

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

October 2017

Fall has arrived and with it, the beginning of tour season. Ironwood has visitors from all over the country coming to see the sanctuary and meet the pigs. Tours are held every Saturday at 10:00. It is a chance to learn about pot bellied pigs' behavior as well as issues with breeding and ownership. You will meet many of the pigs and hear their stories. Walking through the various fields, you will see how the pigs interact with one another.



[www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) for directions for the safe routes to get here. (Do NOT rely on GPS as it may lead you down dirt roads that have been washed out by the summer rains.)

Be prepared to spend 1.5-2 hours in the sun. It is a walking tour through many of the fields allowing you direct contact with the pigs. Wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen and a hat.

Please bring water. No food is allowed to be taken on the tour. There is no charge for the tour but donations are appreciated. If you would like to bring items for the pigs, please see the web site or newsletter for the wish list.



If you plan on joining a Saturday tour, please schedule ahead of time by emailing [ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com](mailto:ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com). You will need to provide the number of people in your party and if any will need physical assistance. Tours start promptly at 10:00. Please visit our web site at

We love to share our pigs with you as well as educate you about the plight of pot bellied pigs. They are fabulous, sweet animals and who knows; perhaps you'll meet the pig you want to sponsor! Please plan and schedule your visit today. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsor Coordinator

**PS: Ironwood's annual Open House will be on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 11:00-3:00. No reservations are needed. Just come and have fun!**

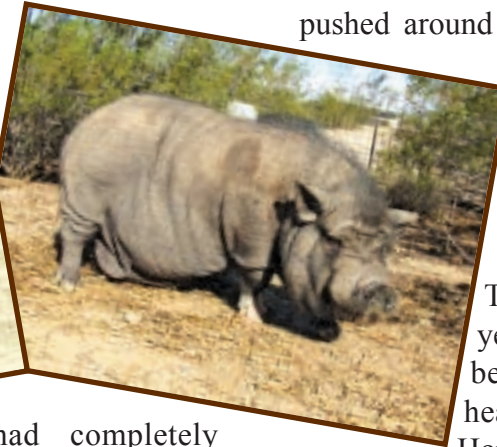


# Twix

**T**wix is a sweet male pig who came to the sanctuary with his sister, Hopper in March of 2010 after their family lost their home due to foreclosure. Twix looked as if he had a bowling ball in his lower belly. It was dragging the ground making it difficult for him to walk. He had apparently been in this condition for quite some time but had never gotten any medical care. We got Twix an appointment with our vet as soon as possible.

Twix had a huge hernia. The “bowling ball” he had been dragging around was actually his intestines. Thank goodness Dr. Page was able to get the intestines back into Twix’s abdomen then stitch up the hole. To prevent him from stepping on his saggy belly, she had to remove a large section of the skin that had been stretched out. Twix did well during his surgery but had a tough recovery. He suffered through a lot of bleeding and swelling where the skin had been removed. After a second trip to

the vet to recheck all the stitches and staples as well as many days of hot packs on his tummy to relieve the swelling, Twix began to improve.



Once Twix had completely recovered from his surgery, he



and Hopper were moved out to join a herd. We chose one of the smaller fields, Assisted Living Phase 5 for the two so that Twix would not be in danger of getting pushed around too much. The

less confrontation he had to deal with, the better off he would be.

Twix is now ten years old and has been in great health. He and Hopper still live in Phase 5 and have made several good friends. Twix spends his days hanging out with

Neil, Gracie, Bob, Randy, Bandit, Sarge and of course, his best friend forever, Hopper. Twix still has a bit of a saggy belly but nothing that slows him down.

He loves to wander around his field, grazing on hay or taking dips in the various wallows. Twix is a very happy boy and a very lucky pig! Because of you Twix got the medical care he desperately needed and has spent the last seven years enjoying a comfortable life.

---Donna

# Walter

**W**alter, now 13 years old, is a cute little guy who first came to Ironwood as a baby in 2004. He and his dad, George got adopted and lived happily with their owners for almost six years. One of the owners passed away and the other was physically disabled and no longer able to care for the pigs. Walter and George came back to the sanctuary in the spring of 2010. They live with our largest herd in the Peoria Field.

The May newsletter mentioned a horrible illness that affected many



of the pigs earlier this year. The Peoria Field was hit the hardest. Walter got sick in February and was moved to one of the holding pens. He had a very bad case of it and was taken to the vet clinic 2



days later. The poor guy had to stay at the clinic for 12 days getting IV fluids and medication as well as having numerous tests run. When Walter returned to Ironwood he was still weak and not eating well, so he lived in a holding pen for continued treatment.

One week later Walter began vomiting and having diarrhea again, so he was rushed back to the vet clinic for a 10 day stay. It was touch and go for Walter for quite a while. He returned to Ironwood but didn't stay long. Before it was all over, he ended up making 4 trips to the clinic and staying for a total of 28 days. Tests were run and rerun but nothing conclusive was ever pinpointed as the cause for Walter's problems.

Walter continued living in one of the holding pens for quite some time after his last return from the clinic. Because of the length and frequency of his illness, we wanted him where we could keep

a close eye on him for any return of the symptoms. There were still concerns with his ability to defecate normally. He went through periods of constipation when we had to give him enemas and mineral oil. Walter is still on a special diet of oatmeal and pumpkin to keep him regulated.

Six months after his ordeal began Walter finally regained his strength and returned to the Peoria Field. He went to what had been his territory then slowly worked his way back into his group of friends. It was a long, hard struggle, but Walter's story has a happy ending. Thank you for making it possible for Walter to have a second chance!

---Donna



*If you would like to help with Walter's medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his vet care, medications and overnight stays at the clinic was \$5,652.56. Walter and everyone here appreciate all your support! Thank you!*

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 35490**  
**TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490**  
520-631-6015  
ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com  
www.ironwoodpigs.org  
www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary  
www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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**OCTOBER 2017**  
**UPDATE**

# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE**



**George, Walter's Dad**