

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

October 2015

Dear Supporter,

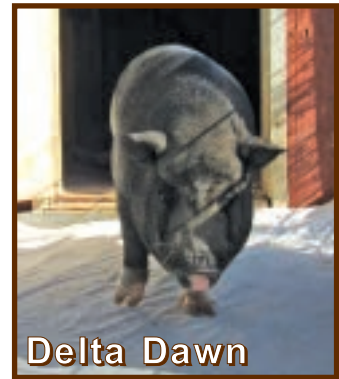
I have been so impressed by the outpouring of donations for Lulu and Theo whose medical escapades were featured in the June update and for Nate who was in the August issue. As many of you know, veterinary costs can be prohibitive, but with your generosity we have been able to cover these particular pigs' high medical bills. You are amazing and wonderful!



For the past couple of months and continuing into the fall our veterinarians have been able to provide more surgical time for our pigs each Tuesday. That has enabled us to get several of our pigs in for much needed dental work, take care of the removal of rectal or mammary tumors as well as the usual neutering and spaying of recent arrivals to Ironwood. Just an example of a typical trip to the clinic: On August 25th we took Delta Dawn in for the removal of a rectal tumor, Polly was to be spayed (she was the mom who came with her babies), Hammie who just arrived the previous weekend was neutered, young Jameson (the only male from

Jezebel's litter) got neutered and Kevin Bacon had dental surgery. That's a full day of surgery for the veterinarians with possible recovery issues for us on the following days. The offer to do 4-5 surgeries each Tuesday has been one of those situations of weighing out the good and the bad. It's been great to get so many much needed issues taken care of for pigs who have been on the "waiting

list" to get in to the vet. However, it's been tough getting through all the recovery problems that crop up as well as making all the trips back and forth to the clinic as our van is small and will only hold 3-4 carriers depending on what size is needed. We are very grateful to our vets for this opportunity as well as grateful to you for the extra donations that have come in to help cover the surgical expenses.



Delta Dawn



Kevin Bacon

Our plan is to get more of our females spayed this fall after the weather has cooled off to make a more comfortable recovery time for them. (It's difficult during the heat of summer to be without a pool or mud wallow during abdominal surgery recovery.) As long as our vets are willing and able to keep Tuesdays open for the pigs, we will take advantage of that and whittle away at the waiting list as well as keep up with the new arrivals needing medical attention.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

PS: Your continued support is the only thing that makes all these necessary medical procedures and surgeries possible. It cannot be done without you and we (pigs and people!) are forever appreciative of your help.

Open House

Saturday, November 14th From 11:00AM to 3:00PM

I hope you are planning to come to this year's Open House which is always a blast! Everyone is welcome to attend and don't hesitate to bring your friends and family along! We will have snacks and drinks available. There is no admission fee. You can have a tour of the Sanctuary, visit with pigs, purchase shirts, hats and knickknacks then relax at the Visitor Center. It is always a great time, so come on out and enjoy the day with us and the pigs. We love sharing our pigs and the sanctuary with you!



You should receive an invitation with a map in the mail. If you don't, please call Ben at 520-631-6015 or email us at ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com for directions.

On the right is a list of things we need at the sanctuary. If you bring peanut butter please bring CREAMY ONLY... it spreads so much quicker and easier when making the "medicine sandwiches" for the pigs. **Everyone can bring blankets** (we never have too many), then if you would like to help out more, please choose from this list. (Those marked with "*" are items we need the most at this time.)



- **BLANKETS (pigs love comforters!)
- *Cranberry/Grape Juice (cran/grape flavor only please)
- *Vitamin B Complex (small tablets please)
- *Ranitidine 150mg Acid Reducer
- *Flaxseed Capsules
- Sunscreen SPF 50 (Lotion only please)
- Prune Juice
- Fig Newton Cookies (or equivalent brand)
- Mineral Oil
- Vitamin E 400 IU
- Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
- Canned Pumpkin
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Animal Crackers
- Benefiber (not flavored)

The above items are things we are in need of now as well as **blankets, blankets, blankets!** (I know I keep repeating **blankets**, but....)

We love you all, appreciate your support and hope to see you at Ironwood's Open House. Mark November 14th on your calendar!

Things to think about when touring the sanctuary:

1. *Wear a hat! You'll be out in the desert sun.*
2. *Wear sunscreen! You'll be out in the desert sun.*
3. *Wear comfortable walking shoes that you don't mind getting dusty.*
4. *We do have two golf carts available for those needing physical assistance for the tour.*

Peoria Pigs

Back in April of 2008 we rescued a large group of related pigs from the town of Peoria, AZ. The details of this story can be found in our August 2008 newsletter with a follow up in January 2009, both of which are available on our web site. In a nutshell, a man and woman had taken in two females and one male then let them breed uncontrollably for over two years. After seven months of evading our offers of help and refusing to return phone calls, we were finally allowed to come in and take the pigs only because they were then facing criminal charges of animal abuse unless they got rid of all the animals.



Tank

We refer to this family as the “Peoria Pigs”. Most are smaller than average because of the inbreeding which also resulted in some genetic issues as well. Some of them also look very much alike and it’s been difficult to get them all named and remember who’s who. If you could stand them side by side for comparison, you can know which is which but when they’re scattered over the field.....it becomes a guessing game! We have lost a few of this group over the years, but most of them are still happily living in Peoria including the original Dad of the bunch, Tank. They have a very close relationship with one another. Some of them have become tame over time and enjoy attention from us but a lot of the group remain wary and simply prefer the company of other pigs.

Over the years we have added other pigs to the Peoria Field that

have come to us by ones or twos. These individuals have worked their way into the groups of the Peoria Pigs and become their friends. There are now 64 pigs living in that field and they are an awesome, easy going herd of piggies. Seldom have we had pigs fighting amongst themselves as they do in other fields.

In their original home, the Peoria Pigs never had adequate food, water or shelter. With that type of background, the group learned to eat every scrap of food that became available because they never knew when the next opportunity would roll around. That mindset is still evident with them, while others that have moved into that field have picked up the same habits. In other fields with other herds, the pigs will pick through the hay eating only the best of the leafy parts and leaving the stems behind. Or when given treats of produce they’ll eat the “good stuff” and leave the bell peppers or broccoli that are no one’s favorites. But not so in Peoria! These piggies devour every last crumb of whatever you give them. They may eat the best parts first, but they don’t give up until it’s all gone! Our Peoria Pigs are a happy bunch, safe from predators, content with their friends and have full bellies!

---Donna



Hawks, owls and coyotes had been picking off the numerous babies born at that home one by one so there were only 33 pigs left by the time we were allowed in. Three of them gave birth to litters within 3 weeks after their rescue raising the number to 45. Since it was such a large family group we decided to build a field strictly for them. That field is called Peoria and that is where these pigs have lived for the past 7+ years after first being spayed and neutered.

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Heidi, One of the Peoria Pigs