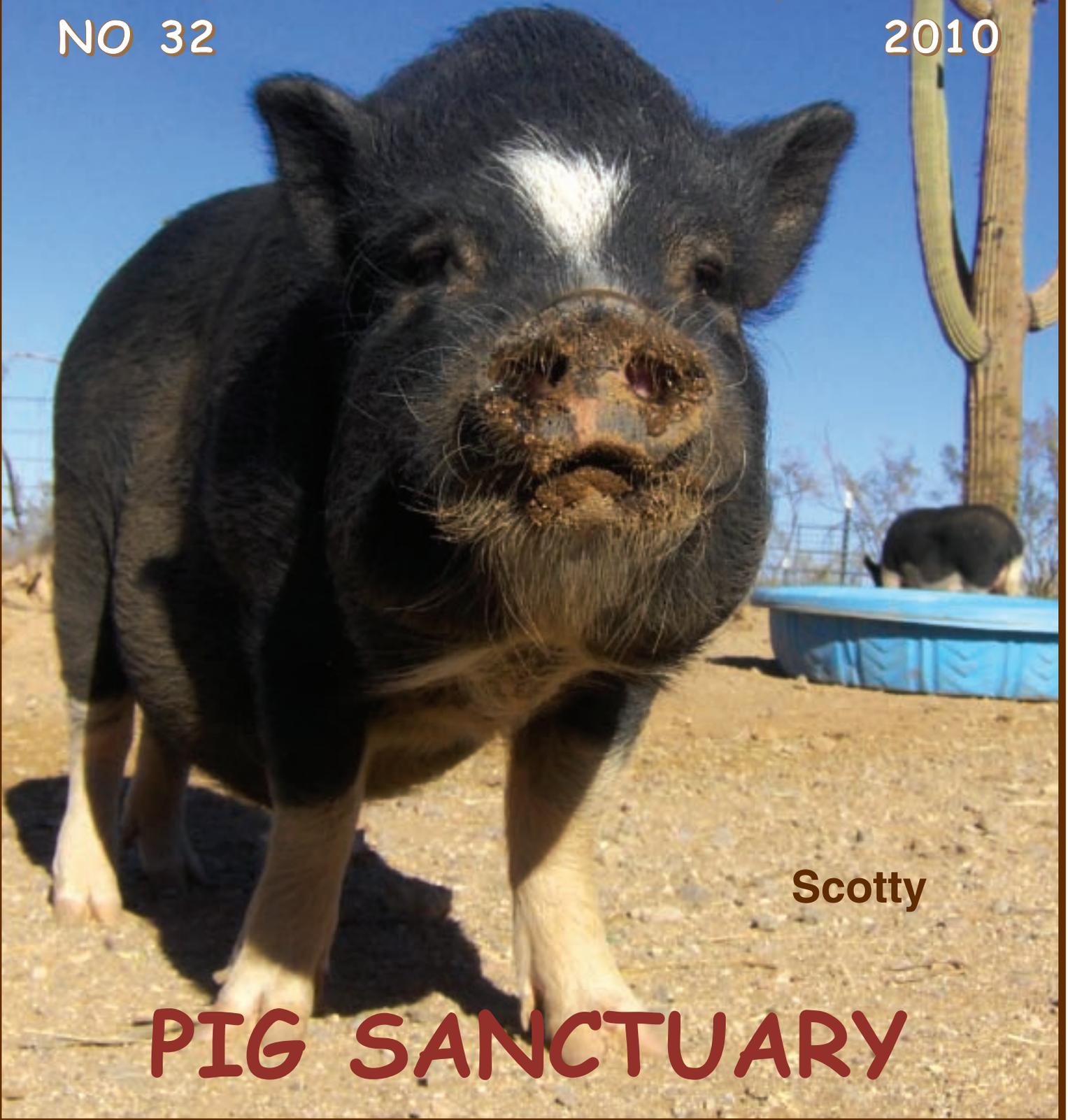


# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO 32

JANUARY  
2010



Scotty

PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

January 2010

Dear Supporter,

Happy New Year and thank you from all of us here at Ironwood, including the piggies. To our new supporters welcome, and to those of you who have been with us for so many years we offer our deepest and most sincere gratitude.

Life at Ironwood is a hub of activity. I wish I could make a video for you so you could see all that goes on each day in the process of caring for all of our pigs. People often say they would like to know how much of their donation goes to the actual care of the pigs. I can say without hesitation, all of it. Feeding and watering, which takes about 20 person hours a day, is but a small part of what has to be done. If you were here you would see and hear the buzz sound of saws making new shelters, T-poles being pounded in to make new fields or feeding pens, staff driving ATVs around putting out grain and hay at feeding stations or bringing pigs in from fields for medical care. Our truck, now filled with pig poops from raking many acres of fields, would be tarped tight and heading for the dump.

Others would be repairing shade ramadas that provide shade for our pigs or cutting carpets for shelters and stuffing blankets in them to provide warmth for our pigs. You might hear a pig in distress because Tim and Donna were trimming hooves and tusks. I might be walking with some of the staff to do medical rounds and on our way we may pass Donna who is taking pictures for all the sponsors. Others would be inside making meds for the over 100 pigs each day who require meds. Volunteers and a staff member could be found outside cutting up a truckload of donated produce to feed the fields and save some for the special pigs who need extra treats. Some might be loading pigs to transport to the vet or Ben and I might be loading pigs to go to their new home. Or we might be in working on the Newsletter! Or writing thank you notes or justifying the books, or shopping for all the special foods for the older or special needs pigs.

Life at the sanctuary is always packed with activity and the work is never ever done. So whether we are buying grain to directly feed the pigs or building shelters, paying utility and fuel bills, doing maintenance on our vehicles, or doing office work it is all for and about the pigs. To provide for them is the only reason we are all here in this hub of activity.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder

PS: We thank you so very much and we thank our staff and volunteers, and those at our Annex and our satellites. All parts of this puzzle are necessary but most of all your generous support, because without that the activity would end and the pigs would have no home and Ironwood would be silent.



Mary & Ellie

# Tulley Time

I first met Tulley in September of 2008 when I came to work at Ironwood. At the time he was living in our special needs field and I thought that he was one of the cutest pigs I'd ever seen. I would try to pet him and give him attention, but he made it clear that he was usually not in the mood for that.

Every morning at feeding time we would open the gate so he could eat outside of the field. He's a very slow eater and would not have been able to compete with the other pigs in the field. He was very lame by that time and it seemed that getting up to eat was all that he had strength for. After a couple of months passed we realized that the effort it took for him to walk from the shelter to his feeding spot was too much for him as was competing with the other pigs for shelter and wallows. He was moved to his own pen where he



didn't have to compete for anything and he was just a few feet from his food bowl.

Within a few days he became a happier and more relaxed pig. One morning when I went in to clean his pen he looked up at me and I could see that he wanted attention. I started to pet his head and he rolled right over for a belly rub. It's been over a year since he was moved to his pen and we're still best friends. Every day after work and on my days off I always set aside some "Tulley time" when I sit with him and pet his head and rub his belly and talk to him while he gets comfortable and falls asleep.



He is still one of our special needs pigs and does require extra attention. In the mornings he gets special soft food that is easier for him to eat than the dry grain, in addition to medication to control his epileptic seizures and help with his arthritis.

During the winter when the nighttime temperatures can drop as low as the 20's and 30's, he needs to be bundled up with plenty of blankets and make sure that his bedding is clean and dry. During the summer months when the temperatures reach the 100's it's crucial to check on him several times a day to make sure that his wallow is full of water and that



he's not stressed from the heat. Tulley is a very sweet and special pig. Every day when I get up I look forward to taking care of him and "Tulley time" is always the high point of my day.

---Tressie

# Home, Sweet Home!

I have always loved John Denver's music. The lyrics to one of his songs, Back Home Again sort of wraps up how I feel.

Hey, it's good to be back home again, yes it is  
Sometimes this old farm feels like a long lost friend  
Yes 'n' hey it's good to be back home again.

This sanctuary feels like a friend to me. It wasn't that long ago that I was writing an article for the July 2009 newsletter about people losing their homes to foreclosures or being forced to downsize. And now, it's happened to me.



**Hailey - Harriet**

Because of the economy and the break-up of my marriage, I found myself dealing with the reality that I could no longer afford my home. My main concern was not for myself but for my 37 animals. I had rescued these animals over the years, promising to provide a safe home to them and it was breaking my heart to think I may have to give them up.

Many of you know that I used to live at Ironwood as the manager.



**Thomas Earl**

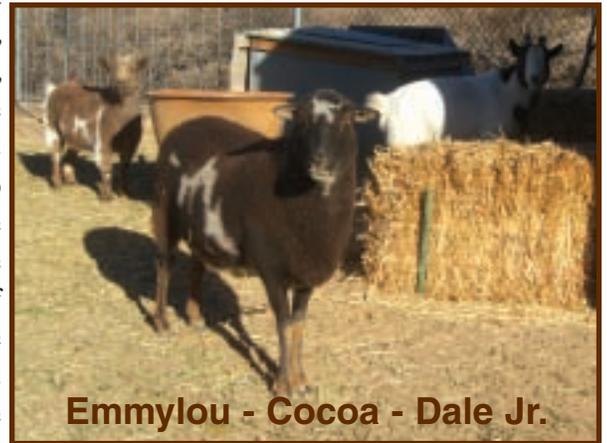
Well, now I am back home again. Ben and Mary "rescued" me and my animals. They were kind enough to open their doors to me and allow me to bring all of my animals with me. I have a variety of cats, dogs, chickens, sheep, goats, turkeys and of course, the

15 pigs. It was no small task to make this move but I had the help of the staff of Ironwood, the Austins (neighbors of the sanctuary), some

of my trimming clients, friends and members of my church. I thank God every day for

the opportunity to be living back here at the sanctuary. I know I am one of the lucky ones.

As I sit here writing this article with a cat in my lap and a dog at my feet, I can glance out my window and see Cocoa the sheep grazing on hay with Navajo the pig napping nearby. I can hear Sonny, my cute little rooster, crowing. My home is close enough to the field where my "kids" live that I can hear the pigs chatting and the goats baaing. I am now in a position to be able to



**Emmylou - Cocoa - Dale Jr.**

financially take care of myself and the animals on my own. Even though I had continued to be a part of Ironwood while living elsewhere, it feels as if I have come back to a long lost friend. I feel that by living here, I will be able to contribute even more to the place, the people and the pigs that have given me so much.

---Donna



**Jennifer - Vanessa - Aussie - Hank**

# Blankets & More Blankets

**A** few months ago we got an e-mail from Crystal KimHan in Las Vegas who is a great advocate for pigs in her area. She places pigs, transports pigs, works on regulations and ordinances and all other manner or work for piggies.

The Sahara Hotel and Casino was replacing all of their blankets and bedspreads and they were offering all the old blankets and bedspreads to the organization who could write the most compelling letter. Crystal wrote a letter for the pigs and won the competition!!!



**Sahara Hotel & Casino  
in Las Vegas**



calling folks and e-mailing to make arrangements to move them out.



We got the largest share of 1,200 to 1,500 blankets, almost all of which we used immediately. There are hundreds of pigs around the western states that are warm this winter because of her efforts

and the generous donation of the Sahara Hotel and Casino. PS: We still need blankets and always will so don't think we have enough, we never do.

We thought you would enjoy seeing some pictures of the pigs and their blankets.



What followed was a heroic effort on Crystal's part to see that all the sanctuaries in the surrounding three states; California, Colorado, and Arizona got blankets for the winter season. She was buried in thousands of blankets and bedspreads and spent untold hours



# Sponsor a S



**Miglet**

Well, my hope for this year is that the food supply never runs out. It would be awful if there were no more pellets. Gee, maybe I should start stockpiling pellets under my blanket!



**Tina**

My wish is for each and every pig at Ironwood to have a sponsor. I've been waiting for five long years....hint, hint! Rather than counting sheep to fall asleep, I've been counting sponsors.



I hope that all this coming year and it's hard aches and pains here's to good



**Carmela**

I love all the people that work here to keep us safe and fed! My hope is for all of them to stay here forever and take care of us piggies.



**Peaches**

My sister and I were attacked by dogs at our old home. Now we live at Ironwood and never have to worry about stuff like that happening to us again. So my hope is that all pigs everywhere will be living in a safe protected place.



My wish around. pets are need some better things willing to

# Special Pig!



Roo

of my friends stay healthy ear. My herd is getting old to watch them suffer the ns of growing older. So health!



Pinky

My dream for 2010 is for all pigs everywhere to have warm, snuggly homes like we have here. I'm an old man and I do appreciate having a roof over my head and a nice cuddly blanket on a cold night.



Buckwheat

I wish that all the pigs were as cute as ME! The world would be a better place filled with cute little snouties like mine! What? .....Oh, was I supposed to be serious and solemn?.....oops, sorry.



Marilyn

is for the economy to turn Too many pigs, people and suffering the effects. We all me help to get through to mes! Maybe someone is to help me?

## JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

*These pigs are sharing their hopes and dreams for 2010. My hope is that all of you remain safe, secure and well fed during the coming year. That is also my wish for our pigs.*

*You can help make that wish come true by becoming a sponsor. For a \$30 monthly donation you can provide for a*



Donna & Jesse

*ig's food, shelter, health care and their share of sanctuary expenses. You may pick one pictured here or I can choose another for you. I will send you a letter and pictures with a history of your pig as well as periodic updates throughout the year. Please join our family of sponsors! --- Donna*

# We Couldn't Do It Without You!

## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

By joining as a Sanctuary Sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose, can be charged to your credit or debit card each month. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the Piggies. Or if you prefer to make your donation by check, we will be glad to send you a supply of self-addressed return envelopes for your convenience. You can also go to the Support page of our web site and make your donation with your credit card using PayPal.

Ironwood's Sustainer program will benefit our wonderful pigs by providing a regular monthly income that will go directly to where it is needed most at the Sanctuary.

To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution or go to the Support page of our web site

The costs involved in maintaining a safe and healthy pot-bellied pig sanctuary are significant. Food and hay, medicines, medical care, supplements for arthritis and other ailments, shelter and fencing, and maintaining living areas are but some of the costs.

Thank You For Caring.

We accept donations with the four shown credit cards for your convenience.



## Remember the Sanctuary in your Will

We have been the recipient of bequests from a number of supporters. These donors felt that they needed their assets during their lifetime, but decided to link themselves forever with the ongoing life of the Sanctuary by making bequests through their estate plans.

Bequests can be a percentage of the estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as remainderman of the estate after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of the estate if certain beneficiaries predecease the donor.

You can make secure donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal using your credit card by going to the **SUPPORT** or **SPONSOR** page of our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org).

# Ellie and Peaches

**T**he phone call that we dread came one afternoon. A lady in the Phoenix area had two rescued pigs. Ellie had been badly attacked by one of her dogs and this was not the first time. Both pigs had been attacked on three different occasions. Peaches had the right side of her face ripped open and the scars remain. On this final attack on Ellie one ear had been completely severed and the other one nearly ripped off.



**Ellie**

Her vet had sewed her up with over 100 stitches but after a couple of days at Ironwood it became obvious that she needed more treatment. We took her quickly to Dr. Page and extensive repairs were made to her injuries.

The lady who had rescued Ellie and Peaches meant well. She purchased the pigs from a drunken man along the highway on a hot AZ day. Ellie and Peaches were very young and he was waving these poor babies in the air trying to “hawk” them for a few bucks. She said she stopped and bought them because she

could not stand to see these poor hot babies foaming at the mouth. That was over two years ago.

There is a very important lesson to be learned here. A well meaning person who rescues dogs and cats herself rescued two pigs who were later subjected to the horrors of several attacks by her rescued dogs. Dogs are predators and pigs are prey animals. It is as simple as that. Our vets get about one call a week, more if you include attacks on goats, where a pig or goat has been attacked by a dog. They said about 50% are attacks by dogs who live in the same household as the pigs. Most people who adopt from us have dogs. When we tell them one of our requirements is a safe place for the pigs to be away from the dogs when they are not present we often meet a lot of resistance. They know their dog or dogs would never hurt a fly. Please do not be too smug.



**Peaches & Ellie**

We have dogs here at the sanctuary. They belong to our live-in staff and some come to visit for the day with staff. They

get along well with the pigs and we have had no incidents. But we are always watchful for any signs of aggression. We have even had two dogs here that make it their business to break up any fights the pigs get into with each other and have been a huge help to us when we release new pigs to one of our large fields. So we are not here to cry wolf and say pigs and dogs are always incompatible, but NEVER



**Ellie**

let your guard down. In one short moment your pig or OURS, if he or she was adopted from us, could be gravely injured. Please don't let this happen. Look at sweet Ellie and Peaches, who are featured in our sponsor page, by the way, and know that you must be cautious with dogs.

Ellie and Peaches were recently spayed and will soon be released to one of our large fields where they can run free and never worry about being attacked by a dog again. Even though they have suffered a great amount of pain and fear they are still both wonderful sweet pigs.

---Mary

## Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna provides weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail [hoofandtusk@yahoo.com](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.

Dear Mary and the Staff at Ironwood,

Thank you very much for making room for Serendipity. I am so grateful to all of you and really appreciate the work that you do. Serendipity has had quite a journey and I am glad that she is in a home with other pigs and people who care for her.

My part in her journey began back in September when my two dogs discovered her under a bush where the Arizona desert meets the Colorado River. Somebody had dumped her, left her to die. It took longer than it should have to get the local animal control to respond-about three and a half weeks. Unfortunately, pot bellied pigs are not legal within the Bullhead City city limits so Animal Control had neither the facilities nor the medical personnel to care for a pig but, as with any animal they pick up, they had to hold her for four days. Sunday, October 11, the fourth day, I was relaying the story to several of my customers at the bar (I am a bartender and a student) and one older gentleman claimed that he wanted her. With my little knowledge of pigs, I informed him that she would need medical care and lots of attention because pigs are social and very intelligent; he was undeterred, he wanted that pig. I continued to make plans to transport Serendipity to Ironwood. The man picked her up at Animal Control Monday morning. This turned out to be unfortunate for both Serendipity and myself. He is not the right person for a pig. I have been trying every week since then to convince him to give her to me so that I could bring her to your sanctuary. Finally!

I wish that I was in a place where I could take her but since I cannot I would like to participate in her care as a sponsor.

Thank you again. Many Blessings! Sarah Russell

## Our Wish List

- \* Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- \* Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens or Target
- \* Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- \* Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM  
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- \* Flax Seed Capsules  
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- \* Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)
- \* Box Cutters



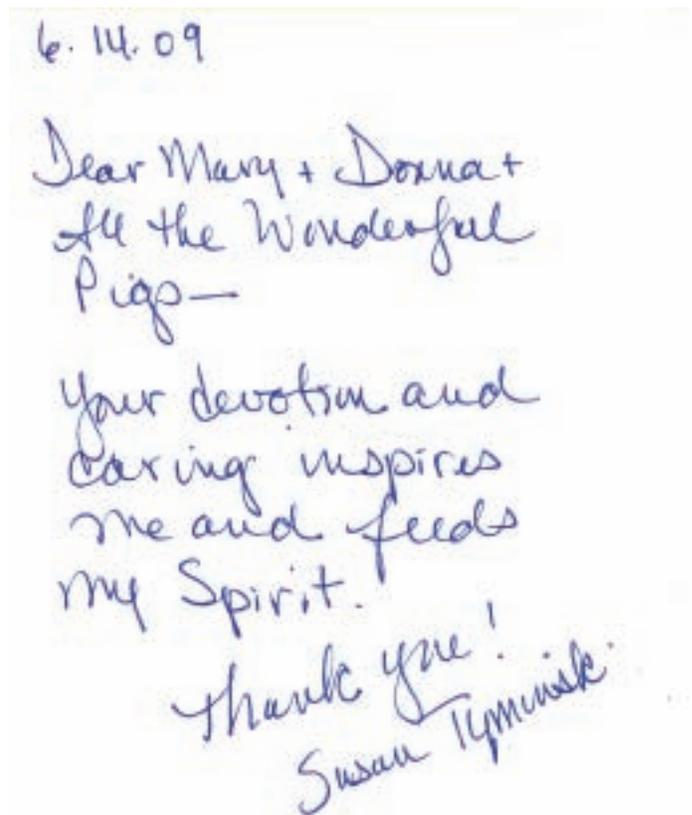
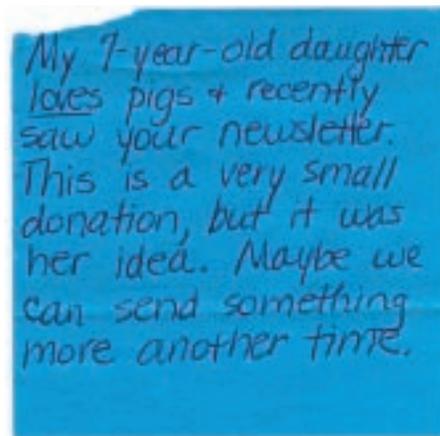
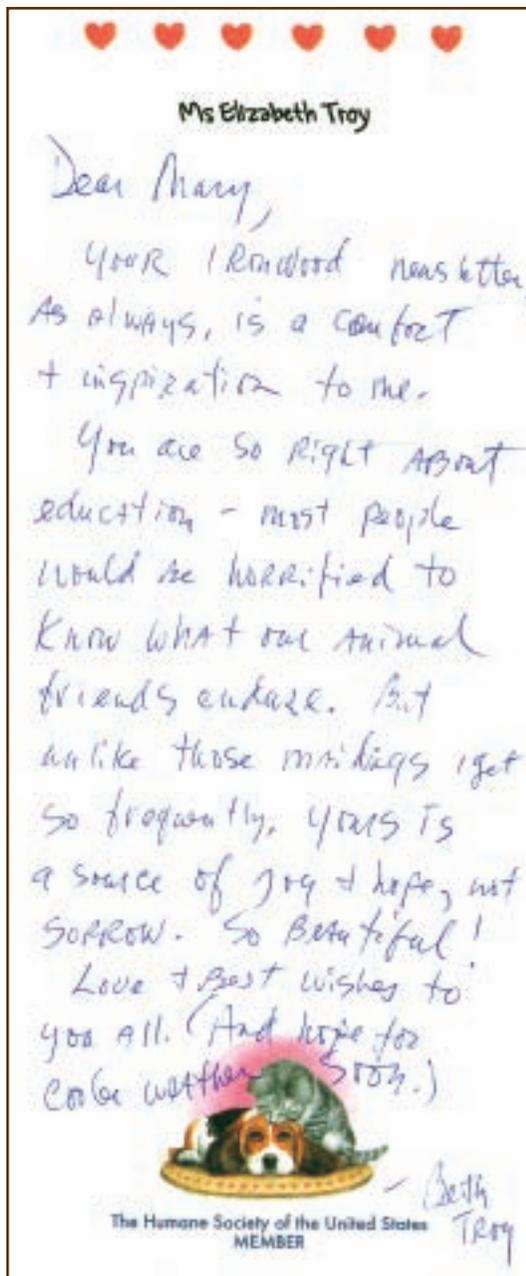
## COVER

Scotty and Gwen and five of their adorable babies arrived at Ironwood on 3/1/09 from the Humane Society in Yuma. Scotty and Gwen, AKA Mom and Dad, were rescued as strays in the desert in Yuma and their babies were born at the shelter on 1/19/09. Since there are few to no vets in the Yuma area who spay/neuter pigs Scotty was neutered by a farm vet and he arrived at Ironwood bleeding and with no stitches. We took him to our Humane Society the next day and they repaired the damage and he has recovered well. As you see he is a beautiful pig but very shy of humans, with good reason, so he will remain a sanctuary pig. Glenn, who feeds the field where Scotty lives, has made it his project to be able to pet Scotty.

## 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.

- \* Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association.
- \* The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.



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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS**



**Neil, Tank & Sabra**