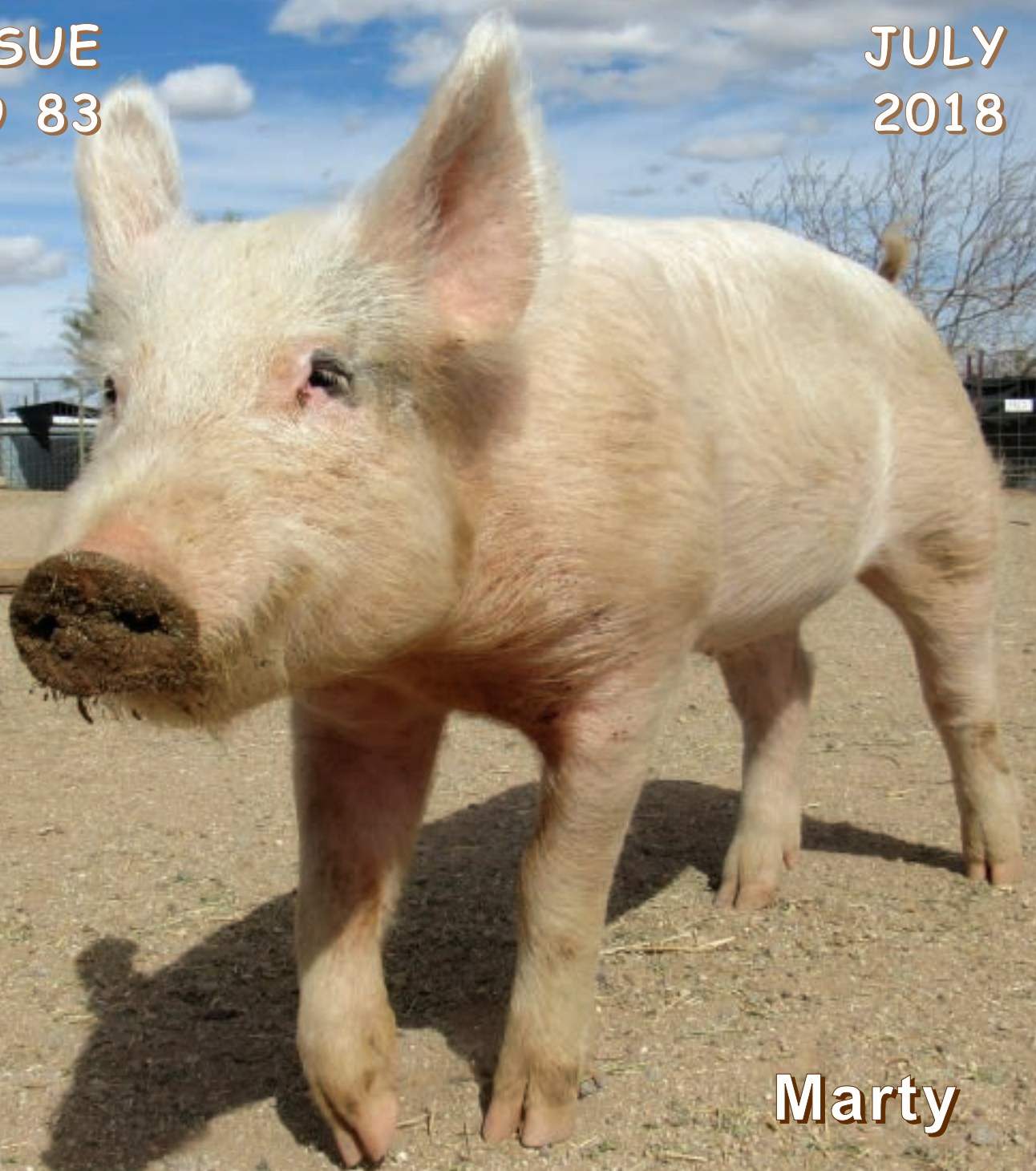


IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 83

JULY
2018



Marty

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

July 2018

Dear Supporter,

The Hogs have it for our July 2018 Newsletter's front and back cover. We are a pot-bellied pig rescue and sanctuary and have rescued well over a thousand pot-bellied pigs over many years. Occasionally a hog slips into our mix and Marty, Rusty and Princess are three such pigs. Their stories and history can be seen in this issue. Hogs have been so much on my mind these past few weeks.

As the deadline for the newsletter approaches I have been having a very difficult time sitting down to write this letter because I have been so tormented by a rescue we have been and continue to be embroiled in. It is the rescue of many small hogs. It started as a Facebook post that was emailed to Ironwood and has since occupied a great deal of my time and my emotional energy. Twelve of the 34 pigs have been rescued by us but the faces of the others are always with me. The investigation by local authorities is ongoing. I can only hope that this case will be settled in favor of the remaining pigs and perhaps we can appeal to other large and small sanctuaries to help with their care.

This struggle has made me acutely aware of how little **can be done** to help animals, especially if they happen to be pigs or other farm animals, even if an agency may want to help. I was naïve enough to think that if I called the agencies who have the authority to cite and to confiscate animals in awful conditions with insufficient food, water, space, uncontrolled breeding and lack of medical care that action would be taken. Even if the animals could be confiscated where would they go for safety? The laws are simply not in favor of animals and the bar is way too low. How do humans raise the bar so that the bare minimum of food and water is not enough for animals' welfare? When will consideration of the enormous suffering animals endure in temperatures like ours when shade is not even required for livestock? The answers are evasive and complex.

Of course, better laws need to be in place so the agencies have more authority to make the right decision when faced with cruelty cases. But changing the laws to help protect animals is not a priority for our politicians or the lobbyists who support them. It is not even a priority for the vast majority of the population. Until the time comes when humans raise the bar on compassion, dignity and respect for all living creatures, the necessary changes to stop the suffering of animals will not be evident.

Sincerely,



President & CoFounder

PS: You are a part of a small minority who believe in compassion and a life without suffering for all living beings. I always remember the quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead who said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." You and those like you are the ones who will raise the bar for animals.



Four From the Hog Rescue

Close Call For Gila Woodpeckers

The most well-known symbol that defines the Sonoran Desert is the saguaro cactus. These majestic cacti can live 150-200 years and grow as tall as 50 feet or more. The saguaro can grow arms after reaching 75 years of age, have 30-50 arms, hold one ton of water and weigh 3200-4800 pounds. The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and surrounding land is home to numerous saguaros. Those growing within our fields have been fenced off to protect them from the pigs who use them as backscratchers and eventually wear through the skin of the cactus.

Sadly, one giant saguaro that must have been at least 150 years old from the number and size of its arms, fell during a particularly rough windstorm one night in May. When it fell, it flattened a



section of fencing separating the Peoria Field and Hercules' field. This was discovered first thing the next morning when we went out to feed that area. Hercules, a large aggressive hog mix, had taken advantage of the opening and gone into Peoria and fought with several of the resident pigs there.



Fortunately there were no major injuries, but we could definitely tell from the scratches and scrapes who had crossed paths with Hercules. The staff went into emergency mode to get Hercules back where he belonged. A chainsaw was brought out to cut the trunk and arms along the fence line so that the hog panel could be replaced to keep Hercules contained. The Peoria pigs were checked over to ensure that everyone was there and okay (not such an easy task as this is our largest herd with 60 pigs).

While working quickly to get the fencing back up someone noticed that one of the saguaro's arms had a nest of baby birds inside. They could be heard chirping and crying out. That arm was cut from the cactus then tied to a fence corner to get the nest back upright. Luckily the parents were right there to take over caring for their babies. The nest turned out to belong to a pair of Gila woodpeckers who typically nest within the cavities of the saguaro cactus. Both

parents share the burden of incubating the eggs then feeding their young. The male, noted by the red cap on top of his head, sticks close to the nest and serves as the guardian while the female goes further out to forage for insects and seeds.

Both parents have been sighted bringing back food for the babies. Gila woodpeckers are typically noisy birds and from the sounds coming out of the hole it seems



like all or most of the babies survived the fall. It's definitely an active bunch in there. We were so thankful that the arm holding the nest fell with the hole facing up. Thanks to that bit of luck and the quick action of our staff in noticing the nest and getting the arm upright, those young Gila woodpeckers are flourishing and being well taken care of by their parents. Another happy ending at Ironwood!

---Donna

Because of You

For the past seventeen years we have been providing a permanent place of sanctuary to hundreds of pot-bellied pigs. With your help we have been able to give the pigs a safe home within the security of chain link fencing to protect them

from coyotes and dogs. The pigs have shelters of varying sizes to accommodate groups of friends along with piles of blankets for comfort and warmth. There are pools and mud wallows placed under shade ramadas where pigs can keep cool on hot days. With

your generosity the pigs never lack food, hay or water. Medical care is available on site as well as in the veterinary clinic. The over 550 pigs living at Ironwood have you to thank for the life they have here.



Because of you – Polly, a resident for over ten years, was able to go to the veterinary clinic for dental work when she showed the symptoms of a head tilt and difficulty eating. After having eleven teeth pulled and getting a round of antibiotics, Polly has been doing great.



Because of you – Rudy, who was abandoned at a rental home earlier this year after his family moved out and left him behind, was able to be placed at Ironwood when the contractor who had been hired for repairs to the house found him alone in the yard. He is a sweet, gentle, slow-moving guy that certainly didn't deserve to be treated that way.



Because of you – Carnie, a certified therapy pig kicked out of her home after a neighborhood HOA received numerous complaints from a new resident who simply didn't want to live next door to a pig, received medical care for a recurring wound on her snout. Frequent excessive bleeding from a small unexplained spot on her snout earned Carnie a trip to the vet clinic where she had a biopsy performed then cryosurgery and sutures to close the wound. Carnie is back to her happy and gorgeous self these days!



Because of you – Charlotte, here since January, has been able to experience the joy of wandering around the property freely exploring the area and rooting in the dirt and mud. The poor girl had been kept inside a garage for nearly all of her 1.5 years of life because of the family dogs. Arriving with very pale skin, thin hair and extremely long hooves, Charlotte has thrived with her new found freedom.



Because of you – Benji, a resident for almost two years, has been able to receive laser treatments as well as daily medication to help with muscle wasting in his back legs. He remains active and happy despite the wobbling and unsteadiness of his legs. Benji loves greeting those who enter his field.



Because of you – Moo and Wilbur are able to call Ironwood home after their family was evicted from their rental home and left to live in their car. That was Wilbur's second abandonment because that same family found him in the home when they moved in five years ago. The boys showed signs of neglect and malnutrition when they arrived in February but are looking much improved these days.



Because of you – Lorelai, a youngster that came in January, has been spayed and had multiple procedures to correct a prolapsed vulva. She is barely a year old but has already been through so much in her short life. Lorelai is doing well now and has a chance for a long, normal life that would not have been possible without your support.



Because of you – Angel, who arrived at Ironwood 16 years ago this month, has spent almost her entire life living in the Main Field with her piggy family and friends. This sweet girl has outlived her parents and siblings but has found comfort with Atticus and other pals. Angel loves napping and relaxing under a palo verde tree that has been her favorite spot for 16 years.

All of this and more is possible through team work. Caregivers are trained to meet the daily needs through feeding, medicating and observing the pigs during their daily activities. Another group cleans and refills pools, bowls and wallows to provide fresh water for the pigs while also reporting any abnormalities they notice. It takes staff to maintain a safe, secure environment by constructing housing, troughs, shades, etc. It

takes these people working together to provide a home where the 550+ pot-bellied pigs can be well fed, sheltered, medicated and comforted over the years as they are nurtured through independent field life, to retirement in assisted living and on to hospice care as needed.

And none of this could be done without....YOU! You are the asset that makes this team

possible. Your gift enables Ironwood to continue to take in pigs that have been abandoned or abused. Your generosity feeds Luke, Pansy, Dozer, Tori, Churchill and many, many others. Your support allows for spaying and neutering as well as other necessary medical procedures that crop up. Thank you for being a part of the Ironwood team.

---Donna

Dory's Story Continued

Hi! You may remember me from the February Newsletter Update telling you about being found with a broken jaw and loose teeth. My jaw had to be wired together and I went to the vet a bunch of times last fall. I'm all healed up and doing fabulous now though. While I was still living in a holding pen and recovering from my injuries, a new pig named Quincy moved into the pen next to mine. She was a stray that somebody found wandering around in a neighborhood. I really liked her and was always nosing her through the fence so the people started letting us go out into the exercise yard together. We became good buddies and were soon sharing a pen and shelter. I love Quincy! She is my best friend! Finally, this spring it was decided that I was strong enough to go out and join one of the herds in a field. I was excited to know that Quincy was going with me. There were seven other pigs all ready to make the big move too.



Dory



Quincy & Dory

Since the nine of us are all fairly young, the people decided that we should move to the Lil' East Field that already had a herd of 16 pigs around our same ages. That field wasn't really big enough for 25 pigs so some changes had to be made first. Two of the neighboring fields are home to some much older pigs whose herds were getting very small. They didn't need all that space anymore so the fences for Lil' East were moved out to make it bigger. More houses had to be brought in. Some nice person donated a pigloo and a camper shell painted with groovy colors so those were moved out there too. Two of the ramadas were expanded so that new pools and mud wallows could be in the shade. New troughs had to be built and brought out. It was a lot of work but soon things were ready for us. It was a long way from the holding pens to our new home, so we were loaded into carriers and taken out in the wagon of the ATV. How exciting!! And sort of scary too!

All of us new piggies were sprayed with a big dot of red marking paint so that the people watching over the herd could tell who were new to the field. Someone has to be out here to break up fights and stuff while we all get to know one another. It hasn't been too bad but sometimes it gets crazy while we figure out who gets to be the boss of the herd and claim our houses and territories and stuff. I have



Teddy

tried to be good but Teddy follows me around a lot and sometimes I just have to turn around and jump on him to make him go away. (Quincy says it's because he LOVES me but I don't know about that!) And Sadie fought me a couple of times because she wanted the same house I picked out. Quincy found another one she liked better so I just stay with her. It's a big house with plenty of room for the two of us. There's a pigloo beside it that Dennis uses sometimes. He's another of the new pigs. He's really nice and never fights with anybody no matter what they say to him.

Lil' East Field is a nice place to live. There is a tree beside the house that Quincy and I sleep in. It makes a nice shady spot for us to relax in. There's a pool and mud wallow there too. Jelly Bean and Dennis hang out with us in the shade. And Teddy comes over there too, of course. He is always staring at me! (Quincy says he thinks I'm CUTE. Good grief!)



Sadie in Camper

Just up the hill a bit is one of the new big shade ramadas where that new camper shell is. Miriam and her daughters Liz and Janelle live in the camper shell although I've seen Sadie sneak in there a few times when they weren't home. That girl! (Actually, I went in there once too while they were gone. It just looks like such a cool place to live! But I just took a quick peek and left. Not like Sadie

who laid around in there like she owned the place.) Anyway, it's a huge shady spot where a bunch of us new pigs hang out and relax together. Gummer sleeps in the pigloo up there. He's kind of shy and keeps to himself a lot but he's nice.

In the mornings I go up to the front part of the field to wait for breakfast with the older members of the herd. Maxwell and Henley are always lying in the feed trough while they're waiting. I think they look so silly! Then we all get real excited and start squealing when the people that feed us come into the field. Some of the pigs have to be put in individual pens to eat, so we have to wait for them to get settled first. Then the grain is poured into the



asleep already by the time I get there but that's okay. She's still glad to see me! There are seed pods falling out of the tree that I like to nibble on later in the afternoon. We pulled our blankets out of the house because it was so hot and the seed pods fall in the pile. I have to root around in the blankies for my snack but it's fun. I am making new friends and learning how to get along with everyone. I think I'm going to love being a Lil' East gal!

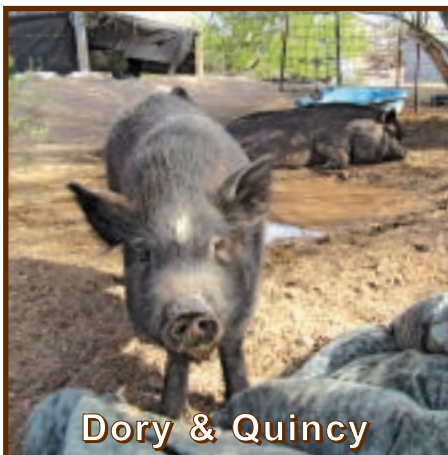
---Dory

PS: Thank you for the donations that were sent in to help pay my medical bills. That was awesome! I love you!!



Shade Hangout

troughs and off we go! It's fun to run from one trough to another and just eat and eat and eat. After we scarf down the grain, hay is scattered around for us to munch on. Once the hay is finished it's time for a nap! Quincy and I always meet back up the hill or under the tree by our house so we can nap together. She's usually



Dory & Quincy



Jelly Bean & Dory

Sponsor a S



Dugan

I look really sweet but I'm really sort of not. I enjoy pets and belly rubs, but I also enjoy scaring people. I'm sorry...I know it's not nice, but I just can't help myself sometimes.



Bernadette

I came here in late 2007, had a litter of babies within 2 days then was adopted later. I came back in mid 2017 after my owner got real sick, but this time I'm here to stay.



Sanford

I came here with [unclear] was happy to get [unclear] We all live in the [unclear] like having my own [unclear] things by myself. [unclear] independent guy!



The pigs featured here are a mix of young and old, but no matter what their age, they all need and deserve a sponsor. For a \$30 monthly donation, you can help

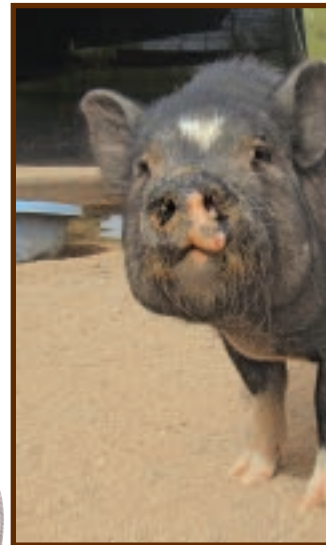


Donna

Oreo

provide for their daily needs. In exchange you'll get a letter of their history along with photos. Later in the year an update and new pictures will keep you informed of your pig's life. You'll feel great knowing that your support is going toward your own pig.

---Donna



Have a heart (like the forehead!) and pick piggy! I was lucky [unclear] butchered and no [unclear] field with my fan [unclear] of other pigs.



Special Pig!



with two older gals but
get out on my own.
the same field, but I
own house and doing
myself. I'm an
y!



Dudley

I live here with my brother and
sister. We were born here after
our mom was rescued. Both
siblings got lucky and have
sponsors already. I sure do
want to be like them!



Maple

I have been here for six
months. My family's pit bulls
kept attacking me and they
realized it wasn't safe there
anymore. Just as well, since
they planned to breed me to
sell babies.



Pedro

be the one on my
pick me to be your
lucky to escape being
I now live in a big
family and a bunch



Miguel

I'm Pedro and Miley's brother.
We've been living here for a year
already. It's about time we all got
us a sponsor. That would totally
make my life complete!



Miley

My owners had plans to butcher
me and my family but decided
pot-bellied pigs don't taste good
after they ate my dad. Yikes!
Now I live here with a herd and
am happy just being Miley!

Assisted Living Phase III

If you have ever visited Ironwood Pig Sanctuary on one of the Saturday tours or perhaps during November's Open House, you were able to walk through many of the fields to mingle with the pigs. We don't take visitors to all of the different fields because it would take hours to see everything and everybody.

Some of the fields are off the beaten path or are inconvenient for large groups to get to. A couple of them have an aggressive pig or two in the herd, so visitors are not allowed or are kept to a minimum.



handful of pigs in their late teens that had grown up together and were ready to "retire" from their big field. Since they got along so well we sectioned off the back of Phase 3 to give them their own area. Here they would not have to deal with the usual turmoil of joining a new group of pigs. That section of the field has continued to be used for the very elderly with limited physical

various phases of Assisted Living. The original Assisted Living Field was built for a group of senior pigs who needed a smaller area as well as a smaller herd due to their



In the 2018 newsletters we have been describing with words and pictures some of those fields that visitors seldom see. One of the smaller fields that would be difficult to take a group of people into is Assisted Living Phase 3 mainly because of its location and size.

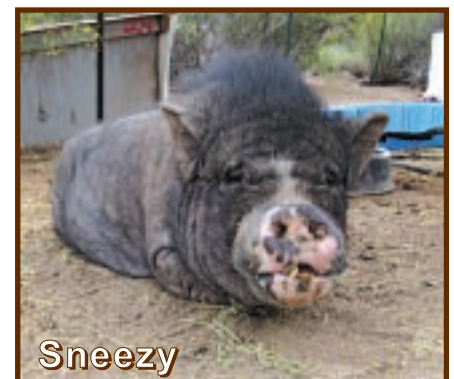
First, let me explain why we have

diminishing physical abilities. Because these elderly pigs need more one on one care, the population needs to be kept low. When the first phase reached its maximum number of pigs, we built Phases 2 and 3. Later as the population of the sanctuary increased as well as aged, we added several more fields onto the west side of the property including Assisted Living Phases 4, 5 and 6 which accommodate the more "active seniors" who don't require such intense individualized care as those in Phases 1, 2 and 3.

A few years back there were a



capabilities. Currently the residents there are two 19 year old ladies, Sneezy and Betty Sue as



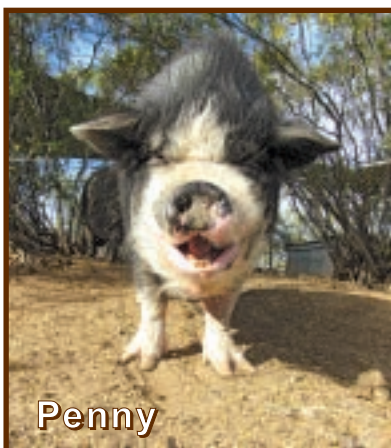
well as Napoleon, a 12 year old with arthritis issues who moved from the Peoria Field to join the girls in late March of this year.



Betty Sue

Napoleon has a very calm personality. That combined with his arthritis problems made it a safe bet that he would not cause any trouble for the girls. He fit in nicely with them and they have been getting along just fine together. It's a slow moving group, for sure! In the past the girls were part of a much bigger herd and each had other pigs with which they had very close relationships. As their friends have passed away, they have turned to one another for companionship and comfort. The three pigs living here have a very quiet, calm environment where they receive the individual care that they need at this stage of their lives.

The larger section of Assisted Living Phase 3 has a herd of six



Penny

pigs. Penny is the matriarch of the group, having lived there for 10 1/2 years. She was very obese when she arrived all those years ago and was placed here because she could not physically handle the competition within a large herd of healthy pigs. Jimmy Dean had lived out in Spike's Field for a while but suffers from a neurological issue that causes severe balance problems. He sometimes falls and is often just wobbly on his feet. It was no longer safe for him to be out with a big group so he was moved where he would have more staff supervision. Porky moved in



Piggy Spears & Penny

from the Sunset Field due to age related arthritis problems. Pixie has an unusual hoof predicament that slightly inhibits her ability to walk. Her hooves grow abnormally thick and super long in a short period of time. She needs to be trimmed every few weeks as opposed to once or twice yearly like the majority of the pigs. Piggy Spears is only 3 1/2 years old but lives with her older friends because of deformed hips and back legs due to inbreeding and malnutrition brought on by the breeder trying to keep her small. (Ugh!) Harry was the last

to join the herd about a year ago. He is middle-aged but was rather




Porky, Harry & Pixie

nervous and jumpy, so we thought a quiet environment would work best for him. Harry has flourished here and seems very happy these days. These six pigs get along great with one another. Piggy Spears has a special relationship with Penny and is often seen cuddled up next to her. They all mingle together and share their space nicely.

Because most of the Phase 3 pigs have mobility issues, they are checked on throughout the day particularly during the months of high temperatures. There are



Pixie

large shade ramadas covering much of the area that can be rolled back during 

the few short months of nice weather in the winter. Since we're dealing with 100+ temperatures for 6 or more months of the year, we make sure that the pigs can get to their houses, feeding pens and mud wallows while staying shaded. During the severe summers a staff member comes through frequently to check on the pigs and place cool, wet towels on

those who seem hot to prevent overheating. Each afternoon all the pigs are given slices of apples or melons as a final opportunity to ensure that everyone is doing okay at the end of the day.

Thanks to your generosity the elderly and physically disabled pigs of Assisted Living Phase 3 have a nice place to call home.

They have houses of various sizes to share with their friends with carpets and blankets to make it comfortable. They have plenty of shade and pools to keep them cool. They have the supervision necessary to keep them safe and secure. They owe it all to you! Thank you!!

---Donna

Why Should I Include Ironwood in My Will?

A bequest is easy to implement and simple to change at any time. You can give specific property or designate a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. You can also designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy. Making a bequest is a future gift and a way to support Ironwood without affecting your existing assets or cash flow. There are no substantial costs and you can continue your current lifestyle. A gift by will supports Ironwood's impact on the lives of many sweet pot-bellied pigs in the Southwest, primarily in Arizona. Be a part of our exciting future and designate your legacy gift to fund any specific purpose that speaks to your heart and mind. Including the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your will demonstrates your commitment to the future of Ironwood. A bequest can allow you to increase your support to a level you may have always aspired to achieve.

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are needed year round.****

- Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
- Ensure, Vanilla Only
- Vitamin E Capsules, 400 IU
- Fish Oil Capsules, 1000mg
- Stool Softeners
- Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
- Prunes
- Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets
- Neosporin
- Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 50 and 35 cents)
Other denominations can also be used
- Heavy Duty Duct Tape
- Sheets (NO pillow cases)

GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Office Max
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Office Depot
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon

[We have a wish list on Smile.Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com)
[They offer free shipping on many items if you sign up for Amazon Prime.](https://www.amazon.com)

Front Cover

Marty's tale of escape saved his life as did the people at SPARC and my friend Marty for whom Marty got his name as well as a supporter named Marty who wanted a pig named after himself. Very strange they were both named Marty so his name was set in stone. He first went to Marty in CA and then was delivered to Ironwood in September of 2017. We were anxious to quickly get Marty neutered and moved to a big field where he would grow up with pot-bellied pigs before he realized how big he would become. But as luck would have it and a testimony to the kind of



conditions under which he had been living Marty had worms, lots of worms. Over time he finally recovered and was released to our large North Field. At first he was a bit shy and intimidated, but he soon realized his strength and his integration into the field became a bit more difficult.

But that is behind us now and Marty is well established with his new friends. His hog



characteristics do not go unnoticed however. We have to take a large toy filled with grain up with us each morning and run to get him in his pen to avoid getting pushed over by him or having him harm one of our pot-bellied pigs in the crush for food. He is really still a baby at about a year old now. He loves running around his field and getting into wallows and doing silly things like sitting in his trough. He is a delight to have here at Ironwood but of course his strength and determination are a force to be reckoned with. His story as was printed in a local paper in CA:

The Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center (SPARC) is in the business of keeping animals alive. So when "Wilbur", a stray piglet, was brought into the shelter after being rescued by a Good Samaritan, the shelter began an effort to save him.

The shelter says "Wilbur", in a bid for freedom, escaped from a family pig farm and made it to the Santa Paula City limits where he was found.

The staff at the shelter gave him a bath to soothe his sunburn and he was given a massage with aloe and sunscreen. "Wilbur" was given an outdoor dog run where he slept on blankets until staff could find wood shavings for his bedding.

SPARC holds animals for a period of time to let the owner reclaim them but when "Wilbur's" owners showed up, a shelter employee could not bear the thought of him ending up like most pigs. So the employee bought "Wilbur" from



the farmer and a search began to find him a home where he would not end up as breakfast.

The shelter says "Wilbur" left SPARC Thursday to go to a new home, a pig sanctuary [Ironwood], where he will live a full life with other lucky pigs who will never become pork chops.

--- Mary

Back Cover



Princess & Rusty

Princess and Rusty arrived at Ironwood in January of 2016. They were strays found roaming the desert west of I10. Cord, one of our previous employees, found them and asked if they could come to Ironwood to be spayed and neutered then he would take them back. We said we would help him but he never mentioned that they were young hogs. They were pretty rough having just been rescued from the desert but were otherwise healthy and quite friendly. It did not come as a surprise that once they were spayed and neutered and multiple calls to Cord went unanswered, that Princess and Rusty would make Ironwood their home. We soon released them to one of our



Rusty

large fields and they soon integrated into the herd. Lucky for us they are not really large hogs so are more manageable than Marty. However Rusty, like Marty, has to be put into a pen to eat so the others in his area can eat in peace. We have learned to be nimble on our feet in the Sunset



Princess

Field since in addition to Rusty and Princess, we have some large feral pigs as well as Big Charlotte, our large hog mix. In the end I think Cord made the right decision since Princess and Rusty have a happy home here with lots of space to run and play.

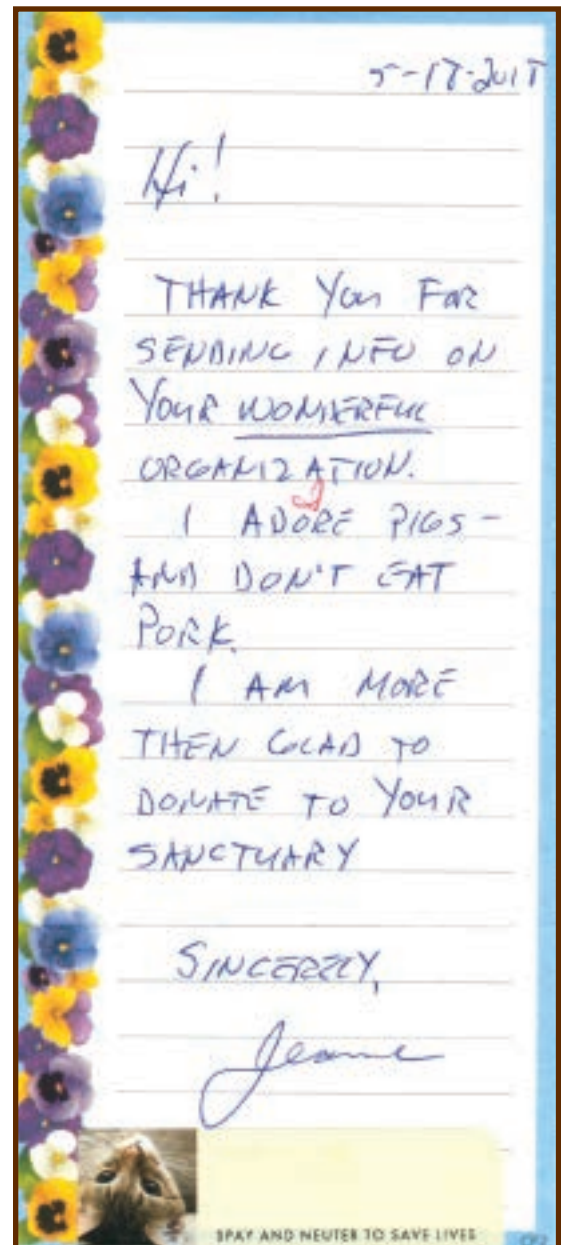
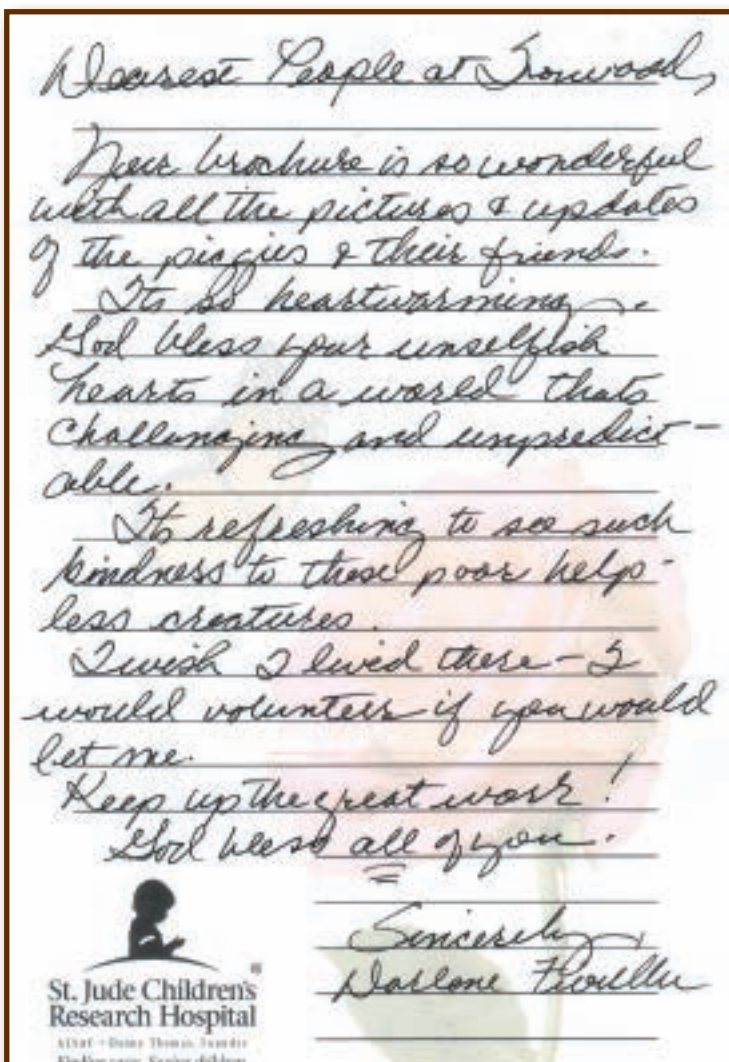
---Mary

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.
- * The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

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Princess & Rusty