

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

This May issue marks our 23rd year rescuing and caring for hundreds and hundreds of pigs who have come through our gates. Old, young, pregnant, injured, sick; they have all found refuge here. We offer a safe place for the pigs to live out their lives within a nurturing environment with food, water, shelter, medical care and love. We see them through their young years and often well into their late teens as you see by the pigs we have featured on the front and back covers of this issue. When their quality of life is no longer possible, we help them complete their journey on earth peacefully. This is the final gift we can give them.

Many of you have been with us for many anniversaries and for some it is your first. Some have lost their favorite sponsored pig along the way then found a new one in need of support. Many others of you offer your support however it is needed at the sanctuary. However, no matter how you have decided to support our pigs, we are so grateful you have chosen to do so. We are not an Island and no matter how dedicated we may be, we would not exist without you.

There have been so many pigs that have come through our doors this past year who we are so glad to have been able to save. They are now healthy and thriving.

The Berry Family, who stands out among so many because of the circumstances involved in their rescue, truly celebrates our 23rd Anniversary. As we head into our 24th year, this family is one example of how we

continue to live out our mission.

Mary Schanz President and CoFounder

Mary Scharz

t started like so many others; a concerned member of the community contacted Ironwood

about a family of pigs they saw during a day of hiking in Ursery Mountain Regional Park in Mesa, AZ. They attached a picture of a cute family of four; Mom, Dad and two babies that looked to be about four months old. These messages are especially difficult to read. We know how challenging it can be to get a single pig safely crated when they're contained in a yard but four young pigs out in the wild just sounds impossible.

Berry Family on the Loose

Regardless of the situation, we knew we needed to do something to help this family. The dad appeared to be limping. Although we live in the desert, we have been having a multitude of bad storms with heavy rains and very cold overnight temperatures. It was imperative to find them and to do that as quickly as possible.

Our networking team, AZ Piggy Network, has a wonderful group of ladies that didn't hesitate. They headed

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to the park the very next day after we had been told that the Forest Ranger (Steve) had successfully tracked them down and had them contained. We couldn't believe it! We were so relieved. However, by the time we arrived, they had all busted out of the containment area and were once again running free in the park. Day



one; mom and daughter were recaptured and taken into foster care with one of the ladies from the team. Day two; the young son was found alone and was reunited with his mom and sister. He was so happy! He was dehydrated, very hungry and completely exhausted.

We were hopeful Dad would be sighted and caught on day three, but he proved to be very skillful at hiding and refused to go easily. By this time, news had traveled all over the Phoenix metro area. People were posting on social media

coming out to help look. It wasn't until a wonderful woman, Kim Powell who owns Samson's K9 Search and Rescue, offered to come out with her drone to help locate our elusive dad, that we finally had success.





By the time we finally caught up with this crafty little guy, he had moved on

from the park and tried out a gated community where he was seen running down one of the streets. He quickly determined that left him far too exposed and decided to test his luck at a large construction site. With the help of the construction workers, the ladies from our team in Phoenix, countless volunteers, and the community for posting this little guy all over social media as they spotted him, the pigs were all reunited with one another. It was the very sweetest thing to witness! They have made their way safely to Ironwood but not before their foster mom, Brittanie Pavinski, named them the Berry Family - Blackberry.

It took a large village of people to bring this family home safely and Raspberry, Blueberry, and Cranberry. we are so grateful to all the folks who jumped in to help.



...Carrie Sanders

Now that they have made their way to Ironwood, the boys have both been neutered. Raspberry, who arrived very pregnant, will soon give birth to her second (and last!) litter of babies. If possible, we will find good loving homes for them, but if not, they will grow up together as a family at Ironwood like so many before them have done

... Mary Schanz



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Northwest Field

ack in July of 2004, we took in 46 pigs from a sanctuary that was doing an emergency downscaling of its population. A new field was created for that particular group of piggies who happily lived out their lives here. Over the years as their numbers declined, new residents were added. A group of four sisters known as the M&Ms were the latest to join the herd in the fall of 2023. The four-yearold girls, Magnolia, Maybelline, Meadow and Mimosa, brought the population up to its current number of 26. All of the original herd are now gone, the last of

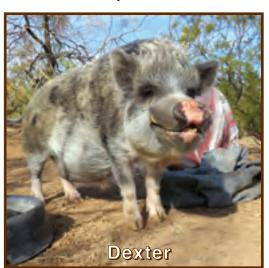


which was Honey who passed away in June of 2022 at an amazing 21 years of age. In the present group, Shadow wins the prize for having lived here the longest. She arrived at Ironwood in June 2011 after having been abandoned inside a rental home with no food or water. Shadow is a sweet, quiet 14-year-old girl who is good friends with Miss Piggy. A large number of pigs rescued during 2014 moved into the Northwest Field and are now the "elders" ranging from 10.5 to



12 years of age. Bruce, Stella, Dexter, Chatty Cathy and Logan are all that remain of that bunch.

Back in his younger days, Dexter could be heard "singing" loud and clear across the property whenever the feeding team arrived at the Northwest Field to begin the meal preparations. He is not as spry as he used to be and no longer leads the chorus announcing the beginning of That job has been breakfast. passed on to Clementine and Douglas. They do a fine job with their loud squeals of excitement, but nobody will ever live up to Dexter's hearty voice.



Some of the pigs are fed in individual pens for a variety of reasons. Chatty Cathy is shy and doesn't deal with the competition in the feed troughs very well. Sophie and Magin need extra rations to keep their weight up to a healthy level. Shadow is older and moves too slowly to keep up with the trough action. Bruce began his time in the field with the bad habit of biting the caretakers as they tried to feed everyone, so he has always been put in a pen to eat for safety reasons. These days he is much



calmer but is losing his eyesight so a pen still works best for him. Douglas has chronic problems with constipation so he is put in a pen so he can be served diluted juice with his meal. Staying well hydrated is important for him. Having been raised together until adulthood at their previous home, Pancakes and Nacho had trouble acclimating to eating from the troughs with so many other pigs. The boys are more comfortable eating alone in a pen. These "pen pigs" all have a bowl with their

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name on it since the amounts of food vary and some have medications added in. After each meal, the bowls are cleaned and placed in what we call the Memory Boards. Matching the bowls with the name tags assures that all the pigs are out of their pens as well as allowing the bowls to dry out and not mildew.

Pigs eating in pens are put inside and fed first. The remainder of the herd is then fed in the troughs with an amount of grain appropriate for that number of pigs. Durango, Miss Piggy, Winky and the rest of the gang move from trough to trough at their own pace. Some of the pigs have particular troughs they



prefer eating from while others scurry down the line hitting them all and gobbling up grain as they go. There are water bowls between each trough for those pigs that like to grab a drink during the meal. The pen pigs also have water bowls in their pens. After everyone has finished eating their grain, the pen pigs are let out and bowls are gathered up. While that is

being done, another person is



dropping alfalfa hay throughout the field so the pigs can scatter out and graze for a while.

The amount of time spent grazing on hay depends on the individual pigs. The older ones are usually the first to drop out and settle down for a nice, long nap. Some are content with skimming through the hay for a short time to only eat the best leafy parts while others may continue for an hour or more A handful are determined to leave nothing behind and scour the field from one end to the other. Eventually, though the need for a nap overcomes each and every pig. During the cooler months of the year, many of the Northwest herd enjoy gathering in the large open area in the middle of the field to

lounge around in the sun. They always look so peaceful sleeping



out there together. When it becomes too hot for that, groups will meet under the shade ramadas near the pools and mud wallows. Some of the other pigs have special nap spots where they meet up with a friend or family members to rest together. Dale and Felicia who arrived at the sanctuary a few months apart, met one another after moving into the Northwest Field. It was love at first sight and they remain in a close relationship after four years together. Very similarly, Logan



and Chatty Cathy, strays picked up in different towns back in 2014, met here and quickly became very attached. They are always snuggled up with one another. It is always interesting to see what friendships form after individual pigs join a herd. Douglas and Mavis were strays picked up together in Douglas,

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AZ in the summer of 2019. They are close and share a shelter but also enjoy spending time with other piggy friends they have made.

I have already mentioned one set of four sisters, the M&Ms. There is another quartet of siblings that came in early 2019. Hobson, Arthur, Winky and Clementine had been living at a small rescue but had outgrown the little enclosure provided for them. They love having so much space to wander through and will go off on their own while grazing or exploring. However, when it's time to relax and nap, they always Gilligan, the only white pig in this herd, came to Ironwood with Sophie back in May 2016. Their human had been breeding them and selling the babies at his pet store. Turns out his home was not zoned for pigs and the town council forced him to give them up. Thank goodness, another breeder put out of business! Once the pair of pigs joined the Northwest herd, they went their separate ways. Gilligan chose to live in the front



portion of the field and hangs out with Pickles, Durango and a few



find one another and end up with all four of them lying side by side. We love seeing family members maintain a close relationship over the years. other buddies. Sophie claimed a corner area in the back as her territory. She can often be found relaxing with Shadow and Miss Piggy. Even though Sophie and Gilligan didn't stay together, each found their niche within the herd and have been very happy with their choice.

Dexter, Stella and Morgan came from the same home in the summer of 2014. While Stella and her daughter Morgan stayed very close up until Morgan's death earlier this year, Dexter



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went off on his own. He is rather independent and still sleeps in a shelter by himself. One of his favorite outdoor napping spots is shared with Pancakes. Stella, who has a beautiful smile, is comfortable with other pigs but has yet to form a new friendship after losing her daughter.

Over the past 20 years since the Northwest Field was first established, many pigs have come and gone yet it remains a safe haven for those that reside there today. The pigs have their favorite areas to hang out, shelters they have chosen as their



own, and their preferred friends, but they are all comfortable with being members of the Northwest herd. Thank you for providing them an environment where they can live happily together.

...Donna

Happy Anniversary, Ironwood!



This month we are celebrating our 23rd anniversary of opening the sanctuary and our hearts to the rescue of hundreds and hundreds of pigs. With your continued support, we will keep on providing a place of refuge for these wonderful, intelligent animals that have nowhere else to turn in times of trouble. The dream continues...a permanent home in a safe, loving environment with space to roam and friends to

spend time with.

Cheers to the memories of all the beloved pigs from the past, to the lives of those here now, and to the piggies in Ironwood's future! Thank you for being a part of all their lives!



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.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

*=High Priority
**Used Blankets are needed
year round.**
**Animal Crackers
*First Class Forever Stamps
*Famotidine, 20mg
*Ensure (or Generic), Vanilla Only
*Ibuprofen 200mg
Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
Canned Pumpkin
Fig Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)



Smoochie

GIFT CARDS

Fry's Home Depot Lowes Office Max Staples Walmart Amazon Walgreen's Chewy's

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Dur Wish List

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Sponsor a



I escaped from my abusive owners then the neighbors got help from Ironwood to capture me. Thank goodness I made it here! I'm well taken care of and found a best friend.



I was a stray picked up by the county shelter. I'm a well-mannered guy that didn't deserve to be dumped out in the desert. I came here and found a best bud named Kodie.



My dad got put in friend to take car two siblings. That coming over and let us come to Iron decision!

These eight pigs could use your help today. They each need a sponsor to help provide for their basic needs. Your monthly donation of \$30 will do just that! In exchange, you'll get a letter



Donna & Slater

with your pig's story plus some photos. An update with new pictures will come later in the year. Please join Ironwood's family of sponsors and help a special pig.

* Go Green! When signing up as a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



My human mom g could no longer tak and my companion leave her, but it wa move into a big fie piggies.

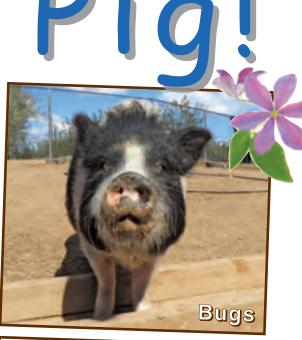
Special



ut in jail and asked his care of me and my That guy got tired of nd convinced Dad to Ironwood. Good



My human got arrested. (He deserved worse!) A month after I came here, I had babies even though I was barely two years old. Now I'm spayed, safe, and well fed. Phew!



I was attacked by dogs while I was on the loose. The county animal shelter saved me then called the sanctuary to take me to the vet. Now I'm safe and have lots of friends!



n got very sick and take care of me tion. I was sad to was exciting to field with a herd of



I'm Igor's brother. We are much better off living here in a big field with lots of other pigs including our sister. It's great! The two of us are still best buddies though.



My owners got in big trouble and a whole bunch of us were rescued by police officers. Coming here was a lifesaver! How nice to be fed and watered...every single day!!

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Chino Valley Boars

arlier this year, Ironwood was contacted by a man in Tucson who said his son who lived in Chino Valley, AZ was "out of town" and had no one to take care of his pigs. He

asked if we could take them. Chino Valley is 225 miles away so it wasn't a simple matter of hopping in the van to go get them. Plans had to be made and staff available for the 8 hour round trip drive plus time to catch and load

the pigs. Lisa has a trim client in that town and asked if she could go check out the situation and feed the pigs if necessary. That woman did go and found out the



owner's ex-wife was dropping by to feed and water the pigs while the owner was in jail. How's that for being "out of town!" Anyway, the pigs turned out to be 3 unneutered males, a dad and his two young sons. After failed attempts to find a proper foster home in the area, we made the trip up to Chino Valley to rescue the boys.

The boars, named Reverie. Camden and Zulu, arrived at Ironwood on March 10th. They exhibited all the usual boar

Tech Kristan came well prepared with everything they needed to perform the neuters onsite at the sanctuary. Larger pigs need more time to wake up after anesthesia so it was decided to do the dad.

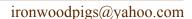
> Reverie, estimated to be around 5 years old, first so he could be monitored while working on the youngsters. He was given a pre-op injection to get him drowsy before masking him down with the anesthesia. Reverie was perfect for his shot

after getting a rub down and ear



scratching from Dr. Ritz. Once he was showing the effects of the drugs, he was easy enough to get masked anesthetized. and Reverie was lifted into the immobilizing trough and the surgery performed on the ground







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stomping

around.

behavior:

frothing at the mouth, sparring with one another, clacking their teeth, marking their stinky scent everywhere and of course, mounting everything in sight including each other. The boars are not allowed to be in direct contact with any of the other pigs but the sounds, sights and smells get them worked up in a hurry. They begin to turn on each other and on us if given the chance. It is always a priority to get males neutered as soon as possible after their arrival. The bad behavior and smells are important reasons to neuter but are secondary to the main purpose of preventing accidental pregnancies. (None have ever happened during our 23-year history!)

For this trio of boars, we brought in Herd Health Management, a mobile veterinary service from Gilbert, AZ. Dr. Ritz and Vet

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which was easier than lifting the big guy up onto the table. After the procedure was completed, we turned the trough toward his shelter and gently rolled him off to land inside the house where he could sleep off the anesthesia.

Next up was Camden who is approximately two years old judging by the growth of his armor. The armor on a boar, also known as a shoulder shield, is a thickened subcutaneous layer of tissue which overlies the outermost muscles in the lateral shoulder region. It serves as a layer of protection when fighting other males. Reverie's armor is



thick and extends from his shoulders out along his sides. Camden and Zulu's shields are still in the early growth stage. Camden and Zulu were both more of a challenge to get their pre-op injections. Because the boys are



little, their surgeries were done in the smaller trough up on the table. Once Camden was done, he was

placed in a kennel to keep him safe while he came up out of the anesthesia. During the surgery, we all kept checking on Reverie, but he was still snoozing in his house. Zulu's neuter went just as easily as Camden's and he was soon in his kennel

for recovery. About that time, Camden was awake enough to come out into the pen where he was staying. Reverie also began waking up around that time so Lisa, Mary and I were busy tending to the boys while Dr. Ritz and Kristan shut down the "operating room" which was set up in Reverie's pen. Once their equipment was safely out of reach of the pigs, Dr. Ritz did another check on the boys who were all up on their feet and becoming more alert.

Reverie, Camden and Zulu will remain fertile for up to 45 days, so they will continue to be separated from our other pigs during that time. They will gradually calm down and lose that "bad boar" behavior and pungent odor.



Thanks to Herd Health Management for getting another 3 boars neutered. And thanks to you for supporting Ironwood's efforts!

...Donna



This is Everleigh speaking. I am 8-years-old. I love pigs sooooo much. I have 22 pig stuffed animals. I've been raising money for the pigs. I've asked my grandparents to send me money for Christmas instead of gifts so I can buy things on your wish list for the pigs. Today, my mom helped me shop and we are sending 16 cans of pumpkin, 4 jugs of peanut butter, 4 jugs of animal crackers, 3 jugs of fiber powder and I am sending one comforter that the pig Calico can share with her friends. Someday, I want to visit and volunteer at the Sanctuary. Merry Christmas to all the pigs. Sincerely, Everleigh

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Olive & Juniper

nce upon a time, there were two girls named Olive and Juniper who were the very best of friends.

Their human loved them very much and fed them treats all the time. And that is where the fairy tale ends. The girls ended up being overweight and uncomfortable. Then their human died unexpectedly with no time to plan for their

future. Luckily, a neighbor reached out to Ironwood for help and the girls were brought to the sanctuary in the summer of 2023.

The first order of business was

getting Olive and Juniper on diets. It was summertime when the girls arrived which meant they had shed most (Olive) or all (Juniper) of their hair. So, look beyond the hairlessness and the mud in the "before" pictures to check out the weight

loss in the "after" shots. Juniper has reached her goal weight while Olive is looking better but still needs to drop a bit more before she can safely undergo spay surgery. Both girls, Olive at 9 years old and Juniper 12, are definitely more active and feeling better than when they arrived almost a year ago. Earlier this year, Olive and Juniper along with three boys, Bubby, Bojangles, and Pepper, introductory period for pigs who don't know each other can be rough. There is a hierarchy already in place and the new pigs



moved to one of Ironwood's smaller fields called Assisted Living Phase 5, a field that has served as a home for elderly pigs, some with limited mobility, one



blind/deaf pig, and others that required a small group to best fit their emotional needs. The herd had dropped down to Minnie Pearl, Joan Jett, Ralphie, and Frodo. There was more than enough space available for Olive, Juniper, and the trio of boys.

For the first couple of weeks, the pigs were supervised while they got to know one another. The must work out their positions in the pecking order. This is accomplished through scuffles and tussles to see who will be the dominant one. Despite Minnie Pearl's age and arthritis, she started most of the fights in the beginning. She is a

feisty lady! People were there to use boards to insert between the pigs to break up confrontations before they get out of hand. After a few days, Minnie Pearl decided it wasn't worth the effort and she

> quit going into the back portion of the field where the five new pigs had decided to hang out. Olive turned out to be the big, pushy one back there. Juniper did great...until the second week when she went into heat and

started being obnoxious with the other piggies. The poor girl can't be spayed because of multiple uterine tumors adhered in ways making it impossible to remove her uterus. The other pigs will just have to put up with her monthly shenanigans. Olive is just as bad when she is in heat but can hopefully be spayed after more weight loss.

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Olive and Juniper shopped around for houses in the back half of the field. The first home they chose was one of the smaller ones, nice and cozy for the two



large girls. Then they discovered a bigger house tucked into the corner, surrounded by creosote bushes, and with a shade ramada out front covering a pool and mud



wallow. Perfect! On cooler days, Olive and Juniper enjoy napping in the sun but lie within the smaller bushes pretending to be living in the wild of the jungle. When it warms up, they can



easily scoot over under the shade ramada or go inside the shelter.

Where the new girls and boys should eat their meals was another decision to be made, but the choice wasn't really theirs. After a few days of trying to eat out in the open, Olive proved that she ate way too fast then couldn't keep her face out of everyone

else's bowl. She is now fed in an individual pen used only during meals. She's fine with that arrangement and it helps her with her diet program. Bubby, Bojangles, and Pepper also ended up in feed pens. That left Juniper eating out along with Ralphie, the blind and deaf pig. It works out

great for the two of them who stick to their own bowl and eat at about the same speed. Everyone comes out of their pens to graze on hay together after the meal. The mealtime challenge was settled!



It took some time for things to calm down and for everyone to feel comfortable sharing the field and being a part of the herd. Olive and Juniper are enjoying their new home and continue to be best buds. Life is good! Thank you for being there for Olive and Juniper and so many others like them that need a safe, comfy place to call home!

...Donna





Ironwood Merch

We have some new, fun items such as mugs, lunchboxes and blankets featuring Ironwood pigs. These are only available through our online store. You can shop for Ironwood merchandise on our website, www.ironwoodpigs.org. On the Home Page find "Support" on the menu bar then choose "Store" from the dropdown menu. Have fun shopping!





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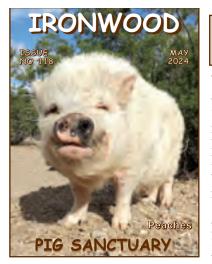
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Front & Back Cover



eaches came to Ironwood with her sister Ellie in October of 2009. They were three years old at that time. We got a call from the lady who had rescued them saying they had both been attacked by her dogs multiple times, but this was the worst and she needed to give them up. She had purchased them years before on a hot day from a drunken man along the highway. He was

waving these very young babies in the air trying to "hawk" them for a few bucks. She could not stand to see these poor, hot babies foaming at the mouth. But now their lives were in danger once again.

So once at Ironwood, the multiple trips to the vet began until the healing was as complete as possible. The sisters were spayed and released to the large Peoria Field. They both settled into their life with the Peoria herd and lived many good years together. But Ellie continued to have occasional issues from the old dog attack. In 2017, Ellie passed away suddenly, but Peaches made new friends and continued to live her life in Peoria. She became close friends with Sal, Gertie and later, Marilyn. They could be seen hanging out together in the back of the field away from all the youngsters. Gertie recently passed away from old age. It was then time to add a new group of younger pigs to the Peoria Field. We did not want to risk Peaches, Marilyn or Sal getting injured by the new pigs joining the herd. Therefore, we decided that it was time for them to move to a smaller retirement area with other older pigs from the original Peoria rescue. The three of them settled in immediately with the others. They are all old friends from years past in Peoria and they will now live out their lives in the retirement community. Peaches made her way into the barn with the others her very first night in her new



environment. After her tumultuous first years, she has lived a long, comfortable life here and will continue to do so. ackie and Neil were two young pigs back in 2008 when they were rescued along Page 16



with 31 others. All the owner's animals were being removed from the property and she was cited for animal cruelty. In the end, including births, we had 45 new pigs to take care of. We built a new field just to house this large family. In 2008 we still had plenty of land available on which to build new fields. On April 15th, those who remain celebrated their 16th year with us.

We even named the field Peoria after this large rescue and they have been forever more called the Peoria pigs. When they first arrived, all the boys were separated from the girls. Once they were all spayed and neutered and babies were born and weaned, they were all moved to the new field built for them. It wasn't long before we added additional pigs to their large field including Peaches and Ellie whose story is covered here as well.

Over the years, Neil became too lame with arthritis and had to be moved to the smaller Phase V Field. Later, Jackie was moved to Silverbells, the retirement area where the remaining Peoria kids now live. In time, they





were both retired from their respective fields and ended up in Cat Shelter the location where their Daddy, Tank, had lived for a long time. They all three came back together and became best friends again until just weeks before this writing when Tank. the granddaddy of the whole Peoria rescue, passed away. Jackie and Neil will spend their remaining days together snuggled up as you see them here.

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May Word Search

Find these words that are mentioned in the articles and notices throughout the May issue of Ironwood's newsletter. Enjoy!



Carlton

PIGGIES **ANNIVERSARY SPAYING** NORTHWEST MISSION HERD **ANESTHESIA** FEEDING BOARS SHELTER EATING **SPONSOR** ARMOR **FIELD** SURGERY **NAPPING NEUTER** FRIENDS





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