

# IPY SNWOOD

8 Year Anniversary

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NO. 28

MAY  
2009



William

PIG SANCTUARY

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

May 2009

Dear Supporter,

As we celebrate eight years with our pigs at Ironwood we look around and count our blessings. We have provided a home and sanctuary for nearly 1000 pigs over these eight years. We have helped many others by either spaying or neutering pigs for private owners or providing food for other rescues. Many of our pigs have been adopted and many have passed on to continue their journey in the world beyond us.

Nearly 590 pigs still live with us at our two facilities and our foster homes. This is a huge number, and I never would have thought this would be possible. Because of your good will and generous support we have been able to continue to provide a good safe home and medical care for these many pigs whose lives depend on us.

Ben and I have also been blessed with good health so we have been able to continue our commitment to the care of all of our pig friends. But no matter how hard we work or how committed we are we cannot begin to keep up with the demand. Every pig we turn away I wonder what has happened to its life. Breeding pigs must be banned and buying pigs must be banned. It is time to make hard choices and put the welfare of the animals first. Petting zoos, feed stores, flea markets, county fairs, Craig's list, web sites, newspaper ads, boxes of piglets along the highways all make our job more difficult and the welfare of these animals hopeless.

People have caused this problem and it is only people who can solve it. You do your part by helping us and others like us. You have made a difference and so have we for the 1000 pigs who have made their way to Ironwood in these past eight years. But our work is far from complete. It is only through the work and commitments of all of us that have a passion and love for animals can change occur. And that change must reach beyond our sanctuaries to a change in laws and our minds.

Your belief and ours that animals deserve a better life has made these eight years at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary possible. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder

PS I am pictured here with two of our old pigs, Wilma and Blackjack, that came to us from Pigs\*A\*Lot when Ironwood first opened. I always loved Wilma and said if I could have one pig of my own when we were volunteering it would be Wilma. Be careful what you wish for as they say.



**Blackjack, Mary & Wilma**

# Our Dear Old Pigs

**I** have decided to devote this issue to our old pigs and to talk about the most common medical problems that we encounter at Ironwood. I have gone down memory lane and checked all the release forms and reminisced about when and why our pigs have come to Ironwood.

Many have come as individuals and



**Bandit**

In 1999, while volunteering at Pigs\*A\*Lot, Ben and I picked Bandit up at his home near our home in Oro Valley. He had lived there for 10 years but his family was moving to Canada. Once we opened the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in 2001 we brought him immediately to Ironwood. He had been a boar for the first 10 years of his life and once he was neutered he did not give up his fighting instincts easily and got into repeated fights with Oreo, a huge hog that lived at Pigs\*A\*Lot. Even though he is a large pig he was no match for Oreo. He is now 20 years old and if it were not for arthritis he would be very healthy.



**Peanut**

Peanut and Bandit compete for the oldest pigs at Ironwood. May 10th will be Peanut's 2nd anniversary with us. She was 17 at that time. I never would have believed she would be celebrating her 2nd year with us after being brought here by a livestock agent from Bullhead City Animal Control. Peanut also is very healthy, even though she looks ancient, except for severe arthritis. She came to us spayed.

others we have taken as large groups from sanctuaries that have failed, or large rescues of abandoned or abused pigs. As I went through the pages of our logs I came to the realization that more than 300 of our pigs are now 10 years or older. Over half of our herd is geriatric. This realization has had a dramatic impact on me personally, knowing that in the next few years I will lose most of these pigs that I have had such a close association with. Our years together have been good ones and I am grateful to have them all as part of our family.

With age comes more health problems and that translates into much more time spent taking care of the needs of all of these older pigs.

The most common health problem by a very large margin is arthritis. We currently have about 175 pigs, at both facilities and our foster homes, on daily meds of one kind or another, and the vast majority are on meds for arthritis. It now takes one staff person nearly four hours to prepare all of the meds. While we know there is no cure we also know these meds afford our pigs a longer and higher quality of life. We have had pigs come to us who were very lame with little mobility. In time, after receiving meds, they are up and walking around and often well enough to be released to one of our assisted living fields. Luckily for us, our pigs seem to tolerate the meds well and we have seen no known adverse reactions.



**Samantha**

Samantha just celebrated her 17th birthday on March 23. What a girl. She still lives in one of our major fields, not even one of the assisted living fields. She came to us at age 12 from Show Low and it was a hard adjustment for her to go from a single family home to our north field. But she made the adjustment and she is integrated with the herd and lives with them in one of the large shelters.

**Pearl**

Pearl is 14 to 16 years old and was one of our very first pigs. We got a call from the sister of the man who had her. She asked me to please pick her up because her brother had gotten divorced and he was not taking care of her. She was already lame from arthritis, and our first attempt to put her in our 1st new field proved to be impossible for her. She became part of our first assisted living field and is the real diva in her field. What a commotion she causes trying to boss everyone around. She and Donna have always been best friends and there was a time when she would bite anyone but Donna. She has mellowed out in her old age.

The second most common health problem is tumors of all kinds and all locations. By far the most common is uterine tumors. We and other sanctuaries around the country have found that 80 to 85% of unspayed females will develop uterine tumors of some kind that will claim their lives, possibly years before they would have died had they been spayed. We once believed, in our early years, that as long as all of our males were neutered to avoid any reproduction we were ok. That has proved to be a fatal belief along with the fact that our access to vets who could spay

for us was limited. We now have the Humane Society of Southern Arizona doing spays as well as Dr. Brambert with her mobile spay/neuter unit and our long time vet Dr. Barbara Page who spays our older and more difficult cases. We are determined to spay every female pig whose health and age will permit it. It is a daunting task, but we are well on our way to our goal.

In addition to the two major problems mentioned above we have many older pigs that require dental work and soft food diets. There are also many who require more nutrition, just like older people, to maintain their weight, so special food preparation is an added job. Another issue not often thought

**Mattie**

Mattie arrived in the back of a pick up truck from Phoenix in 2002. She is now 14 years old and lives in a pen within the main field. She has lived in the main field since she arrived at Ironwood. As she began to grow older she started to stay in the pen where she now lives to retreat from the maddening crowd. We fixed the gate so she could let herself in and out at will. Recently her balance has not been too good and her back legs are weakening so we have confined her to her pen all of the time. She is content to live there where she is familiar with the pigs and her surroundings.

**Claire**

Claire and Popeye were our very first pigs here at Ironwood. They were both adopted from Pigs\*A\*Lot a few years before we opened Ironwood. She was a house pig for a few years before she got too big to live in the house. Claire is a gentle giant and has always loved attention. She and Popeye went their separate ways but Claire became best friends with Dixie Lee shortly after Dixie was introduced into the main field. I think Claire took her under her wing and has protected her since Dixie was a young frightened girl at that time. They are always seen together.

about is keeping the older "folks" warm enough in winter and cool enough in summer. We had a very mild winter this year, but still there were nights that we had to bring Tulley into our house to keep him warm.

We love our geriatric family and will continue to do all we can for them to make their last years as comfortable as possible. This was our commitment to them when they became a part of our large family at Ironwood.

---Mary

## Our Wish List

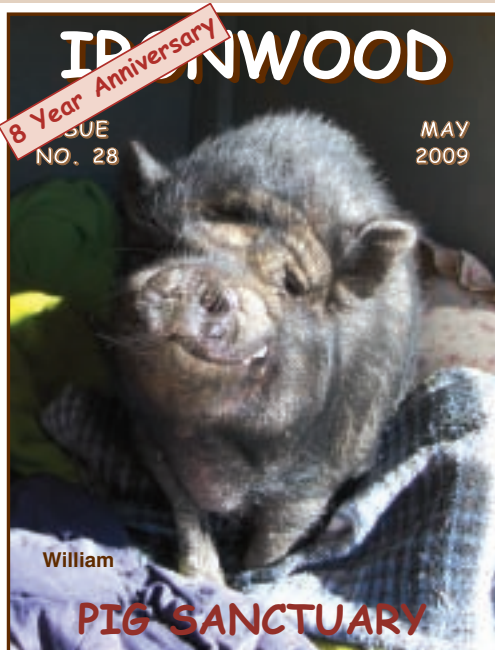
### Items we can always use

- \* Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- \* Stamps (44, 27, 17 cents)
- \* Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, or Walgreens
- \* Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- \* Zinc Oxide Ointment Such as Desitin
- \* Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM
- \* Flax Seed Capsules
- \* Triple Antibiotic Ointment

# COLOR NEWSLETTER!

We still receive calls about our “expensive” full color newsletter. Because of the number of newsletters that we print each issue, the cost of color is only slightly more than black and white and the upgrade in the white paper we use did not cost us anything extra. In addition, the savings in postage due to mailing the newsletter folded more than paid for any cost due to color.

What a sweet soulful fellow William is as can be seen in this picture. William and his brother Arnold arrived at Ironwood in January of 2007. I have featured them in other issues. Deborah had to give up William and Arnold, who she had for many years, to Ironwood because of a zoning issue. Such a shame that two loved pigs had to lose their home because of an insensitive, uncaring neighbor. Arnold is the outgoing character who keeps us all amused and loves to join us in the visitor center to beg for a treat when we are on break. William has always been very reserved, shy and lame with arthritis. Since their personalities are very different, and we want them to remain together, I have chosen to keep them in a pen. Each morning they are the first to be put out into the common area to roam, and while Arnold makes his way around the property William is content to find a sunny spot or bush to lie under and take a morning nap.



Visit our website at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) where you can follow the 8 year history of Ironwood by downloading past issues of our newsletter.

# Sponsor a S



Ducky

Ducky: All of us pigs feel bad about the troubles around the country these days. We know what hard times are like! Everyone hang in there!



Joann

Joann: I have been at Ironwood for a long time and have always had a sponsor up until recently. Feels sort of lonely!



Mojo Jojo: I'm one of My three sisters each and I'm feeling a little and I'd love to be your spe

## JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

*Thanks for hanging in there with the sponsorships as long as you could. And thanks to those continuing their support. We would love to have more of you*



Lullubelle & Donna

*join our family of sponsors. The pigs on this page are just a few that need a sponsor. Pick one of them or I can choose another for you. Thank you everyone!  
Donna*

*I'm with Cheesecake!*



Chee

# Special Pig!



Mojo Jojo

If the hogs here have a sponsor left out lately. special hog!



Cheesecake

Cheesecake: I just want to send out a big "thank you" and a "we love you" to all our present and past sponsors. Your support has been great and we appreciate you always!



Penelope

## Please Pick Me!

Hard times are hitting us all! Economic woes and a crumbling job market are making it difficult or impossible for many people to continue their donations to the sanctuary. All the pigs pictured on this page have lost their sponsors in the past few months due to financial issues. If you can find it in your heart and in your checkbook to sponsor one of us, it would be greatly appreciated! For \$30 monthly, you can help feed and shelter us, take care of any medical bills and pay our rent. Donna will send you occasional updates and pictures about your pig. So please help if you can (and pick me!!!) Love ya, Penelope



Monty

Monty: I hope things get better for everyone quickly! We need your help!

# Pigs, Past and Present

**A**s we prepared for this issue about our senior pigs, I was going back through the records checking on ages of various pigs. As I scanned down the list and came across the many names of those who are no longer with us, it brought back so many memories; some happy and some painful. The first death at Ironwood of Mrs. Pibb soon after her arrival was so traumatic for me. I'll never forget how helpless I felt at that moment. Others we had for



**Abigail**

I remembered sitting with Big Buster's head in my lap as he struggled with his last breaths. And lying down with Hammie telling him that he would no longer be living in pain. Losing Lucille on the surgical table and how unexpected and horrifying that was. The loss of several who had found a very special place



**Bella**

years then lost....Fido, Will, Oreo, Oprah, Bella, Jack and



**Mabel**

Mabel just to name a few.



**Travis Magee**

in my heart that to this day can still bring me to tears.....Travis

Magee, Abigail, Swiney, Bubba, and Hazel. It was rather depressing as I realized how many had passed away.

I had to stop for a few minutes and compose myself.

I had to make myself change the direction of my thoughts and



**Swiney**

begin thinking of all the new pigs that have arrived in the last couple of years that have inserted themselves into my heart to fill the holes left by others. Cowboy, one of the young baby boys born to one of the moms from Peoria, always brings a smile to my face when he immediately flops over for a belly rub as soon as I approach him. Wilbur (one of many Wilburs here at Ironwood!) is a total sweetheart! He is not only handsome but loves to be petted





**Cowboy**

and is always so gentle and appreciative of attention. Boscoe is an adorable little old guy that is



**Mrs. Piggy**

very friendly and loving. He and his companion, Rosie are both very sweet. Frankie is really a crabby old gal but for some reason she means something

special to me. Maybe it's because I had been trimming her hooves at her former home for a couple of years before she came to Ironwood. I had always liked her despite the grouchiness. And I simply adore Mrs. Piggy! She is a quiet, gentle girl that lives in our Assisted Living Field. She's very undemanding but loves to be touched, rubbed and petted.

I could go on and on about Sedona, Lesley, Monkey, Charlotte, Poky, Carmela..... well, you get the picture! This business of taking care of pigs has its heartaches but the joys never end either. As with all things worthwhile, there is a balance. At times when the bad and sad things seem to outweigh the good, I just need to give Penny a relaxing back rub or lie down to cuddle with Mickey or rub Peanut's belly and listen to her "purr." Making these pigs happy and comfortable reminds me how much we're all needed and what we're working so hard for.

---Donna

## 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 520-682-4686 or e-mail at [hoofandtusk@yahoo.com](mailto:hoofandtusk@yahoo.com) to set up an appointment.



**Donna trimming Navajo, one of her Pigs.**



**Wilbur**



**Sedona**

# All Our Pigs Thank You & We Thank You!

## Double and Sometimes Triple Your Donation by Using Your Matching Gift Program at Work, Even if Retired!

There are many companies that will match their employees or retirees' donations to charities. The process is usually pretty simple. You obtain a Matching Gift form from your employer, even if you are retired. Fill out the form and include it with your donation. We will fill in our part and send it to your employer. Some employers will donate \$2 for every \$1 you donate! Your gift, with your employer's match will go even further toward taking care of the 580+ pigs at the sanctuary. Please check out our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) for a more comprehensive list of Matching Gift employers. Check with your own employer. A few major companies that have a matching gift program are:

|                 |           |           |                |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 3M              | Aetna     | Allstate  | AT&T           |
| Bank of America | CIGNA     | Coca-Cola | Delta Airlines |
| Dow             | Exxon     | Ford      | General Motors |
| Halliburton     | Honeywell | Lockheed  | McDonald's     |
| New York Life   | PepsiCo   | PG&E      | P&G            |

## Remember the Pigs in Your Will

Bequests can be a percentage of your 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. Our tax ID number is 86-0999483 and we are under the name of The Mary C. Schanz Foundation.

## 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.

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.

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

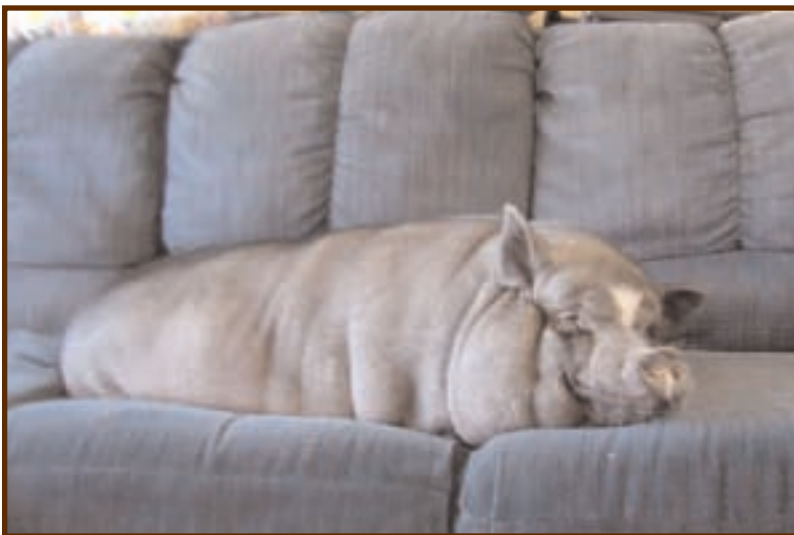


You can make secure donations to the Sanctuary using your credit card by going to our web site at [www.ironwoodpigs.org](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org) and clicking on SUPPORT.

## 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.



As Pork Chop has gotten bigger & older, she has taken over the couch for her daily naps, her sleepy smiles have gotten bigger! Her dog sisters, Comet & Maggie, lay on the floor below her even though you can't see them in this picture, but she's very content to stay out of the hot outdoors for nap time. We eagerly await your newsletters and was very pleased to see your last newsletter on your smiling pigs! Every lucky pig should have a smile so bright!

Crystal & Pork Chop, Las Vegas, NV



Girl Scout Troop #1975 - Tucson Arizona

Betty, Missy and Phoebe



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