

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

August 2023

There is no end in sight for the number of pigs needing sanctuary. We get phone calls and emails on almost a daily basis for people needing/wanting to get rid of their pigs. Many are placed in foster homes whenever possible. The number of strays has increased and they take priority for the limited space we have available because they have nowhere else to go. Elmo, an adult boar picked up by Pima County

Animal Care whose companion he was running loose with disappeared before the PACC officers arrived. Mama Tot, a stray that took refuge under a man's porch to give birth to her babies all of whom died except for a little boy we named



Momma Tot & Tater

Tater. Snoopy, an adult boar that appeared in someone's yard overnight. Cooper, a baby only 3-4 months old found running along the side of the road at night. Crowley and Tumbleweed, adult neutered



Cooper

males wandering through a neighborhood. These are just a few of the latest strays to join the Ironwood family. Ivan, Igor, and Blossom's owner was in jail having a friend care for his pigs. When the news came that he was going to prison, the friend said that was too long to keep doing the favor. Just as well, since none were altered and Blossom had a litter that all

died just weeks before we were asked to take them. The trio has now been spayed and neutered. Lola



Tumbleweed

was only 9-12 months old when she was brought to the vet clinic needing an emergency C-section. The owners didn't even know she was

pregnant and thought the cute pair of piglets they had were the same gender. They couldn't afford the surgery and were going to have the poor girl euthanized instead. One of our long-term foster moms got extremely ill and was no longer physically able to care for the pigs. Her 11 pigs including a full sized 550-pound hog named Superman were



Lola

moved to the sanctuary. The reasons may vary, but the need is the same...give these pigs a safe home. It is only with your continued support that we can move forward and keep our gate open for more pigs. Thank you for caring and for being there for them!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Waffles

Waffles is a sweet boy that came to Ironwood in May 2018 along with 11 family members rescued from a place that was breeding and selling the pigs for food. He was only 3-4 months old when he arrived. He and his family have a field of their own named Gotham City in honor of the two older boys, Batman and Robin. Waffles has had some serious medical problems this year that have yet to be completely resolved. It began in late January when a caretaker discovered that Waffles had what appeared to be a prolapsed rectum. He was immediately rushed to the vet clinic. During



anyone expected. It was during this time that the sanctuary was in the middle of the outbreak of a mysterious virus that was causing severe diarrhea and vomiting for many of our pigs. Unfortunately, Waffles came down with a bad case of it. His surgical checkup at the clinic turned into several days to be treated for the virus. Fortunately, his rectum had healed well and the purse string was removed. He still had to be watched closely for another prolapse brought on by the diarrhea which continued to plague him. For weeks, Waffles had a poor appetite and was weak from the effects of the virus on top of his surgery. He gradually improved and regained his

appetite. After being away from his family for over 9 weeks, Waffles was finally able to return to Gotham City. It was not a smooth reintroduction however, with a couple of the pigs treating him as an intruder and picking on him. We built a pen within the field where he could stay and work his way back into the group slowly during supervised time periods. It took quite a while, but the family finally accepted him.



Almost daily Waffles continues to have a mild case of diarrhea. We have experimented with different medications, supplements, and diet changes. With the help of the vets, we are still trying to find a solution for him. In the meantime, he remains in good spirits. Please send healing thoughts and prayers his way!

...Donna

*If you would like to help with Waffles' medical costs which came to \$4,382.47 please dedicate your donation in his name.
Thank you!*



After Surgery

the emergency surgery, the vet discovered a tear in the inner lining of the rectum. The tear was repaired and the rectum reinserted and held in place with a purse string type suture which could be tightened or loosened as needed during his recovery.

Waffles stayed in one of the individual pens in the holding area for his recovery period that ended up being much longer than



Dee, Waffles, & Mrs. Butterworth

Aida

A pair of pigs, later named Scott and Gwendolyn, were let loose in the desert when their owners moved away. Neighbors found them and took them to the Humane Society in Yuma, AZ. Gwendolyn was very pregnant and soon gave birth to a litter of nine piglets. When the babies were five weeks old, most of the family came to live at Ironwood (two babies were adopted out and two had died early on). Aida was one of those adorable little babies that came here in March of 2009.



community shelter in that section and the siblings began sleeping there with numerous other pigs, many of whom became lifelong friends. Aida and her brothers and sister remained in a close relationship during their years together. Sadly, she is the only one still living in that field. All but two family members have since passed on and those two have had to “retire” to smaller living quarters for health reasons.



Aida and her family lived in the holding area for a while after their arrival to give the youngsters time to grow up, get weaned, then be neutered and spayed. When they were ready to move on, Scott, Gwendolyn and the kids went to live in the Peoria Field, one of Ironwood’s largest fields. Mom and Dad drifted off to settle in different parts of the field while the kids stuck together and claimed their home territory near the back. There is a large



years. She takes daily medication to keep her comfortable. She may move a bit slower than she used to, but Aida gets around just fine in the Peoria Field where she still lives with a herd of 40 pigs. She no longer sleeps in the big shelter which was taken over by a group of younger pigs that joined the herd a couple of years ago. Her home territory remains the same, but she now stays in one of the smaller houses with her closest friend, Marilyn. The girls like to hang out with Peaches, Gertie, and Sal. All five of these pigs arrived at Ironwood within a few months of one another and have been a part of



Sal & Aida

Aida has been in good health for the past 14 years although she does have mild arthritis which is typical for a pig in their teen

the same group of buddies for the past 14 years. They have a special spot in the farthest corner of the field where they gather under the palo verde trees to nap and relax together. Aida is a happy gal and lucky to have such good friends to spend her time with. Your support allows her and her pig pals to remain together at Ironwood, living out their golden years in comfort and peace. Thank you!

...Donna

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