

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO. 23

FEBRUARY
2008



Bert

PIG SANCTUARY

**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road
Marana, AZ 85658**

February 1, 2008

Dear Supporter,

Happy New Year. I hope 2008 brings you health, happiness, peace, and fulfillment. I know that is a big order in today's troubled world, but we must set our goals high in order to realize our dreams.

Each New Year I look back over how we have grown and who we have saved and I know it is only because of all of you who contribute your money, your time, your blankets, all the other items, and your blessings that we are able to continue our mission. Our pigs have been blessed by all of you this fall and into the New Year. Because of your help we have in turn been able to offer help and a home to so many pigs this year, including all the ones you read about in our newsletters.

We have just ended another full year at Ironwood. In fact this may have been the fullest year ever due to all of the new arrivals. We have done many multiple pig rescues in 2007, but we know of many more that we are unable to involve ourselves in because we have limited capabilities. We are at a crossroads and our decisions to take or not take another pig have become more and more difficult. I never expected to be in a position to decide who lives and who dies, but now we are faced with that decision each day. Not only with our sanctuary residents, whose long lives are ending because of ailments and age, but with the calls from people who have now overwhelmed our capacity to make room for their pigs. Often these are pigs whose lives are just beginning. When you read our feature story you will see that we were only partially successful with this rescue, because our ability to act is limited.

The solutions are not with us, but with people. People must decide that their right to breed or buy an animal is not greater than the right of animals to live their lives free of abuse and neglect. To know that animals are not disposable commodities, but that plans must be made to move them with you as part of your family. Make this year a year you break the silence about things that matter.

The lives of all animals matter and we must speak for those who can't. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Mary Schanz

PS: As I write this letter Piggy Sue is recovering from her spay behind me on a bed of blankets. She is such a sweet pig and is doing very well with her recovery. Because of all of your support it should be a good year for her.

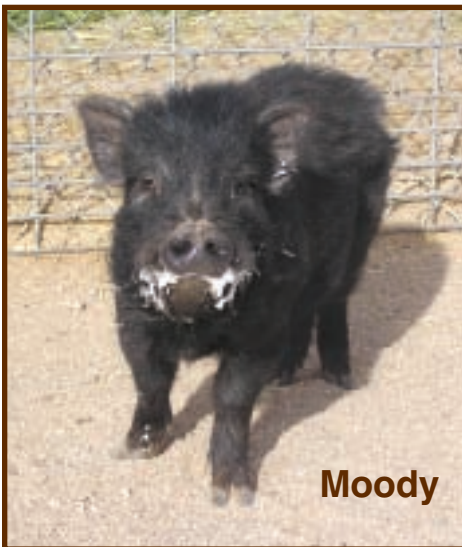


Rosie

Show Low Rescue

Dear Beatrice,

After so long a time the pigs' situation in Show Low has finally been resolved. Some had a horrible ending and others a good one. Here is how things ended. We went on a short vacation in Dec and during that time I made a list of all the pigs that we have had calls about that needed a home. When we returned we started to make the calls. We found out that the lady still had most of her pigs. She had sold one boar. Two had been attacked by dogs and one died from his injuries, and the other one was badly injured and died later from injuries and 14-degree temperatures when, she suspected, his mates pushed him out of the group. Considering how dire this situation was we



Moody

told her we would be up to get all the others and made arrangements. In the mean time another little boar froze to death

when the temperature dropped to 8 degrees. Of course we did not know how bad her situation was until we called her upon our return, and even then did not



Gardinia & Friend

know she had no shelter for these pigs in those kinds of temperatures.

She was out of food and had no shelter for the boars but the females did have a small doghouse and they all piled in there together so they all survived. She also had no water since the outlet to her portable water tank was frozen, so Ben was able to break the ice and get some buckets of water for her and the animals. She was very suspicious of us, especially me. Before she gave us directions to her house she made us promise that we would not turn her in to the authorities.

We went there on December 30th and picked up her five females and the last boar, a sweet young pig. She said she would have money the next week but when we were there she had no money for food for herself or the animals. She had some dog food and all her dogs and goats looked ok. She said she had let the goats out to graze and they were doing ok. We took her 100 lbs of food for goats and another 50 lb bag of pellets that could be used for many kinds of animals and some of that was fed to her chickens and geese. So when we left there was enough food for all the animals until she got her check the next week. The problem now is she has a mix of male and female goats and soon there will be more. I don't know



of anyone who rescues goats or if she would be willing to give them up. She is very touchy about people calling her. We called her for a couple of days before she would return our call. We told her



Alice

Although all the females and the male are very thin I think they will all recover and be ok. I am feeding them often, not too much at a time, and giving them vitamins and

all we wanted to do was get her pigs. She wanted to keep one of them, but we offered her some money for her final pig. She was pleasant enough, but I think with some serious problems as you saw right away. Therefore, while we were there we did not question her about anything nor did we put her on the defensive. We wanted to make sure that we got the pigs, and as I mentioned her other animals looked to be in ok condition. I left a large bag of blankets for the goats and the dogs lived in with her at night.

other supplements.

I suppose you could say why did



we not act sooner, and I ask myself that every day but every day is another emergency and we

cannot respond to all of them. In the week we were on vacation we got calls to take 18 more pigs. In addition there are a million other pressing issues. We have been trying to reach a woman who called us from Phoenix about an injured pig and during the conversation we found out she has 20 or 30 pigs and they are not separated. We are afraid she will have up to 120 babies in the next few months! We have left several messages with her but she will not return our calls and we have even paid a service to try to get an address.

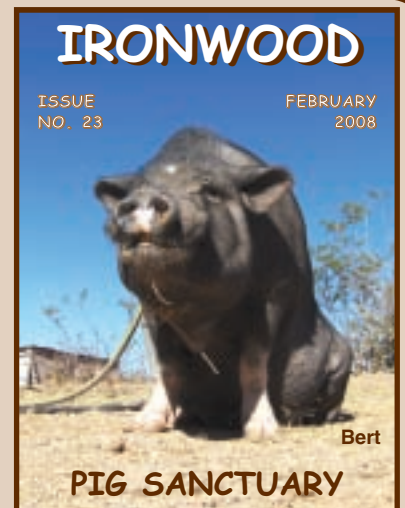
Life is so sad for so many of these animals as you well know.

Because of your original e-mail at least six of these pigs have had a happy ending and there will be no more born to be sold or passed out to continue the process. Thank you. I am so sorry to have to bring you this mixed message, but there is more to do than we can possibly do.

Sincerely,
Mary

Cover

Bert and Ernie are two handsome brothers who came to us on December 30, 2006. They are 9 years old and lived with their owners all of their lives until mom and dad moved and could not take them with them. They were released to our Sunset Field and have plenty of space to roam. Strangely, they have gone their separate ways now and although they are still friendly with each other they don't share a shelter. They are both very sweet and a little shy.



Tina's Pigs

Several years ago we got a call from Marie in Maricopa. She said she was going to be deployed to Iraq very soon and needed to find a home for her 6 pigs.



Archer



Abell

Even then we were in a crunch to take any more pigs so I contacted Tina who lived on a lovely peaceful property in the foothills of the Chiricahua Mountains. She had two older pigs of her own, but she felt she could accommodate these six in need of a home. She made them a large enclosed area and a smaller totally enclosed area for nighttime, since she was in lion country.



Akito

Sadly, in the spring of 2005, her husband died suddenly of a heart attack. Tina tried for many months to find a solution to keep her home and her animals, but in the end she had to sell her property so it was necessary for us to take the six pigs she had rescued in 2003 for us. We enclosed a special field for them



Axel

called "Tina's Field" and they have all been able to stay together and live happily here with us at Ironwood. An attractive bunch for sure.

--- Mary

**Tina's Pigs
Need a Sponsor**

We have decided to feature these six sweet pigs, that we have dubbed Tina's pigs, who live in a field all their own. They came to us two years ago January - and until now none of them has a sponsor.

They would very much like to have a sponsor so they could again have someone to call mom or dad. That is someone other than us, of course.



Arial



Asia

Your Continued Support is Appreciated!

Appreciated Securities are Ideal to Give as Charitable Donations

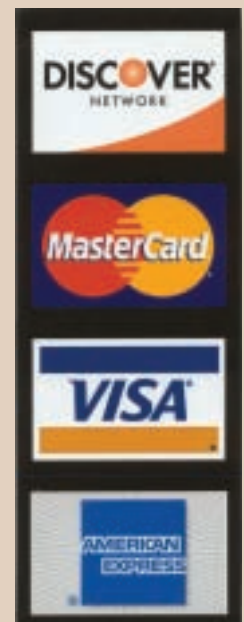
Americans generously give hundreds of billions to charities each year. We could give billions more if we knew how and got better tax advice. Donors who make their gifts by check when they could donate appreciated securities instead are forfeiting billions in tax savings. Examples of appreciated securities include shares of stocks or mutual funds held more than a year and worth more than when bought.

Double and Sometimes Triple Your Donation by Using Your Matching Gift Program at Work, Even if Retired!

There are many companies that will match their employees or retirees' donations to charities. The process is usually pretty simple. You obtain a Matching Gift form from your employer, even if you are retired. Fill out the form and include it with your donation. We will fill in our part and send it to your employer. Some employers will donate \$2 for every \$1 you donate! Your gift, with your employer's match will go even further toward taking care of the 490+ pigs at the sanctuary. Please check out our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org for a more comprehensive list of Matching Gift employers. Check with your own employer. A few major companies that have a matching gift program are:

3M	Aetna	Allstate	AT&T
Bank of America	CIGNA	Coca-Cola	Delta Airlines
Dow	Exxon	Ford	General Motors
Halliburton	Honeywell	Lockheed	McDonald's
New York Life	PepsiCo	PG&E	P&G

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



Have Your Pig's Hooves Trimmed

Several times in our past newsletters, we have stressed the importance of trimming your pig's hooves and tusks. To keep your pig from straining the joints and muscles, a regularly scheduled hoof trim is necessary. The frequency of trimming depends on the activity level of your pig as well as the surface on which they are walking. Many owners have their pigs done every 6-8 months. Regular maintenance prevents problems before they start.

Waiting until the hooves are already too long can often be too late. In the meantime the pig will have been walking awkwardly thus turning the joints in ways that lead to painful movement and perhaps permanent damage. So many times we have seen pigs that can barely walk, struggling with hooves that have grown so long that they have crossed over one another. This time of year is a great time to schedule an appointment for your pig's hoof trim. Don't wait until it's too hot and more stressful for your pig.



Older Female From the Auction Rescue With Extremely Long Hoofs



Young Males From the Ramona Rescue Showing Ideal Hoofs.

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 and her husband, Justin, provide weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-682-4686 or e-mail at hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Donna Trimming One of Her Pigs, Navajo

Sponsor One of



Vinnie

Yo, the name is Vinnie. I was part of a big rescue in Florida five years ago. My home was a disgusting, horrible place that was filthy and had hardly any food. My family and I were in bad shape until these nice people gave us a place to live. Now I've got it pretty good with great shelters, lots of food, wading pools and not only still with my family but lots of new friends too. The only thing missing in my life is a sponsor!



Chai

Hello! I am Chai. For a while I lived at St. Matilda's sanctuary in Queen Creek, AZ. Then suddenly the owner left the country and I was rushed down to Ironwood with many of my friends. We were given a lovely place to live and have been very happy here. Thank you, Ironwood!



Ruth A

Hi there! My name is Ruth. I was dumped at the Humane Society in Payson, AZ. It was a nightmare! A nice person took me there with all those barbs. I'm sorry for me and took me to Ironwood though she knew she could have called Ironwood for arrangements for me to live here. Now, this is a great home. I have been living here for four years and still don't have a sponsor (hint, hint).

Hi! My Name is Donna

I helped Ben and Mary begin Ironwood, living on site as the manager for over four years. For the past two years, I have remained involved as a volunteer and also helped with keeping the pigs' hooves trimmed. Now, I am excited to be back on staff as the sponsorship coordinator. I am very pleased to see how much the program has grown. As the pig population increased, you responded with the help needed to keep things moving forward. Sponsors play such an important role in the mission of the sanctuary.

The pigs featured here are just a few of the many who still need a "parent." A monthly donation of \$30 will cover your pig's expenses. Please consider joining our family of sponsors. Thank you!

Donna Norton



Our Sweet Pigs



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Ruth Ann. I
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Daley

Hi, I'm Daley. If you've ever come into the West Field, we've probably met. I always make it a point to greet visitors with a rude bump from behind to see how high they'll jump! I used to live at Pigs*A*Lot a long time ago, but have been here for five years because I wasn't getting enough to eat over there. Now I'm a perfect size and feeling pretty frisky! I would love to eat, I mean meet a new sponsor!



Bubbles

Hey! My name is Bubbles. You may notice that I am not a pot-bellied pig. That's right, I'm a hog and proud of it! When I was just four days old, a rattlesnake killed my mother. So now I live at Ironwood in a private field with my brother and two sisters. I love my life here with my family but I feel sort of left out because my siblings all have sponsors and I don't yet. Maybe you could help me out with that!



Worf

Don't laugh, but my name is Worf (can you see the similarities?). After 8 years together, my owner decided she wanted to travel and no longer needed me in her life. I was not in a good mood when I got here and earned a reputation as the pig to watch out for. I sort of liked that and now defend my right to be crabby! So, if you're looking for a spunky pig, I'm your man!



GG

A Day at The Sanctuary

I thought I would take this opportunity to invite all of you who have never been able to visit our sanctuary for an informational visit about what all goes on here while caring for all



Alex Feeding the North Field

of our pigs. I have included a collage of our staff working on some of the many jobs that comprise some of the many daily tasks. We depend on our staff, without which we would not be able to operate our sanctuary. Ben and I work every day and take no salary, and we have many volunteers who help us in so many ways, but the day to day operations required in caring for so many animals is dependent on our staff as well as us. We are a high-maintenance operation since we have no grass on which to graze and have to spread hay daily, no natural source of water so we have to fill and clean hundreds of pools and automatic

waterers each day, most of our shade is artificial and has to be built and repaired, and all the waste has to be raked and hauled. Our pigs have to be trimmed and we have to keep our sponsors up to date on how their pigs are doing.

Our day begins at 5:30 am, or earlier in the summer, when one or two people make up all the meds and fix all the special foods for our many ailing pigs, and get the generator fired up to keep us in power and water. We start to feed at 7:00 am or before and it takes three or four of us 2 1/2 to 3 hours to complete the feeding. Then the daily chores begin. Medical rounds, building fences, painting and building pens, shelters, shade ramadas, maintaining vehicles and other equipment, watering, raking, transporting pigs to the vet or to their new homes and picking up released pigs, are all a sample of our daily routine. We just completed our barn for our hogs



Dr. Page Repairing Blossom's Split Hoof



Beth Feeding Fruits & Vegetables

as seen pictured in this newsletter. In addition there is a great deal of office work that is primarily



Mo Doing the Watering

handled by our part time accountant, Kate, several great volunteers, and Ben and I.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief tour and learned more about who we are and what we do to give our pigs a good life. The task is truly daunting.

—-Mary



Bob Raking the Main Field



Pamala at the Annex Breaking up Pumpkins With a Volunteer & Mary



Danny & Tim Loading Poops



Monique Putting Up Christmas Cards



Lee Building a Shelter



Grant & Matt Putting Out Grain

A New Home For The Hogs

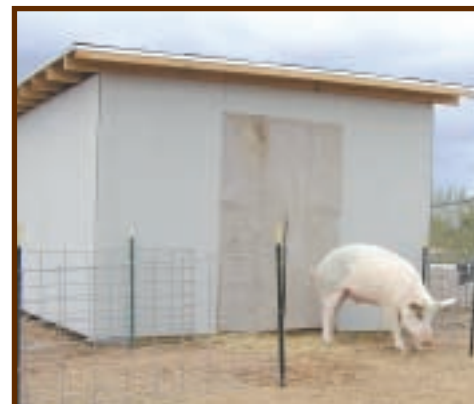
Some of you may remember this picture of our baby hogs that Jeannie took after she picked our babies up at the Humane Society. They were only four days old and their mother had been killed by a rattlesnake bite.



Baby Hogs - 4 Days Old

Well now they are going on two years old and they have outgrown their summer home. For some time now they have been in need of a new barn and this week they got one. In five days of hard work by Ben and other staff the hogs have a brand-new barn to keep them warm and dry. We finished last night at dark since we were expecting a winter rain that did not come, but they did not hesitate to move in by this evening. I took this picture of them all tucked in dreaming of corn on the cob. They said Santa was good to them this year.

--- Mary



Hogs in Their New Barn

Our Wish List

Items we can always use

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Stamps (41, 26, 17 cents)
- * Gift Card to Home Depot, Lowes, Wal-Mart, Walgreens or Target
- * Children's Chewable Vitamins
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * New, Industrial Water Hoses
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- * Flax Seed Capsules - 1000mg

Open House

I hope you were able to come to our Open House this past November. It was well attended with everyone enjoying their tours among the pigs on a beautiful winter day at the Sanctuary. If you missed our Open House try and plan on attending this coming November, or call and schedule your own visit.



Why Pigs Fight

We have not made a study of pigs fighting. Nor have we done exhaustive research of any literature on the subject. What we have done is worked with close to 1000 pigs over 9 years and given you the conclusions that we have drawn from their interaction.

Pigs live in a hierarchal society where most pigs have a position within the herd. The position of each pig is usually determined by the pig wanting to join the herd fighting with pigs until they have worked out a position acceptable to everyone. Sometimes the fighting can get very violent with pigs ripping ears, biting tails, knocking each other over and trying to bite a belly. I often see a pig that really doesn't want to fight, based upon its body language, not able to give up until we break up the fight or the other pig backs off.

When we introduce a new pig to a herd we spend a few days in the field with pig boards to break up any fights. To minimize the fighting we usually introduce a number of pigs to the herd at the same time in order to keep a single pig from being picked upon.

Once a herd has stabilized it can be relatively peaceful. That is why we have many different fields because we don't want to disrupt a stable field by

introducing new pigs. However, even in stable herds we sometimes find a pig in the morning with a ripped ear or scrapes on its body from fighting. So it appears that pigs are always challenging each other. In order for a pig to maintain its position it must remain relatively strong. This is a problem with older pigs that lose their position as they age. We will see a group of pigs that occupy a shelter push out one of their long-time members when that member starts to age. Just recently Misty, who had been with her group for 6 years, was pushed out into the cold when she started to age. We had to move her to her own pen with a cozy shelter in order to protect her from the freezing cold. She seems to have accepted her new arrangements where she doesn't have to fight for a position in the shelter.

Pigs seem to be "home bodies" in that they prefer a certain area of a large field. We have troughs and pans scattered throughout a field so that when we feed we are able to scatter the herd and not concentrate them in one spot to feed. This minimizes any fighting over food. We also have shelters scattered throughout the field and many pigs will stay in a certain area of the field and rarely meet a

pig from another area. One time our distant neighbor made a loud noise working on an automobile and the pigs from our main field got scared and they all ran to one



Misty Cooling off in Her Pool of Water During the Summer

corner of the field. This was the first time that many of the pigs had met each other and fighting broke out. But after a short while they all returned to their respective areas and peace was restored.

--- Ben



Abner

Our Supporters' Page

Dear Ironwood,

I adopted 2 little males from the New Mexico batch that was rescued in May. Oscar and Felix have brought so much laughter into our household. I already have 2 full-grown pigs, Senor Pedro and Peggy Sue, 7 cats, 6 dogs and 5 horses.

Oscar and Felix have grown so much in the past few months. When I brought them home they were about as big as my cats, now they are as big as our English bulldog. They love our cats and follow them around all the time. Sometimes they will sneak their way into Uncle Pedro's bed. During irrigation they are too funny playing in the water. Their belly rubs are very demanding. If Felix sees Oscar getting one he has to force his way in for his. They even play with the horses by running up taking some of their hay and then running off with it.

I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoy them since I have only had adult pigs before these 2. Thank you for having such a wonderful place for the unwanted, abused, neglected pigs that you care for.

Kim



Two Open House visitors

A Holiday Thank You

I want to thank all of you who remembered us in your Holiday Giving and throughout the year. I am always amazed and delighted that people from all across this country think about our pigs here in AZ and make the effort and sacrifice to help us care for them. What lucky pigs they are.

Also I would like to give a special thanks to Barbara Lange and Barbara duPlisse for all of their volunteer time helping us with paper work. We really appreciate it. Also Ellen, Donna S., Cindy and Laura have been a great help with thank you notes. Thanks to Laura and Bob both facilities get raked often and Bob, Danny, and Willie supply our pigs with extra fruit and veggie treats regularly. Jon and Francie are our heroes helping to get everything cooked and ready for the open house and thanks to everyone else who helped to make our open house a great success.

--- Mary

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.

Our Supporters Write:



We just wanted to Thank you for the open house. Tim was excellent as a guide & we were so happy to see how well the PBP's are cared for. We didnt know what to expect & were so pleased with how much room & cover they have. It was really cute watching them eat pumpkins! Thanks again for a great time!
Angela Bortchers

Hi
My name is Connor I have 4 chickens 3 dogs and I love pigs! I would love to have a pig but my mom and dad said we have enough animals right now! I would like to give you my allowance from the last 2 weeks to help take care of the pigs

Sincerely
Connor Johnson



Joyce Johnston's Pigs



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