

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

February 2023

The year 2022 was a busy time for Ironwood. We brought 111 new pigs to the sanctuary from various situations including many strays, some abandoned when the owners moved away, several seized by authorities in abuse cases and others that owners could no longer care for due to illnesses. Nutmeg and Fig were taken in due to Nutmeg's increasingly aggressive behavior toward her human family.



With all the incoming pigs, the staff at Adobe Veterinary Center was kept busy with neutering and spaying. All of the 33 unaltered

males that arrived were neutered as soon as possible. Duane Jr. was one of many stray boars to undergo that operation. Some of the new females were spayed, but others of the 38 spays performed in 2022 were for pigs like Magin who had been on the waiting list while she dieted to get to a safe weight for undergoing surgery. Even though all males are neutered, we strive to spay the females as well for health reasons. Aging females have a high risk of developing uterine tumors, making for risky surgeries later in life or a shortened life span. When



females go into heat every month, some display annoying behaviors or get very snippy and get into fights with herd

members. Being spayed eliminates those actions and gives the girls a healthier, happier life.

Fifteen of our onsite residents were adopted after home checks and screening of prospective parents were completed. Some went to their forever homes to become companions to pigs already in the household. Tripp, Olive, Viola, Spartacus and Valentina were adopted together to make their own little herd at their new home.

During 2022, we also experienced the deaths of 79 pigs. Most of those heartbreaking losses were elderly pigs that had led long lives at Ironwood but had become too arthritic and painful to continue. Others were lost due to various types of cancer, heart failure and one with gallbladder disease. All of the pigs we

lose are cremated then buried in the cemetery at the sanctuary with their grave



marked with their name. It is an emotionally difficult part of working here, but each death is handled with love and respect.

So, 2023 began with a population of 650 pigs living onsite at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. There will be ups and downs with that number as the year moves along. Because of your willingness to be a part of the Ironwood Team through your financial support, we will continue to be here each step of the way, caring for the new arrivals and comforting those on their way out. Thank you for being a part of it all.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

This bright-eyed young girl first came to our attention in September 2022 when a call came in from Adobe Veterinary Center. They had examined Lula Mae after she had been attacked by a dog and was limping badly on her right rear leg. The owner, elderly and disabled, could not afford further medical bills and agreed to release the pig to Ironwood. X-rays revealed that Lula Mae's leg was broken in two places and would need orthopedic surgery to repair it.

Lula Mae came to the sanctuary and was placed in a small pen to limit her movements. A few days later, she went to Saguaro Veterinary Surgery where a long



After Surgery

plate was placed in her back leg. She returned to Ironwood with sutures and instructions to use her leg as little as possible and to remain confined for six weeks. That's a tough plan to follow for an energetic four-year-old! Lula Mae was placed in a small, secluded area where there would be little interaction with other pigs through the fencing in order to keep her as calm as possible.



Lula Mae

Despite her obvious discomfort, she was up and raring to go!

At her first surgical checkup, Lula Mae had her sutures removed. There had been a reaction to the sutures in one spot, so that was cleaned up and two staples put in. The break looked perfect and was healing beautifully. Lula Mae's foot was turning back so that she dragged her knuckles. The vet said there could be nerve damage and it may improve as she continued to heal. During the next checkup the following month, the plate still looked solid, she had good range of motion with that leg and the knuckle dragging had stopped. Lula Mae also got the good



In The Exercise Yard

news that she could begin having turns in the exercise yard. Yay!!

Lula Mae was quite the pill during her confinement and fought us on every bandage removal, pain injection, surgical site cleaning...basically anything that meant touching her. But things changed. Once Lula Mae



Looking Good!

could go out to play and explore (with absolutely no limp at all these days!), her attitude improved day by day. She allows pets now and is just a happy, healthy little girl that loves going out to roam.

—Donna

If you would like to help with Lula Mae's medical bills, please dedicate your donation in her name. Her total bill for all her clinic visits, x-rays and orthopedic surgery was \$4,555.47. Thank you!!

Three AMAZING Girls

MACY



Macy is the eldest of these three ladies at the age of 14.5 years. She has been at Ironwood since August 2013. The wife/owner was ill and the husband did not like the pig and refused to care for her. Their adult daughter asked us for help in placement. Having been raised as an “only child”, Macy was lacking in herd social skills and had difficulty fitting in. She got into a lot of skirmishes with other pigs for years and still does on occasion even in her senior status. Back in late 2020, she “retired” from Comanche’s Field to go live in a smaller, calmer environment in the Special Needs Field with a herd of ten pigs. Macy is still a loner and although she is seen relaxing in the sun with Pumba and/or Rambo, she has never developed any close relationships.



MAISIE



This pretty gal is the youngest of our trio at 6 years of age. Maisie’s humans began having problems when she was 2+ years old which is when pigs begin to establish dominancy within their herd, whether it be pigs, humans or other pets in the household. She had also not been spayed which led to more behavioral issues during her monthly heat cycles. Her aggressiveness escalated until the family felt it was unsafe to have her any longer. After coming here in January 2019, Maisie was spayed then later placed in the Far East Field with a group of 34 pigs. There, she quickly learned that her behavior was not acceptable within the herd. These days she has lots of close piggy friends and lovingly receives pets and belly rubs from people, never giving us any trouble.



MAYZEE



Mayzee began her time here as a boarder until her humans got settled into a new home back in August of 2016. Unfortunately, they chose a neighborhood with an HOA that did not allow pigs and her stay here became permanent. Mayzee had been spayed and well cared for prior to coming here but was extremely aggressive, especially with women. Even after moving into the Far East Field (same home as Maisie), she continued to stalk and attack people. That behavior has decreased over time but still occurs. Mayzee likes spending time on her own but has also become friends with Eli and Stinkbug. Her time is divided between sharing a shelter with Stinkbug, hanging out in the sun with Eli and his group of girlfriends or sleeping in a house by herself.



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

Published at the above address regularly.

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 2216

FEBRUARY 2023
NEWSLETTER UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



**Denise,
Resident
Since 2020**