

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
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JULY  
2009



Wilbur

## PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

July 2009

Dear Supporter,

I have chosen to express my view on adoptions in this issue. Not so much to explain the physical requirements but to let you know about my philosophy. While I recognize this can be controversial and opinions vary widely, I have chosen this path after living with hundreds of pigs for many years, learning about their behavior, and listening and learning from people who adopt pigs, people who release pigs to us, and people who board pigs with us.

There is a wide range of views on adoptions among people who operate sanctuaries. Some people have decided not to adopt any animals once the animals have come to them for refuge. Others adopt as many as possible in order to have room for others who need to be rescued and to provide an individual family environment for their animals.

At Ironwood we fall somewhere in the middle. Clearly adoption policies for dog and cat rescues are far different from a large cat or bear rescue who cannot adopt at all. Again adopting potbelly pigs falls somewhere in the middle. There are many special requirements unique to pigs. Over the years we have adopted over 200 pigs, many have been good homes but sadly not all, so I have become more cautious as time goes on and have changed my criteria as well.

My responsibility is to the pigs, not to the people who are looking to adopt. I have offended some who came to adopt and others came to understand my position. In order to look out for the welfare of the pigs who live with us I have chosen to adopt only pigs in pairs, or one if it will be a companion to another pig. I occasionally make exceptions to this based on the pig's personality and history or the people who are adopting.

An older pig who has been a family pet often does not fit well into a sanctuary environment, so I am willing to adopt them alone. However, since we rarely get a call to adopt an adult pig, those pigs, with rare exception, never find a new home. Donna Scoggin and Grace Reed have been kind enough to take several of our special pigs who need individual attention and I am so grateful to them.

The ultimate betrayal is to adopt one of our loved pigs to what we believe is a good home, only to find out later it was not. When our pigs come to us we promise them a good safe place to call "home". The decision to adopt our pigs, that we have fiercely bonded with, is without a doubt one of the most difficult decisions I have to make. However, you will see from the next article that decision is sometimes heartwarming, and it drives me to continue the search for good homes for our beloved pigs.

*Mary Schanz*



**Toby, Taylor & Mary**

# Pig Adoptions

**P**ictured here are pigs in homes that we dream of. They all have companions, both the piggy kind and the human kind. This is what we hope for. You may notice that they are all young pigs, therefore when we did the yard checks we took special care to be sure they have space to run and play and stretch their legs. Watching my youngsters run around here and jump in the wallows I am now much more sensitive to them having plenty of space.



Elvis and Simon

“Here is our cute little guy enjoying himself as we are doing construction on the front porch. We just adore him.”  
Jackie and Simon Crothers

Elvis came from the Humane Society in Yuma. He was twice turned in as a stray.

When people call who are interested in adoption I ask them to come to Ironwood for a visit. I want them to see how pigs live, what they need, and how many



Gaje, Herbie and Gwendolyn

Herbie, an unwanted Christmas present from a breeder in Texas, came to us in February. Gwen and Scott were found in the desert in Yuma. The Humane Society of Yuma took them in and shortly after she delivered 9 babies on Jan. 19th. Gwen, Scott, and five of her babies came to us 3/1/09. Gwen and Herbie went home to their new family with two other little piggies.

buddy up with one or more pigs as companions. While people who want one pig may have good intentions, I tell them we all have busy lives with school, jobs, and all the other things that often results in the pig being alone a lot. We so often get calls to take a pig because the people have no time for it and it is lonely or he or she has become aggressive. The lifespan of a pig is normally 12 to 17 years. That is a long time for a social herd animal to live alone. Aggression is so often seen in pigs who live as a single pig in a home.

I know many of you reading this

have an only pig either by choice or by zoning restrictions and it may have worked out well for you and your pig. The fact that you are one of our supporters probably means your pig is near the top of your list in how you care for him or her.

To conclude, my view on adoption has evolved over the years and I have become more particular as time has gone on as I



Lily, Brenda and Annabelle

“They are so adorable and so affectionate. Spending time with them is the highlight of my day!

Annabelle was adopted from Ironwood to be a companion for Brenda’s Lily and, as hoped, they have become fast friends. Annabelle and Sal came to us last fall from people who were moving in two days. Four days later Annabelle delivered five healthy babies who were all adopted.

# The Economy Strikes Pet

**Financial difficulties, job loss, foreclosures, downsizing homes...all of these are reasons we have heard over the past year from people calling us for help in placing not only their pigs but other pets as well.**

**I**ronwood is doing what we can to help people who find themselves in these difficult situations. That means not just keeping the sanctuary doors open for pigs, but also finding other “doors to open” in our own homes and the homes of friends and neighbors.

A friend in Tucson found herself in dire financial difficulties and suddenly needing a home for her 7 pigs and several tortoises. Her daughter and son-in-law took one of the pigs and all the tortoises. I offered to bring the other six pigs to my home. Ben and Mary quickly agreed to provide materials and help to fence off part of the 2 acres to keep these new pigs separated from the 10 I already had. This was over a year ago and those six are now like family to me.

Last November Annabelle and Sal’s owners called in



**Annabelle**



**Sal**

desperation. They had to be out of their house in two days and could find no where to take their pigs. We picked them up that same day which turned out to be a good thing since Annabelle gave birth to a litter of piglets a few days later! All are spayed and neutered now so at least there will be no more babies.

Ziggy’s owner is a single dad who works in construction which is an industry that has been hit very hard in Arizona. He had been out of work for a while and ended up



**Ziggy**

moving in with a friend while he struggled to make ends meet. There was no yard for Ziggy at the friend’s house. After searching in many different directions trying to find a home for his pig, someone finally gave him our number. Ziggy is a sweet, handsome youngster of three. Although the sanctuary is already bulging at the seams, we are delighted to have such a sweetheart join us.



**Rosie**

Boscoe and Rosie’s owners were struggling with all sorts of issues



**Boscoe**

which included losing their home to foreclosure. In his distress, the husband committed suicide,

# Owners

leaving his wife bewildered and alone to deal with moving out and finding a home for their two old pigs. How could we possibly not find room for Boscoe and Rosie in that situation?

Hamlet, a thirteen year old female, had been with her owners since she was five weeks old.



**Hamlet**

They had to move out of their home of 20 years and make the devastating decision to place Hamlet elsewhere. Although it broke their hearts to bring her to us, they were left with virtually no other choice.

Jewells and Missy's owners were also faced with losing their home



**Missy**

and having to move to a much smaller place with no yard.



**Jewels**

Where else are these people supposed to turn? It's getting more difficult for us to find adoptive homes as so many others face possible cutbacks, layoffs and foreclosures in the future. Many are afraid to be taking on more responsibilities and expenses because they don't know what will be happening with their jobs. And we've not seen the end of it yet.

A Tucson couple adopted pigs from us a few years ago. He has been out of work for a year and they've tried desperately to hang on to their home and their animals. It just wasn't possible and this past month we brought their three pigs back to Ironwood. Our friend and neighbor down the road from the sanctuary agreed to take in their two ducks and two rabbits. The smaller home to which they are moving has enough space for their small dogs so part of the family will stay together.

It is truly heartbreaking and rather frightening when this is happening so often and especially to people we know personally.

Another Phoenix friend was laid off from her job and could only find work in Tucson where she ended up living in an apartment. Her rabbit was also able to find a new home with our neighbor. We are so grateful that we are able to continue to help out those in need and also grateful for others opening up their homes and their hearts to take other homeless pets.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those dealing with the tough economy and finding themselves in need of help.

Anything you can do to help not only the pigs here at Ironwood but the people and other animals here or in your area would be greatly appreciated. If we stick together and provide help in our communities, we will get past these hard times. Please ease the burden for others whenever and however you can!

Donna

## Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna provides weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail [hoofandtusk@yahoo.com](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.

# Sponsor a



**Scott**

I'm Scott and I've only been here for a few months. The best time of day for me is breakfast time! The sound of grain hitting the troughs and bowls is like music to my ears! We get lots of grain then those nice people spread hay around the field to give us something extra to snack on. It's great!



**Bo**

My name is Bo. My favorite thing about the sanctuary is that I finally have a permanent home! I've had to move several times, changing owners and homes over the years. I'm an old man now and just want somewhere to live out the rest of my life in comfort. I've finally found it! When I moved into the Peoria Field, Mary promised it would be the last move for me.



My name is Cinderella Ironwood at the sanctuary as treats! (smell) the treats are so yummy!!!

## JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

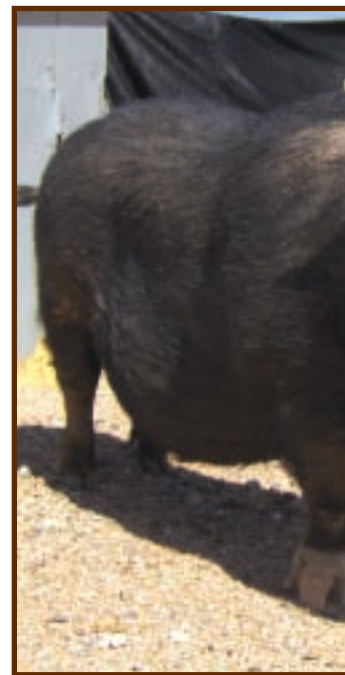
*These are just a few of the pigs still needing sponsors. They wanted to share their favorite things about Ironwood with you.*



**Aussie & Donna**

*You can choose one of these wonderful pigs to support with a monthly donation of \$30 that will cover all of their needs including food, shelter and health care or I can pick a pig for you. In return you will receive periodic updates with pictures to keep you posted on what is happening in the life of your pig. Thanks for all of your support!*

*Donna*



# Special Pig!



**Cinder**

Hi there, my name is Cinder (and it is not short for Cinderella! I'm a boy!). Anyway, I've been at Ironwood for several years now. My favorite time of the day is when we get fruits and veggies. It's always so exciting to hear (and see) the wagon full of goodies coming. The pigs spread out for all of us to enjoy. It's so



**Gardenia**

Hi there, my name is Gardenia. I've been here for a year and a half. What I love most about Ironwood is that I was able to stay with my family. I'm very shy and sort of nervous. It totally helped me when we moved out into the field to have my family with me. I'm able to spend all my time with Monkey, Alice, Boudrette and Charlotte. It gives me a feeling of peace to know they are all right here!



**Portia**

Hi! I'm Portia and I've been here since the first year Ironwood opened. My very favorite thing is hoof trimming. Just kidding!!! That's like the worst ever! Really, what I like the most is all the space my friends and I have here. I live in a big field where I have the freedom to roam around and do whatever I want, wherever I want. It's so wonderful! (An added plus is all that walking keeps my hooves worn down all on my own! Hah!)



**Gambit**

Howdy, I'm Gambit. The sanctuary has been my home for a few months. My favorite thing is how well I'm taken care of. For example, I'm sort of big and slow and there is no way I could manage in a large field with a bunch of pigs running every which way during feeding time. My home is a small field with just a few pigs that are all like me! It's perfect for us! It sure makes life easier when things like that are taken into consideration. Thanks, Ironwood!

## ----Pig Adoptions Continued



Otis and Gordy

Gordy was rescued by his family and they wanted another piggy to keep him company. Otis was adopted from us. He is one of Gwen's adorable babies. Jen said Otis stuck by Gordy's side all the time and is only now beginning to spend some time on his own. It was a match for both of them.

have had to live with some mistakes I have made. While some think a "human home" is always best, we at Ironwood are not of that mind. We feel our pigs are happy here with many pig companions, food, water, shade, shelters, medical care and safety from dogs. All of these things are provided by your support. It is my feeling that pigs can be very happy and content without humans as long as they have each other. Therefore when pigs go "home" I want to be sure they will still be living a happy, safe, and content life with the bonus of a loving and attentifamily. If that is not the case they can stay with us at Ironwood.



Petunia, Elvis, and Champ

When Elvis was adopted from Ironwood he joined Petunia and Champ, two Peoria babies from Ironwood, Baby, also from Ironwood, and Fannie who was adopted from our Annex before it was our place.

Hello Ben & Mary.

I've attached a couple of shots of the 3 little pigs, Petunia, Champ and Elvis. They spent the whole day yesterday underneath the bird feeder, digging for seeds that the birds had scattered.

Elvis is a hoot. He basically moved in and took over. Even though he's the smallest, he's the boss. Even Gordo (Babe) who outweighs him 5 to 1, yields to Elvis. Go figure.

Frannie is doing well, back to her old self. Thank you so much for arranging her operation, no doubt you saved her life.

All the best for now,



# Thank You For All of Your Support!

## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

### Use Your Credit or Debit Card to Make a Monthly Donation

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

Thank You for caring.

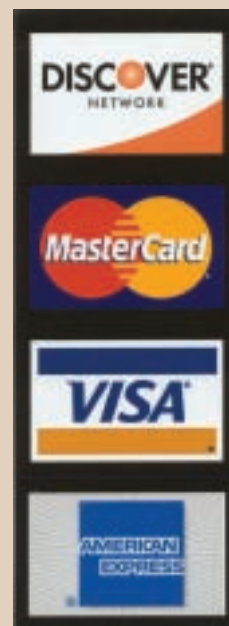
## Remember the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Through Your Estate Plan

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

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

You can make secure donations to the Sanctuary using your credit card by going to our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) and clicking on SUPPORT.

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



# A Special Thanks ---

**T**o all of our wonderful supporters who have helped us get through these very difficult times. We have experienced many hours of worry but until now we are continuing to meet our expenses because of your great support. Our sincere and humble thanks to all of you.

I also want to thank Stefanie from New York who has now made her third trip to Ironwood Pig Sanctuary bearing gifts and always ready to help out where she is needed with a wonderful upbeat attitude. Thank You Stef for choosing us.



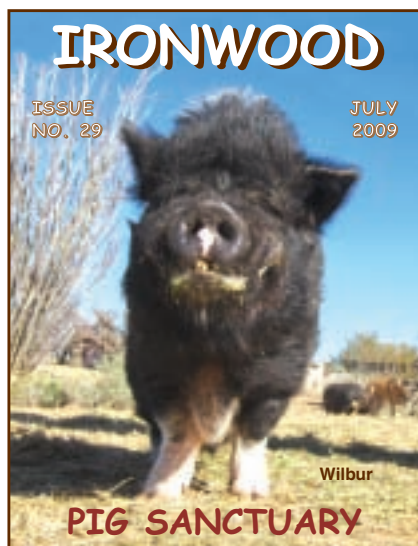
**New Water Tank**

I want to extend a special thank you to George and Mario, who through their kind donation, we were able to purchase a 13 thousand gallon water tank which more than doubled our 10 thousand gallon working tank, leaving our reserve tanks for emergencies. This is extremely significant since during the hot Arizona summers NOTHING is more important than water. Any number of things could occur that could put us in a crisis so this extra water is an additional comfort zone.

In addition, they made it possible for us to buy a large swamp cooler for one of our pens. Once it is installed we are hopeful we will be able to begin spaying our "girls" again. During the very hot months we are unable to spay since it is not possible to let them be without pools and wallows during their recovery period. Thanks so much George and Mario.

## Our Wish List

- \* Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- \* Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, or Walgreens
- \* Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- \* Zinc Oxide Ointment Such as Desitin
- \* Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM
- \* Flax Seed Capsules
- \* Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- \* Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)



## COVER

Wilbur arrived in 12/07/07 from a home in Prescott, AZ at the age of four. The owner was getting divorced and was ill. Wilbur was very social, but like many male pigs we take, he was not neutered. We had him neutered, but not long after he developed a very serious cystitis and a blocked urethra. He required major surgery to save his life and then developed a urinary tract infection which are difficult to treat. He finally recovered from all his illnesses and has been moved to one of our large fields. He eats in a special small pen so we can feed him a special diet and meds to help maintain acidic urine to avoid more urinary stones forming. Through all of this he is still such a sweet pig, and even though he could take on most any pig in his field he is very docile.

# 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.



Mary, I felt better after our conversation on the phone. I'm the one in Florida that told you I lost my precious Charlotte of 13 years. She was gentle, loveable and a little spoiled but I loved her dearly. I miss her terribly but she will always be in my heart!

Sincerely,  
Pat Piazza

To everyone at IRONWOOD,  
 Oh all the PIGGIES, I enjoy  
 the IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS,  
 I try to save them and read them  
 over & over. I really like the colored  
 version. I can't tell you how much  
 it means to me that there are people  
 in this world like everyone at IRONWOOD,  
 that has a heart and soul and cares  
 about these PIGGIES. My husband  
 and I have always loved PIGGIES.  
 We was both raised on a farm where  
 you could have all kinds of animals.  
 We also was taught how to take care  
 of them and to LOVE them. People  
 need to think before getting any  
 pet. It's for life and they need  
 special care and lots of love. Don't  
 leave them alone long periods at a time.  
 Thanks again for all you do. One place  
 I would love to go is IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY.  
 God Bless you  
 you and all the PIGGIES  
 are in my prayers  
 Shirley

Jane Rossi

To ALL OF THE  
 DEDICATED PIG HUGGERS  
 AT IRONWOOD,

KEEP UP THE GREAT  
 WORK. THE PIGGIES  
NEED YOU. PAT YOURSELVES  
 ON THE BACK (OR RUB  
 YOUR BELLY!) JOB WELL DONE  
 WITH ADMIRATION,  
 FELLOW PIG HUGGER &  
 LOVER,  
 Jane



Dear 'Pig People',

4/2009

may God most generously bless the wonderful & selfless work you do for these interesting and deserving creatures. I had no idea you cared for so many of these guys -- more than 650 ... astonishing. I hope I can visit in person some day, to meet these unique and humble pigs, along with their tireless, most devoted caretakers. with gratitude, Kathryn Hurley

Sisters Stella and Bobbi Sue



# IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS

Published at the above address regularly.

Return Service Requested

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[ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com](mailto:ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com)

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