and address (mail or email) of the recipient.

**Ironwood apparel will not be available this year.*



Donations "In Honor Of"
\$ at your discretion

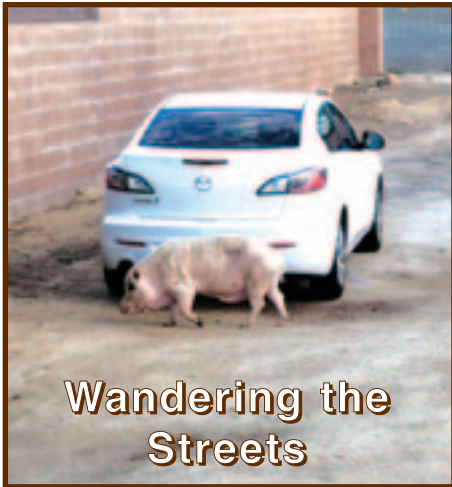


Sponsor a Pig - \$30 monthly
Receive a Letter and Pictures



Saving Lord Cromwell

In early September we got an email from a woman in Tucson who had seen several postings on a local media site called Nextdoor about a pig that had been loose in her neighborhood for a couple of



Wandering the Streets

weeks. With her email, Esther included a picture of a very skinny pig with its ribs showing. She had reached out to her friend Betty who is one of Ironwood's supporters to get our contact information. Most of the sightings had taken place on



A Watermelon Snack

Cromwell Drive, so Esther and her friends who were trying to find him began referring to him as Lord Cromwell. They spent

hours walking through the wash and around the neighborhood hoping to catch sight of the poor guy but to no avail. They asked people to set out small amounts of food and water to encourage him to stick around the area. A few days later another post appeared on Nextdoor showing Lord Cromwell eating some dog food



A Much Needed Meal

someone had put out for him along with a bowl of water. Duane, one of the people feeding him, was eventually able to coax the pig into his yard. He left a voice mail at the sanctuary then called PACC (Pima Animal Care Center) who went out right away and picked up the pig. Jill, who had also emailed us about the stray pig, was there when PACC arrived to ensure that he was taken to safety. There was a mix up at the shelter with a call going out to a local goat sanctuary to come get him rather than calling Ironwood but fortunately, we heard through the grapevine what had happened and made arrangements to get him ourselves the next day.

Lord Cromwell made his appearance at Ironwood on September 9th. Fortunately, he was already neutered and looks to



Before His Trim

be around 5-7 years old. He was very thin with overgrown tusks pinching his lip and long, curved hooves desperately in need of a trim. After a few days to get acclimated as well as make sure



His Front Feet

he had no obvious health problems, he got his hooves and tusks trimmed. Lord Cromwell was started on a daily multi-vitamin along with fish oil capsules to help with his dry skin. He is being fed three small meals a day to help him gain weight at a healthy, slow pace. His appetite

has been great and he loves taking his supplements which are given to him tucked inside half a peanut butter sandwich. The extra meals will be continued until he has



**After
Being Trimmed**

filled out to an appropriate weight.

Every day for about an hour Lord Cromwell gets the opportunity to go out into one of two exercise



**Enjoying the
Exercise Yard**

yards. He gets very excited about this! When his pen gate is opened, he runs out and gallops off into the yard. He is a very active guy and loves to wander around and explore his new surroundings. Lord Cromwell

especially enjoys going into what we refer to as the “Big Yard,” the fenced area around all the staff housing, hay barn and outbuildings. There is plenty to see and do out there such as visit the yards of the staff houses to chat with the piggies living there or nibble on the array of desert vegetation as well as get extra attention from any of the people he sees along the way.

We quickly learned that Lord Cromwell is very trusting and friendly, enjoying being petted and getting back rubs. He will very gently take a treat by hand. He has no fear or nervousness around humans of any size as

you can tell in his photo with Alice who recently visited to celebrate her first birthday after doing an online fundraiser for the sanctuary. Somewhere in his past Lord Cromwell had someone who cared enough to spend time with him, treat him lovingly and get



Looking Good!

him neutered. We would love to know his background...where he lived and why he ended up alone and starving, loose on the streets.

Lord Cromwell is a lucky boy. Many people from a neighborhood worked together to save his life and get him to safety. It's so easy to ignore situations like his and just assume someone



**Making
New Friends**

else will deal with it. These people cared enough to post pictures and ask for help and follow through with suggestions as to what they could do. Others passed on the information to those who had connections to the sanctuary and got this sweet boy rescued. A special Thank You

goes out to Esther and her daughter, Betty, Duane, Jill and all the others from the neighborhood who participated in bringing Lord Cromwell home. Don't you just love a story with a happy ending!

—Donna

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot-bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and other sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

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 web site, 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 the over 670 pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary.

Open House 2021 Canceled



We have decided not to take any risks related to COVID-19 and have canceled this year's annual Open House normally held in November. The health and safety of our Staff, Volunteers and Visitors takes priority. If you have been collecting items to donate during Open House, please use any of the five Drop-Off locations around Tucson and Phoenix (see below). Let's all hope for a better and more normal 2022!

Donation Drop-Offs

Cold weather is coming soon and the piggies need comforters and blankets! There are five locations to drop off those as well as other material donations from our Wish List (no monetary donations can be accepted here).

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.



Rusty

Front & Back Cover



In December of 2018 we got a call from one of our supporters in Rim Rock, AZ who said there was a pig near her who really needed a home and asked if we could take him. She had three pigs of her own and was unable to take another.

Porky Pig, who is now Fozzie Bear, had been abandoned on the property after a fire had destroyed the house a few months earlier. The house was being rebuilt and young Fozzie Bear was left behind with no one to care for him. The neighbor had been feeding and watering him and Danice, one of our supporters who called us, was bringing him blankets to keep him warm through the winter months. Ben and I picked him up with Danice's help and brought him home to Ironwood. When it came time to release a group of youngsters to our large Sunset Field, Fozzie Bear was ready to join the herd. He is still very shy of people, with good reason, but he has lots of pigs his age to play with in a large field and will never be left alone again.

When feeding there this morning, I reached down to tell him he was the cover boy and he ran off with his tail wagging, oblivious to his fame.



In July of 2020 we received a call from a lady in Sahuarita who said Mom and her babies were running loose in the desert and she wanted to know if we could help rescue them. Knowing we could not rescue them without a pen, we went down and built a large pen where they could be chummed inside. We were able to successfully rescue all of them and bring them home to Ironwood. Diggory, Ethan, and Pixie have remained with Nurse Judy, their mom, but Denise and Ginger have moved to a smaller field because Ginger has a spinal issue that cannot be corrected. We wanted Ginger to remain with her sister.

Diggory, Ethan, Pixie, and Nurse Judy have been enjoying their life together and the boys have become quite friendly over the months. They are our tall, long-legged, thin boys and I often wonder what Dad looked like since Nurse Judy is more like a typical pot-belly. They have thrived here and will soon, hopefully, be integrated with others and be released to



one of our large fields. They have been delayed along with others, of course, because of COVID and staff shortages that are on-going problems.

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
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www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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