

Happy Holidays

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 115

NOVEMBER
2023



Maple

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

November 2023

As we come to the end of our communication with you for 2023 and enter the Holiday Season, I would like to wish you a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season. This is the time of year that Ironwood can take a breath after making it through the hottest, longest, and driest summer we have ever seen in our 22 years here at the sanctuary. It is time to look back and reflect on the year that now is nearly behind us. January started with the most horrific rescue in my memory.

had babies. In the end, Karen and all her family survived. It was a dark time at the sanctuary for sure in which many pigs like Birdie and Romeo spent a long time hospitalized and near death, but in



Cupcake



Karen's Herd



Mowgli Jan. 2023



Satin

rescue remain at Kleigh's where they are being fostered.

the end they were able to recover and come home to us. Sadly, not all made it through that difficult time.



Mowgli Oct. 2023



Kiwi's Boys



Birdie

That rescue ended with the joy of seeing 23 pigs recover and grow into healthy, happy pigs who will never again face the horrors of their past existence. Kiwi's four babies have gone off to a new home where they have been able to remain together. The boys from that

December of 2022 brought Karen and her kids to us. They were all malnourished and some were pregnant. As they were on their way to recovery in January from being nearly starved, the diarrhea outbreak hit the sanctuary. It was a time of shuttling pigs to and from the vet and especially these young malnourished pigs, some of which

There have also been many strays who have come through our gate this year. Some have come from those rescued by Pima Animal Care Center or from Good Samaritans who have taken them in then called us to help. One woman in particular took in a little pig who had been badly attacked by a dog. Marti not only agreed to foster him, but she took him back and forth to our vet while he was recovering. We will soon begin a search for a



Mojo

home for him where he can have another pig as a companion. We are so grateful Marti was able to give Mojo the care and love he needed during this hard time.



Mojo

Bubba came to us right before his 4th birthday from a family who loved him dearly, but Kelly, his caregiver, fell very ill and she and Josh simply were not able to continue caring for him. Plus, they were living in an apartment and the only outdoor space he had was on a balcony. He just loved jumping right in the wallow the minute he arrived and got out of his carrier.

However, he has missed his family and was quite depressed and frightened for some time. But he is adjusting now after one of our staff who regularly feeds him has taken a lot of time and patience with him to make him feel loved and welcome here.



Bubba In His Wallow

Donna's article in this newsletter, "And Then There Were More," features our latest large rescue. Once again Kleigh is graciously fostering all the males for us. These girls and boys are all doing well after a very traumatic rescue.

I am looking back on the year with many success stories. There are so many more that have not been mentioned. Many of you will remember Tomahawk's story from the June issue and all he endured before coming to us. Eighty-Three pigs have come through our gate so far this year. They now have a safe

place to call home and once through our gate, they leave their past behind and begin their road to recovery. There have been many hard times and huge challenges as well through the year. We have had to say goodbye and safe journey as many of our long-time friends here at the sanctuary have passed away. Most were old and had lived out their lives with us, but others were younger with insurmountable illnesses. All of those who pass leave a huge hole in our hearts, but we are so thankful that they were here with us where their passing was peaceful and humane.

I hope you have enjoyed traveling through 2023 with us through our many successes and our many hardships. I do hope you will stay with us through the year ahead. The need for Ironwood is never over, but without you we could not fulfill this need. We can never do all we would like, but with your help, we do all we can.

Happy Holidays and see you next year!

Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

President and CoFounder

Tours

We are currently open for our regular Saturday Tours. You must register online and remember to include the total number of people in your party. Please go to www.ironwoodpigs.org and click on the Visit page to sign up. The piggies can't wait to meet you!



What Is Sanctuary?

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, sanctuary has multiple meanings. The ones that apply at Ironwood are: 1) a place of refuge and protection and 2) a refuge for wildlife where predators are controlled and hunting is illegal. While pot-bellied pigs are not considered wildlife in this country, they are protected from the local predators around Ironwood. Coyotes live out here in the desert and are often seen trotting across the road or



Family In Exercise Yard

stopping to grab a drink at the edge of the property where the water well continuously drips into a large bowl for the wildlife. Those of us that live onsite at Ironwood are often serenaded by coyotes in the early morning hours. But none have ever penetrated the sanctuary's boundaries. The outer perimeter of the pigs' living areas is six-foot chain-link fencing with poles along the bottom to discourage digging under. As far as the hunting part of that definition, to our shock we actually did get a phone call once with someone asking about pricing for a day's hunt and what the bag limit was.



Sisters, Jeni & Amelia

I'll skip telling you the response that person got!

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is exactly what it says; a sanctuary for pigs, a place of refuge and safety. That includes safety from coyotes and dogs, even family pets who have been known to turn on a pig and cause severe damage or even death. It

also means safety from humans who sadly are the major cause for the pain and suffering of so many pigs. The stories we could tell you of things we have seen at the homes of some of these pigs would make you want to lock



Thatcher, Bugs, Huckleberry & Sawyer

yourself in your room and cry. But all of that ends once the pigs come through the gate at Ironwood. I'm not saying that life is a bed of roses for the pigs the second they arrive. It can be quite an adjustment for one who has been pampered as a house pig then suddenly is expected to live outdoors. If one was raised as an "only child" and now must learn how to get along with herd members, it can be rough. We do everything we can to make the transitions as smooth and painless as possible.

When a pig comes to us, it first lives in an individual holding pen with limited daily access to an



Room to Roam

exercise yard. This gives us the opportunity to get to know the personality, medical condition and temperament of the pig while providing them a smaller enclosure where they can feel safe. Those that have had limited exposure to being outdoors need to be in a heavily shaded place while they acclimate to the environment. Every pig is different. Some just bounce right in like they've been doing this all their lives while others may be shy or frightened. Our job is to

help them along the way by getting to know them so that we can choose a herd that will best fit their emotional and physical needs.



Emmie

Each of the holding pens is well shaded with a shelter, wading pool, and mud wallow. Families are kept together whenever possible. If they arrive unaltered, males and females will have to be kept separate until the boys have been neutered and gone through the 45 days that testosterone can still be present in their systems. Some of the pens are larger with more housing for families or small groups that have been formed. Friendship is an



Sweet Pea & Booger

important part of what makes a pig happy. They are herd animals and enjoy the social contact with other pigs. If a pig comes here on its own, we try to match them up with another in the holding pens to see if they bond. The brothers

Huckleberry, Sawyer and Thatcher buddied up with Bugs who now lives with them as if he is the fourth brother.

Later the “pen pigs” will join a herd in one of the 25+ fields where the pigs are divided according to their ages, personalities, emotional status and physical abilities. Here they will have plenty of space to roam with the freedom to do as they please. Each field has plenty of shelters of various sizes so that the pigs always have choices of where they want to sleep, whether alone or with friends. The houses



Pigs in Lil' East Field

are seasonalized with carpet doorways and blankets for the winter or open siding with lightweight sheets during the summer. Eleanor loves nesting and although she gets rather violent with her sheets and blankets, it's her habit to rip and tear and push and shove until she gets them exactly right before bedding down. Booger and Sweet Pea who came here as a couple, end up in tug-of-wars because she wants the blankies on her side of the house while he attempts to drag them back to his side. There is always a compromise though and they end up nestling down on top of everything, side by side.

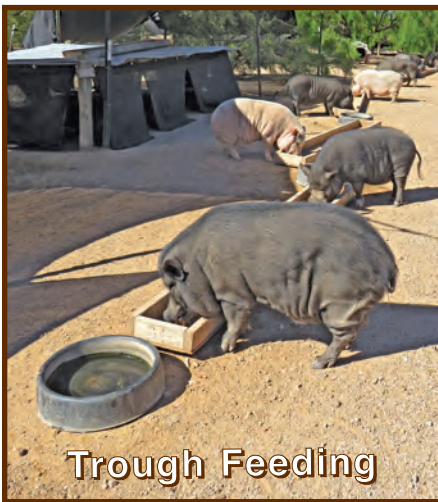
Keeping the pigs comfortable is an important part of the sanctuary we provide for them. Shade ramadas cover water stations where the pigs have pools and



Chet

mud wallows to keep them cool during the hot parts of the year. A lot of time and effort goes into providing places where the pigs can cool off. They cannot pant or sweat to release body heat and must have water sources in order to lower their temperature when it's hovering at 90 degrees and beyond for much of the year.

At the top of any pig's list as far as creature comforts is the food supply. Again, we go above and beyond to ensure that every pig is getting the right amount of food and the opportunity to eat it. The majority of the pigs living out in the fields are fed in communal troughs where they can trot back and forth to the spot of their choice to eat their grain. That doesn't work for everyone though. If a pig is timid, the activity level at the troughs can be overwhelming. The caretakers take note of who is hanging back and not eating then accommodations are made for that particular pig. Small, individual pens are built that are used only for meals so that shy pigs can eat in peace. There are other reasons



Trough Feeding

for the use of the pens as well. For example, Daisy chokes easily so she needs a wet mash as well as to not feel rushed about eating. Being in her own pen allows her time to eat without pressure.

Part of providing sanctuary, a place of refuge and safety, is to give necessary medical care when needed. Neutering and spaying, a major priority around here, not only prevents the births of even more pigs needing a home, but

will avoid the development of testicular and uterine tumors as the pigs age. Emergencies arise among pigs just like anywhere else. Once Big Charlotte got a stick jammed inside her mouth during one of her mad nesting frenzies and it had to be surgically removed. In some mysterious mishap, Latoya broke 3 of her lower teeth off down below gum level and had to be rushed to the clinic. You never know what you're going to find! The vet also makes onsite visits to examine

pigs and make determinations as to treatments needed. Then there are the regular things like dental exams, ear cleanings, and hoof trims that are done periodically. It's all part of taking care of the individual pigs.



Handing Out Meds

Your continued support to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary makes it possible for us to give the pigs the sanctuary they need and deserve at the level of care we are dedicated to provide. Thank you for making a difference and for helping us to carry out our mission.

...Donna



Andre's Eye Recheck

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- *=High Priority
- **Used Blankets are needed year round.**
- *First Class **Forever** Stamps
- *Canned Pumpkin
- *Animal Crackers
- Cranberry Capsules, 500mg
- Peanut Butter, **Creamy ONLY**
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)



Pooh

GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Office Max
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Walgreen's
- Tractor Supply

When shipping donations through USPS, please **ONLY** ship to POB 35490, Tucson, AZ 85740-5490. Do NOT use the physical address.

Amazon and Chewy:

Both are easy! On Ironwood’s website www.ironwoodpigs.org, go to the “Support Page” and click on the links in the drop-down menu to go directly to our wish lists on both sites.



Remmi

2024 Calendar



You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while shopping for holiday gifts or other special occasions. Our 2024 calendar makes a great gift. The \$20 purchase price includes shipping.

Three ways to purchase calendars:

*Go to Ironwood’s website to use PayPal or a credit card. Click on “Donate” in the drop-down menu under Support. After filling in the amount of your order/donations, click on “Write Us a Comment” then specify the number of calendars you wish to order.

*Call 520-631-0894 to pay by credit card.

*Use the enclosed envelope.

Ironwood’s Online Store

You can shop for Ironwood products on our website, www.ironwoodpigs.org. On the Home Page find “Support” on the menu bar then choose “Store” from the drop-down menu. You’ll find fun things for yourself or gifts for any occasion!



Mouse Pad



Magnet



T-Shirt

Sponsor a S



Bert



Ernie



When I was a tiny baby, my mom and siblings got dumped in a vacant lot. A nice person found us and got Ironwood to help us. We got very lucky that day!

I'm Bert's brother. We got adopted for about a year before the family moved and decided they didn't want us anymore. Again, Ironwood came to the rescue!

My family moved and weren't able to take them. My friends live at the sanctuary with the whole herd of pigs.



A sponsorship for one of our pigs would make a great holiday gift! Your \$30 monthly donation will help support the basic needs of the pig of your choice. You will receive a

background letter and photos with an update later in the year to keep you informed about your pig. Please join our family of sponsors for yourself or as a gift for a friend!



Donna and Picklebottom

** Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!*

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



I was attacked by a dog at my previous home and lost both my ears. I'm deaf though and can still hear well. No worries!

Special Pig!



Mickey

ed across the country
e to take me with
d Tofu and I came to
uary. We live with a
ggies now.



Koi

I had lots of litters of babies
before coming here. I love my
kids, but it's sure nice to not go
through all that anymore. Life is
certainly more peaceful and
calm these days.



Rifkah

I came here pregnant when I was
only 7 months old. I was so
malnourished that some of my
babies died and it was hard to
raise the others, but we're all okay
now.



Harper

y dogs at my
nd ended up losing
m doing fine now
till hear pretty
s about dogs here!



Superman

I'm a super-sized hog hoping to find
a super sponsor to support me. I
was a stray that found refuge at a
fire station. The firefighters kept me
safe and got help.



Creampuff

My owner got arrested for
treating me and my family badly.
The police asked the sanctuary to
take us in. Thank goodness we
are in a safe, comfortable place
now.

And Then There Were More

Ironwood's May 2023 newsletter featured some large rescues we did between December 2022 and February 2023 where the pigs came from some bad situations. Well, August brought yet another large group of pigs coming from a home that was even worse. The house had burned down months ago and the animals were left behind basically fending for themselves with only occasional feedings when the owners dropped by. The pigs had been breeding like mad but were so malnourished and thirsty that many of them did not survive. It was a horror show of skeletons and bodies in every nook and cranny of the property. Just when we think we've seen it all, along comes another situation that takes our breath away and breaks our hearts for the animals caught up in the nightmare.



Primrose

With the help of sheriff deputies and officers from the county animal shelter, we were able to capture the 13 females to bring to Ironwood. Three of the girls needed immediate medical



Rue's Group

attention and were taken straight to the vet clinic. The others were placed in an area fenced off in the back of the Sunset Field in preparation for their rescue. The following day, everyone met back at the property to catch the 11 males and take them to one of our foster homes so they could be kept separated from the females. All but the 3 largest boys have been neutered now and hopefully by the time you're reading this article they will have been done as well. Their surgeries were held off because all 3 have testicular tumors and will need a more intense recovery period during which they cannot have wading pools or mud wallows in order to keep their sutures clean. It has simply been much too hot so we were waiting for the temperatures to drop before doing it.

Four days after the girls came to the sanctuary, Rue gave birth to two boys, Peeta and Finnick. They were so adorable and had so much fun playing with one another. Sadly, a month later

Peeta succumbed to pneumonia. Rue is raising Finnick in one section of the living area along with three friends; Effie, Katniss, and Primrose. (Are these names ringing a bell for anyone? The Hunger Games...)

At their previous home, one of the girls that a staff member named Aloysia had been living in a pen separated from the other girls. She was one of the ones that had



Aloysia

been taken to the vet clinic right away. The poor girl was okay, just suffering from malnutrition. After Finnick was a bit older, we put Aloysia in with Rue and the gang. They are getting along very well and she was happy to be amongst the other pigs. Finnick loves living with his mom and all his "aunties!"



Katniss, Finnick & Rue

Another group of 8 girls that had been on another part of the property, have a separate enclosure next door to Rue's group. We felt that too many moving in on Rue and her baby would make her defensive and we didn't want anyone getting hurt. Despite the hardships at the previous home, these pigs are doing very well. The skinny ones are getting extra rations and slowly gaining weight. In the beginning, the girls were terrified of us and went into total panic mode whenever we came in to feed or water them. While they remain wary of us, at least they're no longer bolting in fear. We limit humans to one at a time inside their area. I've sat in there with



Wisteria

As we got familiar with the individuals, names were added: Nikita with one blue and one brown eye, Nadia who is the tallest with tan highlights on her mane, Havana who looks very similar to Nadia but with redder tips on her mane, Jazz with her four white socks and thin white stripe on her snout, Calypso with two white socks on front and a

wider snout stripe, Wisteria has a tiny white dot on her forehead and one white sock on a front foot, Fern has a bigger dot and short white socks on her back feet, and finally Panchita who is the easy one to pick out since she is white with a few black spots. A few of them are now taking treats by hand and to my delight

Wisteria let me give her a belly rub but having all the group gain our full trust will take time.

We'll never know the details of the horrors these pigs went through before coming to Ironwood and none of us really want to know that anyhow. The important part of their story is this: the pigs are now safe, well fed, watered, have shelter and the breeding has ended. We'll eventually get the girls spayed. Little Finnick will be neutered when age appropriate. The boys at the foster home are also protected, neutered and well taken care of. None of this would be possible without your help and support. I hope you know how much all of us at Ironwood appreciate you being there for the



Relaxing In New Home

them several times to help them adjust to being with people while doing the "who's who" game, looking for different markings and features to help us identify them.



Nikita, Panchita, Havana

pigs. We want nothing more than to give these frightened, malnourished pigs the care and companionship they deserve. Thank you for helping us do that!

...Donna

Open House 2023 Canceled

We apologize to those who were hoping for our annual Open House in November, but the ongoing issues of being short-staffed and working in such extreme heat conditions along with the high number of rescues this year has left us unable to organize an event of that magnitude. Our priority is taking care of the 670+ pigs here at the sanctuary and we must focus on them. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

Spot-On!

Back in the “old days” of Ironwood Pig Sanctuary when we only had around 250 pigs, the vast majority of them were solid black with the occasional gray or white or perhaps a mix of black and white. One with spots was a rarity. Things are different these days since the Juliana and Kunekune breeds got introduced into the mix and breeders began pumping out spotted pigs left and right. With over 670 pigs on board at the sanctuary now, there are spotted pigs in every field and herd. Today you’re going to meet eight pigs that are spot-on with their cuteness.

Dante, his mom, and 7 siblings were rescued in the fall of 2020 after the owners had been evicted and denied access to the property to feed and water the animals. Dante was around 4-5 weeks old at the time. About a month later while playing and roughhousing with his siblings, he fractured his front leg which had to be put in a cast. Because he was growing so quickly during that time, the cast



Dante

had to be changed frequently. Dante still has a slight limp, but his leg healed up nicely. He and his family live in the Main Field with a herd of 49 pigs. He turned 3 years old in August and has reached his full adult size. Dante is a sweet boy that loves cuddling with his mom Chardonnay.

Kiwi is a little cutie that was part of a rescue of 23 pigs in January 2023 when the owner/breeder was charged with animal abuse and cruelty. The poor young girl was pregnant at the time and a few



Kiwi

weeks later gave birth to 4 beautiful, healthy boys. Even though Kiwi was still a “child” herself, she was a very attentive mom and did a great job of raising her boys.

Snoopy is the latest spotted male to join Ironwood’s numbers. Near the end of May, he was running loose in a neighborhood where a nice man lured him into his yard to keep him safe while trying to find his owner. After having no luck with that, we were asked to take him in. Snoopy is missing

his right ear but it was an old wound that had completely healed over. He is young but full grown,



Snoopy

around 3-4 years old. The only medical attention he has needed was getting neutered shortly after his arrival. He is a handsome, happy boy.

Mitchell, now 6 years old, came here in February 2018 with his dad and 5 brothers. The plan was to get the boys neutered and recovered from surgery then they would return to the owner. The whole family is still here happily living in the North Field with a herd of 33 pigs so you can guess how that plan worked out. Mitchell has a fantastic set of spots that always bring to mind



Mitchell

the Dr. Seuss book, Put Me in the Zoo. He doesn't do tricks with his spots like in the book (at least not when we're around), but his appearance is a spot-on imitation of the character.

Moo and her friend Bitsy started out as boarders in September 2020 while their humans were



house hunting. The people ended up purchasing a home where the HOA did not allow pigs as pets. The girls became permanent residents of the sanctuary and live in the same field as Dante. In fact, Moo's home territory is in the same area as Dante's and they are often relaxing together in the shade with friends. This beautiful seven-year-old easily transitioned into life within a herd.

The blue-eyed hunk in the Peoria Field is Sir Elvis. He was a



neutered stray that had been picked up by the county animal

shelter in early 2021. His people called there looking for him but never came to claim him. After the required holding time had passed, we were allowed to bring him to Ironwood. This six-year-old boy had a hard time adjusting to life within a herd, but that is often the case for pigs raised alone in a household. Sir Elvis eventually settled in and now lives in a "neighborhood" cluster of shelters with several friends.

Miss Piggy is just one of many girls that have arrived with that name over the years. She has been with us since March of 2016 after being attacked by the family dogs. They had all lived together peacefully for 1.5 years when the



dogs suddenly turned on her. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence and one we always warn potential adopters about. Miss Piggy was not injured badly, but the incident scared her owner enough to get her placed in a safe environment pronto. Miss Piggy is a shy girl that lives in a quiet section of the Northwest Field with a herd of 24 pigs. She has several piggies that she likes to hang out with, all with calm personalities like hers.

Ten-year-old Morgan lives in the Northwest Field with Miss Piggy although she tends to stay in a different section of the field. She



came here in August of 2014 with Dexter and Stella who are most likely her parents. Their background story is a bit vague because they were dropped off at a friend's house while the owner went on vacation. It turned out to be the vacation that never ended because the woman was never seen or heard from again. The pig sitter never intended it to be a permanent situation and had troubles when the pigs began rooting up his tortoise's homes. The trio of pigs have been very happy living here. Morgan and Stella remain in a close relationship, spending most of their time together.

There are many more spotted piggies here including the brothers Bert and Ernie featured on the Sponsor Page of this issue. Pepper, Pillsbury, Brosnan, Chewbacca, Popcorn, Sparkle, and Gam Gam are just a few more of the dotted darlings that call the sanctuary home. Thank you for your spot-on support for all of them!

...Donna

Front & Back Cover



Maple came to Ironwood in March of 2020 with her whole family in tow. Their human family was faced with foreclosure and this entire family was in need of a permanent home. Rusty is a big, happy boy who was already neutered. Two sons, Elvis and Fastie, were 2-year-old unneutered boys and no

doubt one is the father of Maple's two youngsters, Cookie Monster and Chubby, who were adopted soon after their arrival. Elvis and Fastie were soon neutered and later, because of their young age, they were released to the large Main Field. Rusty and Maple were only 3 years old themselves, but poor Maple has a defect between the toes of her right front foot. She has made several trips to our vets to have her hoof trimmed between those two toes. Tissue grows between the toes and the two toes grow together. Because of Maple's chronic hoof issue, she and Rusty were released to the Phase II Field. It is a smaller area but still spacious and better suited to Maple's lameness. Maple and Rusty are bonded and remain close to each other, but they enjoy the companionship of others in this small field with only 9 pigs. She has learned to get along on her lame foot and we continue to trim the growth between her toes each time it impairs her ability to walk.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 115

Dexter arrived in January of 2018. He was 4 ½ years old and as is often the case for unneutered males, he had become aggressive. Also, the family had to leave their house for some major repairs and Dexter could not go with them. Dexter was Mr. Personality when he was living in the pens. He was aggressive, yes, but also endearing when on his yard turns he would come running up to you for a treat and want to get a pet. He had a dual personality, but one could not resist his cute face and vivacious nature. In time, he was moved to one of the larger fields after failing to adjust to the first field we attempted to put him in. Even in his new field he had difficulty and for a long time we had a feeding pen and shelter in the back of the field so he could eat and remain away from the rest of the pigs if he chose to. Over time, he finally made his way into the herd and now is able to enjoy the company of others. He is right up with the herd as the bowls are made and eats in a pen up front with his field buddies. But his individuality still shines through as you can see from the picture. What a proud boy he is. I sure do miss having him come running up for a treat and a pet now that he lives out in Spike's Field.

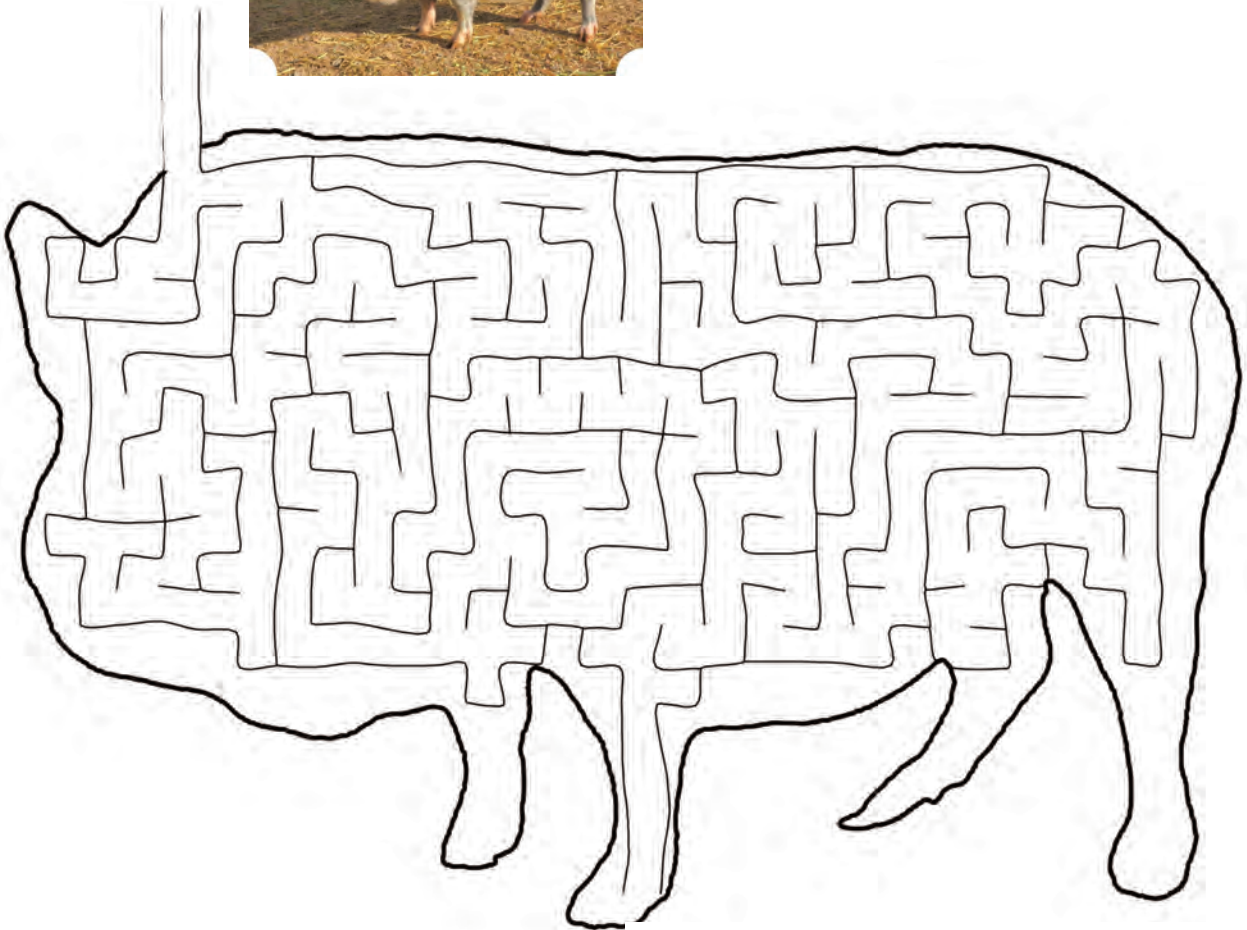


MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Help Pua find her way home...



...so she can rest with her friends
Conner and Daisy



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Dexter