

# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

August 2015

Dear Supporter,

Summer always brings a challenge to the sanctuary...how to keep the pigs cool when it's generally 105 degrees or higher. Since pigs cannot pant or sweat to release body heat, they must have water to cool themselves off. We have added many more wading pools to all the fields and dug out more mud wallows.



The wallows get “reconstructed” by the pigs as time goes by, so we always need to go back and work on those again to keep the water from running out or to add dirt to ones that have gotten too deep. It's sort of a continuous project.

Every summer or should I say “hot season” since the desert has summer weather for many months, we hire more people to be a part of our watering team to fill all those extra pools and wallows. It's a tough job to be out in the heat scrubbing the pools and bowls as well as scooping out the icky water from some of the wallows then refilling them all, but it is extremely important for the survival of the pigs. The piggies not only need water for cooling off their bodies but also need fresh drinking water daily. We truly appreciate our “water people” and all their hard work!



A high percentage of our pigs are elderly and have a harder time dealing with the heat. We hire two extra staff to be a “towel person” for the summer. This person has a list of particular pigs to check on and place cool wet towels on, refreshing those often throughout the day. They carry a bucket of ice



water to dip the towels in. They also hose down the pigs to cool them off. Another tough hot job around here!

None of the above could be accomplished without your generosity and caring. We depend on our watering team and towel people to get our pigs through the summer, but we depend on you year round to help us get all of our jobs done here. Thank you so much and know that we appreciate your donations and kindness more than we can express.

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason  
Sponsorship Coordinator

# Nate's Big Scare

**N**ate is an adorable little guy who came to us in December of 2009 along with his sister Ora and their older friend Claire. He had a runny nose along with troublesome breathing. His owner said he suffers from chronic respiratory issues and always sounds like he has a stuffy nose. Another of our pigs with similar problems was able to breathe more easily after having several infected teeth pulled, so we thought we would see if Nate could benefit from some dental work. It was worth a shot if it helped him breathe better!

On March 25, 2015 Nate went to our vet's clinic. He had his teeth cleaned and while they did end up pulling a few, there was nothing out of the ordinary with his teeth. Since we had expressed our concerns about his breathing, the vet did some x-rays while Nate was under anesthesia. There was scarring and lung damage from having had a respiratory disease when he was very young but unfortunately there is nothing that can be done to repair the damage.

Nate returned home from the clinic that same day, still a little groggy but nothing unusual for having been under anesthesia. He was coming along just fine the following day. However, on the second day he was miserable and wouldn't even get up out of bed. He was very lethargic and



unresponsive. Very frightened by his condition, we rushed Nate back to the vet where they did blood work and a urinalysis which both came back with normal results. More x-rays showed that his intestines were packed with feces, so they gave him an enema which got a little bit out. Nate stayed at the clinic for several days for monitoring because he was having such a difficult time. He was given IV fluids and medication for constipation. More enemas and x-rays were done each day that he was there. Nate did not eat well at all during the time he was at the clinic.

On April 1st after Nate had begun to improve and was able to defecate on his own, he returned to Ironwood. He lived in one of our holding pens so that we could monitor him more closely during his recovery time. Wanting Nate to feel as comfortable as possible, we had his sister Ora move in with him to keep him company. She was a great comfort and stayed right by his side during his ordeal. Nate's appetite gradually

picked up during the next few days. We added stool softeners to his daily regime of medications. Nate improved day by day but it was slow going. After a full week of normal bodily functions and a normal appetite, he and Ora were able to return to their field in mid April. The poor guy gave us quite a scare but all is well now. Nate was very happy to get back home and sleep in his own house with Ora and Claire. He still suffers from his stuffy nose and rough breathing, but at least we now know the exact cause and that we're already doing all that can be done to help him. Plus Nate now has shiny clean teeth! 😊

---Donna



## Ora and Nate

*If you would like to help cover the veterinary expenses for Nate's dental surgery as well as his extended stay at the clinic for x-rays, IV fluids, etc., please designate your donation for Nate. The total expenses for Nate's medical care at the clinic were \$2,650.99. We appreciate all of your support!!*

# Checking In With Pop Tart

**I**n the November 2011 issue of Ironwood's newsletter we told you of the roundabout rescue of a little piggy named Pop Tart. The short version is that as a baby she somehow ended up living with a bunch of young hogs being raised for food. She had been trampled and mistreated, was malnourished and badly sunburned when she was thankfully taken away from all that into the home of Jessica, a woman working at a local feed store. There Pop Tart was nurtured and fed and later surprisingly gave birth to a litter of babies who all died almost immediately. She had been so skinny and in such poor condition that the woman had no idea that Pop Tart was even pregnant!



day, being wormed and receiving supplements to help her skin, soon began to gain weight and thrive. However, she also had severe lameness with her rear right leg that showed little improvement over time. X-rays showed a long fracture nearly up to her hip. Surgery was set up with an orthopedic specialist but unfortunately he found such thick calcification around the bone that nothing could be done. Pop Tart then went through a long painful recovery requiring her seclusion from other pigs while she healed. You can read more about this procedure and what it meant for Pop Tart in the July 2012 newsletter available on our web site.

voice for such a small cute piggy. One day when walking through her field with our vet while doing medical rounds, we pointed out Pop Tart to Dr. Page who did a double take, not believing that it was the same limping pig she had met two years prior. She said her complete recovery was nothing short of amazing.

The Far Northwest Field is one of our smaller fields, chosen for Pop Tart because of her limited mobility at the time when she was ready to be moved out of the recovery area. It is the perfect place for her. Pop Tart loves her life there and is very happy. She has three very close girlfriends, a trio of sisters, Olive, Virginia and Nellie. Then there is her bigger buddy George, an elderly wrinkled guy who is sort of like Pop Tart's grandpa. There are seven other pigs living in the field that all get along great with one another. Pop Tart's story is one beginning with many hardships and setbacks then morphing into a comfortable life filled with friends and family. If you could hear Pop Tart's deep grunts of happiness and excitement as she runs to her feed bowl every morning or see her lounging in the shade snuggled up with her buddies, I think you would agree that she is one lucky gal.

---Donna



## Pop Tart & Friends Eating Cucumbers

Afterward, this poor young pig seemed so sad and depressed that Jessica made the effort to find a more appropriate home. Thus, Pop Tart ended up at Ironwood at the approximate age of 8 months.

Pop Tart, getting three meals a

These days Pop Tart is a full grown, fully active beautiful girl living in our Far Northwest Field with a small herd. Watching her scamper around the field, you would never guess the hardships she has suffered. Pop Tart no longer shows any evidence of a limp and walks just as well as any other pig out there! She is very vocal with a deep resonating

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 35490**  
**TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490**  
520-631-6015  
ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com  
www.ironwoodpigs.org  
www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary

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# **IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE**



**Logan**