

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
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Dear Friend,

October 2021

It is still hot here in the desert, but the nights are getting cooler and it won't be long before we begin putting out the first round of warm bedding in the pigs' houses and shelters. You have been wonderful



Chatty Cathy

to continue sending comforters and blankets so that we have a good stockpile to get us started.

Later as winter comes upon us, the pigs will need more bedding to get them through the cold weather.

The pigs LOVE their blankies and get a lot of use out of them. Comforters are a favorite and make great nests to snuggle into. The dirt shakes off much easier than from fuzzy blankets. There are some on our Amazon.Smile Wish List, but used comforters are wonderful. Thrift stores and garage sales are great places to pick up bargains on blankets.

Remember the pigs average 150 pounds so bigger is better.

There are a few items below that are not safe

to use with the pigs.



Chewbacca

\*Blankets NOT to give a pig and why:

1) Some pigs shred their blankets for nesting so electric blankets can be dangerous due to the wires and plastic parts.

2) Since some pigs are shredders, down comforters can be very messy plus pigs can get feathers stuck in their eyes and nose or inhale them.

3) Afghans become traps if a pig gets their foot or leg stuck in a hole then trips or falls.

4) Snuggies...cute but dangerous when a pig gets a leg or head stuck in the sleeves. (Trust me...it's happened!)



June



Scott

Think like a nesting pig when choosing blankets. 😊 Big, thick comforters or blankets can be pushed, pulled and shoved into a perfect pile for

snuggling inside of, on top of or completely buried underneath. Sunny winter days are ideal for dragging a blanket outside the shelter to use as a pallet for naptime. Thanks to your donations, all the piggies of Ironwood will be comfy and cozy this winter. Your help and support are priceless!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsorship Coordinator

# Eros

**I**n May 2021 the sanctuary got a call from a man who said he was physically unable to continue caring for his pigs. As the story unfolded, it was obvious that we needed to get this family. Originally there was an unaltered male and female... and yes, she got pregnant. The poor girl was only 2 years old and died shortly after giving birth to five babies, one of whom was eaten by the dog. The remaining four were hand-fed by the owner. On May 19<sup>th</sup> we brought home the 3-year-old dad, Eros and his children Persephone, Atlas, Hades and Prometheus.



Another trip to the clinic was needed. While there he became unable to stand or walk. The vet felt that Eros had a pre-existing GI issue that had been exasperated by the surgery.

After a few days at the clinic receiving IV fluids and being hand-fed small amounts of food, Eros was not making any progress. A sonogram revealed murky areas in his intestines and he ended up having exploratory surgery. His abdominal area was normal but his prostate was huge. There was no explanation for his inability to stand. Eros ended up staying at the clinic for 8 days during which he improved by tiny increments.



After returning to the sanctuary, he was kept in a special recovery area where we continued to hand-feed him and syringe Boost and other liquids into him. Eros' incision became infected and a round of antibiotics was necessary. The poor guy was struggling but never gave up. His progress was slow, but eventually he was up and going for short walks. Once he was more mobile,



**Eros & Sons  
Atlas, Hades & Prometheus**

he moved back in with his boys. That perked him up and soon he was eating on his own and going out into the exercise yard with his sons. After recovering from her spay surgery, his daughter Persephone joined them. The family shares a shelter and all are doing fantastic these days.

—Donna

*The total cost of both of Eros' surgeries and clinic stays was \$5,480.63. If you would like to help this sweet boy, please designate your donation in his name. Eros is grateful for your love and support!*



Shortly after their arrival Eros and his boys

were taken to the vet clinic for neutering. The surgeries went fine and they all returned to the sanctuary a couple days later. Unfortunately, Eros' condition quickly went downhill. He quit eating, had excessive diarrhea, fever and heavy breathing which is usually a sign of intense pain.



# Shoo Fly!

The summer monsoon season has been a joke of “non-soon” season for several years, but in 2021 we finally got plenty much-needed rain. The plants leafed out and bloomed, butterflies appeared in abundance, grasses and wildflowers covered the desert floor and the toads emerged to leave us with tons of tadpoles. It was wonderful but, unfortunately, the rain also brought a profusion of flies and gnats. With those pesky insects



Henry

came a lot of discomfort for the pigs and extra work for the staff.

Pigs naturally secrete moisture from their eyes, some more than others. The flies are attracted to that and constantly crawl all over the pigs’ faces. To rid themselves of the flies, the pigs will rub their faces on things and many rub until their outer layer of skin is scraped off leaving behind wounds we refer to as “hot spots”. Of course, this creates even more

interest for the flies and a vicious cycle is begun. Hot spots are treated with a combination of



Slater After Treatment



Slater & John Wayne



John Wayne Being Treated

antibiotic ointment, hydrocortisone ointment and Desitin. Princess, Amber, Henry, John Wayne and Lily had such severe, itchy wounds that they were put on temporary doses of Prednisone. Henry’s deep hot spot got infected so a round of oral antibiotics was needed. Fly repellent sprays and ointments also came into heavy use during this time. While many pigs allowed us to easily “doctor” their wounds, others didn’t appreciate our efforts to help them and would snap or bite as we attempted to put



Floki

ointments on foreheads, snouts and cheeks or they just ran away.

We also went through a LOT of disposable fly traps. Those were

in short supply around town and even online as others were plagued with the

same problem. Extra time went into shopping for traps, prepping them, hanging them in strategic spots then changing them out as they filled up. Ugh!

It has been the worst fly season that I can remember. The poor



Fly Traps

pigs with their bloody snouts and faces! It’s been miserable for them. But, thanks to your support, we were able to purchase the products needed to combat the flies as well as the items to medicate the pigs’ wounds. The rain was great but hopefully hot spots will be a thing of the past... and soon!

—Donna

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