

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

February 2024

Things are tough financially for people everywhere. We are feeling it here at the sanctuary too. Everything costs more...the grain and hay for the pigs, fuel for the water trucks, transport vans and other sanctuary vehicles, the staff necessary to care for the pigs, utilities to keep everything running, and medical expenses for surgeries, x-rays, medicines, etc. With a population of 676 pigs, many of them elderly with special needs, the cost of veterinary



Ninja, Rescued
Nov 2023

visits and medications has become astronomical. But the pigs' health needs cannot be ignored. One of our main goals is to spay and neuter all the pigs and that definitely can't

be disregarded. Who needs more baby pigs!!! Regular concerns such as dental exams and cryosurgery must be tended to. And emergencies happen, especially with the vast number of pigs we are responsible for. Every single one of those 676 pigs is loved and deserves to receive the care they need. We cannot do this without you and we need your continued support now more than ever.

Over the past year Ironwood gained 100 pigs. A few of those were adopted, but the vast majority became permanent residents of the sanctuary. Of those



Kiwi, Spayed Nov 2023

incoming pigs, 30 were boars that were neutered soon after their arrival. There were 25 females spayed as well. All males at Ironwood have been



Pigs in Apache's
Field Expansion

altered while the females are worked in amongst the other medical procedures done at the clinic. An expansion of Apache's

Field was completed in December to accommodate a large group of the newcomers. Moving them out to a field opened up holding pens for more strays and abandoned pigs in need of placement.

Your support is so important to allowing Ironwood to provide help for these wonderful, sweet beings that depend on us. We cannot continue our mission without you.

Whether it be monetary or material donations, volunteering your time, or spreading the word of the sanctuary's existence, we appreciate each and everything you do for the pigs. Thank you so much!!



Silas & Ernie,
Friends Forever

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Movie Stars

(Pierce) Brosnan



My family was dumped near a dairy farm. We kept going in the barns and stalls to get food and water which angered the farmer. He was going to shoot all of us, but a worker begged him to wait. She called Ironwood for help, but by that time it was only me and my mom left. All the others had disappeared. My mom and I got lucky. I've been living at Ironwood for over 4 years and am 5 years old. My home is with the herd of 27 pigs in the Sunset Field. I've made a lot of friends there and actually have two groups that I hang out with; some older gals on the south end of the field and pigs that are closer to my age up in the front. Things are going great and I love my life here.



(Kevin) Costner



My mom and dad, Willow and Bernie, were owned by a man who let them breed even though Willow wasn't even full grown yet. I have three siblings; Jessie, Leanne, and Gibson. There were a bunch of other animals living there too. The man had to move and said he had too many animals to take with him. Just as well since he refused to spay or neuter anyone. The whole family came to the sanctuary in May of 2021. We all got altered as soon as possible so that there would be no more babies. I just had a birthday last month and turned 3 years old which means I'm a full-sized adult now. I'm the same size as my mom but smaller than my dad who unfortunately died about a year ago from lung cancer.



(Mel) Gibson



I'm Costner's brother so he has already told you the story of how we ended up at Ironwood. I live in a big place called Main Field with a herd of 49 pigs that includes my mom, brother, and two sisters. I love my family so much and feel very lucky that we can always be together. The field is huge and Costner and I wander all over the place exploring and rooting around for stuff. We have made friends with a bunch of others that joined the herd at the same time we did. When it's time to lie down and relax, we meet up with the rest of our family at a favorite spot where we like to nap. I love cuddling up with my mom and siblings. And all of us love getting pets and belly rubs from the people here. It's a great place to live!



Lord Cromwell

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, celebrated to promote good oral health. Ironwood's children, also known as pigs, need dental care too. They get heavy buildup of plaque, cavities, and loose teeth that need to be pulled. Signs of problems can include eating slower, working the jaw back and forth, excessive drooling, abscesses along the jaw area, and bad breath.

An issue for males is infections that set in at the base of the large



lower tusks. Lord Cromwell, a stray rescued in the fall of 2021, was sent to the vet clinic for a dental exam in June 2023 after developing chin and facial abscesses. While the rest of his teeth looked great, his lower right tusk was infected but not loose enough to extract at that time. It is risky and difficult to remove a tusk as they are rooted to the jaw bone, but on rare occasions it becomes necessary. Lord



Cromwell returned to the clinic in late November for a recheck and was able to have that pesky tusk taken out. Then the hard part began!

A tusk removal leaves behind a deep hole that takes a long time to close up and heal. Lord Cromwell had his packed with gauze soaked with antibiotic to prevent food and debris from filling in the hole. He had to return to the clinic once weekly during December to have the hole cleaned and repacked. On his third checkup, the vet said he was healing better than most pigs do after a tusk removal. For January, the vet visits were cut



down to biweekly and the time between rechecks will continue to increase.

Lord Cromwell is still in the healing process. The hole is gradually getting shallower and filling in with healthy tissue. The past experience has been that it never fills in completely and there will be future clinic visits for rechecks and cleaning throughout his life. We will need to monitor



Lord Cromwell for abscesses, eating problems, etc. He has been a real trooper during all of this. He has done a great job of handling the back and forth transports to the clinic and undergoing anesthesia so often. Here's to his continued success and healing!

...Donna

If you would like to contribute toward Lord Cromwell's dental expenses, please dedicate your donation in his name. His medical costs for the November and December procedures came to \$2,473.14. Thank you!!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
POST OFFICE BOX 35490
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490
520-579-8847
ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
www.ironwoodpigs.org
www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary
www.instagram.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary
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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Hershey & SkipBo