

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO. 19

FEBRUARY
2007

Piggy

PIG SANCTUARY

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road
Marana, AZ 85653**

February 1, 2007

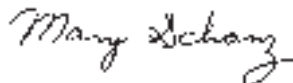
Dear Supporter,

As we begin the New Year Ben and I and all of our volunteers and staff have been very busy. Busy like Santa's workers opening boxes and distributing blankets, hanging Christmas cards and Holiday greetings, writing thank you notes, taking pictures and preparing sponsor letters, and giving tours of the sanctuary to out-of-town guests. All of this activity is so welcome, even though I have been unable to keep up with all of it, because this says you care about our pigs and you care what happens to their lives. Because of you our pigs are warm and fed and secure this winter, and if you are reading this newsletter I know that matters to you. We have been truly blessed this year by all of your support, without which our noble cause would not be possible.

2007 promises to be another year with many projects and a great deal of work. This past year we gave 59 new pigs a life of sanctuary and a promise to give them a place to live for the rest of their lives, and 57 pigs have either been adopted into new homes or passed on. Our numbers are stable but our work load is not. Many more of our pigs are growing old and in need of medical care and special attention. Even the pigs at our Annex now have a small assisted living field. We have taken in many stray pigs this year and many of those were boars who have been neutered. Because of either their age or temperament they have no possibility of being adopted, so a new field is being built to accommodate them. After a tumultuous period of adjustment they will soon begin to make new friends and form small herds. Also another field is being prepared for our sweet hoglets and they will soon have a barn of their own that will fit their size as they grow into adulthood.

Our dreams include a surgery recovery building where our pigs can enjoy temperature-controlled surroundings on a clean floor out of the summer heat and the winter cold. This would make it possible for us to spay more of our girls and assure them a safe recovery. Maybe this will be the year to fulfill this dream. Dreams do come true. After all, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary was once a dream and with your help it has become a reality.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President and Co-Founder

PS We were truly touched by the overwhelming support that we received this holiday season. Your encouraging letters, gifts for the pigs, cards and support reinforced our belief in the worthiness of our cause to protect all of these innocent lives.



Chorizo

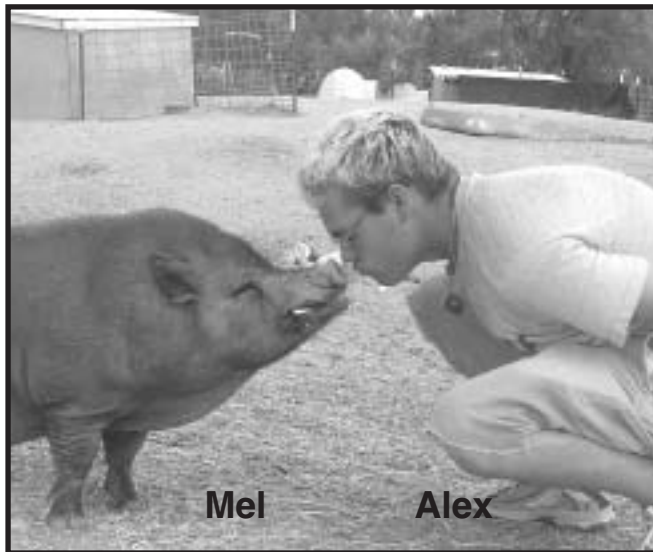
Mary

Mel's Happy Ending

It was a Friday afternoon on Oct. 14th and I was out doing the routine watering. I had just suffered the loss of one of my dear old pigs and I was talking to Mel, who was standing nearby, telling him how glad I was that he was relatively young and healthy, when I noticed he was straining to urinate. Blocked urethra!! I recognized the symptoms immediately; Cedric, Randy, and Ernie all flashed through my mind and we lost all of them. Please not Mel, our sweet sanctuary mascot who greets everyone who comes for a visit. We put him in a pen and his symptoms were undeniable, straining with a slight dribble and a hard abdomen. I called my vet's office immediately and two of the associates were out of town at a conference and Dr. Page was tied up. Dr. Curtis was also busy so I started to call Phoenix vets, with no success. I was frantic because his bladder would soon burst if it was not relieved soon, not to mention the horrible discomfort he was experiencing.

Was there something we could do ourselves as we tried to find a vet who could help us? Oddly enough we were supposed to be in TN at a potbelly pig conference that weekend but it had been canceled. Mel's story would be very different had we been out of town as planned. Because of this missed event I thought to call

Peggy Couey from Shepherd's Green Sanctuary in TN where the conference was being held. This was a stroke of luck for Mel. Peggy was there and told me what procedure they follow and she referred me to Dr. van Amstel at the University of TN. Having talked with him we knew what to do, but we now needed a vet who would do the surgery and time was running out on a Friday afternoon. I called Dr. Page again and she offered to ask her small



animal vet, Dr. Susan Stofft, if she were willing to help us. She said yes and we were off to the clinic over an hour away. Dr. Stofft and her husband, also a vet, were there when we arrived and it was now past closing. They were unable to clear the urethra with a catheter so we proceeded with the surgical procedure called a tube cystotomy. The procedure was successful and the Foley catheter was in place, but the stone was still blocking the urethra. We put

him on antibiotics and medication and diet to try to dissolve the stone while the Foley catheter did its job.

A new crisis had developed on Sat morning. The catheter was blocked. We flushed it with saline and we went to do our chores for the day. By Sat evening the Foley cath was completely blocked, and in our efforts to clear it we dislodged the catheter and it came out. I spent a horrible night

knowing that Mel's chances for survival were over, and I drove him to the sanctuary the next morning fully expecting to have him put down. My husband, Ben, told me to be sure to check the carrier when I got up there just in case the stone was dislodged on the way to the sanctuary and he was able to urinate, thinking of course that that was a fantasy. After letting him out of the carrier I checked

but saw no urine there. I left the pen for a few minutes and when I returned I noticed a wet spot in the sand that I had not noticed before. Could it be that he had urinated? I checked the carrier again and sure enough, the blanket I had put in there for him was wet! The hours that followed were tense, but sure enough his attitude had improved and he was for sure urinating. He had dislodged the stone in route to the sanctuary. (Continued on next page)

Friends Are Forever

Pigs form very strong relationships with people, but there's nothing like the bond between two piggy friends. Take for instance, Owen and Loretta. It was love at first sight for those two when they met out in the field. Loretta is lame and doesn't get around too much, choosing to spend most of her time in or near their shelter, which they share with about 8 other pigs.



Owen

Loretta

Owen likes to wander and is very curious about anything that's going on with people or pigs. After his adventures, Owen comes back to the shelter and lies down beside Loretta. Then in this wonderful singsong voice, Owen will tell Loretta about everything

he's seen and done. She watches him very intently as if she's truly hanging on every word he has to say. Then they'll settle close to one another for a nap. Another example is six pigs from the St. Matilda's group that are always together. Spot, Dapple, Woolly Bully, Sarah, Ella and Bilbo all share a shelter and will pile

in like sardines to fit in there. Another inseparable group is four of our senior pigs in the Assisted Living, Phase Two field. Jack, Ebony, Charlotte and Tippy go everywhere together. There are many, many more whether it's pairs or small groups that absolutely adore one another. We always try to

encourage people to adopt two pigs for that reason. The friendships these pigs form are a very important part of their lives. They need us to provide for their basic survival needs, but they need each other to survive emotionally.



Owen

Loretta

Two Years Later

I decided to reprint this article, written by Donna, because recently I was wandering through our main field when I spotted Owen and Loretta lying there nose to nose sunning themselves in the warm winter sun. A full two years later Owen and Loretta continue to be best friends. Companionship is one of the real advantages for pigs who now live at our sanctuary that once lived a life of solitude. Life would be very lonesome for us without the company of other human friends and the same is true with pigs and other companion animals.

--Mary

Mel's Happy Ending Continued--

Now months later he is back in his field with his friends and he continues to greet all of our visitors. We give him Uroze twice daily and a special diet to keep his urine acid in hopes of avoiding any more stones. My sincere thanks goes out to all the wonderful people who helped us to make this life-saving mission a successful and happy ending. A

canceled conference that kept us at home and helped me to think of calling Peggy, a loss of one of my pigs who made me more thankful for Mel that day, so I happened to be talking to him and noticed his condition, Adobe Veterinary Center's vets and staff who were willing to stay late on Friday evening to do the surgery, and my husband's belief in miracles all worked together to save Mel's life.

Meet Our Pigs

Lulu and Rudy arrived at Pigs*a*Lot, now the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary's Annex, back in 1999 when Ben and I were volunteers there. Their owner was dying from cancer and she needed a home for her pigs. Rudy was already arthritic and they were both shy and reclusive. One day we arrived at the sanctuary and they were both lying under a



bush near the gate and Rudy was clearly dehydrated and we felt he was dying. We loaded him up and brought him home and he would eat nothing but hand fed grapes. We were leaving for a vacation in a couple of days and our friend Jacqui nursed him back to health while we were gone. Upon our return we decided to bring Lulu to our home to keep Rudy company, but she immediately attacked him. We loaded her up immediately and took her back to the sanctuary where she has lived ever since. We used to call her the gatekeeper when we were volunteers, because every time we arrived at the sanctuary with a load of produce she was there to greet us and get a treat as we drove in.

Lulu has made new friends over the years and she is very contented living at our Annex where she has lived for so many years. Rudy survived and lives at Ironwood with his friend Squeaky.

This is **Lucy** number two who arrived at Ironwood on 11/20/06. We received a call from an officer at the Pima County Sheriff's Department. He said a man had died and a pig was on the property and needed a home. We agreed to take her. Lucy lived on a large open property, but lucky for us she was in her shelter when we arrived and we were able to contain her in the shelter and get her in our carrier. For our records we asked for the police report, but found it was not for public release so we suspect some unnatural



causes around the man's death.

She is very frightened and very protective of her pen and blankets. The staff thinks she is a little land alligator, but when she is out in the exercise yard she is very friendly and curious. I think

as time goes on and she learns she is safe and secure, she will learn to trust and will settle down. I suspect she has recently experienced a major trauma in her life, and without a doubt she has had a major disruption.

Porky, one of three Porkys at our sanctuary, arrived on a cold winter night with his two lady friends. Donna and her husband, Justin, picked them up. They were



kept in a small pen and all were obese. He was unneutered and they were not spayed, but lucky for us the girls were not pregnant. They were recommended to us by our vet since the owner was in serious legal trouble and needed a place for her pigs.

The two girls were lame and we had to put them in one of our assisted living fields. Porky was well and healthy and lost sufficient weight, so we neutered him and put him in our special needs field. He is especially cute with blue eyes and little short legs. He has adapted well but he is still very shy of people. This is not important however since he will live out his life with all of our special needs pigs and not have to worry about his relationship to people.

Old Friends

After leaving Ironwood as the manager over one and a half years ago, I've remained involved with pot bellied pigs through the nine pigs of my own as well as those at the sanctuary. My husband, Justin, and I purposely chose to purchase property near the sanctuary so I could still be close to all my piggy friends there. Not only do I get to



Donna

Pudgy

come and just visit with the pigs, but we also help out with the hoof trimming and other volunteer activities at Ironwood.

Another way I've been able to stay involved with pigs is by providing a hoof and tusk trimming service to pig owners around the state. I love going out and meeting other pigs and their owners as well as being able to help them remain comfortable.

It's always a pleasure for me to see the pigs in their homes and hear the many stories people have about their "babies."

Going out to do the hoof trimming also gives me the opportunity to see many pigs that were adopted through Ironwood. I get so excited when someone calls to set up an appointment and it happens to be one of my piggy friends from the past. Some of these pigs were just babies when they were adopted, so now I get to see how much they've changed as they have grown into adults. There is Eve and one of her babies, Priscilla, the brothers Ben and Jerry, Snickers, Pudgy, Ranger, Dillon, Raymond, Noah, Sylvester (previously known as Scruffy), Hammie (aka Sexy), Kizzy, and Scooter just to name a few of those I had known from Ironwood. There are

also those pigs that were long-term boarders at Ironwood that I have been able to see at their homes; Amber, Roi, Delta and Sally.

Keeping hooves and tusks trimmed for the safety and comfort of pigs is a vital part of their health care. It is very difficult for most owners to find someone willing to trim their pigs. Thank you to those owners who have called upon Justin and

me to do this. I'm glad that we are able to provide this service to so many pigs. I look forward to revisiting old friends and to meeting many more new ones!

Donna Norton

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived onsite at Ironwood for over four years. Donna and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call **520-682-4686** or e-mail at **hoofandtusk@yahoo.com** to set up an appointment.



Donna Trimming One of Her Pigs

Thanks to Our Friends!

Our November issue was totally stuffed and prepared for mailing by our great volunteer Barbara and her family. Dr. Bruce R. Duplisse, Barbara Dmitroff (Dmitrova) duPlissé, Elizabeth Dmitrova Howard, Alex Dmitroff, Justin DuPlissé and others of her family worked hard on short notice to meet our deadline. Thank you all for pitching in so we were able to get our November newsletter out on schedule.

Barbara, Bruce, and Justin have also done a huge number of thank you notes. Donna S., Ellen, and Laura have been a big help as well making sure people get thanked for their contributions.

Carol and Roy Turner from Phoenix collected 300 blankets over the summer for us!! They traveled around the city to different thrift shops and purchased blankets on dollar day. They were clean and ready to go and just in time to stuff all of our

shelters. Thank you so very much. What a wonderful surprise when I got that call.



300 Blankets Ready to Go

I would like to give a special thank you to Herb, who has collected blankets for us for several years. He is no longer able to collect them due to health concerns for himself and family members. He has been so instrumental in helping to keep our pigs warm and cozy these past years.

Our pigs had a great early Christmas treat a couple of times thanks to donations of fruits and

veggies from Albertsons and to Willy for picking all the produce up for us. Bob definitely wins the award for cleanup man for the year and Cindy and Megan have also been down from Phoenix to help.

Daniella, a sixth grader in the McMillian Elementary School in Murray, Utah, read about our sanctuary and she asked and got permission from her teacher to do a fund-raiser in her class to help our pigs at Ironwood. Amy Sromek, a sixth grade teacher in Glendale, AZ, also read about our sanctuary and talked to her students about doing a project for our pigs. The class sold candy-cane grams for three days before winter break and is planning to sell Valentine's Day Candy-grams for our pigs as well. Thank you all so much for helping our sweet pigs and for making compassion towards animals a part of your young lives. What a good start in life.

THINGS WE CAN ALWAYS USE:

- * Used Blankets
- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Doghouses
- * Stamps (24, 39 or 63 cents)
- * Gift Card to Home Depot, Lowes, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Target
- * Turtle Sandboxes
- * New, Heavy-Duty Water Hoses
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin plus MSM

Our Wish List

OTHER

- * Donations directly to our vets for spays, neuters, other procedures, and medicines

ADOBE VETERINARY CENTER 520-546-8387
EAST SIDE SPAY & NEUTER 520-731-1714



Arnold



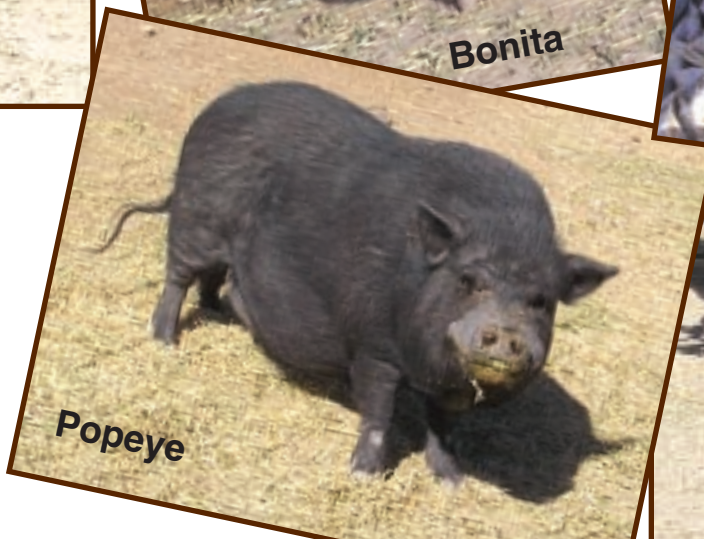
Bonita



Fe



Wallace



Popeye



Marcia

Hi! My Name is Wallace.

I live here at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in the North field. I came several years ago from a woman on the South side of Tucson who had 10 pigs, none of which were spayed or neutered. After being spayed and neutered we were all taken to the sanctuary. I sure like the North field with plenty of space and all of my friends.

If you sponsor one of us you will receive pictures of your selected pig throughout your sponsorship. A contribution of \$30 a month will cover all your pig's expenses including food and health care. Listed are just a few of the pigs needing your help. Choose one of us or send a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and Mary will send you a picture with background information.

Thank you for making a difference!

Wallace



J



erdy



Carrie



Patrick



Rosanne



George



Clarece



anie



Beulah



Blanch

Two Sisters



Thank You For All Your Support!

Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Use Your Credit or Debit Card to Make a Monthly Donation

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25 or \$100, or any amount you choose will be charged to your credit/debit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring.

Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Through Your Estate Plan

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has been the recipient of bequests from a number of generous supporters. These donors felt that they needed the assets during their lifetimes, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans. The fair market value of a bequest is deductible in determining a taxable estate for estate tax purposes.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund portfolio, a piece of real estate, naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the 450 Pot Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

We accept
donations with
the following
credit cards
for your
convenience.



Pigs Come to Us For Many Reasons

Pigs are released to us for many different reasons. Listed here are all the different reasons and some of the stories associated with each.

Zoning

For us and the owners, one of the most heartbreaking situations is where someone has a pig they have dearly loved for many years and then a new family moves in the neighborhood, discovers the pig and complains to the zoning department.

As it turns out in almost all cases, pot-bellied pigs in the community are considered hogs and are not permitted. There is usually no consideration that the pot-bellied pig is a pet.

Debra, in Lake Havasu, is dealing with this problem now. To make it even worse, her immediate neighbors have no problem with Arnold and Willie, her two pigs.



The people who complained were winter visitors looking for a reason for the high fly population. They assumed that her pigs were the reason. When the city investigated, unannounced, they found that her yard was clean and

odor free, with no flies. Even though the local officials are sympathetic there is nothing that they can do because of the law. Debra is now trying to find someone in her area that will adopt her pigs so that she can visit them when she can. As a last resort we will give her pigs a good home, but we are 7 hours away. Visiting them would be very difficult for her.

A similar situation is where a pig owner is moving and has made all the arrangements for a move such as leasing or purchasing a home only to discover that their pig is not legal in their new home. Many owners don't think to plan ahead because they think that since a pig is a pet it should be legal. We picked up Bert and Ernie, two much loved pigs, just after Christmas from a home in Phoenix for this very reason.

Divorce

Another common reason for releasing a pig is when a couple, living in a rural area with a large yard, gets divorced and the primary caregiver, usually the wife, must move into town to an apartment that she can afford and cannot take her pig.

Renter Abandoned

A not uncommon occurrence is where a renter moves out and leaves their pot-bellied pig behind. If moving the pig is the issue, Ironwood is always willing to help move a pig from one home

to another. Priscilla in Phoenix was rescued by us when the owner of the rental house discovered her in the backyard with inadequate shade and shelter. Her skin was in bad condition due to the hot summer sun. I remember another situation where we rushed to Phoenix to pick up Sally, a huge pot-bellied pig, on a Saturday because Sunday afternoon the neighbors were planning on barbecuing her.

Abandoned

We receive many calls from people who find a pig wandering in their neighborhood, often in good condition, needing a home. The owners are rarely found even when pig lost signs are posted in the neighborhood. A large unneutered pot-bellied pig had scared an entire neighborhood. He was foaming at the mouth because he was stressed and they thought that he had rabies. We rushed to the scene and rescued Pancho who is now enjoying himself in our North field after being neutered. Another rescue occurred during the hot summer when a white female, very tired, hot and thirsty, was discovered on the local dirt road with a group of coyotes circling her for an apparent attack. Very slowly they moved her to one of their horse corrals where she was protected. They took care of her for a couple of weeks until we had a pen available. Molly is now happy with her newfound friends in our Assisted Living Phase II field.

Pigs Come to Us For Many Reasons -cont



Pancho

Owner Release

Owners release their pigs for many reasons. "It was our daughter's pig and she moved out and got married." Neither they nor their daughter wanted to take care of her. "The pig is tearing up the yard and we want to plant flowers and do landscaping." "We can't afford to take care of our pig." "We want to give her up because our pig is lonely." When we suggest a companion they always refuse. They didn't want the pig. "Our dog attacked our pig."

Behavior Problems

Pigs are herd animals and they are always gritching with each other to establish their position in the herd. Our feeling is that when baby pigs are raised by humans at a very young age they don't have the benefit of developing the herd behavior with their brothers and sisters and then later with the herd. They will often see their caregiver as another pig. I think that initially the baby/young pig accepts that their caregiver is in

charge. As the pig reaches maturity around 2 or 3 years old it will start pushing back in order to establish dominance. It will show initial signs of this behavior that are not too bad such as swinging their head or charging. This behavior can develop into actually trying to bite to establish dominance. That is when we get the call

to take the pig. We try to work with the owners to establish control over their pig. But often they have decided that they don't want the pig anymore. We will take the pig to our sanctuary and often the behavior towards humans will cease once the pig develops their position in their new herd. But sometimes it will never change. Worf gets along



Worf

well with his friends in the Northeast field, but we need to watch our backside when we visit his field.

Humane Society/ Animal Control Rescues

Generally pigs are too heavy and hard to handle for owners to bring them to a Humane Society or to Animal Control for release. These animals are usually picked up by Animal Control when they are causing a problem in their neighborhood or running loose in town, or by the Humane Society as a rescue. We provide forever homes for pigs from both of these agencies.

Illness or Death

When an owner is very ill, dying, or has died, we put this kind of rescue at the top of our list. If relatives or neighbors don't want or can't care for the pigs we step in and bring them to the sanctuary. We recently brought in Dolly and Boon when their owner was dying of heart disease and cancer and had no one else to take care of his pigs.

Moving

When owners are moving across the country it is often not practical for them to take their pig with them. Within the state of Arizona or surrounding states we will help them move their pig. But we are not able to move them great distances. We try to find adoptive homes for their pig but often the pig is too old or too lame to be adopted. These are the ones we bring to the sanctuary.

It's Still Cold Out There

We are in the middle of winter here in Arizona and across the country. Recent blizzards in the Midwest remind us that it is still cold out there. Make sure that your pot bellied pig friends and all of your other critters have a cozy, dry and warm shelter this winter. Our pigs love their blankets. How about giving your special pig an extra blanket?! How about a blanket for your dog?



Girlie Loves Her Blankets



Fred Falk - falcon7@nethere.com

COVER

Piggy is 11 years old and had a loving home until her family was separated by divorce. Piggy had no choice but to come live with us. Her mom would really like to buy a new home and come take her home with her, but Piggy has been with us many months now, so I have decided to integrate her into one of our assisted living fields and treat her as one of our own. Piggy has become one of my favorites over the months since she has a lot of character. She is both sweet and sassy. I suppose because she was very spoiled when she was with her family, she has an attitude sometimes. She loves attention and belly rubs, but just don't try to do anything to her that she doesn't want you to do or she will let you know in no uncertain terms.



Francis, You Made Our Day!

Dear Mary, Ben, Ironwood Staff and Piggies,

I just wanted to say again how much I appreciate your efforts on behalf of those precious little beings in your care. I cannot imagine how difficult it is to keep juggling things around as more and more pigs are in such desperate need of new and loving homes. I truly believe that there is no higher calling than to be of service and help to others, whether it be to other humans or to those beings we share this planet with and call animals. Thankfully, there are people like every one of you and places like Ironwood which provide safe haven for those animals who are in such dire straits.



Walter Riley

It has been a difficult year for me healthwise and I wish I could do so much more, but sending these small gifts is all that I am able to accomplish for now. My beloved wife suffered so bravely for so many years and still had

the most open, caring and compassionate heart for all beings that I have ever known. It is her shining example which guides me and comforts me in my own struggles. The poor, sick, suffering and abandoned animals are so much worse off since they are totally dependent on us for

We receive many notes and letters of thanks and encouragement and always appreciate them very much. I hope that you don't mind but when we read Francis' letter it brought tears to our eyes and we wanted to share it with you. Thank you, Francis, from the bottom of our hearts!

-Mary & Ben

their care. The ones that find their way to Ironwood are very, very blessed indeed. As always, my little donation is sent to you and to them in loving memory of my beloved Kathleen.

I would like to continue to help with your ongoing efforts to provide Assisted Living to the little pigs who are struggling physically with their time on this earth, but feel free to use the donation where it will be of most use to the Sanctuary. Perhaps you could buy "our" Roland a few extra yummy treats this holiday

season or an extra warm blanket to comfort him this winter. I give to many organizations both here and around the world, but never with such peace of mind and with such sweet thoughts as when I am giving to you and Ironwood.

Please know how much your efforts are appreciated, not only by those loving little souls whose lives you impact daily, but by those of us who can only stand on the sidelines and cheer you on. I don't know how you do it, but I am eternally grateful that you do and I know there are many, many people lending their support and love all the time. I fervently hope that you may get some small measure of comfort and strength in knowing how much your work means to us all.

Bless you again for all of your loving kindness. With fondest wishes for more peaceful and prosperous times to come ...

Francis Schilling



Roland

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.

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.

Our Supporters Write:

Dear Mary,

This letter is written in response to your letter in the November newsletter.

My wife Rita and I are aware of how tough it is for you to take care of these animals. Over the years, we have supported many animal care groups financially, as best we could. I'm 70 and retired now so money is limited.

Rita and I decided that rather than exchange gifts this year, we would send some money to you. We have also asked our family to support you rather than give us gifts.

This won't make a big difference to you but please know it comes with our love and best wishes for you.

Merry Christmas to you and the pigs.

Bill Papay

Dear "Piggy People" --

As always, the latest newsletter with the incredibly cute "Corgie" as "cover boy" made my day! What a darling funny mouth he has -- looks like he's whistling; a happy tune, no doubt!

I wish you and all the piggies a wonderful Christmas and a beautiful New Year!!!

All the best --

Ann

Dear Spike,

My name is Emma and my mom rescued me several years ago from a shelter in Southern California. My mom gets the Ironwood Sanctuary Newsletter and I saw your picture in it. I think you are very handsome and thought you would like a picture of me. I now live in Nevada near Reno. Maybe if you're ever out this way you could stop by for a visit.

Enclosed is some money to get yourself some winter blankets and some special treats (Fig Newtons are my favorite).

Warmest regards, Emma

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ironwoodpigs@starband.net
www.ironwoodpigsanctuary.org

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Poky & Sammy Cuddling on a Cold Day