

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

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Dear Friend,

June 2020

It has been a strange and trying year so far, not just here at the sanctuary but around the world. Everyone is preoccupied with changes in lifestyles, worries over every little cough that is heard, concerns over finances and missing friends and family due to social distancing. Some changes have been made at the sanctuary to adjust to the scarcity



Francesca

of particular supplies. The staff has been helpful with bringing in items that stores offer in limited numbers.

Outdoor hand washing stations were built to encourage new habits. We remind one another, "Don't touch your face!" But life goes on, the pigs keep coming and the work never ends.

The past two months have seen the usual seasonal changes around the sanctuary...shade cloth being rolled out, mud wallows being dug and reshaped, wading pools getting put in strategic places, carpet doorways coming down off shelters and blankets being brought in to sort for either storage or trash. It is a busy time of year and we've been doing it without the help of volunteers due to social distancing.



Rami & Richard

There are seasonal changes for the pigs as well. Some have already shed their hair and are completely bald for the



Mrs. Butterworth

summer. This month the shedding begins in earnest for the majority. Many pigs are "helping" with the reconstruction of mud wallows, rooting and pushing dirt around. Too bad they don't always follow directions on how we want those to look! Some pigs are already sleeping under the trees overnight. Sometimes it's challenging to keep the water bowls and pools filled because of pigs like Salvador who



Salvador

gets a kick out of tipping and dumping everything over and over just because he can.

The normal changes and challenges that the upcoming summer heat present are being dealt with thanks to your continued support throughout these difficult times. The health, safety and comfort of the 620+ pigs of Ironwood are firmly in place because of you.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Celebrating Fathers

Last month we tipped our hats to the mothers of Ironwood. June is the time to do the same for fathers. I'd like to introduce you to Wilson, the proud daddy of five handsome sons. The family arrived in February of 2018 with the intention of being neutered then returning to their home after their recovery. Their owner, however, had the intention of disappearing once the pigs were



Wilson & Velcro

gone. After several attempts to contact the man, we gave up and faced the fact that we had six new



Wilson & Zipper

boys to get settled in at the sanctuary. While the pigs lived in the holding pen where all newcomers initially stay, Wilson was a very patient father. He had



Wilson & Mitchell

to put up with the little ones, then just a few months old, constantly jumping on him, running around in circles, wrestling and playing and just behaving like silly piggies all day long.

Wilson and his boys Buttons, Velcro, Zipper, Leo and Mitchell are now happily living in the North Field with a herd of 39 pigs. The family chose the west end of the field as their home territory. Wilson, now 4-5 years old, seldom wanders from that end of the field. The boys are still growing but will be near their full adult size when they turn 3 this summer. Leo and Buttons wander more than Dad but still stick close to home. His other three sons have gotten more adventuresome and explore other sections of the field but always return home when it's time to nap. On good weather days, the family likes to sprawl out under a tree that has become a favorite napping spot for them. It's so sweet to see them hanging out and relaxing together. Usually one or two of the boys will be snuggled up against their dad.

Even though the boys are getting more independent as they reach adulthood, they still have a good relationship with each other as well as with their dad. Sometimes the whole family will be in a house together. Other times 2 or 3 will be inside with Wilson while the others are together in a neighboring shelter. Whether



Wilson & Buttons

with Dad or with brothers, all of them stay in the same "neighborhood", a cluster of houses down on the west end.



Wilson & Leo

Wilson is still a patient and calm dad who loves his boys. Thanks to your donations, this family will always have a safe and happy home together!

—Donna

The Snaggleteooth Club

When you are taking care of 620+ pigs there will always be medical and dental issues cropping up. That's to be expected. What is out of the ordinary is for three pigs living in three different areas to all have the same type of freak accident within a two week span, yet that is exactly what happened with Ravi, Java and Lyla. These three all broke a lower front tooth with cracks and splinters down into the gum line. All three had to make a trip to see the "dentist" at the vet clinic during March or April of this year.

First was Ravi, a three year old male who has been here since January and is still living in the holding pens. One morning as Lisa was cleaning up from breakfast, she found a tooth in his food bowl. His lower incisors are



Ravi

rather prominent and one must have gotten caught on something and loosened then fell out while he was eating. The vet found that the gums were slightly infected



Java

but flushed the hole out well. She also discovered that Ravi had other very sharp teeth that had caused ulcers to form inside his mouth. Those teeth were filed down and as the sores healed, he has had a much easier time of eating.

Next was Java, a five year old male living in the North Field. Somehow he managed to get a bad vertical crack down one of his central incisors. It went down into the gum which would lead to pain and infection if not taken care of. Java underwent anesthesia at the clinic to have that tooth pulled. It was a fairly easy extraction. His other teeth were checked and cleaned with only one molar also needing to be pulled. His recovery was quick and he was soon back with his herd and doing well.

Then it was Lyla's turn. She lives in Middle East with a small herd of 3 elderly pigs. They had just gotten some new neighbors and

Lyla, who is NOT known for having a sweet disposition, had been "fence fighting" or trotting back and forth along the fence line chomping and biting at the new girls. Her lower teeth stick out so far that we have had to trim them down in the past. She got an outer incisor hung in the fence and broke it off down to the pulp. Lyla made a trip to the vet clinic to have that pulled and was left with a big hole that was packed with meds and gauze. She's a tough gal and was soon chomping



Lyla

at the bit to get back to her field. The hole is healing nicely and she is doing well these days.

—Donna

If you would like to help with Lyla, Java and Ravi's dental bills, please allocate your donation to "Dentals". Their clinic visits came to \$3,205.30. These snaggleteethed piggies appreciate your support!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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Buttons, Wilson & Zipper