

IRONWOOD

22ND ANNIVERSARY

JUNE
2012

MAY
2023

Daisy

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

May 2023

Thanks to you we are celebrating our 22nd year as the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and it is indeed a sanctuary. We have been able to be here for so many years only because you have been here with us. It is wonderful to love pigs and to rescue pigs, but what happens after the glow of having



Maggie

saved a life is past? The adrenalin drops and we have to settle down to the hard work ahead. And hard work it is. Once they are here, there is so much to do for them. So many come as strays and have been attacked by dogs like Maggie and Tomahawk



Tomahawk

or shot like Timon or abandoned in a park with his blanket like Polar Bear. Often, they are loose on the street or in the desert like pregnant little Miki Jo. Maggie and Tomahawk were near death and were taken directly to Adobe Vet Center for intensive care. Timon would have been dispatched on site by an officer had we not picked him up and again delivered him directly to Adobe for treatment. The



Polar Bear

aftercare for these kinds of rescues takes a lot of extra time and attention. It is rare we get a healthy pig even if they have



Miki Jo



Timon

come from a home. Those are often obese and require special diets and attention to bring them back to health. So many situations pull at our heartstrings. This past year Ironwood had so many situations that pulled so hard, we had to respond. In all, 97 new pigs came through Ironwood's gate. Sadly, the vast majority were from large hoarding/neglect situations where Pima Animal Care Center and the Sheriff were involved. We were called to help with the pigs. No one but a rescue could take pigs in such large groups with babies having babies and no homes to be found. Daffodil came to us with two of her litters. They were scared and huddled in a corner when we picked them up. Now they are healthy and happy and no longer have any fear in their eyes since they know we are here to care for them.

The list is long and endless. Behind every little soul who



Daffodil & Babies

comes through our gate is a story that is often better to not be told. But of all the rescues we have done in these past twenty-two years, none has affected me more than the Kune Island pigs that Donna has written about in an article in this newsletter. We got a call at 2:30 pm on Monday afternoon January 23, 2023. We were told that the Pima County Sheriff's Department and Pima Animal Care Center were in need of help to remove a large number of pigs from a property that night. When we arrived at the property, the court order had not yet been finalized and we had to wait until nearly dark to start the rescue. The owner was taken off the property to jail. I could not have prepared myself for what I saw. The pigs were living in muck a foot and a half deep that smelled like a sewer. We could



not even maneuver through it. The pigs could not lift their legs out of the muck. They were only able to move by pushing through the sludge. There was no food or water anywhere. In order to rescue the pigs we had to find boards that we tossed onto the mud to create a bridge to walk on in order to pull the pigs to safety. The temperature was dropping to 27 degrees that night, so we had to remove every pig in order to save them. Three large Kunekunes were piled up on top



of each other in a stock tank while little Mowgli was crying as he tried to crawl on top of them to safety. One by one, we were able to pull them out of the muck until all were safely in a carrier or trailer and delivered to a safe foster home by midnight. Volunteers arrived with extra carriers and trailers to help. The efforts of so many made it possible to save these poor wretched beings. Some had already passed away in the sea of muck. On that miserable night, the lives of 23 hapless pigs were saved and then the hard work

began. Yes, after the glow of the rescue is gone, this is where your contributions make it possible for us to do the work ahead. That includes spays, neuters, medical care, fencing, grain, staffing and all that goes with saving another 97 fortunate pigs this past year. We are so grateful for your help to give life and care to these wonderful pigs.

Another year has passed and many lives have been saved. This is who we are and what we do. With your help, we will do it again in the year ahead. Thank you for making this past year so meaningful.

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder



Polar Bear & Mary

PS: I want to thank all of you who expressed concern about the outbreak of diarrhea that I wrote about in the March newsletter. I am happy to say, for now at least, we are free of the dreaded virus that caused so much anguish for us and our pigs.

Kune Island

During 22 years of rescuing pigs, we have seen some filthy, disgusting places and heart wrenching ways that pigs are mistreated and abused, but the rescue on January 23, 2023 beat them all. The group consisted of Kunekunes, pot-bellies and mixes of the two. None of the pigs were altered so it was imperative to get males and females separated. A quick plan was thrown together when word of this emergency rescue got to us. The 11 males were taken to a trusted foster home. The 10 females plus 2 young males were brought to Ironwood.

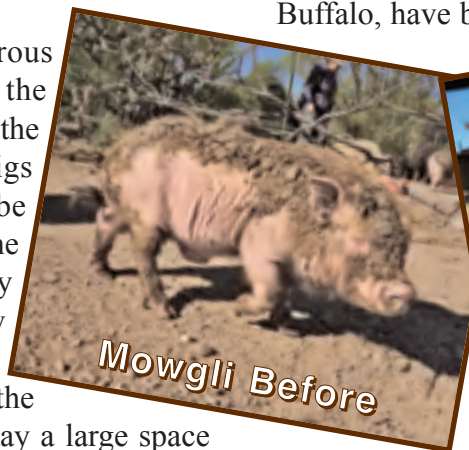
After numerous threats from the owner, we felt the group of pigs needed to be moved out of the area normally used for new arrivals which is within sight of the road. The next day a large space in the back of the Main Field was fenced in, shelters were moved there, a shade ramada was built



Kune Island

and water bowls and pools put in place. The pigs were crated and moved to their new home which was dubbed Kune Island, a safe sanctuary for them. Their hooves had never been trimmed and were in horrible condition due to the wet, muddy environment they came from. Getting those long hooves trimmed became a priority to help the pigs walk with ease.

Once the case went to court and the judge ruled in favor of the pigs staying at Ironwood, we began naming our new "kids." It was exciting to see how quickly they became comfortable here. The two young boys, Mowgli and Buffalo, have been neutered,



Mowgli Before



Mowgli Now

gone through their 45-day quarantine (the length of time that males can still be fertile after neutering) and are back on Kune Island with their family. Mowgli was coated with such a thick layer of dried mud when he arrived that he had to be bathed before going to the vet. Patches of hair came off along with the muck so he still looks a bit scruffy. All the males at the foster home have been

neutered as well. The girls will be spayed as time allows but the threat of more pregnancies is over. One of the ladies, a sweetheart we named Kiwi, was far along in her pregnancy when rescued and had 4 healthy boys on February 22nd. Kiwi has been an



Kiwi & Kids

excellent mom for Pumpkin, Butternut, Blackberry and Dragon Fruit. After they have grown up more and been neutered, they will join the others in Kune Island.

The 2 largest of the group, Koi and Calico, are pushy and rough with the smaller pigs during meals. Two pens were



Koi & Calico

built for them to eat in so that the others can eat in peace and get their fair share. Koi and Calico have no issues about going into their pens because they know they'll be fed there. The rest of the group happily feed from troughs and bowls. After the grain is eaten, everyone grazes on alfalfa hay together.



Eating Breakfast

Most of the group are in decent health despite the conditions they came from. Buffalo and Smoochie both look stunted with dwarflike legs most likely from the inbreeding that occurred. They walk a bit oddly but it doesn't slow them down much.



Smoochie & Buffalo

Silky was barely able to stand when she first got here and was put on pain medication right away. Her back and sides were bloody and painful from the constant unwanted attention from

the males. The wounds have healed leaving heavy scarring. After having the chance to relax and be left alone, her legs have



Silky & Meringue

gained strength and she is now walking normally. Silky is obviously loved and respected by the other pigs. Cupcake, Meringue and the other younger ones often stop by to nuzzle her. It's so sweet! Satin and

medication. An orthopedic specialist, after checking her x-rays, said there was nothing that could be done. Although Dobby is still lame, there has been some improvement and she does not appear to be in too much pain. No longer having males on her repeatedly or struggling through thick mud has probably made a huge difference for her. And look at the change in her appearance after being fed properly! Looking good, Dobby!

We have all fallen in love with the Kune Island pigs. We are so thankful they never have to go back to that awful place. Thanks to your support, we were not only



Dobby Before



Dobby Now

Creampuff, the other two adults, remain shy with us, but they are warming up as time goes by.

Dobby, approximately a year old, has had the most difficulty as far as health issues. She had a bad limp and went to the vet clinic for x-rays early on. The head of her humerus is gone so her leg is completely dislocated from her shoulder. It could be a congenital condition or from an injury that occurred early in her life. She received shock wave treatments at the clinic and is on pain

able to rescue them from their plight, but also able to give them a permanent home and medical care. Kisses from Kune Island for your help!

...Donna



Creampuff & Cupcake

The Scottsdale Girls

Our last large rescue of 2022 was another case of out-of-control breeding that could easily have been avoided if the owner had gotten her male pig neutered. Instead, two pigs quickly became a nightmare with babies having more babies. The owner couldn't afford to feed them all, so the pigs were suffering from malnutrition. Once we became aware of the situation, the first priority was separating males from females. The 10 males stayed at their home in Scottsdale, AZ to be neutered later by a mobile vet, paid for by Ironwood. The 11 females came to the sanctuary in early December. The girls were very tiny and thin. They were placed in the backyard of one of the onsite staff houses.

Creating a comfortable home for them included the expenses for new shelters, feed troughs, water bowls and pools. These girls needed vitamin supplements and extra grain to help them regain their health. Medical expenses



The Family



Sonograms

began with the vet coming for an onsite visit to perform sonograms on all the pigs to determine who was pregnant and how far along they were. We plan to get all of them spayed at some point, but they first needed to gain weight and get healthy. Those who were pregnant had to get past the birthing and weaning of their babies.

The oldest girl whom we named Karen, is approximately 3 years old, barely a full-sized adult herself. The others appear to have come from 3 different litters judging by their sizes.

Two of the young girls, around 8-10 months old, were pregnant and close to term. Rifkiah had 5 undersized babies on December 19th. Despite efforts to supplement their feeding, 2 of them died 2 weeks later. Leah had 4 babies on December 27th, again all

were very small and sadly none of them survived past a few days. It is believed the losses were due to the moms' young ages, how malnourished they were while pregnant and to top it all off, soon after giving birth both moms contracted the diarrhea virus that plagued the sanctuary during the winter months. The girls tried so hard with their litters but had so many factors working against them. However, the 3 surviving babies, Asher, Chaya and Levi, are all doing great.



Leah, Rifka & Babies

The 10 young girls have grown quite a bit during the past few months and all are maintaining a good weight and looking much healthier. Most of them look very



Marcelle, Adelida & Angelina



Kendra & Sisters

similar so it's difficult to tell them apart, but we're learning the different markings in order to identify Uma, Rebecca, Angelina, Leah, Rifka, Mara, and Feather. Adelida and Marcelle are easy to know because of their gray coloring and Kendra looks like

her mom Karen. When the girls arrived here, they were very frightened of people and would run for the hills every time we came into their yard. They are more comfortable with us now but remain untouchable. The big momma, Karen, is a different



Karen & Daughters

story. She is not afraid of anything or anyone and is actually very aggressive. It got to the point that we had to build a pen to put her in during meals so that the others could be fed without the caretaker getting bitten. Karen can be a stinker!

The Scottsdale Girls had a rough start to their young lives but can now grow up to adulthood with plenty of food, clean water and shelter. Their health and safety are ensured and another mad breeding situation is shut down. Good news all around!

...Donna

Happy Anniversary, Ironwood!

The sanctuary has been open and going at full speed for 22 years! Hundreds and hundreds of pigs have come through our gates over the years. The majority have come to live out their lives here, roaming freely in fields with herd mates, friends and family in a safe, protected environment. Some have been adopted to individual forever homes after yard checks and education about pig ownership.

Thank you for being a part of all their lives.

Here's to all the pigs that have called Ironwood home during the past 22 years!!



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.

Sponsor a S



Mowgli

At my old home, I was always so plastered with thick mud and gunk that most of my hair got pulled out. But I'm living a clean life now and feel so much better.



Silky

I got roughed up pretty badly at my other home and could barely walk when I got here. Look at me now, though! I am living such a relaxed and happy life here.



Baby Face

I have food all the time on a special diet. I get lots of the good vegetables plus a treat for me. Yum!

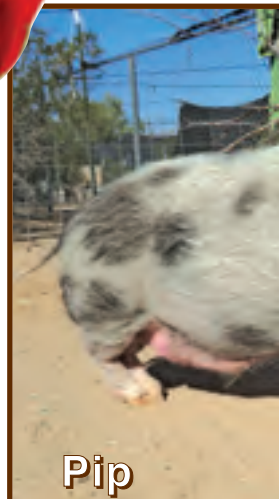
Any of these sweet piggies would love to be a part of your family. Pick one to support with a \$30 monthly donation. In exchange, you'll receive photos and a letter with your pig's story. Later in the year, you will get an update and new pictures to keep you connected to your piggy. Become a sponsor today!



Donna With Buffalo

** 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



Pip

My human got re-arranged and couldn't care for me. I have weak front legs and was placed in one of the back areas. Ironwood Pigs took care of me!

Special Pig!



ergies and need to be
t. That just means I
ood stuff... fruits and
a special grain just



Smoochie

I'm a little piggy that loves hugs
and kisses from people! I love
living here with my family! I
love being in a safe, clean place!
I just love everything and
everybody!



Nurse Judy

I was a stray with 7 young babies.
Can you imagine what I went
through! Thank goodness some
nice people helped me feed my
family and got Ironwood to come
get us.



al sick and
me any longer. I
legs, so I was
the special care
is taking good



Cupcake

I've been here a few months now
and I just have to say that I am so
happy to be here! My other home
was a horrible disaster of a place.
It's great to be cared for!



Pixie

I'm one of Nurse Judy's boys.
(She's on this page too.) I sure
hope someone picks me and my
mom to sponsor. I promise to be
the best piggy boy you've ever
had!

Happy Mother's Day



Each May a special day is set aside to celebrate and honor mothers. Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is proud to say there has never been an incident of breeding among our pigs in the 22 years that we have been open. However, there have been many occasions when we have rescued families of pigs or taken in a female that is far along in her pregnancy and has

babies after her arrival at the sanctuary. That has been the case several times in the past year, as evidenced in this issue's articles about large rescues. Whenever possible, we attempt to keep the families together when they are ready to move out into one of the large fields.



Below are photos of several of Ironwood's mothers. Match them up with one of their children on the next page. Some of these are tricky so look at their features closely.

(Answers can be found at the bottom of page 15 but no peeking yet!)



Stella



Chardonnay



Miriam



Maple



Karter



Charlotte



Marsha



Shakira



Elvis



Christine



Mallow



She-ra



Dante



Sweet Cheeks



Morgan



Liz

Being a mother is not always easy. We have seen moms step on their babies, lie down on them, ignore them, not let them nurse, or get angry and snap at them. Most of the mothers have done perfect jobs of raising their babies and couldn't be more loving and attentive. It is sweet to see the bonds that form, especially when those stay intact after years of living within a large herd out in the fields. Producing and raising more piggies is definitely not on Ironwood's agenda, but we celebrate and honor those moms who have made their way through our gate and into our hearts. Now, go give your own mom a big hug and a word of thanks!

...Donna



Mrs. Butterworth

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.

Seventh Heaven

During the emergency rescue of the mix of pot-bellied pigs and Kunekune pigs on January 23rd, quick decisions had to be made as to where to place the pigs. Eleven older males were taken to a foster home while the ten females and two young males came to Ironwood. Those 11 males tipped the scales too far at the foster home and changes had to be made. In order to keep the unaltered pigs separate, it was decided to bring a group of 7 of the couple's other pigs here rather than bring the boys over. That would open up space for her to shift the males into two manageable groups. There just happened to be an enclosed area in the back of the North Field that would work just fine for the 7 pigs. Another shelter was added, the roof of the large shelter got repaired and all the houses were filled with blankets. It wasn't long before we were ready for the pigs to move in. The place was dubbed Seventh Heaven in honor of the new arrivals.



Lulu

Lulu is the matriarch of the group. She is a feisty 2-year-old who has already been whisked through 3 different homes.



Silas



Rupert



Bert



Ernie

Each new owner got rid of her because of her behavior. Her grudge toward humans seems to be focused on females in particular. She can be a handful, for sure! Lulu is very protective of the youngsters, Rupert and Silas, who are 9 months

old. They are not hers by birth, but she "adopted" them and keeps a close eye on them, getting defensive when anyone tries to pet them. The boys are sweeties and love getting attention if you're brave enough to face down Lulu.

The other 4 members of the group are all brothers who had

originally been found as newborns with their mom in a vacant lot. Bert, Ernie, Kevin and Hershey were raised in a foster home then once they had been weaned and neutered, the boys were adopted by a woman in Phoenix. About a year later she moved into a new home and decided she no longer wanted to have pigs. The 2 pairs, Bert & Ernie and Kevin & Hershey, not only look very different in size and coloring but also have differing personalities. The spotted boys are very outgoing and bold. The black boys are





friendly but much more reserved and calm. It's hard to believe they came from the same litter.

make Seventh Heaven comfortable and the transport of the group all happened within 3 days. Your support allows us to have the means and materials to make these kinds of quick turn arounds in

order to get pigs safely into place. Thank you for making it happen once again!

The decision to move these pigs to Ironwood, the preparations to

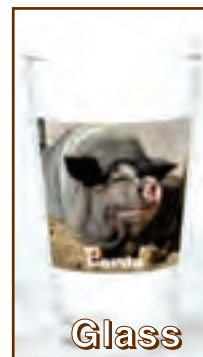
...Donna

Ironwood's Online Store

On the Home Page of www.ironwoodpigs.org, find "Support" on the menu bar then choose "Store" from the drop-down menu. You'll find fun Ironwood products for yourself or gifts for any occasion!



Apron



Glass



Pillow

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Used Blankets are needed year round.**
- *First Class Forever Stamps
- *Canned Pumpkin *High Priority*
- *Animal Crackers *High Priority*
- *Sheets *High Priority*
- Prunes
- Ensure, **Vanilla ONLY**
- Peanut Butter, **Creamy ONLY**
- Omeprazole 20mg
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)
- Probiotic VSL#3 **ONLY (No Substitutes)**



Charley

GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- 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.

Front & Back Cover



This is Daisy's second appearance as a Cover Girl, but how could I resist this cute picture on our 22nd year anniversary. Daisy is truly an icon here at Ironwood. When we brought her to Ironwood in 2013, we were told she

was 12 and had too much determination (pushiness) for her caregiver, who was ill, to cope with anymore. Back in 2017 when she was our Cover Girl, I wrote that she was a lot for us to handle as well and her forcefulness was so evident that we soon began feeding her in her own pen not long after she arrived. Of course, she has slowed down now, but still after all these years she is at her gate each morning pushing her way into her pen for breakfast then out with her field mates grazing on the late morning hay treat. Congratulations and good health to you, our dear old girl! If she really was 12 when she came to Ironwood in 2013, then she is also celebrating her 22nd year. I suspect otherwise but hey, what could be more appropriate for a second chance as the Cover Girl!!



Hammie & Daisy



Page 16

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 112

We have named their field Karter's Kasino after the four pigs remaining from the June 2013 rescue of six pigs living at a defunct gambling casino and mafia hangout in the desert west of Tucson. The casino had been abandoned for years and the property was littered with old RVs, cars, trucks, etc and squatters had settled there. One of the squatters had at least provided water for the herd of pigs that had been left behind. The property was sold so all had to go including the pigs. A kind family member agreed to build a pen then feed and water the pigs until they were all secured inside the pen so we could pick them up. Their whole story is told in our September 2013 issue. After many years of living in a large field with a big herd, we moved them along with their good friend Mario into their own smaller retirement field. There they will live out their lives in safety and comfort with their family members.

...Mary



Kasino Gang

Each symbol stands for a letter of the alphabet.
Use the code to fill in the special message.

Help All Animals!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| ◀ | ▲ | ◎ | ⊗ | ★ | ▽ | ◆ | ▩ | ☺ | ⌵ | 💧 | ✳ | ◎ |
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Crockett

Answers to Mom/Child Matchup in order of Moms:
Stella/Morgan, Chardonnay/Dante, Miriam/Liz, Maple/Elvis, Karter/Christine,
Charlotte/Sweet Cheeks, Marsha/Mallow, Shakira/She-ra

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Karter

Karloff

James Dixon