

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 63

MARCH
2015



Myron

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2015

Dear Supporter,

Last week Ben and I made a nearly 2000 mile round trip journey to UC Davis with little Si in tow to do surgery on a broken elbow on his left front leg. He is ten months old and one of the five boys who were born here last April to Charlotte who was rescued from a hoarder/breeder near Tucson. X-rays by Dr. Page revealed he would need a complex difficult surgery by an orthopedic surgeon. In addition to the broken elbow he has moderate to severe degenerative joint disease. We explored different major University Veterinary Schools and decided on UC Davis. All else being equal with good surgeons, this was the most convenient overall for us with an offer for a night lay over at a friend's home in Ojai and a warm safe pen for him to stay in. The new x-rays revealed his break was healing on its own and he did not require surgery. However arthritic changes were already evident. With much relief for Si and for us, since we did not have to struggle to raise the many thousands of dollars the surgery would have required, we headed back to Tucson. Si is very social and accustomed to people since we raised him and his brothers by hand. He was not stressed by the trip and enjoyed the stops with frequent fruit treats along the way.

We don't know how his injury occurred since he and his brothers now live in one of our large fields. There was no other evidence of any other injury. He could have a congenital weakness that left him prone to the break.

Inbreeding and a small gene pool in pot-bellied pigs has caused a great deal of pain and suffering for them. Nearly all of them will develop painful arthritis and for some it will be the cause of their early death. We spend thousands of dollars each year on meds to help relieve their painful joints. Now the breeders are inbreeding even more trying to produce a "teacup pig", the result of which will be even more congenital issues and suffering. To my mind this is immoral and unethical. I hope you agree and will not buy or promote in any way the continued breeding of these animals.

This whole process has been a difficult one for us. The main consideration was how would Si be if we did do the surgery and of course the huge financial consideration. In the end we proceeded with what we thought was best for him and because we have the wonderful support from you we felt we would not have to sacrifice the care of our many other animals here at Ironwood. You only need to look at Si to know why we have gone to such lengths to save this little boy. We are so grateful for your support so these wonderful animals may live out their lives with us.



Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder



Si

Claire

When I started writing this story just a few days after we lost Claire, I tried to come up with something additional for the title like “We Miss You Claire” or “Our Beloved Claire” but nothing felt right. I just couldn’t find a way to express how we felt that morning that we had to tell our beautiful Claire goodbye.

Claire and her companion Popeye were the very first pigs that Ben, Mary and I welcomed to Ironwood on June 10, 2001. We had been working long and hard to get things built and ready for pigs to start coming, so it was with great excitement that we



got to meet Claire at some point during their visit. She would quietly wander up to the group to say hello and get some pets or a belly rub. She was always so gentle and never gave us any trouble at all. Claire was our newsletter’s “cover girl” for Ironwood’s tenth anniversary in May of 2011.

We are not sure of Claire’s exact age, but she was around 17 years old. She had begun to lose weight and suffered from arthritis. In January 2015 Claire seldom was hungry and had to be enticed with

her companion and moved them both outside. Claire “trained” her owner to feed her on demand. When those vocal demands became way too loud and came way too early in the mornings for Joan and her neighbors, we were asked to take the two pigs.



brought Claire and Popeye out to their new forever home. We had known Claire for a while before she became ours. She had been born at Pigs*A*Lot where the three of us had volunteered before opening Ironwood. Claire was adopted as a baby and became an indoor/outdoor pig. She was quite large and strong and soon became too much to handle inside. Her owner then adopted Popeye from Pigs*A*Lot to be

Claire and Popeye both lived in our Main Field but did not remain close friends. Other pigs began to arrive at Ironwood and there was soon a small herd in the field. The two pigs sort of drifted in different directions and it wasn’t long before Claire met Dixie Lee. Those two girls became the very best of friends and rarely spent time with anyone else. They had an extremely close relationship and truly loved one another.

Claire had a wonderful personality. She knew her name and would come when we called out to her. Even though she adored attention from people she was never demanding or pushy about it. Most of our tour groups



special foods and extra meals. One cold damp morning we knew that she was ready to go. Things had simply gotten too difficult for her to function. Ben, Mary, Taryn and I gathered around Claire as she peacefully slipped away. It is never easy to say goodbye to one of our friends, but Claire was particularly special to us for many reasons other than being our first pig. We will never forget her and will never stop loving her.

---Donna

What Do You Need?

That is a question we often hear when people are coming to visit or wanting to send a care package to the sanctuary. There is always a Wish List in each of our newsletters as well as one on Smile.Amazon. Sometimes people wonder why particular items are on our lists....what do the pigs need with these things? I hope this article will answer those questions.

The biggie is always the peanut butter. *“Why do you feed your pigs peanut butter?”* The majority of our pigs are in their teens and many suffer from arthritis. They need a daily dose of anti-inflammatory medications. Then there are a lot of pigs taking other types of medicine too, vitamins, antibiotics, etc. We have found that the quickest way to get those meds out to the pigs each morning is to stick the pills inside a peanut butter sandwich. Pigs love bread and the p.b. makes it difficult to spit the pills out. There always has to be at least one joker in the herd that can work their way around the pills eating the sandwich then spitting the pills on the ground. That



is where the fig newton cookies come in! Those are really sticky and you can easily push pills down inside them. And of course, the pigs love them and will gobble cookie and pills right down. That is, unless your name is Cutie Pie. He is picky and clever when it comes to his medication. The only thing we have found that works for him is Little Debbie's Oatmeal Pies. So the answer is no, we are not just feeding our pigs cookies and peanut butter. Those are used strictly to get the meds in the pigs.

We always have Animal Crackers on our wish lists. These come in handy many times. Say you have to give Fitzroy a shot and he won't be still. Throw some animal crackers on the ground and he suddenly forgets all about that poke in the neck. Need to clean Peaches' ears? Distract her with a few animal crackers and do what you want with her ears. Doppers needs sunscreen? Oliver has a sore on his side to clean and medicate? Pinkerton has an abscess to flush? Animal crackers for everyone! Not all pigs fall for that ruse but it works for a lot of them.

I mentioned that a lot of our pigs take anti-inflammatory medications. These can sometimes upset their stomach so we ask for an acid reducer in the form of Ranitidine 150mg. Some of our elderly pigs need that every day. We have a few with chronic bowel irritations which is why we ask for Pro-Biotic Acidophilus capsules. A few others

develop the opposite problem and need stool softeners.

“Do all your pigs take vitamins?” There are a few kinds of vitamins that you will often see on our Wish Lists. The one we use most is a Super B-Complex. That one is to help strengthen dry cracked hooves, a common issue out here in the desert where we live with a “dry heat” for the majority of the year. Another is 400 IU Vitamin E capsules. We have pigs taking this one for various reasons; dry skin, joint issues, or spinal injuries. Several pigs also take Flaxseed Oil



capsules for their skin. The capsules work best rather than liquid or seeds as they're easier to put inside a sandwich or fig newton cookie. Children's Multivitamins are given to any youngsters that come in under the age of one. Those are also used for pigs that arrive in poor physical condition, maybe suffering from malnutrition or severe wounds. Some of our elderly pigs take the multivitamin as a booster for their system. We almost always use the vitamins with NO IRON in them. On rare occasions we will have a pig with anemia that needs a vitamin

with iron but one bottle lasts us a long time.

"Why do you want Ensure?" Sometimes pigs will go through phases of not wanting to eat or they



get dehydrated or are just not doing well in general. We will make milkshakes for those pigs, sometimes for them to drink or maybe to pour on their food for added nutrition. We will use Ensure, vanilla soymilk or almond milk, bananas and a spoonful of peanut butter to make a yummy shake.

There will often be items on the wish lists that are not used directly with the pigs. For example two-way



radios. Every staff member and volunteer has a radio to keep in

contact with one another. We are spread out over a large area working in different fields and need to communicate when and where help is needed or things that have to be done. Our sanctuary has gotten too big for us to simply holler at each other across the field like we did in the early days! Another example is tarps. We use a lot of tarps here. There are feed stations set up in the 24 different fields where we store grain and hay for those areas. The hay needs to be covered with a tarp to protect it from the rain. Our truck that we use to haul trash to the dump must be tarped. All those tarps get worn out, ripped and torn and need replacing.



Ben and I love gift cards! The two of us do the shopping for the sanctuary. Ben gets most of the office supplies as well as building materials for fences, shade ramadas, pens, troughs and shelters. I get some of that plus all the groceries, over-the-counter medications, photo developing, cleaning supplies, etc. *"What groceries do pigs need?"* First of all is the bread for the pigs' p.b. medicine sandwichesevery week I get 80-90 loaves of bread. Many special meals are made for sick or skinny pigs so I buy yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese, macaroni and

cheese, fruits, vegetables, veggie burgers, hash brown patties, oatmeal, vegetable oil, cheese crackers and eggs. Don't forget the juice ...prune,



vegetable and cran/grape juices are all needed. And then there's laundry detergent, dish soap, trash bags, paper towels, mineral oil, nasal spray, Q-tips, buckets andyikes! The list goes on and on. Since most of that stuff is difficult or impossible to ship, gift cards are the perfect solution!

Some items on our Wish Lists, either in the newsletters or on Smile.Amazon, are always there due to constant need. Some come and go with how well we are stocked up or if the pigs' needs change. Right now we are still using the supplies that were donated at our annual Open House in November. Those donations usually keep us going for several months. (Yea!!) As the year moves on, you'll begin to see items added back to the lists as our stock dwindles. I am constantly checking and changing the Amazon list so it's a good place to see what we currently need. We do appreciate all the support of the material donations that come in. It's a real life saver for us financially. We cannot keep up with the demand for pigs in need without your help. Thank you!!

---Donna

You Need How Many Blankets!?

One of the questions that I am often asked is why we need so many blankets. I bet it does sound like we need a lot. We had over a thousand donated to us this



summer and we are still asking people to bring them if they have extra.

The first, easiest answer to why we need so many is that we have so many pigs. With more than 590 pigs needing at least 2 blankets each, depending on the type of blanket, that could easily be 1180 blankets. Wow! Now, let's factor in the older pigs who may not always make it out of bed in time to potty. They might wet both of their blankets in the morning. We will have to take those blankets out to



clean them and need two more to replace them. On a regular morning we have about two potty beds, sometimes up to 5 or so. That could be 10 extra blankets we need that day.

We also have pigs that like to shred their blankets. They often do this to make them fluffier or to get inside of the blanket. They can keep their blankets like this for a while before they just become a ragged mess and they need a new blanket. Wilbur, shown in the photo, is very proud of his shredded blankets! Penelope, also shown with her blankets, has gone through many



blankets. We usually let her keep one shredded blanket and make sure she has a good one as well.

Aside from personal pig issues, let's also bring the weather into it. When it rains here we end up with a giant mess. A lot of the time the pigs push their blankets to the edge of their house to help keep cool air out. They also drag their blankets with them when they leave their shelter. When they do



this in the rain those blankets get wet. We then hang up all of the wet blankets on the property and replace them with dry blankets. That could easily be 100+ blankets we will need to replace that day.

As you can see there can be many variables in this whole blanket situation. We may go through a lot but we reuse as many as we can and hang on to them as long as we can. We deeply appreciate blanket donations but not as much as the pigs do. They love covering themselves and wrapping themselves up. Nothing happier than an Ironwood pig in a blanket. ---Taryn



Meet Our Pigs



Babe's owner's health had been steadily declining. We had been contacted about taking him in after she became too disabled to care for him but she wanted to keep him as long as possible. It turns out that we were needed sooner than anyone expected. A neighbor was renovating his backyard and had moved his dogs into a temporary pen during the changes. The dogs got out, jumped the fence and attacked Babe. Taryn made an emergency trip to Phoenix that night to go and get him. She and Donna unloaded Babe in the middle of the night and examined his wounds by flashlight. It was not as bad as we had expected but felt he still warranted a trip to the vet the next day.

Babe is a lucky boy! His injuries were not serious. He sustained bite wounds on his ears but none were deep. His owner decided the dog attack was a sign that it was time for Babe to start his new life at Ironwood and officially released him to us. Babe has healed up nicely. We got him neutered and he will soon be joining a herd in one of our fields.

This is yet another case of a young pig running loose in a neighborhood. Maureen had seen Rene hanging around her neighbor's yard at times and asked around to see if she belonged to anyone. No one claimed her, so Maureen contacted us to see if we would come up to San Tan Valley to pick her up. We asked her to try and get her penned up or in a carrier before we made that long trip. It took a few days to earn Rene's trust, but Maureen finally got her and gave us a call. It turns out that a nearby farm had been sold and several animals were simply abandoned there. We think that Rene must have gotten loose and was looking for food. She has come a long way since her arrival but is still a bit skittish. She has been spayed and will make her home out in one of our fields.



Over the last several months there has been a rash of strays all over the state of Arizona. Most have been youngsters like this little guy found running loose in Wittmann. Like most of the males that are strays, Roosevelt was a boar when he arrived. He was neutered shortly after coming to Ironwood. Someone obviously spent some time with him as he is very friendly and enjoys attention from people. Roosevelt's left ear has some faint scars and a couple of nicks taken out, so he apparently got into some trouble during his days "on the streets", but otherwise he is a very healthy and happy little fellow.

Sponsor a S



Murphy

Top of the morning to you! Is anyone looking for a pig with an Irish accent? Perhaps I'm the lad for you. Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Jack Jack

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack Jack come after you lickety split! Just kidding (sort of)! Making a rhyme to pass the time while waiting for you.



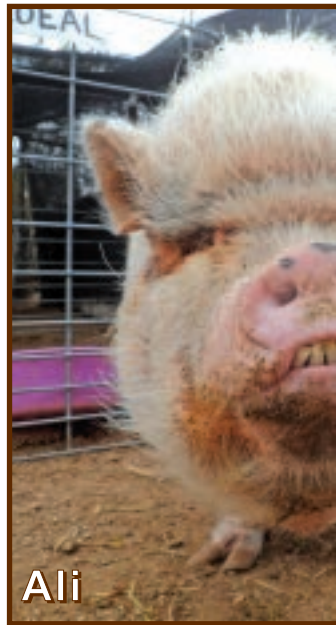
My sponsor of more recently passed away sad about that and certainly use a new fr support me.

We have several piggies shown here and others that have lost their sponsors for various reasons. Please consider helping one or more of them get some support back. For your \$30 monthly donation you will receive a letter and pictures of the pig of your choice then later in the year you will get an update with new photos to keep you connected to your pig. Please join our family of sponsors!



Sylvia

....Donna



Ali

Beauty is in the eye of t
Behold, I am here! I do
all that means but anyw
a sponsor....

Special Pig!



Porky

ore than ten years
way. I am very
I could
w friend to



Bob

My dad got sick and it got to the point where he could no longer care for my brother and me. He was really sad for us to go but he had no choice.



Randy

I am Bob's brother. We miss our dad but are happy to be living here with other pigs. At least we got to stay together and still have each other.



of the beholder. And, I don't even know what anyway, I'm looking for



Piggy Smalls

Yo, I am the Notorious P.I.G. rapper of Ironwood! Actually, I'd rather be nappin' than rappin'. Anyone feel the same? Maybe I'm the pig for you.



Joe

I have lived here for many years and lost my sponsor a few months ago. I hope someone can find it in their heart to give an old guy another chance.

Earth Angels

We meet a lot of pigs here at the sanctuary. Some of the pigs arrive later in their life and we may only have a few years with them until they pass. Most of the pigs that come in stay here for the rest of their lives, some get adopted out. No matter the time period they are here at the sanctuary we form a bond and connection with them. For the pigs that stay we get to know them well and learn all about them. We also learn a lot *from* them.

I've never seen the kind of love that I have witnessed with the pigs. Not just the love they show us but also the love that they show each other. They console each other and comfort one another. I've seen pigs arrive home from the vet after surgery and watch their best friend stay close to them



through the night to keep them company. They give each other space when they need it and stay close even when the other thinks they need space.

They also protect each other.



Sometimes when we are out trimming or doing some medical work on a pig, their friends will rush us, often barking, to make sure we aren't hurting them. They are prepared to get us out of the way in order to help their companion. They also know when their pal is sick or coming to their end. We often see them clinging when this happens.

When one of the pigs passes away friends gather around that pig and say goodbye. We can see that they understand what happened and want to show their love for the last time. I've even witnessed pigs trying to hang on to life as long as they can so that their friend passes first, ensuring that their friend never spends a day alone. Once their friend passes I've seen them let go and stop hanging on. Everything you'd want your best friend to do for you they do for each other. They are very in tune with each other.

Another great message to learn from the pigs is that they forgive

quickly. Even if they get in arguments with each other now and then they know at the end of the day that things are ok. They even grumble as they go to bed, arguing over bed space, but then they cuddle and keep each other warm. A great lesson for all of us.

A good example of a pig being upset with a pal and then forgiving them is Petunia and her friend Jackson. They used to always sleep together until some new girls were introduced to the group. Jackson started spending some time with the new girls. Petunia is not amused and gets quite grumpy when Jackson gives the other girls his time. However, when he comes back around and wants to see Petunia she lets him



hang out with her. This cycle continues between them but Petunia knows Jackson is still her friend.

Even if not for the lessons we learn in watching the pigs we also get a lot of comfort and happiness from watching them. Seeing them interact and enjoy their days

is really heartwarming and can change a person's mood instantly. Just like when they know when their pig companion needs some love they also sense when we need it. They snuggle close and hang around. I've come home after a hard day and my pigs come to sit with me, knowing that I just need some comfort.

So this is for all of the angels that we have met and the ones we will meet, each as important as the other. We thank you for your love and your lessons. The impact you have on us is like no other and we appreciate and love you more than you know.

---Taryn

Thank You!

The 3000 Club is a local and international group of like-minded individuals, small business owners, volunteers and non-profit agencies and organizations who bond together supporting its two flagship projects: Market on the Move and American Medical Aid. Ethel Luzario is the President/CEO and she says they rescue millions of pounds of produce that would otherwise go into a land fill. They have 12 locations around AZ and service about 4400 hundred families a week with healthy affordable produce.



Dana Lim is a volunteer for both the 3000 Club and for Ironwood Pig Sanctuary since she rescues food left over from Market on the Move for our pigs here at Ironwood. She also sorts and prepares it for us so all we need to do is feed it to our pigs who greatly enjoy their treats.

What could be better? A truly win win situation where both people and their animal friends are being fed healthy delicious food and the landfills are not get fuller!! Their web site is www.the3000club.org.

---Mary

Donation Drop Offs in Phoenix and Tucson

Winter is here and we need blankets! We are always in short supply so any blankets are appreciated. For supporters in the Phoenix and Tucson areas, you can save shipping charges by dropping off blankets and wish list donations at the locations below.



There are two locations in both Phoenix and Tucson. Please note that no monetary donations can be accepted. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated. Don't forget blankets since we are always in short supply for the winter.

For the Phoenix area you can drop donations off at Carolyn's in East Mesa, AZ near Superstition Springs Mall. Give her a call at **480-981-8069** for directions. Also Susan's in North Phoenix near E Union Hills Dr and N Cave Creek Road. Give her a call at **602-339-6213** for directions.

For the Tucson area there are two drop off points. One is on the northwest side in the vicinity of Oracle Road and Hardy. Call **520-631-6015** for directions. The other is Sherry's in southeast Tucson near Swan Road and 22nd Street. Call her at **520-622-6304** for directions.

Thank you for all your support!

Shopping On Amazon.com is Easy

Shopping on Smile.Amazon.com is identical to Amazon.com except that for all your normal shopping including our wish list items, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary receives a 0.5% donation from Amazon. It is a super easy way to give to the sanctuary, especially if you want to give something extra for the holidays. We have numerous items on our Wish List already picked out so you'll know you are donating exactly what we need. The list is updated frequently so it's always current.

Here's how it works: On Amazon's Home page, click on "Wish List" in the top right corner and go to "Find a Wish List" then enter Ironwood Pig. You may choose items from our list and click on "Add to Cart" for each. When you have completed your selections, go to "Cart" and check out. The items you choose will be shipped directly to us. How easy is that! Thank you for all of your support.

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Thomason for pot-bellied pig 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.



MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Postage Stamps (Forever, 49, 34, 2 cents) Other denominations can also be used
 Used Blankets are always welcome
 Children's Multivitamin - NO IRON
 Animal Crackers
 Vitamin B Complex
 Acid Reducer, Ranitidine 150mg
 Flaxseed Oil, Capsules Only
 Triple Antibiotic Ointment
 Benefiber (Not Flavored)

We received a lot of Wish List items donated at our Open House so that is why the list above is so short. Gift Cards are always welcome and we can pick what is needed at that time.

GIFT CARDS

Walgreen's	Discover	Walmart	Target
Home Depot	MasterCard	Amazon	Fry's
Lowe's	Office Max	Office Depot	Staples

***We have a wish list on Smile.Amazon.com. See "Shopping On Amazon" above for details.

Our Wish List

Your Employer May be Able to Double Your Donation

You can easily make your donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary go even further if you work for or are retired from a Matching Gift company. Many of our supporters have doubled and sometimes tripled their donation by receiving a matching donation from their company. For a list of the larger matching gift companies please go to the bottom of the Support page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Even if your company is not on the list it pays to check with them because this list does not include all matching gift companies. All you need is a form from your company to include with your donation.

Visit Our Web Site

www.ironwoodpigs.org

Our web site carries all our newsletters since we founded Ironwood, all 63 of them. See the evolution of the Sanctuary through the newsletters. You can find them down the right side of our Home page. You can also make a Donation, Sponsor the pig(s) of your choice or make a Sustainer donation via PayPal. You can also view this newsletter on-line.



Robbie & Eugene Telling Secrets

You can make One-Time or Multiple Monthly Sponsor or Sustainer donations to the Sanctuary with PayPal (no PayPal account required) using your credit or debit card by going to the Support page of our web site.



Thank you for considering the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your estate plans. The Mary C Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names (although it is okay if you've already used only the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary name), the post office address from the back cover and this tax identification number for the Foundation: 86-

0999483. Your support makes it possible for us to give a loving home to the almost 600 Pot-Bellied Pigs in our care and is very much appreciated.

Front and Back Covers



Myron is one of 45 pigs we rescued on April 15th 2008 from Peoria, AZ. The woman who had these pigs was charged with animal cruelty and neglect. She had other animals as well and the prosecuting attorney agreed to drop the charges if she would

give up all her animals. Three litters were born at Ironwood but there would have been many more had we not intervened and neutered all the males and spayed and luted all the remaining females. She had many litters born at her place but most of the babies died from exposure and predation.

Myron has had a number of health issues over the years. From February of 2012 through October of 2012 Myron experienced difficulty urinating and defecating and made trips to our vets during that time to try to determine the cause. In time we have gotten him regulated by feeding him in a pen within his field with meds, daily diluted prune juice and a special mash. These past 2 years he has enjoyed good health and has been able to remain in his field with his companions. He is one of hundreds we have requiring special attention and care but this is our mission and why we are here. Look at that sweet face and you know why we care.



Page 16

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 63

Martha, Leota and Jackson could be described as a motley bunch but very endearing for sure. These three seniors have come to live together behind our Visitor Center after age and health issues brought them in from their fields. Jackson is 17 now and he has been with us since June of 2002. He was a big strong boar when he arrived and dug cavernous holes in his pen before being released to a field where he lived until age began to catch up with him. He was moved in to the pen behind our Visitor Center for a more sedate life.

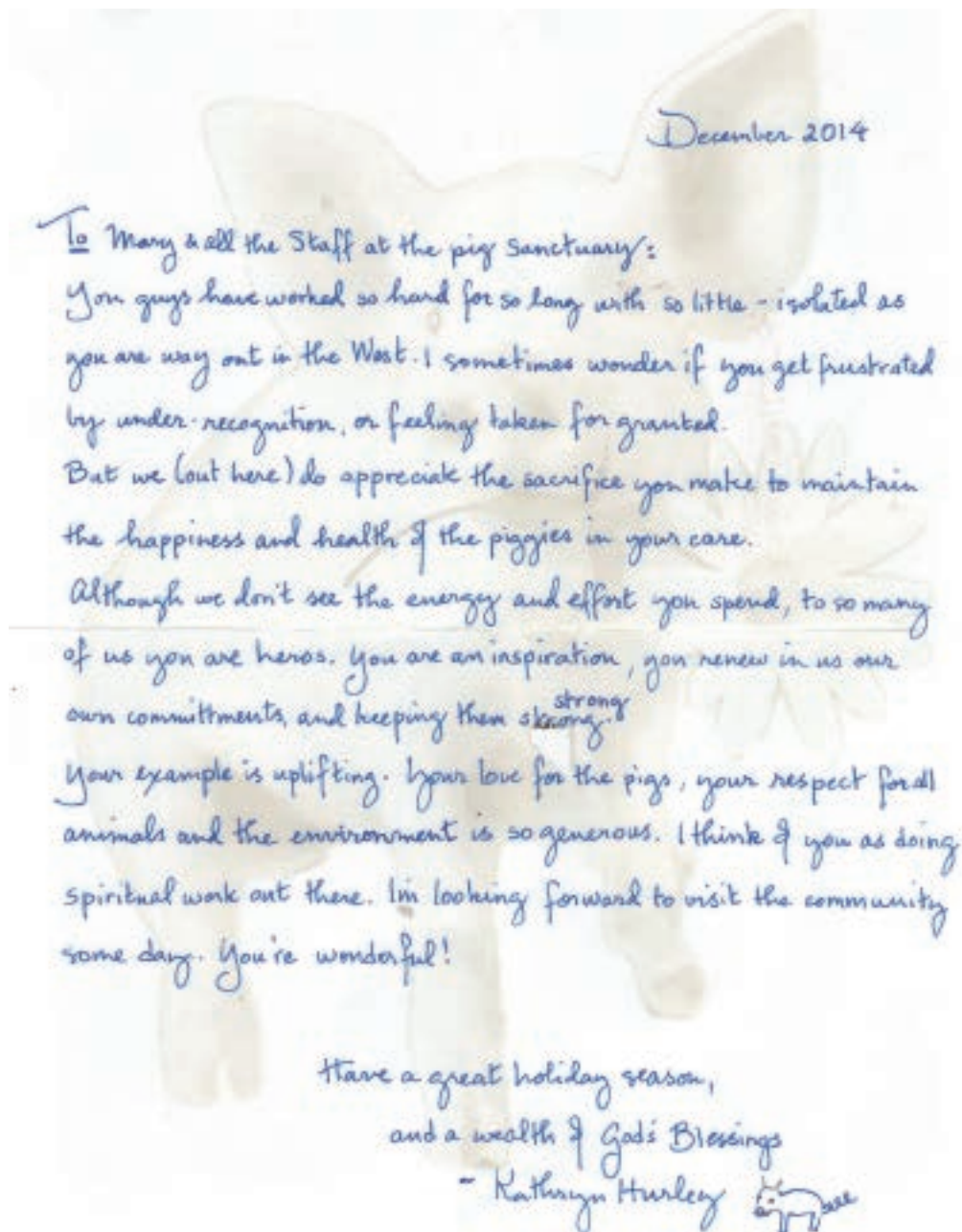
Leota and Martha both arrived in April of 2012. They were part of a rescue of 75 that we took in over a period of years from another rescue. Many of these pigs were old and had little or no medical care. Both Martha and Leota had large uterine tumors that were life threatening and would have surely taken their lives by now. The tumors were removed and due to their age, arthritis, and advanced tumors their recoveries were difficult. But now both have recovered and have found a new friend in Jackson. They will live out the remainder of their lives in this smaller area where they can be given more intense care and monitoring required for many of our senior pigs. How nice that they have developed new bonds with each other.

← Some of Myron's Extended Family
From the Peoria Rescue in 2008

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.



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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



Martha, Leota & Jackson