

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

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Dear Friend,

It is officially fall which fills me with anticipation of changes in the weather. Nobody, pigs or people, will miss the hot temperatures. Everyone is looking forward to cooler temps!

About the only thing I will miss about the hotter season of the year is that all the shelters have the carpet doors and sides off to open up the pig houses to the breeze. This enables me to stroll through the fields and see who is cuddling together inside the shelters. Sometimes I see pairs of pigs together like Mayzee and Luna that I had no idea were close friends. During the winter with the homes all closed up with carpet to keep the pigs warm and cozy, you never know who is inside. Whose snout is that and are they alone? Curious minds want to know!

Cooler weather also means that the pigs will grow their winter coats back. They always look so much cleaner and prettier in the winter! Look at the



Luna & Mayzee



Who's in There?



Henry in Fall



Henry in Summer



Too Hot to Move



Enjoying the Winter Sun

October 2023

difference with Henry...wow! Plus, the pigs are easier to identify when they have a full coat with all their distinguishing marks and colors more noticeable.

Another thing to look forward to in the winter is the rise in activity level and availability of the pigs. They will be lounging around in the warmth of the sun, grazing and rooting in the fields longer, and eagerly approaching people for attention. When it's so hot in the summer, they only want to hide in the shade and could care less if you want to visit with them. So, here's to nice, pleasant weather in the near future! May you enjoy it as much as the pigs will!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsor Coordinator

# Superman

**L**ook! Up in the trailer!  
It's a horse! It's a cow!  
It's Superman!

Not too many of our pigs arrive in horse trailers, but it was sure necessary for Superman to be transported in one. He is a full-size hog weighing in at around 550 pounds in comparison to the average pot-bellied pig being 150. Look at the difference in size compared to Douglas who is visiting with Superman through the fence from the neighboring field. This super-sized boy first made his appearance in July 2018 when he came strolling up the drive at the Gila Bend Fire



Station. The surprised firemen were kind enough to get him contained then starting calling around to find out what to do with him. One of our long-time foster moms in nearby Maricopa offered to take the baby hog, then about 8-10 months old. He had already been neutered and was very friendly, so we assume he had been someone's pet. He lived happily with Grace, the foster mom, up until June of this year when she became too ill to care for him.

Superman is not the first hog to live at Ironwood. We have tried to stick with pot-bellied pigs, but there have been a few exceptions over the years. Hogs have different requirements mainly due to their size. First off, the fencing must be higher in order to keep him in. The number of t-posts is doubled to strengthen the fence. A larger, taller shelter is necessary to accommodate him. The wading pools we use for our pigs wouldn't last a day

without being smashed. The Little Tikes sandbox is strong enough but not large enough. Heavy duty water troughs are used and of course, a really big mud wallow.

Hogs also present special challenges for hoof trimming and basic medical care. Superman will need to be trimmed while under vet supervised anesthesia. To perform that onsite at the sanctuary, we have to wait for cooler weather for his safety. Joint and foot problems are more prevalent in the large hog breeds because of the massive weight



they carry. They also have about half the life span of pot-bellied pigs, usually 6-8 years.

Thankfully, Superman is a sweet, gentle boy who loves "chatting" with people. He's quite talkative and enjoys being petted. Thanks to your gifts, we can give Superman a super home!

...Donna



# Pearl & Elmo

**P**earl was abandoned at her home in Phoenix. The man living in Seattle who purchased the house called us to come get her since there was no one there to care for her. When Pearl arrived, she was timid and overweight. She has gotten friendlier over time but is still not thrilled with being petted. She lost enough weight to get spayed in April of this year. The surgery went smoothly and she had a good, quick recovery. Now around 5-6 years old, Pearl is a healthy and happy girl.



They love going out for “recess” in the exercise yard each day. Sometimes they roam around together, but Elmo usually ends up running off to explore stuff while Pearl putters around closer to home. They are happy kids!

Pearl’s spay and Elmo’s neuter are just two examples of the ongoing need to get all of Ironwood’s piggies altered. Your donations enable us to

from the others. The frustration and aggression ends up being directed at the people trying to take care of them. Elmo was neutered a few days after his arrival and once the testosterone finally worked out of his system, he turned into the sweetest boy! He enjoys being petted and would probably like belly rubs too, but he is a man on the move and seldom slows down on his adventures to lie down for anything other than a quick roll in the water to cool off. He is approximately 3-4 years old and in great health.

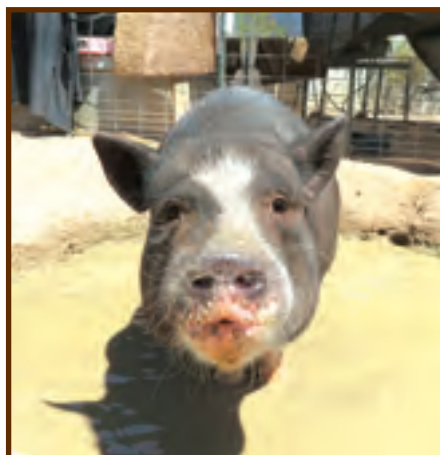


provide that service when needed. Males are always neutered soon after their arrival while females are worked in when there is clinic time and as their weight and health allow. We appreciate your support to get the pigs spayed and neutered!

Pearl and Elmo have become buddies and live in a pen together.



Elmo was a stray boar picked up by Pima Animal Care Center. The companion pig he was running loose with could not be found by the time the officers arrived to catch the two. Once Elmo got to the sanctuary and got around other pigs, his aggressive side came out big time which is typical for males not yet neutered. They tend to get so worked up even though they are kept separate



...Donna

*If you would like to help with Pearl and Elmo’s surgeries which came to \$3,550.70 as well as others needing to be altered, please dedicate your donation in their names. Thank you very much!*

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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**



**Jasper,  
Resident  
Since  
2019**