

IRONWOOD

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Shannon

PIG SANCTUARY



Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2010

Dear Supporter,

September signifies the beginning of fall where the temperatures will at least begin to drop below 100. As always, the summer here in Arizona is the hardest season as temperatures soar well into three digits. This has a big impact on pigs and staff alike.

This has been the most difficult year ever here at Ironwood. We have seen 33 of our companions leave us behind; many were our old and most beloved friends. Nothing can prepare oneself for this nearly weekly sense of loss and grief that we have experienced these past 9 months. Some days I wonder if I will make it to the next. Many have had a good long life and have passed on as any old person or animal does as they come to the end of their life span. We are here for them to administer medical care where possible or hospice care when we know there is nothing more to be done for them but let them go with dignity.

We know the years ahead will be even more difficult as many more of our friends reach the end of their lives. But we take comfort in knowing that we fulfilled our promise to give them a good home forever and to love them well. The sanctuary is forever changed by the loss of so many of our familiar faces and grunts we are used to hearing. As they go on to continue their journey, the gates of Ironwood open to others in need of a place to call home where they can live out their lives as well in the presence of sanctuary.

Below is a quote taken from a Cedarhill Animal Sanctuary newsletter. Kay McElroy understands, like all of us who run sanctuaries or all who have ever loved and lost a beloved companion animal, the pain that comes with their loss, but we can never forget the love that they shared with us.

“The cat that was a kitten is all too soon old and frail and sleeping in the sun. The young pup of boundless energy wakes up stiff and lame, the muzzle now gray. Deep down we somehow always knew that this journey would end. We knew that if we gave them our hearts, they would be broken. But give them we must, for it is all they ask. When the time comes, and the road curves ahead to a place we cannot see, we give one final gift and let them run on ahead - young and whole once more. “Godspeed, good friend,” we say, “until our journey comes full circle and our paths cross again.”

An excerpt from *The Journey* by Crystal Ward Kent

Sincerely,

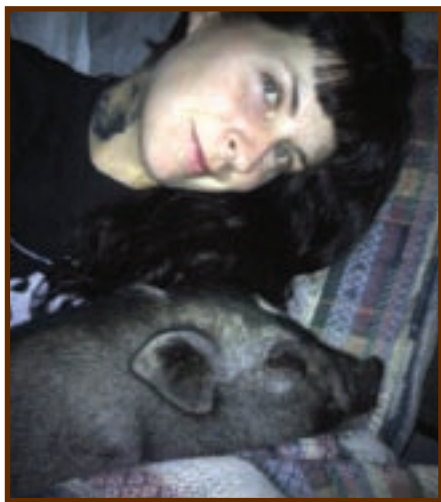


Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

Rootin' Rudy

In May Mary got word that a woman went to purchase a pig from a breeder and saw that one of the pigs was falling down and appeared unhealthy. Wanting to help this pig she took him home. He could hardly stand or walk straight and would continuously fall over. The woman named him Kokoro and continued to care for him until her own health became an issue. Unable to give him the care she thought he deserved she decided to bring him to Ironwood.

Kokoro immediately stole everyone's hearts. It was clear that the woman had shown this baby tons of love as he was very friendly and loved to be held and sit in our laps. We had our regular vet do a check up on Kokoro and he was initially diagnosed with "Shaky Pig Syndrome." As time went on and more tests were done we learned that



Kokoro had an inner ear deformity as well as spinal deformities. It seemed baby Kokoro had some congenital defects and we were unsure of his future.

I spent a lot of time with our new



Rudy & Taryn

boy. With his deformities came many obstacles for him. His walking was very unstable in the beginning and he had trouble holding down his meals. It appeared he was also the runt of his litter so he was much smaller than our other pigs. As he has gotten older he has gained a lot of stability and has little to no trouble with his meals now.

As I got to know Kokoro better he reminded me of Rudolf the Reindeer. We have kept Kokoro as his middle name but now call him Rudy, short for Rudolf. You can often hear us calling him "Rootin' Rudy," which is a well earned name for him. I have even gotten some of the other staff here saying "Rudy, Rudy!" in a football chant sort of way.

Baby Rudy grew to enjoy hanging out in the house in the afternoons. I would watch him have running spurts and flip shoes and toys around. I remember one specific afternoon when he had extra energy. He ran back and forth in the house "barking." I would hear him and just see a blur of a pig run by. When his days would wind down he made it clear that he wanted to sleep in my

lap or rest his head on my shoulder. He would even try to chew on my hair if he could sneak his way up to it. Rudy has quickly become a big part of Ironwood. Anyone who visits wants to meet him and our regular staff look out for him as if he were their own. I haven't seen anyone look at him without smiling.

Every day I look forward to the time that I get to spend with Rudy. I wake up wondering how he is doing and what kind of mischief he will get into. I make sure that he is getting all of the vitamins that he needs and that he is comfortable. Rudy has spent many nights sitting with my dogs and me watching TV. We usually all fall asleep together and Rudy will let me know when he has to potty or needs a drink. He even likes to chew on the



Rudy's Friend George

dog toys and sleep in their dog beds. He fits right in.

It has been such a pleasure to watch Rudy grow and gain strength. He loves making friends with our older pigs and has no problem introducing himself. I am so thankful that instead of looking the other way someone had the heart to save Rudy. He has become such an important part of my life.

---Taryn

Who Is That Pig?

Mary and I know most of the names of the over 600 pigs living here at Ironwood and the Annex. It helps that we have both been here the entire 9 years, meeting and



Sabra

getting to know each pig as it has arrived. At times we have gotten in groups of 40-55 at once through hoarding rescues or other sanctuaries shutting down. It takes quite a while to get names and faces straight in those cases.

Now, imagine yourself as a new staff member or volunteer coming on to the scene and having to learn to identify these pigs. It may not be necessary to know absolutely all 600+ of them, but what if you're told to check on Pee Wee when you're watering in Phase 5 and make sure he's in the shade. Or, when you feed Main Field see if Elizabeth is eating okay. Here's a favorite: When you go to the back of Northwest Field watch Daisy and see if her poops are normal.

You hear these requests and say "Uh...which pig is that?" Later you're out raking in East Field and notice a pig with a lump on its belly. You report in to someone



Sabra

what you've seen and the first thing they ask is, "Who was it?"



Abner

Your answer...."Uh, the black one." Believe it or not, that is not helpful when all of the 45 pigs in East are black!

So you work at it and eventually begin to recognize faces and markings; you remember Apache

has long hair and reddish tips on his mane, how Abner's mane stands so tall, that out of three gray siblings Linus has the darkest hair, out of the few white pigs in the North Field Jolee is the one with the longest hair or the glossy black appearance of Sabra.

Then summer comes along and guess what! The pigs all start to shed their hair. And I don't mean like a cat or dog will shed an undercoat but everything comes off so that they are completely bald from head to toe! It really changes their looks and makes it more difficult to distinguish one from the other, particularly the average size solid black ones which



Abner

constitute 75% of our pigs.

When the desert heats up to 100+ degrees, the pigs' hair will begin to stiffen and feel coarser. It reaches a certain point then loosens up and starts to fall out. Within a few days it will all be



Jolee

gone. The new coat begins to grow back immediately and everyone is walking around with



Jolee

actually feels soft. By the time October rolls around, the pigs will look like their normal selves. But



Aida

these cute fuzzy crew cuts. I love how they feel! The first couple of weeks of baldness, the pigs' hair



Aida

for now, we're all doing double takes out in the field, mumbling "Who is that pig?!" ---Donna



Apache



Apache

Open House

Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend Ironwood's Open House this November 13, 2010 from 11am to 3pm.

It is an opportunity to meet your sponsored pig, other supporters and receive a nice tour of the Sanctuary.

We will have snacks and drinks and there is no admission charge.

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer living on site at Ironwood. Donna provides house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



Sponsor a S



Janis Joplin

Janis Joplin is the name and singing the blues is my game. All the other pigs gather round while I croon a little "Me and Bobby McGee," the hooves start to tapping along and we're just grooving. If you want to join in our own little Iron-Woodstock, just choose me to be your sponsored pig.



Allison

Hello. I am Allison, a representative of the Pigs of Ironwood Secret Society (don't even think about giving us an acronym!). I agreed to reveal my identity in order to secure a sponsor. Others in the club are in need, but Donna has promised to release their names only to their sponsors.



Hi! They call me outgoing sort of belly rubs. I'm Ironwood after my family over to my siblings and sponsors and would absolutely my sponsor!



Angel

This is Angel speaking. I don't see too well but I'm getting along fine here in my new home at Ironwood. They put me in a small field with a few other pigs and it's working out great for me. What I need now is a friend to support me financially and emotionally.



Corky

Hey! I'm Corky and it's really exciting to be here. My dad, my brother and I were living in an awful place. There was a terrible dog attack. My brother died and Dad lost his ear. I was lucky and didn't get hurt too bad. Now we're safe and protected but need your help in providing for us.



I'm Corky on this pig story. I'm here but need a sponsor choose I would

Special Pig!



Nelson

all me Nelson. I am an
of kid and enjoy pets and
was actually born here at
er a big rescue of my
vo years ago. Several of
nd cousins already have
now it's my chance. I
ely love to have you as



Aida

Hi! My name is Aida and I have a
favor to ask all of you. My brother
Linus and my sister Kelli have both
been in past newsletters and got
great sponsors. If I don't get one
too, I'll never hear the end of it!
Please, please, please....somebody
pick me!



Boss Hog

My name is Boss Hog. I have
tried so hard to be the boss out in
the field where I live now, but
those pigs won't listen to me!
Maybe some of you will pay
attention. I need help! Having a
sponsor will increase my status
and I need all the support I can
get.



Patrick

ky's dad, Patrick. He is also
age and has told a bit of our
We are very fortunate to be
have been told that we each
supporter. If you can, please
at least one of us to sponsor.
I be forever grateful!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

These pigs are eager to share their lives with you. You can provide for a pig's food, shelter, health care and their share of sanctuary expenses by

making a \$30 monthly donation. You'll get pictures and updates of your pig throughout the year. Please become a member of our family of sponsors!



Brazil

Donna

Donna

Become A Sanctuary Sustainer

You can become a Sanctuary Sustainer by making a monthly contribution, be it \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100, or any amount you choose which is 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. 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 and make your donation by PayPal.

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.

The Mary C. Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your will please use the name of both organizations, the post office address and the following tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-0999483. Thank you for your support.

Apply For A Sanctuary Credit Card

Share your passion for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and make donations with your everyday purchases. We've partnered with Capital One to launch our new Ironwood credit card, and it

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



will help us care for the 600 pigs at the Sanctuary by doing what you do every day! Just use our custom credit card and 2% of gas and grocery purchases and 1% of all other purchases made with the card will be donated to the Sanctuary. Plus, Ironwood will get a \$50 bonus donation when you make your first purchase. For example you can use the card for your monthly Sponsor donations. And you will be donating to our cause with each purchase you make. Apply today by visiting www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary



You can make secure One-Time, Sponsor, or multiple Sponsor donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal using your credit card by going to the **SUPPORT** page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

Pigs In Fiber Art

Ashley Weymouth is a fiber artist living in Portland, Maine whose pieces are made from alpaca,



Missy

sheep and goat fibers. In an effort to support farms that participate in humane and animal-friendly practices, Ashley strives to purchase wool from local Maine

farms that treat their animals with dignity and respect. The processes involved in creating each piece involve felting, fulling and needle-felting wool. The images in Ashley's pieces are inspired by



Brianna

her love for animals. More recently, following an unforgettable visit to Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in February, Ashley has begun to create pot-bellied pig portraits and is donating half of each of the sales to Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. To see more images, go to her website, www.ashleysfiberart.com. If you're interested in having your pet's (or pig's!) image captured in fiber, please contact Ashley at ashleysfiberart@gmail.com.

Our Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, PetsMart or Walmart are an easy way to give.
- * The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
- * VISA gift card that can be used anywhere
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * Utility Knives
- * Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)
- * Sun Screen Lotion SPF 30 or above
- * Benefiber Powder
- * Prilosec



Front Cover

Shannon and her whole herd have been with us since January 2002. Not long after we opened we brought a herd of 58 pigs from our Annex (previously Pigs*A*Lot) Most of Shannon's herd were born at Pigs*a*Lot and all are 10 years old and older. They are large, long legged, and thin. I have heard them called razor backs. Shannon

was spayed in April and had a large uterine tumor and a rough recovery. She has now completely recovered and is happily back with her herd. Shannon and her herd are not the typical potbelly pigs. They are more like ferals. Shannon enjoys belly rubs and attention, but they are so strong they are very difficult to handle and treat.

Back Cover

Precious arrived on 7/11/02 and Ebby came to us on 5/11/02 so they have lived in the main field together for most of the past eight years. Precious and her sister Angel were babies when they came to us and have remained best friends and are always together, but as you can see they have made other friends along the way. Ebby was a stray not far from us and a nice lady borrowed a trap from us and was able to catch him after many in the neighborhood had threatened to shoot him. Ebby is still wild and shy but no matter, he has all the friends he needs and they are all pigs.

Rhiannon's Pigs

Hello, my name is Rhiannon and I am nine years old. I have 4 pot-bellied pigs. I got my first pigs about 1 1/2 years ago. Their names are Wilbert and Gilbert. Gilbert was a runt. My dad built a house for them and we got them a heating pad because it was cold. They live on our farm and have lots of fun. Everyday they run out in the pasture. My mom goes out into the pasture and yells "Does anybody want a peanut butter cookie" and they race out. They really love those.

I taught Gilbert and Wilbert to sit and flop. I ask them if they wanted a belly scratch or bottom scratch. If they want a belly scratch, they would flop and if they want a bottom scratch, they would sit.

One day we saw a little piglet and didn't want it to be alone so we took it home with us, I always



Rhiannon & Her Pigs

held my pigs in the van. His name is Jeffrey. He is a button pig. He loves cheese doodles.

My sister has a pig named Pig. We went to get him because the people were getting a divorce and couldn't keep him. He is 2 1/2 years old. We put sunscreen on him because he is white and he will get a sun burn.

I made flower fairies and sold them at the farmer's market to raise money to buy blankets for

my pigs. When I was little, I always wanted to go to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

I told my mom that I wanted to sell something to give money to the pig sanctuary. We started making stuffed pigs and in 10 days, I made 700 Rhia's pigs and my family helped me. I sold some at the farmer's market and I am going to keep selling them to help the pigs.

I finally went to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

It was lots of fun. I read about Ellie and Peaches and I was excited to meet them. I really wanted to meet Boss Hog and I have a picture of him. I read lots of stories on the computer about the pigs at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and I love them so much. I want everyone to help these pigs. It's all about the pig's nose, that's their special thing. They are smarter than you think.

Thank you,

---Rhiannon

PS - Rhiannon and her whole family are an inspiration for all of us. At nine years old she has followed her passion for pigs and has followed her heart to find a way to raise money for our pigs here at Ironwood. So far she has raised a whopping \$816.22 for the pigs by going to farmers' markets, the Pet Expo and other venues. Imagine a world full of Rhiannons and her family. A child's compassion should always be encouraged and nurtured as Rhiannon's has. Thank you, Rhiannon and her whole family. ---Mary

Check Out Ironwood's Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary

Taryn, one of our live-in staff members, updates our Facebook page almost daily. Check it out for the latest happenings. Many of our supporters like to visit Facebook daily in order to stay connected to the Sanctuary.

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.

May 12, 2010

Hello,

I just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work you do at Ironwood for the little piggies.

Even though I just give a small amount each month, I feel like I am helping by making the world a better place for animals. Also, it is because of your newsletter that I gave up eating pork for about 3 years now.

Keep up the good work!!!

Sincerely,
Gina Valdez

Dear Ironwood,

Thank you so much for all the hard, selfless work you do for your piggies. It makes me happy to know so many people care about the lives of animals like I do. Please accept this blanket donation for your organization. I hope I can donate much more in the future. Thanks again for your unconditional love of all the needy pigs out there!

Sincerely,
Casey Kloss

March 14, 2010

Dear Mary,

It may be a cliché -- but what does one say when "Thank You" doesn't seem adequate enough? I don't have the answer, but all I can do is reiterate that from the bottom of my heart, thank you for all you do to give the wonderful pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary peace and quality of life. Your dedication to these beloved animals is unmatched.

I am fortunate enough in these tough times to have a job that pays the bills and leaves some left over to donate to worthy causes such as yours. Therefore, I am pleased to once again provide a donation to the Sanctuary. It is only a small amount, but I hope it goes a bit to helping defray the many costs of care for these wonderful animals.

I hope my business travels one day take me to Tucson so I can visit your wonderful facility in person. Until that time, know that you have a strong supporter here who appreciates deeply all you do and spreads the word of all the good you bring to the world.

Best Wishes
Lisa Calicchio

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Precious & Ebby - Friends Forever