

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

June 2017

With the arrival of summer our major focus for the comfort and safety of the nearly 550 pigs of Ironwood becomes water, water, water! Pigs cannot sweat or pant to reduce their body temperature. To keep cool they must have opportunities to get in water or mud at all times. We provide wading pools which the pigs use differently. Some simply walk through or stand in the pool to cool their feet which will drop their body heat. Most like to roll and splash in the water. We often see pigs lying down in a



Victor

clean. Our watering team works hard to provide fresh water for all the piggies.

While we do have trees and creosote bushes that offer shade for the pigs, some parts of the property do not have enough of that. It's also nice to have shade over the pools and wallows to keep the water

at a comfortable temperature. Shade ramadas

built with t-posts or existing fencing and shade cloth are a necessity here in the desert.

Thanks to your generosity, the pigs are kept comfortable even with temperatures of 110 degrees. Because of you we are able to provide plenty of pools, bowls, wallows and shades for all the pigs. Thank you!



Boris



James Repairing a Wallow

pool or even napping. A pool can also provide drinking water.

When a pool is emptied and rinsed, that

water is poured into a shallow dugout to form a mud wallow. Again the pigs will stand, sit, roll or sleep in the muddy waters much like they use their pools. And even though clean drinking water is always located nearby, the pigs drink from the wallows too. Water bowls are scattered throughout the fields as well as waterers with a float system that refills automatically. The number of pools, bowls and wallows increases as the temperature stalls at 100 degrees and beyond. With the rising number of items to be filled with water comes an increase in staffing to take care of that chore. It's no easy task to scrub, rinse and fill all those pools, bowls and waterers along with raking and bailing out the wallows to keep them

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason, Sponsor Coordinator



Drummer & Lily

Benji

Benji is a sweet old guy that you may have met at Ironwood's Open House this past November. He was one of the mascots wandering around the front of the property to greet the guests. Benji has been here since late October of 2016. His first visit to the vet came shortly after his arrival so that he could be neutered. That surgery turned out to be more involved than expected when the vet found a huge stone in his urethra that had to be removed. Benji had some



for fluids, but his heart began skipping beats and the procedure had to be stopped. Instead Benji was given subcutaneous fluids to rehydrate him. His blood work results showed that he was suffering from pancreatitis which was treated with the antibiotic, Naxcel. There was also the possibility of gall bladder issues but that was later ruled out. Benji remained at the clinic for five days until his condition had stabilized and he was able to return to Ironwood. Benji's antibiotics were continued and he was monitored closely after his return but thankfully, that seemed to be the end of his problems.

problems with the anesthesia but came through everything just fine.



Benji's recovery went well and things were rolling along until one morning in January. The poor guy was found in his pen shaking, lethargic and running a high temperature. He was rushed off to the vet clinic. While there Benji had severe diarrhea and became dehydrated. He was anesthetized to insert an IV

Benji, Dudley & Clark



routines of his new home. Benji is a friendly old fellow who loves meeting people and getting attention from them.

---Donna

If you would like to help with Benji's medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his vet care, medications and five day stay at the vet clinic was \$2,072.66. Benji and everyone here appreciate all your support! Thank you!

Pigs of the Middle East

In the March newsletter, there was an article about the closing down of our Annex and moving the remaining pigs to Ironwood's main facility in Marana. We built a field specifically for those pigs, all in their upper teens who needed a calm, quiet space of their own. The area is located between the East Field and Far East, so we call it Middle East. There are twelve pigs residing there; Angel, Betty Sue, Boots, Colten, Little Bit, Max, Moe, Nipper, Paul Bunyan, Pauline, Socks and Zeus.



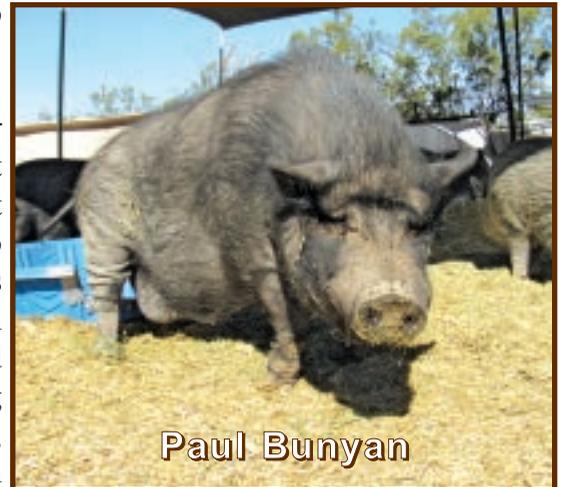
Zeus and Little Bit have established themselves in a separate shelter in a different section of the field and tend to stick close to their home.

keep them in line! The rest of the herd prefers being left alone to nap or relax with their friends. It took a few of them some time to get used to having so much activity around them all the time. They were used to having Andy as their sole caretaker and now there are teams of feeders and waterers in their field and the neighboring fields. Colten probably had the hardest time with that. He is very shy but has adjusted to the activity



To help these pigs who had spent all their lives at the Annex feel at home, we moved in two camper shells that had been their favorite shelters. Those were filled with blankets and bedding hay. It didn't take long before most of the pigs began congregating in and around the camper shells. That spot has become their favorite hangout. When the temperatures began to get warmer we added a large shade ramada above those shelters. Long time friends,

Nipper who earned her name because of her habit of charging and nipping at people, seems thrilled to be here where numerous people are coming through the Middle East Field throughout the day doing the feeding, the watering, passing out afternoon medications or just cutting through to another field. She loves having the opportunity to get all bossy with everyone and



Paul Bunyan

level. All of them have settled in nicely and are doing well in their new home. Angel and her best friend Moe spent most of their time at the Annex together in their own corner of the property. They are now part of the main group and appear happy to have others to share their time with. It is nice having all of the pigs here on site where we can see them every day.



---Donna

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UPDATE

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Boots - A Middle East Resident