

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 116

JANUARY
2024



Mallow

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

January 2024

A New Year and time again to say I hope your Holidays were Healthy and Peaceful. All of us at Ironwood wish you a very Happy New Year ahead. The world is in turmoil at this time, so I look ahead to 2024 with a certain amount of anxiety. How do I find ways to deal with these anxious feelings of uncertainty? One way is to come into your home with the January Newsletter. We share with you some of the recent happenings at the Sanctuary like Donna's article about merging herds, several of our staff sharing their feelings about their favorite pig, frivolity in the Pig Leg game, new pigs to sponsor and the cover stories. Comfort comes with a sense of normality and stability. We have been following this routine that has gone on for so many years and it helps to ease the cares of the outside world around us.

For twenty years now I have welcomed in the New Year with a letter to our supporters as I am doing now in 2024. These years gone by have been so similar in content. So many lives have been saved each year and our mission has never faltered because of you, our dedicated staff, volunteers and our determination to carry on and make a difference in as many lives as we can. The road has never been smooth. It has been rough with every turn and always bumpy but always constant and growing. With your help, more lives are saved each year and we have lived up to our promise to give those who have come through our gate a life of safety, companionship, and care.

I focus on the lives like Pandora found by hikers in the middle of the desert, aided by the hikers and a good Samaritan who offered them help by coming back with a horse trailer to take her to safety so she could come to Ironwood. She is now safe and well and living with us. Also Casper picked up by PACC, Pima Animal Care Center, as a stray and released to us. Or Alvin, another young stray taken in by another caring family then released to us.

So this New Year begins with the hope of more lives saved and a sense of stability at Ironwood in the midst of an unstable and uncertain world. You and everyone at Ironwood and all of our other supporters are what give me hope for 2024 to be another good year for all of our pigs at Ironwood and those who will join us this year.

"It gives me great pleasure to take a stroll around Ironwood and see all the happy pigs contentedly grazing on hay or hanging out with their friends." This was my quote from 2003 and it is the same to this day and hopefully for 2024 and the years ahead.

Thank you so very much and have a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Pandora



Casper

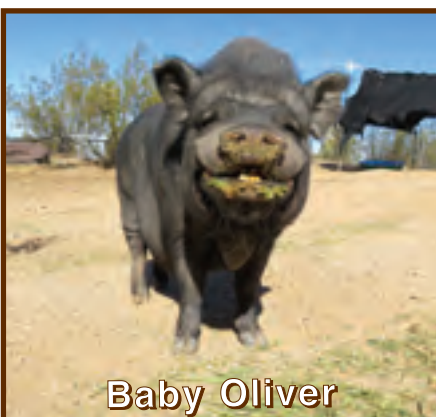


Alvin

Merging Princess & Kingman

Back in late 2006 we began enclosing an additional six acres on the west side of the sanctuary property to create several new fields for the ever-expanding population of piggies needing a forever home. In 2007, we began moving groups of pigs into their new homes. One of the new larger fields was named Princess Field in honor of a beautiful pig named Princess, owned by two generous donors who provided funding for the materials for that field.

Over the years, more pigs were added to that herd which topped out at 42 pigs at one point. The number fluctuated as the pigs grew old and “retired” to smaller living quarters designed for the elderly or passed away. None of the original herd members are still with us. Baby Oliver is not the oldest pig in the Princess herd, but he has been living there the longest having arrived in the fall of 2011. He was only 6 months



Baby Oliver

old and since we already had an adult Oliver in that herd, he was dubbed Baby Oliver. At nearly 13 years of age, this sweetheart is no

longer a baby, but the name fits him. Other pigs now ranging in age from 11.5-14.5 years, joined the herd during 2012 and 2013. Haiden, Joey, Ricky, Timmy, Doctor and Paisley Mae have all happily lived in Princess Field for over a decade. If you have ever come to Ironwood for a tour, you probably met Doctor. She is usually the first pig at the gate to greet visitors in her field. She loves the crowds and all the extra attention she can get.



**Tiny
Napping as Usual**

As the herd had dwindled down in numbers, a group of newly released pigs were added back in 2019. They had come from various places and situations. Some were family groups such as Charlotte, Sweet Cheeks, Rosalie, and Sugarfoot. Quite a few came from single pig homes like Wilburt, Freya, Pua, and Conner. Again, with the passing of time, pigs aged out of the herd. The population had dropped to 24 pigs during 2023. There was plenty of space for more to move in, so the question was, who would that be?

The back section of the L-shaped Princess Field had been enclosed

in the summer of 2021 to accommodate a large group that had been rescued from one home in Kingman, AZ. Since the majority of them were related and had close relationships with one another, we wanted to keep them together. None of the holding areas for new releases were large enough for the 14 pigs to live together, so after a short period in the holding pens for health checks, they all moved to the new place which we called Kingman. The two older adults, Gruntilda and Tiny, spend a lot of time sleeping, but the rest of them are young and active. We felt it was important to give them more space to roam. It was decided that the Kingman herd would merge with the Princess herd to give them more room.

The integration process was done gradually under supervision by the staff. When new pigs join an existing herd, there are always fights and scuffles as they get to know one another. The hierarchy



Supervising Pigs

of the herd is disrupted and the new ones must find their positions in the pecking order. This is established by pushing each other

around to see who backs down first. The staff's job is to serve as referee, allowing the pigs to get



Using Board

close and interact up to a point but stepping in to break it up when things get too heated. Each person carries a board with handles for easy maneuvering. During a pig fight, the board can be slid between the pigs to push them apart safely. Since the Kingman field is next door to Princess, their gate would be opened after breakfast to allow the pigs out into the larger area while supervised. Near the end of the day, we would coax all the Kingman group back to their area and close the gate, keeping everyone safe until the next day when someone was available to watch. That process went on for a week which went smoothly.

The next step was to add some feeding troughs in

the back of Princess Field and begin letting the Kingman group out first thing to be fed at the same time as the Princess herd. They had the choice to eat from those troughs or to go a bit farther into the field to eat with the Princess pigs. Birdie was the first to test that out and she did great. Chowder and Panini followed suit a couple of days later. Soon the gang was happily going back and forth between the two groupings of troughs. There was a little bit of hair-raising and chomping among members of the two herds but it actually went much smoother than expected. Since the feeding process went so well, we began leaving the Kingman gate open overnight so the pigs would have the option of being in either area. Within a week, we felt they were ready to make it official. After they were all eating from the troughs, the gate was closed and has remained that way. The troughs were gradually

moved up to where the Princess pigs' troughs are located. Now it is one large feeding area that they all share together.

For the Kingman pigs, that gate closure meant they now needed to choose shelters. Not surprisingly, they all decided to remain in that end of the field and took over the shelters in that area. That had

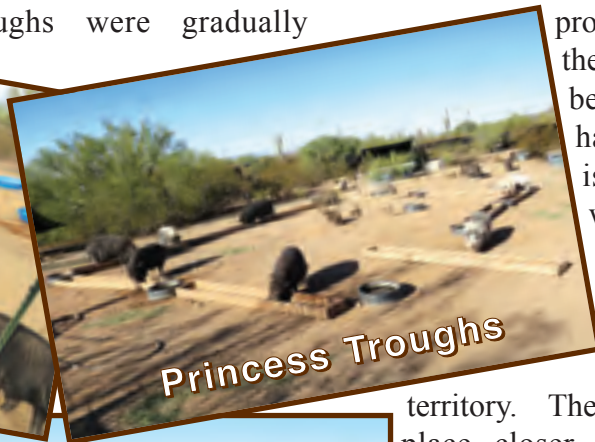


Conner

been the home territory of Princess pigs Conner, Daisy, and Pua. The three of them peacefully decided to move on and find different housing, probably realizing they were outnumbered. Conner has balance issues so we were happy to see that he didn't engage in fights to defend his territory. They found a nice place closer to the middle portion of the field and are happily settled in. George and P.W., brothers that live in the next "neighborhood" up the hill from Kingman, caused the most trouble. They weren't about to give up their homes and stood their ground. During



Kingman Troughs



Princess Troughs



Combined Troughs

one of the territorial scuffles, George got a fairly deep bite on one ear. He endured a few days of



George

getting Neosporin applied to the wound and it healed up nicely. Sweet Cheeks was another victim of an ear bite. Ears are easy, tender targets and it is common to find wounds there. Other than a few minor scratches on Panini, Elaine Card, and McMuffin, all Kingman pigs, there weren't many other injuries. Despite our best efforts with supervising, we cannot be present 24/7 so issues did occur when we weren't there. Overall though, the transition was quicker and smoother than usual.

For some of the Princess pigs, it was not even noticeable. Ricky, Timmy, Doctor, Paisley Mae, and a handful of others stay in the upper part of the L-shaped field and never wander down the other direction. So far, the Kingman pigs have shown no interest in exploring further than the mid-section of that back leg of the field. That may change over time as they get more comfortable, but for now nothing at all changed for that front group of pigs. Joey, one of the older Princess pigs, gave up his favorite sunny nap spot by the mesquite tree where the Kingman pigs settled. He just went with the flow and meandered off to find another place to hang out.

So, the Kingman pigs are now Princess pigs. Their old field will be used for a large group of 27 pigs that have been living in the holding pens. We have been working with introducing them to one another during time in the

exercise yard, again under supervision of "referees." The Kingman field has been expanded into part of Apache's, the neighboring area. Once those 27 are in place and comfortable in their new home, the integration process used with the Kingman/Princess combination will be repeated to merge them with the Apache herd. Eventually, the two fields will



Cricket & Lady Macbeth in New Territory

become one. Apache's Field will be one large area...another story for another day. Hopefully, it goes as well as this one did.

...Donna

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- *=High Priority
- **Used Blankets are needed year round.**
- *First Class **Forever** Stamps
- *Canned Pumpkin
- *Animal Crackers
- Prunes
- Ensure (or Generic) - **Vanilla Only**
- Peanut Butter, **Creamy ONLY**
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)



Crockett

GIFT CARDS

- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowe's
- Office Max
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Walgreen's
- Tractor Supply

When shipping donations through USPS, please **ONLY** ship to POB 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740-5490. Do NOT use the physical address.

Medical Updates

Ironwood creates eleven newsletters each year (every month except December.) The even numbered months are a smaller issue that includes an appeal for donations to help a specific pig who has accumulated a large veterinary bill. You did an outstanding job of stepping up to cover those expenses during 2023! We truly appreciate the support you gave these piggies. Here is an update on how each of them is currently doing. If you want to refresh your mind about their stories, the newsletters are available on our website.

February's issue featured Lula Mae who had been attacked by dogs and had her back leg broken in two places. She recovered beautifully from orthopedic



Lula Mae

surgery. Every day she goes out for a long turn in the exercise yard and is able to run around to explore the area around all the outbuildings and staff housing in the front portion of the sanctuary property. Watching her scurry excitedly from one spot to another, you'd never believe that she has a plate in her back leg.

There is no lameness or stiffness at all. Lula Mae has had a fantastic, healthy year!

Birdie was in the April newsletter after a long stay at the vet clinic suffering from the virus that swept through our herds last



Birdie

winter. It still remains a mystery...all the testing never came up with a specific diagnosis. It hit like a runaway train starting in late December 2022 then just faded away once the weather got warmer in March. Birdie was extremely ill and almost didn't make it. After finally returning to her field, it didn't take long for her to regain the weight she had lost during her illness and she has maintained a perfect weight. Recently her family from the Kingman Field began a slow integration into the neighboring Princess Field. You can read about that merging of herds in the article on pages 3-5. Birdie handled the change like a champ. Unfortunately, during the introductory phase, the poor girl became ill. As soon as the temperatures dropped to the 40s at night, the diarrhea virus reared its

ugly head once again. Several pigs have been ill, but none have been in serious condition. Because of last winter's struggle, Birdie was immediately whisked off to the vet clinic for IV fluids and medication. Luckily, she made a quick recovery and four days later was back at Ironwood to continue recuperating in one of the holding pens. She was kept there for a while just to be sure she was okay before heading out to rejoin her family. All is well for Birdie and she is loving the extra space and exciting things to explore in her new field.

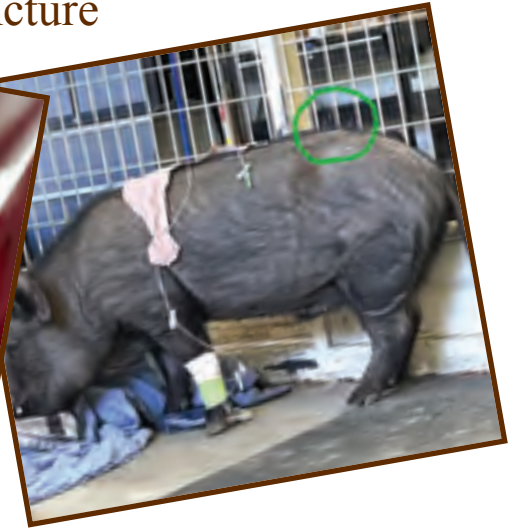
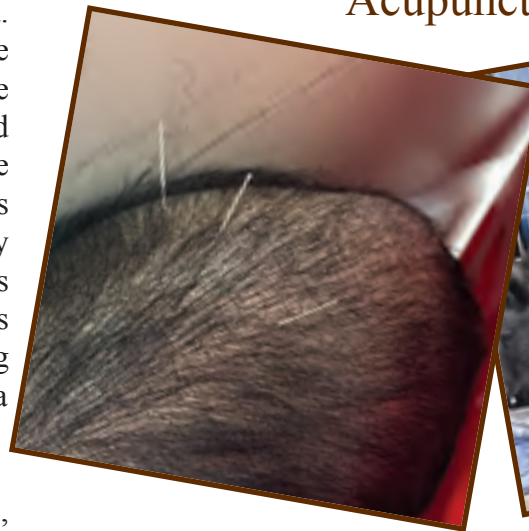
In June's issue, you were introduced to Tomahawk, a stray that had suffered through numerous dog attacks over a period of time based on the various wounds. This sweet boy has made several more trips to the vet clinic for chronic problems with abscesses from the deepest of his bite wounds, the worst of which is on the poor guy's rear-end. Tomahawk has to be put under anesthesia for deep cleaning and lancing on that one



Tomahawk

whenever it comes to a head. Besides the chronic abscesses, he also has permanent joint damage and is therefore slow and sometimes lame. He lives in one of the smaller, special care areas with three elderly pigs and is very happy there. Despite all his medical problems, Tomahawk has a great attitude and loves getting attention from people. He is a gentle, loving boy.

Acupuncture



Next up in August was Waffles, also a victim of last winter's virus. This sweet boy is still having troubles that may or may not be related to the effects of the virus. He has had chronic diarrhea and weight loss requiring several additional trips to the vet. One visit found his intestines full of sand which had to be flushed out of his system. At an October exam, he was diagnosed with

vet said he was the perfect patient and did very well. Waffles has been doing better since the treatment but may never get back to 100% good health. He gets lots of special attention and is watched closely for further problems. The megacolon makes it more difficult to pass stool normally through his system but as long as it comes out, we're happy about that.

On a happy note, though, Pearl is doing fantastic. After losing her friend Elmo, she began taking her turns in the exercise yard with Lula Mae. Pearl didn't show much interest in Lula Mae at first,



Waffles

megacolon, an abnormal dilation of the colon, most likely caused by the sand which was again in his intestines. During another visit to the clinic, a vet specializing in acupuncture came and did a treatment on Waffles. He is the first and only Ironwood pig to undergo acupuncture! The

The last medical appeal from the October issue was for spays and neuters. The article featured Pearl and Elmo. Unfortunately, days after that newsletter went to the printers, Elmo developed a severe UTI. He was treated at the clinic then returned to the sanctuary to continue antibiotics. His condition continued to deteriorate and he was rushed back to the clinic after he began bleeding. There was an encapsulated abscess lodged in his bladder and the infection had caused more damage to the area than he could recover from. It was heartbreaking to lose this young, handsome, sweet boy.



Pearl

but the girls were soon getting along just fine. They are now sharing a pen that has two shelters so they can still have some privacy while building their relationship.

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for caring about these piggies and helping them with their medical bills. You are the best!

...Donna

Sponsor a S



Fig

I came from a nice home but my companion pig, Nutmeg, is very aggressive and got too difficult to deal with. We now happily live at the sanctuary with a herd of pigs.



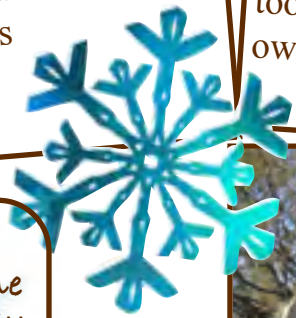
Primrose

Even thinking about my previous home gives me nightmares! It was a total disaster. I am so glad to be here where my family, friends and I are safe and well fed.



Karen

I am a gal with when it comes to good care of my too big and much owner to handle



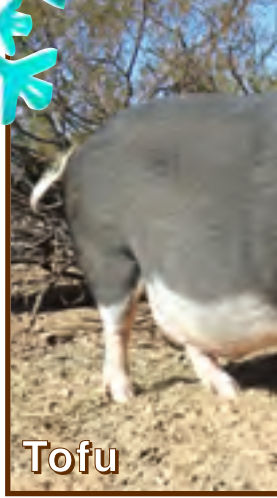
These pigs would love to start the New Year as part of your family! A \$30 monthly donation will provide support for one pig of your choice to help with their basic daily needs. You will receive photos and a letter with your pig's information. Later in the year you will get an update about your piggy. Please join our family of sponsors today!

** Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!*

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



Gorda & Donna



Tofu

My humans moved and couldn't take My friend Micker live at the sanctuary here and being pa

Special Pig!



a bit of an attitude
o people, but I take
y family which grew
h too fast for my
or afford.



Meringue

My owner was arrested for
animal abuse. It was a horrible
home! I've been at Ironwood for
almost a year now. And
what a fantastic year it
has been!



Angelina

I came from a home where the
breeding was out of control. A
bunch of us were having babies
before we were even a year old.
Thank goodness that is over and
done!



ed far, far away
e me with them.
y and I came to
ary. I love living
art of a herd.



Kevin

I've been around the block...
dumped in a vacant lot as a baby,
then to a foster home, adopted for a
year, returned to the foster then
finally to Ironwood, my forever
home.



Kristoff

I was born at Ironwood after my
mom, Elsa, was rescued. Got a
birthday coming up in April!
Getting a sponsor would be the
best early birthday gift ever!

We Love Our Pigs

Even if you've never been around pigs before, it's hard not to fall in love with them once you meet them. All of us here have our favorites...often too many to choose from! But most of us that work at the sanctuary have a particular pig that tugs at our heart for one reason or another. Meet a few of our staff members and their favorite piggies.

Amy has been with Ironwood for almost 1.5 years and lives onsite. She is one of the caretakers that helps with feeding along with a multitude of day-to-day chores involved in caring for the pigs.



I feel such a bond with Tomahawk. Believe it or not this guy is such an incredible inspiration to me. I remember when Leslie and I went to go get him and take him to the vet after he had been attacked by the dogs. He was cowering by a wall covered in blood, his ears shredded, and most of his hair and skin was scraped off and he couldn't put any pressure on his front leg. He was a mess! I got down on one knee and touched his nose. I just wanted to somehow let him know that we were there to help him. Then he looked up and I saw those big brown eyes. Tomahawk has the most beautiful eyes!! In my heart I didn't think we would see him again after we dropped him at the vet. He was in such bad shape, I thought he wouldn't survive. But he did,



and here he is, bigger than life and spunky as can be. He loves belly rubs and being sprayed down with the water hose. He likes to jump up on the gate when you're making his food. And there is just no resisting those eyes!! Tomahawk reminds me that no matter how bad things get, it can all turn around in an instant. I don't know where he came from before that day he was attacked by those dogs, but I do know he is living his best life and he is happy here at the sanctuary. -Amy

Rhys has been a part of Ironwood for 2 years in a variety of roles. He was on the watering team first, switched to toweling for the hot season, became a "watcher" keeping pigs safe during transitions into new herds, and is now back as one of our key watering staff.



Norris was a highly aggressive boar when he came to the sanctuary. With time, love, and care, though, he's as sweet as can be. -Rhys



Caleb, part of Ironwood's maintenance crew for 1.5 years, not only helps keep everything shipshape around the property but also participates in offsite rescues, loading pigs for transport, securing pigs in position for medical treatments, etc.



I like Hercules' demeanor. The fact that everyone is scared of him takes away from how sweet he is. I love his tongue hanging out and he always looks ready to play. -Caleb



disabled, or sick pigs from overheating during the hot summer by placing cold, wet towels across their backs. As the weather cooled off, she transitioned to the watering team.



I decided to choose Ms. Charley because she's such an appreciative pig. Every morning before I start my job, I'm greeted by Charley waiting for behind-the-ear scratches! During the summertime, Charley would get hot and I spent a lot of time cooling her down and making sure she was taken care of.-Kassie



Kassie started work in the summer of 2023 as a "toweler" whose role was to keep the elderly,



Gene is a caretaker that was hired a year ago to help feed the pigs, hand out medications, dole out special juices and mashes...all the "ingredients" for the daily meals and meds.

*Mr. White, my perfect delight, in you I see sweet radiant light
As you rush up gleefully and eagerly
And look me in the eyes with gentle expectancy
So clearly as glad to see me as you are to receive that treat*

*A personality so charming and magnetic
An aura so cheerful and energetic
I am lifted by your presence, inspired by your attitude
I feel your pure zest for life, your abundance of gratitude*

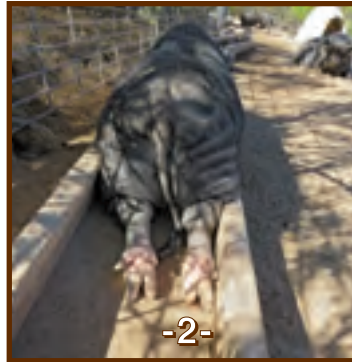


*Thank you for that simple wisdom at which you hint
That paradise can be found in a simple moment
Just pause, observe, reflect, and connect
With Father God, Mother Earth, and their creatures so perfect
-Gene*

Pig Leg



-1-



-2-

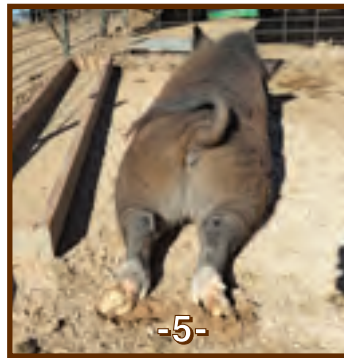


-3-



-4-

Finding piggies lying with their back legs stretched out behind them always makes us smile! It's so cute!



-5-



-6-



-7-

Are you ready for a challenge? Can you match these flexible pig legs to their owners? You can find the answers at the bottom of page 15. No peeking!



A-Aunt Jemima



B-Faline



C-Natasha



D-Shaq



E-Elma



F-Ethan



G-Pixie

Do You Need a Will?

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a will legally protect your spouse, children, and assets, it can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on.



Some people think that only the very wealthy or those with complicated assets need wills.

Why you should have a will:

- You can be clear about who gets your assets and decide who gets what and how much.
 - You can keep your assets out of the hands of people you don't want to have them.
 - You can identify who should care for your children or animals.
- Without a will, the courts will decide.

•Let your legacy reflect your heart. If your heart is in the animal rescue and care work of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a bequest will ensure that future generations of needy pigs will receive vital support.



Sugarfoot

Amazon and Chewy

Both are easy! On Ironwood's website, www.ironwoodpigs.org, go to the "Support Page" and click on the links in the drop-down menu to go directly to our wish lists on both sites.

Matching Company Donations

Many companies offer programs to match charity donations made by their employees and retirees, often doubling or even tripling your gift. When making a donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary on our website, it's easy to see if your employer will match your donation. On our Support Page in the Donate box, select an amount then enter your company's name. It will immediately tell you if your company will match your gift. Your gift along with your employer's match, will go even further toward the care of the over 670 pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary.



Priscilla

Front & Back Cover



Mallow has grown up to become a beautiful silver-gray young lady. She and her mom, Marsha, arrived in February of 2021 when she was a baby. They were strays who wandered into a pasture and

were attacked by a horse living there who was kicking and biting Marsha in particular. A neighbor who is one of our supporters called us immediately after the pigs were safe and secured. We picked them up and took them directly to Adobe vet clinic where they were examined and treated for wounds that were fortunately not too severe. Not long after they were recovered and spayed, they were moved to the Main Field. During that time, Mallow has changed her color from black to silver-gray. They are both kind of shy and are sort of loners, but Marsha and Mallow will both welcome a quiet pet and happily follow you to ask for more please. They love being out at this time of year wandering the large Main Field picking up every last hay scrap



Mallow & Marsha

along with many others who they share the field with. What a beautiful twosome they have turned out to be and can remain a mother-daughter pair forever.



Meadow

Page 16

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 116

Meadow and her three sisters, Mimosa, Magnolia and Maybelline, were part of a large hoarding situation in April of 2022. Their mom, Daffodil, and her younger litter of babies were also part of the same rescue along with goats and at least 55 dogs. They were confiscated by the Pima County Sheriff's Department. There were no boars on the property and we never heard about what happened to them. A temporary rescuer had all of the pigs at her home. We brought Daffodil and her small babies home first and then a couple days later, went back for the four girls that we affectionately now call the M&M's. Meadow was always the most social, but now over time, they have all become friendly. Meadow and her sisters were so happy to have wallows to play in and a shelter with warm blankets when they arrived. They have had a relatively small area to call their own over the past year. However, they have recently been released into the large Northwest Field where they are gradually making the adjustment with a large herd. They can still retreat back to their smaller secure area for now as they learn how



much fun it is to be able to stretch their legs more and run and play.

Across

4. Ironwood is a _____ for over 670 pot-bellied pigs.

7. Waffles had acupuncture to help correct his _____.

9. What do most of the pigs at the sanctuary eat from?

10. The pigs are separated into _____ based on their personalities and physical abilities.

12. Pigs like to sleep inside their _____.

Down

1. Pigs may _____ when integrated into a new herd.

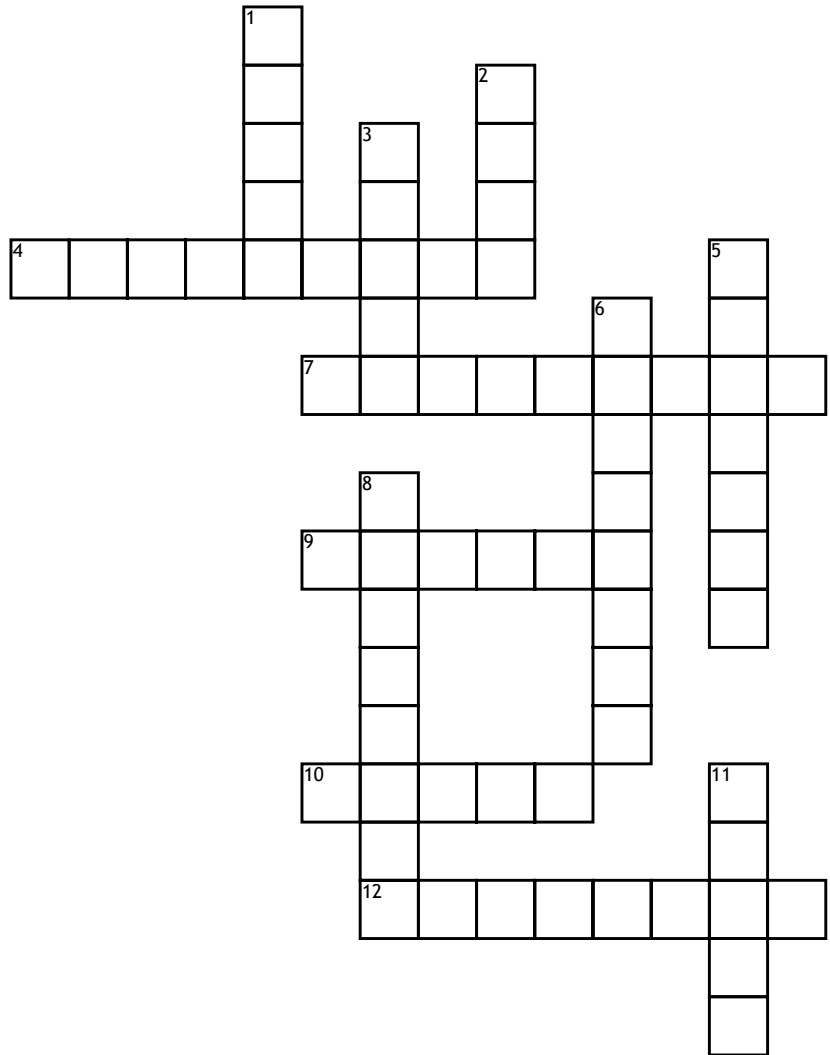
2. What surgery did Pearl have done at the vet clinic?

3. What did Lula Mae have surgically placed in her broken leg?

5. What do the pigs on pages 8 and 9 all need?

6. Which pig has no ears and can be found in two different articles in this issue?

8. The _____ and Kingman herds were combined into one large group.



11. What was Birdie sick with that required her to stay at the vet clinic so long?



Pig Leg Answers

1F- Ethan, 2D- Shaq, 3A- Aunt Jemima, 4G- Pixie, 5B- Faline, 6E- Elma, 7C- Natasha

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US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

JANUARY 2024
ISSUE 116

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Meadow