

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

February 2016

Dear Supporter,

For the past several years our pig population has hovered right around 580, sometimes creeping up towards 600 then dipping back down again. We started 2016 on the downward side with 552 pigs. We have been in existence for almost 15 years, so the



Abner - Released

youngsters that we took in during our first couple of years are all now senior citizens whom we have been losing one by one as they age. The number of pigs we lost during 2015 due to illnesses was just under the number of pigs we took in. The main reason we have such a low starting number this



Buckwheat - Adopted

year is because of how many adoptions we did in 2015.



Kennedy - Adopted

Ironwood was able to adopt out 30 pigs last year! That sounds great and exciting but there is a downside to that remark. Nearly all of them were babies who seemed to be coming out of the woodwork all year! Almost 75% of the 82 pigs released to us last year were less than three years of age. That sadly tells you that people are still out there breeding pigs, selling them to those who are unaware of what



Nella - Released

they're getting into then leaving them in the position to "dump" their new pet that they can no longer handle.



Spot - Adopted

We are happy to have found adoptive homes for so many pigs, but are also happy that we are able to provide a permanent home to those 552 who remain with us. Being able to furnish a nurturing home and loving care to these wonderful animals is all because of YOU. Your support allowed us to take Abner and Penelope after their parents got divorced. You make it possible

for us to watch Jeni and Amelia grow up and enjoy life after being carelessly dumped in the desert. You are the reason Portia was able to have a quiet dignified end to her 13 years with us. We owe it all to YOU!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator



Carnie - Released

Big Charlotte

A big, beautiful girl named Charlotte came to us in August of 2014 with the worst case of mastitis we or our vets had ever seen. She had recently given birth to 14 babies which the owner told us had all died. (We later found out this wasn't true and that she had already sold some on Craigslist when they were just a few days old.) Charlotte's mammary glands were huge and very hard then soon expanded enough to burst open, full of infection. Despite our efforts with antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, subcutaneous fluids, belly soaks and massages, Charlotte had to go in for surgery to have two of her mammary glands removed. Subsequent vet visits and surgeries over the next few weeks resulted in her losing another gland and having over 3 pounds of necrotic tissue debrided from the area. Recovering from gangrene mastitis is not a pretty



Slater-Charlotte-Roger Dodger

thing! Charlotte was a fabulous patient though and tolerated the accumulated hours of flushing, scrubbing, draining, soaking, and massaging.



It was a long process but Charlotte finally healed up completely and was able to join the herd in the Sunset Field. There is another pig named Charlotte living there as well, so our new Charlotte got dubbed "Big Charlotte" since she is definitely the larger of the two. She has really enjoyed living out in the field with so many other pigs. Her belly remains lumpy and uneven due to her bout of mastitis, but Big Charlotte is happy and healthy. Although the top section of the field is her

chosen territory, she is very active and wanders all over the place throughout the day. She's a real sweetie and loves getting attention from people. Big Charlotte is quick to lie down for belly rubs. She is also very curious and always comes around to see what is happening with everyone.

Big Charlotte is a lovable gal, but she does tend to lose her mind and her manners at mealtimes! We have made adjustments for that by building her a super fortified, extra enforced individual pen to go into during meals so she doesn't knock us down while we're trying to get all the pigs fed. (She busted out a few times before we finally got it strong enough to hold her.) Other than her food obsession, Big Charlotte is great! We love her and are very happy that she endured such a horrible struggle to survive.

---Donna



And This Little Piggy Was... Amputated?

One of our many Penelopes here at the sanctuary ran into some major trouble late this past summer. The smaller Penelope who lives in the back of the Sunset Field came limping to breakfast one morning. We saw that her outer “dew claw” (the small hoof up on the side of her foot) was very swollen. Penelope was moved to one of our holding pens to enable her to rest more and give us the opportunity to examine her foot more closely. We trimmed the hoof and drained



the area, but it was looking pretty nasty. Our vet just happened to be coming out the next day for her regular monthly rounds, so we had her take a look at it while she was here. Dr. Page felt that the toe was badly infected and needed to be x-rayed to determine the depth of the infection. It was obviously very painful for Penelope, so we gave her an injection of Flunixinamine to help her deal with the pain. Penelope was taken to the vet clinic the following day where she was lightly anesthetized for the examination. The x-rays showed that the infection was down to the base of the bone in that toe, so Dr. Page had to amputate the dew claw. It was the first time we had ever had one of our pigs have a digit amputated. Penelope stayed overnight at the vet clinic to remain on IV fluids along with heavy pain medication. She came back to the sanctuary the following day and remained in one of the holding pens with the ground covered with sheets to keep her bandaged foot clean. Penelope's recovery was very rough. The surgical site did not heal properly and remained open and raw despite keeping her foot wrapped and frequently changing the bandages. Penelope returned to the clinic when it became clear that the incision was not closing at all, still infected and even had some bone exposed. A second surgery was performed where the vet amputated further down and took out the next joint of the toe. Again Penelope stayed overnight

to be on IV fluids and heavily medicated for pain then returning to the sanctuary the next day. The second surgery seemed to do the trick and the poor girl's foot healed up nicely. The skin grew over the open area where her dew claw had been. When we took the sutures out, the incision looked great. Penelope spent another three weeks in the holding pen recuperating and resting. After being away from her friends for over five weeks, she was finally able to return to the Sunset Field. Penelope still walks with a slight limp, mainly due to balance issues because of the missing toe but is happily going about her business as usual out there.

---Donna



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Penelope was taken to the vet



If you would like to help cover Penelope's medical bills for her toe amputation, please designate your donation for Penelope. The total cost for both surgeries as well as her after care at the clinic was \$1,282.53. Penelope 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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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Miss Piggles