

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 33

MARCH
2010



Brianna

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2010

Dear Supporter,

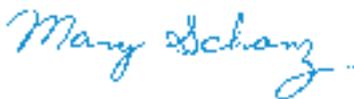
We have all heard or read the story about the man along the beach throwing one starfish at a time back into the ocean when the beach was littered with thousands of starfish. A passerby asked him why he was bothering since there were so many he could not make any difference. The man replied, as he picked up one more starfish and threw it back in to the ocean, it matters to this one.

If you will read the following article you will understand the real meaning of that story. As I have been writing year end thank you notes to many of our supporters I have found myself reflecting on the fact that I really thought, with enough effort, we could change how pigs were treated and reduce the number of breeders here in Arizona. Well, we have made only a small impact on the breeding of pigs. There are a few less breeders either because they have been shut down due to animal cruelty and neglect or we took all the pigs, as we did with the Peoria Rescue, or in some cases they let us neuter their males since there was no longer enough profit to be made.

The problem is still huge and the breeders won't stop unless the market dries up. Every person who buys from a breeder contributes to the problem. I recognize this is a problem for the legitimate people who would like to have a pig as a companion. Since we are the largest rescue in AZ and don't have many rescued babies, that doesn't leave a lot of options. I think the answer would be to adopt a young or adult pig from a rescue. There are so many of them in need of a good home.

I try to focus on the many hundreds that we have been able to save and the many hundreds that have not been born to be homeless through our efforts. I cannot take the road of hopelessness, but must stay on the road of hope where we make a difference for all those here at Ironwood. For all of those organizations and people, who work on the big picture to change the laws and the minds of people in order to make this a better world for all the animals, please continue your work as we will continue ours.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

PS Every time you adopt an animal or make a donation to us that makes it possible for us to take another Boss Hog or Brianna you know it matters to them and you know through your efforts and donations you have made a difference.

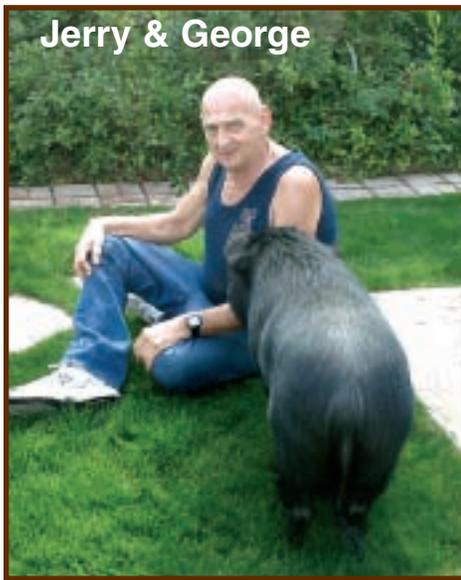


Mary & Cooper

It Matters To This One

It matters to Boss Hog, Beatrice, and George.

George and Gertie came to us from a nice man who had loved his pigs but life got in his way and he had to give them to the sanctuary. Gertie went off on her own and integrated well in one of our many fields. But George had



Jerry & George

a hard time adjusting to sanctuary life so when he had a chance to go to a good home we were happy for him. He was adopted by Jerry whose own pig had passed away recently. This is what Jerry wrote:

"God bless you! What a wonderful pig. George brightens my life everyday. I am so happy now. George has adapted well to his new home. He loves his own space in the yard - he has totally rooted it up! I take him for a walk every afternoon and all the neighbors love him, especially the

kids. Can you tell anything about his life before he came to be with you? It seems to me that he has experienced some previous training because he takes so quickly to it. If not, then he is just a really smart pig. If there is a downside to the work you do, it must be giving up one of the pigs that come to you. Thank you for letting me love him. I will always remember you for it..... and once in a while, I'll give him a tummy rub and tell him 'this one comes from Mary!'"

Beatrice was found walking the streets on the far west side of Tucson. She was picked up by Pima County Animal Care and we took her from them.

Who knows what her story is or why she ended up in the streets, but from the looks of her feet she clearly was not well cared for. How she could even walk is beyond me. She arrived on January 21st and she was safe in her new pen with shelter and blankets that night before our heavy rains came.



Beatrice on Her Arrival

Boss Hog's story is summarized

here by an e-mail from a lady in the area who was trying to help him before we could make the trip up for him. Another kind lady that we know in the area had bought him food and had given him blankets.



Beatrice After Her Trim

"I delivered the makeshift piggie house to Boss Hog in So-hi yesterday and the situation was not good. The pig is not in bad shape considering but has horrible living conditions - which were better than the way the rest of the place looked. He is in a pen made of plywood and cannot even see out except for a 2 foot section of wooden rail fence.

They feed him from above and he had no water when I got there. There are a couple of old tires in the pen and an old sink being used as a food bowl. There is trash and broken wood and chickens and old bicycles all over the place. The pen is maybe 10 x 8. I insisted he get water before I would leave and when they went to fill his bucket he pushed it over
continued on page 8

Boars Galore!

We continuously get new pigs coming in to Ironwood and have been fortunate in the past year that the majority of the incoming males had already been neutered.

But in January it was boars galore! Within two weeks we had four boars arrive! If you've never been around a male pig that is not neutered, well, let me tell you...they stink! These guys have a very distinctive unpleasant odor. They are extremely active, rarely slow down and treat everything (food bowls, blankets, pools, balls, shelters, etc.) as their "special friend" if you get my drift. We have had males come in that can destroy a wading pool in record time! These boys pace constantly, froth at the mouth and clack their teeth. They can



Boss Hog

become increasingly aggressive, particularly when they get around other pigs. We always get them neutered as soon as possible but the smell and behaviors continue

for a while until the testosterone within their system dwindles. The



Casey

males remain fertile for 45 days after neutering and must remain isolated from our other pigs.

So for us, getting a boar means one of our females losing her place in line to get spayed as we juggle with limited surgery time. Also, it means one of our holding pens for incoming pigs being occupied for a minimum of 45 days thus

putting limits on when we can take in new pigs.

Whenever we get a new male in, my first question is always asked hopefully, "Is he already neutered?"

Let me introduce you to Ironwood's newest members who are boars no more!

Casey: My owner's landlady

made him get rid of me because I was destroying everything in the yard. If only he had gotten me neutered early on, I would have been able to control myself better! Things could have been so different then.

George: My mom was an elderly lady who passed away. I was living under her house along with lots of chickens. There were also several cats and dogs inside the house. The place was pretty messy and I had to depend on the neighbors to keep me fed and watered since my mom was so old and kept forgetting to take care of me.



George

Boss Hog: I lived in a really small pen that was made of plywood so I couldn't even see outside! Sometimes somebody would throw some food over the top of my pen and most of the time I didn't have any water. I had no shelter, just a couple of tires and an old sink where they dumped my food. Gees, was I glad to get out of there!

Max aka Stinky: I was a stray and let me tell you life on the road was



Max aka Stinky

no fun. There are all kinds of scary things out there! A nice guy at Ironwood named me Max but everyone just calls me Stinky. The smell is bad...I can hardly stand it myself! Maybe that's why I can't be still and why I ran away from home because I'm trying to get away from that smell but it just keeps following me everywhere I go, so I've got to

keep moving, moving, moving! Whoa...here it comes again...gotta go!

People who get a male pig for a pet should seriously consider getting him neutered right away.

Why would you want to deal with the smell, the aggression, and the constant marking of their territory? A side benefit to being neutered young is it slows down the growth of the tusks which can grow to dangerous lengths and points. The majority of strays that come to us are unneutered males. They are much more difficult to contain

within fencing. If you truly want a wonderful, calm, loving pig, please get your male neutered. You would be amazed at the difference it makes in their attitudes and personalities!

--- Donna



Boss Hog

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 house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.



COVER

A call came from IL, outside of Chicago, from a couple who were moving to AZ. They had recently rescued two very emaciated horses, and yes a pig who, as you see, was far from emaciated. They had planned to keep the horses and would bring them, but had no plans to keep a pig. They were unsuccessful in finding her a home and were willing to bring her along if we would take her. So on December 17th Brianna arrived safely at Ironwood. She



will lose weight over time and has been put on medicine for her arthritis. She is such a very sweet pig. Every time I see her tucked in her shelter with all her warm blankets I think of what life could be like for her this winter in Illinois if they had not gone to the trouble to take her and find her a home with us.

Sponsor a S



Sasha

I've never had a chance to be in the newsletter before so I'm excited to have this opportunity after living here for several years! I would love to have someone choose me to be their special pig. Who can resist my smile?



Kelli

I was born at the Yuma Animal Control Center then a few days later brought to Ironwood along with my mom, dad, brothers and sisters. Mom and Dad both have gotten a sponsor but none of us kids have one. I'd love to be the first!



I know that I look at, just a really nice boy son if only son



Twin

My twin, a pig named Marvin has had a sponsor forever! I know I shouldn't be envious but.....I'd really like to have a sponsor like his. I am very friendly and love people!



Chai

I was picked to be on this page because I recently lost my sponsor due to financial difficulties. Hopefully someone will choose me so I won't be sponsorless for long!



There is Elvis be hairdo. named a fans out pig?

Special Pig!



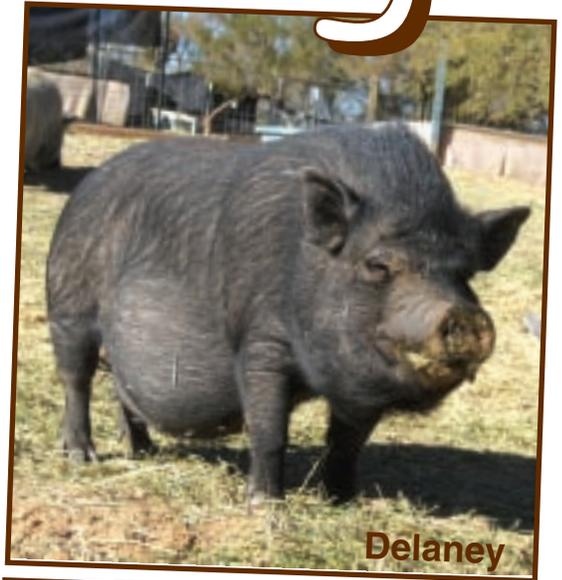
Black Socks

I'm not anything special to you. I'm just a plain black pig, but I'm a special pig. I promise to be a good pig.



Clarice

This is my second time to be featured on the sponsor page. I sort of bombed out on my first try but I'm feeling very positive about this one! I've got my hooves crossed in hopes of finding that special sponsor.



Delaney

I've been living here for six years and am finally making my debut in the newsletter! This is wonderful! The only thing that could make this better is getting a sponsor.....



Elvis

another pig here named Elvis. I'm the "other Elvis", because of his fancy black and white. Well, I'm the "other Elvis", after Elvis Costello. Any pig here looking to sponsor a pig?

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

We are lucky to have so many wonderful sponsors here at Ironwood! However, there are still many pigs that do not yet have a sponsor. The ones on these pages are just a few of those in need. For a \$30 monthly donation you can provide for a pig'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. We would be proud to have you join our family of sponsors! ---Donna



Donna & Abner

It Matters To This One - Cont From Page 3

- not to push it over but to get a drink off the ground which he did for the longest time. He needs to get out of there. He's not too



Boss Hog In His Pen

underweight but his coat is very sparse. He has a really cute face - all white around his muzzle and he wasn't unfriendly, but rather shy!

Poor piggy - he's been cooped up for over a year in that awful enclosure. No wonder he tries to escape."

Together we, you though your donations and us through our

rescue, have made a difference for George, Beatrice, and Boss Hog. It matters to them. --- Mary



Boss Hog's Pen

Pig Caregivers Please Read

When Mary and I were starting the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and looking for direction from Dr. Page, she gave us some excellent advice that has served us well and remains as important today as it was then.

She said there are two main things to be aware of when caring for our pigs that covers a lot of ground concerning their health. Is your pig not eating well or is it straining to urinate or defecate?

Pigs love to eat as we all know. There are few animals that are motivated as much as pigs are for food. So if your pig is not eating well, hanging back at meal time, or not eating at all you are most likely facing a serious health problem. This is especially true if your pig has not eaten any food for a period of 24 hours. The

cause will have to be determined by your vet, but this should be a red flag to get your pig to see a vet. We have seen a very wide range of causes since we have such a large number of pigs. The most common and easiest to deal with is constipation or dehydration, but there are many other reasons.



Wilbur recovers from bladder surgery due to a blocked urethra. A Foley Catheter allows him to urinate directly from his bladder.

If your pig is straining to urinate or defecate this should be considered an emergency. They may just be constipated, but they could also have a block or have a twisted bowel. Or if you notice them straining to urinate they may be pulling their abdomen up as they strain. They may even defecate since they are straining so hard to urinate so be sure to watch them carefully. This can not be ignored and must be dealt with right away. They could have a urinary tract infection but if the pig is a male it is most likely a blocked urethra. Their bladder is full and will burst in time if something is not done for your pig. This is an emergency.

These two things cover a broad range of illnesses but these red flags may save your pig's life if you act quickly.

--- Mary

Thank You For Being So Generous

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.

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.



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 will help us care for the over 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. The card comes with a competitive rate and no annual fee, so sharing your passion—and your support—is easy and automatic. Apply today by visiting www.CardLabConnect/ironwoodpigsanctuary. And not only will you be donating to our cause with each purchase you make, you'll be helping to spread the word when people see your unique card, designed specifically for our organization.

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 page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org.

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



Donated Cryogenic Medical Equipment Help for Our White Pigs

Arizona is not a good place for white pigs. We have many white pigs here at Ironwood and well over half of them have squamous cell carcinoma do to our intense sun. Just as the sun causes skin cancer on us it also causes skin cancer on our pigs. Dr Page has frozen cancers off many of our pigs in the past, but they often return in another spot and we have many more in need of cryo surgery. The



Humane Society of Southern Arizona, which is performing low cost procedures including spays and neuters for us, offered to help but had no need to buy the cryogenic equipment themselves so we began to look into purchasing it ourselves. Dr. Page knew Mike Brymill who's family owns the company that makes and sells the equipment. She would soon be seeing him at a conference in Las Vegas and suggested she talk to him about the Sanctuary

receiving equipment for our pigs with cancers. This was surely a lucky day for us.

Mike and his family donated a cryogun with various nozzles and adapters, a 20 liter dewar for long term storage of liquid nitrogen, and a 5 liter dewar for transportation of liquid nitrogen to be used at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.



Ben, Dr. Wilcox from the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, and Mike Brymill look on as Dr. Page, our vet, uses the new cryogenic equipment on one of Ariel's tumors.

Thanks to Mike Brymill, his mother Gale, and Dr. Page for advocating for us, Ironwood now has our own Cryogenic equipment. Not only did they donate the brand new equipment for our use but Mike came here from Connecticut and his mother from San Diego to demonstrate its use and see the Sanctuary.

The training we received that day will allow Ironwood to perform the procedures ourselves and hopefully will help to greatly reduce the incidence of skin cancer among our pigs.

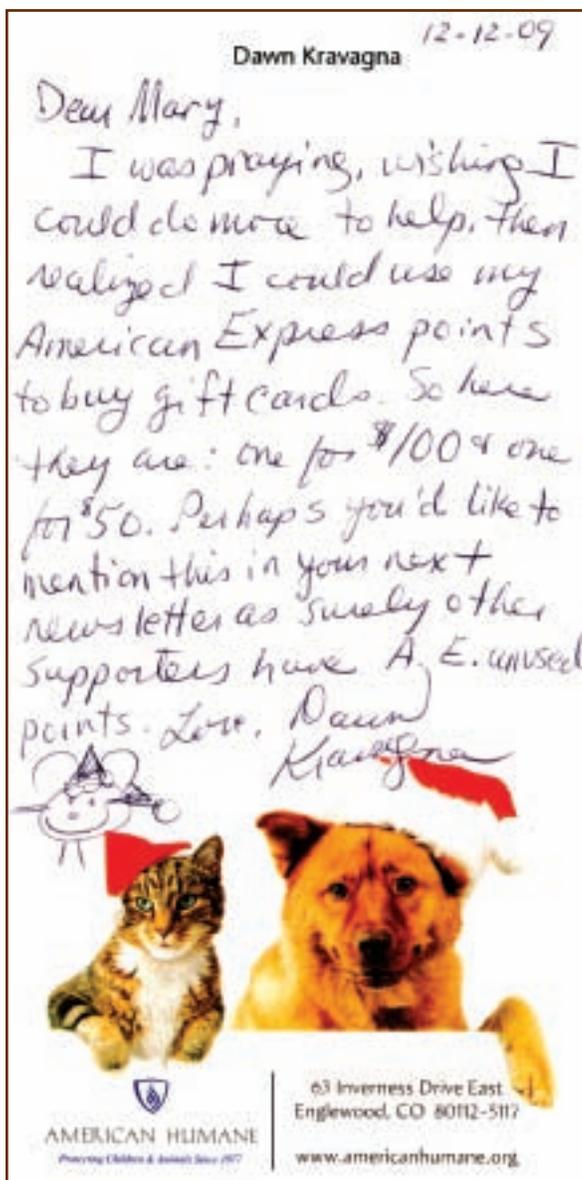
Our Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens or Target
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * Utility Knives
- * Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)
- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Sun Screen SPF 30 or above
- * Mucinex or equivalent
- * Milk Thistle
- * Stool Softener Docusate Sodium 100mg
- * Flax Seed Capsules
- Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Benefiber Powder or equivalent

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.



Dear Mary & Ironwood:

My pig's name is Hercules and he is still with us...he is five years old now...last summer was better, he spent hours taking naps in the ferns...grazing grass...sniffing roots in the forest..

Here are some more pictures...one shows Hercules with Jeff, the horse; Jeff was a family's who lived in town and had no place to keep him, so he stayed in a corner of the field...there is no doubt that the fact that the horse had hay and grain might have encouraged Hercules to hang out with Jeff but the fact that the pig was probably the most company the horse got led them to become friends...

The horse Jeff was fed from a grain bucket that hung from a branch of an oak tree by a rope...one day the rope broke...Jeff would reach down and take a mouthful of grain, then Hercules would put his head into the bucket and tip it over on its side to get a mouthful and then Jeff would reach down and tip the bucket back upright and take another mouthful...the bucket went down then up then down, back and forth...wish I had a movie of it...

One night after Sharon had fed Jeff, I went out to see how they were doing...Hercules was looking up at Jeff and then I saw Jeff lean down and nuzzle Hercules side...

Sincerely, John Kerr, Maine

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY
POST OFFICE BOX 35490
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5490
520-631-6015

ironwoodpigs@yahoo.com
www.ironwoodpigs.org

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Sarah

Dorothy