

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO 78

SEPTEMBER  
2017

Moving Out to  
Lil' East Field

## PIG SANCTUARY





# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2017

Dear Supporter,

As I begin my September letter, I am devastated by the continuing pig crisis here in Arizona.

In the past few weeks, we have received calls or emails to take groups of 30, 19, 10, 6, 20, 12, 5, 13, and 2 pigs that are ALL in breeding populations with intact males and females. We have also received requests to take another 30 or so individual pigs or pairs of pigs that are NOT breeding. That is a total of 145 pigs in less than a month! We currently care for over 500 pigs and are not able to bring all these pigs to the Sanctuary. We simply do not have the room or resources. While we want to save them all, we have to make painful choices and I have been losing sleep over these choices. Each time I open our email account my gut gets tight. With no homes to go to and no agencies to help, what will be the outcome for all these animals? Of the 145 we have been able to take 9 so far, which is a mere drop in the bucket. And of those, several were pregnant.

To make things worse, we know that the remaining 136 will soon be 250 or way more. In cases where we take the pigs, we have them spayed or neutered. People call and want an instant resolution of their situation by having us take their pigs. If we tell them that we cannot take their pigs but offer help with spaying and neutering they often will not even answer our emails or phone calls. I agonize over this when I think of the babies that will be born, suffer and die. There are no legal protections for these pigs and Humane Societies, Animal Control facilities and the AZ Agriculture Department most often do not take them and if they do, they often do not find homes for them.

So my thoughts are how can these animals be helped? We cannot lead this effort. Our work at the Sanctuary takes every hour of every day. We need people to help us work toward a future where we are not just a dumping ground for pigs owned by people who have acted irresponsibly. Even in a facility with as much support as Ironwood has there are limits.

In order to aid in controlling the breeding and unwanted piglets being born, we are going to start to spend more of our resources on helping people with spaying and neutering their pigs. This will not just be the cost for spays and neuters, which would be the easiest part, but the time and effort to transport pigs and deal with the aftercare which is another large component. Pigs have a right to live and die in dignity and that is not happening.

We are so grateful for the support you give us that allows us to save and care for so many. Now we are calling on you again to consider what role you could play to help us. Social media is a great source that nearly all of you can use to help us spread the word about the overpopulation of pigs and to not buy or breed. You can do it yourself and be creative.

Sincerely,



President &amp; CoFounder

**Shakira (middle)  
and her  
Remaining  
Babies From  
Two Litters**



P.S. I once had a bumper sticker that read "If you are not outraged you are not paying attention." I am in this business because I am outraged and I am paying attention. I just hope many of you will be outraged as well and turn your outrage into action for the pigs.

# Where Oh Where Are You Going

**W**hen pigs are released to Ironwood from their owners or picked up as strays or come in from various facilities such as Animal Control, the Humane Society, etc., they first go to live in one of the individual holding pens up near the front of the property. Each of the 32 pens has a shelter, a wading pool, water bowl and plenty of shade. The majority of the pigs stay by themselves unless they came in with a companion. This gives us the opportunity to evaluate their health, physical ability and emotional status. The results of these observations are taken into account when determining which field the pig will be moved into later.

While newcomers are living in the holding pens, they are given the



**Pens**

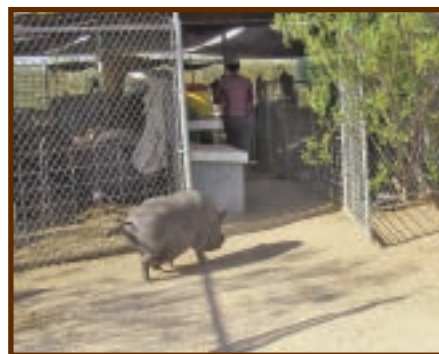
opportunity to go out into the exercise yard for a while each day. We have two separate yard areas so that two pigs can have a turn at the same time. All intact males are neutered shortly after their arrival but remain fertile for up to 45 days. Those boys have to take their yard turn by themselves. If

there are multiple pigs that we feel will eventually be going out to the same field, they are allowed to have their “recess” in the yard together but under supervision. Since pigs are herd animals they have a sense of positioning and hierarchy even if it’s just two of



**Marilyn & Stephano Coming Out for Yard Time**

them. Going out into the yard together will stir those feelings up. The pigs need to resolve who has the alpha position by pushing one another around and fighting to see who will be submissive. It’s an unavoidable natural behavior that the pigs have to work out between one another. Our job is to monitor them and break up fights when things go too far. It’s a fine line deciding



**Charlie Returning From Yard Time**

how far to let them go with it. If you stop them too soon too often, they’ll never work it out and continue to challenge one another at every opportunity. If it goes too far, they may get hurt. It is a nerve wracking experience for all!

Once a new pig has been here for a while and we’ve had time to take care of any health issues, we then decide where to move them. We have to consider their age, weight, physical ability and how they interact with other pigs. Ironwood has 30 different sized fields and special care areas. Due to the reasons mentioned in the previous paragraph about the pigs fighting when they are first introduced, we try to move them out in groups. That way there won’t be just one new pig facing an entire herd on their own. Introducing a group sort of spreads the action around and keeps the existing herd from picking on only one pig. Here are some examples of who went where and why.....



**Piggy Spears**

Piggy Spears is only 2½ years old, but she was placed in Assisted



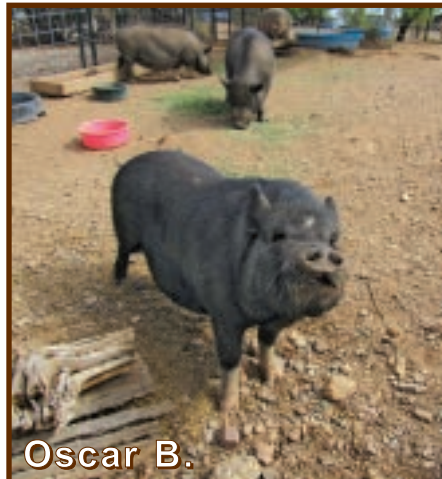
Living Phase 3 which is a field normally used for elderly arthritic pigs. The reason for mixing her with the old folks is because her legs are weak and unstable. X-rays taken at the vet clinic showed that both front “elbows” are bad and her left shoulder is deformed and almost out of its socket. Nothing can be done for her other than pain management. For her safety Piggy Spears needs to live where there is very little challenging behavior from other pigs, hence the choice of one of our old folks’ homes. She is an example of her physical disabilities overshadowing her age.



Sirocco

Sirocco was two years old when he arrived last November. He was extremely obese and nearly immobile. There was no way he would be able to manage in a large field living with a herd of pigs his own age. The poor guy would never have been able to defend himself. Sirocco is living in a smaller area called Camelot which was designed for a small group of elderly arthritic pigs. Even they proved to be too much for Sirocco and we had to enclose a section of that area just for him. The weight is coming off and the plan is to

have him join the other Camelot pigs when he is physically up to the challenge. Sirocco is an example of weight and mobility problems outweighing his age. And who knows...one day he may be all slim and fit and need to move to a field with more space.



Oscar B.

Oscar B. is another youngster of almost 3 years of age. He is a sweet, healthy boy with no problems. Around the time he was ready to leave the holding pens and join a herd, we had a group of 21 young, hearty pigs that all needed to be placed. Since it was such a large group we decided to develop a new field and start a new herd. Oscar B. is now happily living in Far East Field with a herd of 24 healthy pigs.



Cassie

Cassie arrived in May of this year elderly and thin, her bottom covered with rectal tumors and with a lopsided belly bulging with a uterine tumor. After two surgeries and a long recovery she was placed in the Cat Shelter. There is a long story behind that name, but it’s one of the hospice type care facilities that is home to a small number of pigs that simply need a calm, quiet environment for their later stage of life. Cassie had a lot going against her when she got here, but she is comfortable and pampered now.

After putting in their time in the holding pens, Gilligan, Sophie, Sam, Cookie, Miss Piggy and



Northwest Field

Pickles moved into the Northwest Field together a little over a year ago. We chose that field for these young to middle aged pigs because the herd there had dwindled in number and there was lots of space and shelters available. Sam, one of the new guys was shy and nervous and we weren’t sure that he could adjust to being with a herd. It took him a little longer than the others to be at ease, but he’s fine with it now. It helped Sam that Northwest is a mid-sized field and the herd was

at a low number. It was a little scary at first but not overwhelming.



Sunset Field

A lot of thought goes into where a new pig will be placed. We must look at the size of an existing herd and the availability of shelters and space in that particular field.



Matilda

Then there is the question of whether or not the existing herd is "safe" for new pigs. Some herds like the one in Sunset Field have extra large pigs that can be rather bossy and it may be risky to introduce a pig with a feisty attitude or a physical weakness. The pigs that live in Comanche's Field were horrible to one another when they moved in together. The fighting went on for months and problems continued to crop up sporadically for well over a year after they had settled in. The thought of adding pigs to that herd and going through that again can give you nightmares! In the past year we had several aggressive

pigs released to us. Sometimes joining a herd will decrease the aggression but that isn't always the case. We certainly don't want to place a biter in a field where we regularly take visitors who are touring the sanctuary. Thank goodness that isn't often an issue, but we do have a few biters and are sure to place them in fields that are not on the tour route.

We also don't want to disrupt the lives of the same herd with new additions over and over, so we attempt to alternate fields. This summer we created a new field by dividing the East Field that once belonged to a group of over 50 related pigs. They came here over



Moving Out to Lil' East Field

15 years ago and most have either passed away or been moved to special care areas. The remaining few were no longer utilizing the entire field, but the pigs are too old to deal with new pigs joining them. We just fenced off part of their area to make Lil' East, now home to 14 piggies who are all under three years of age. That



Celeste

group includes two litters that were born here during 2016 after we rescued pregnant females from two different situations.

The holding pens continue to fill up with newcomers going through their evaluations and waiting for their turn to go out and join a herd. Where will the two friends, Pooh and Buster end up? What about Pedro and Miguel...two little brothers who had to be neutered and complete their 45 day quarantine before moving to a field? And Rosie...young but weak and injured after being abandoned at a foreclosed home? Will Celeste, Matilda, Shakira, Jade and Daisy, all healthy girls, perhaps end up joining the same herd? Because of your support these pigs will have a permanent place to call home. Thanks to you Charlie, Little Pig, Wilbert and more have the opportunity to join a herd in a field that fits their needs and make a new life with new friends. Where oh where?...at Ironwood, of course!

---Donna



# Behind the Scenes With Our Foster Homes

**I**t all started in 2004 shortly after we had rescued 45 of the St. Matilda's pigs on the July 4th weekend. We had left a few pigs behind that the owner wanted to keep. Donna, who started the first Maricopa foster



**Fatty Back Home**

home, saw Annabel at St. Matilda's and her condition



**Overview of Donna's Field**

haunted her. She took her home to care for her. We got a call from Donna asking if we would take Annabel and try to cure her skin condition and in exchange she would take two of our pigs. Annabel had squamous cell cancers and could not be cured, so we took her back to Donna where she cared for her the best she could. Donna still took two of ours who needed a home. This



**Daisy & Justin**

began a long association during which Donna has fostered many pigs for us and at one time had 22 pigs at her place. Donna also took



**Star**

in a few directly that did not come to Ironwood first. We have provided her food and medical care over the years and she and her son, Justin provided the day to day care. Due to health issues



**Daisy & Mary**

over the past year Donna has found it necessary to give up all but 4 of their pigs. Fatty, who came to us for medical care was recently returned to Donna and Justin after recovering. Fatty immediately made herself at home and went to dig in her wallow and visit with Susie Q, her old time companion. She was



**Donna**

happy to be back home and is feeling much better. All of Donna's remaining pigs are older with arthritis. We have been very grateful to Donna and Justin for taking care of so many of our pigs and Donna writes many of the thank you notes you receive for your donations as well.

In July of 2004 a lady in Maricopa



**Ninja Turtle Boys**



adopted several of our pigs. She had a nice place and we felt all the pigs would be well cared for there. However, it was not too many months later that she told us she could no longer care for her



**Wellington Family's Field**

pigs and she had found another person to take them that had a better home than hers. As it turned out the lady who took her pigs was Grace. This began a long association with Grace and



**Grace With Some of Her Pigs**

Dean. They adopted several pigs from us over a few years and we kept close contact with them since they were on the trimming schedule.

Grace also ran a dog rescue from which Ben and I adopted our three sweet dogs, Hobo, Ginger, and Tiny Tot. But over time the



**Bubby & Baby Face's Home**

demands of dog rescuing was taking its toll and Grace decided she would like to become a foster mom for more of our pigs. So



**Baby Face, Bubby And Mary**

when the time came for Donna and Justin to move their pigs, some of the families were moved a few miles away to Grace's and the rest came to Ironwood. We added a young family of six, the



**Bubby in His Wallow**

Ninja Turtle boys, Mom, Charlotte and daughter, Penelope. Later Bubby, who was just too sweet for me to make him a sanctuary pig and Baby Face who Grace and Dean rescued from a



**Penelope & Charlotte**

construction site, joined her home and have become the best of friends. With her own pigs, most of which were adopted from Ironwood over the years and her foster pigs Grace now has 27 pigs.



**Sally Jr. & Barney Jr.**

Grace loves the pigs and enjoys spending time with them each day and seeing that they get their meds and treats.

The foster homes have been good for us as well since it has lessened our burden on a daily basis. We greatly appreciate Donna and Justin and Grace and Dean for the care they give to Ironwood pigs.

---Mary



# Sponsor a S



Natasha

My friend Boris and I used to live with rescued dogs. They can be very loud sometimes! The bird sounds we wake up to here are much more peaceful.



Boris

I used to live at a dog rescue until one of the owners got real sick and couldn't take care of me anymore. My friend and I came here to live with pigs instead of dogs.



I am Oscar Hoo's our mom but do I hope you will pick us to sponsor. We love us!

*The pigs pictured here have all gotten established in a field, settled in as members of a herd and have made new piggy friends. The only thing they are lacking now is a sponsor! Please help them out by choosing your favorite*

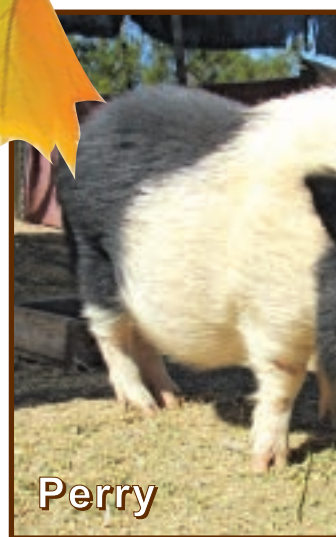


Donna

Frank

*(or favorites!). Your \$30 monthly donation will help provide for their basic needs. You will receive their history and photos with an update and new pictures later in the year. Please join our family of sponsors today! Thank you!*

*---Donna*



Perry

I am Tabitha's brother unfortunately, the fat Oops! Ironwood may be happening again! with people who like



# Special Pig!



Lucy

oo's sister. We miss  
do like living here. I  
pick one (or both) of  
We both need you to



Oscar Hoo

My owner loved me and my  
sister but she got a bad kind of  
cancer and wasn't able to take  
care of us. She supported us  
here as long as she could but  
now we need your help.



Piggy Spears

I was passed around to different  
homes but nobody wanted to keep  
me. The last lady said I was  
aggressive. I just wanted a  
permanent home and now I  
have one!



Tabitha

My owners said they didn't want me  
or my friends anymore. They told  
Ironwood I was just fat but I had a  
litter of babies four days after  
getting here! Wow!



Eli

I was a stray that got picked up  
and sent to the state Agriculture  
Department. Thank goodness  
one of the officers brought me  
here rather than sending me to  
slaughter.



# Shedding

**A** panicked call from one of my hoof trimming clients asking what could possibly be wrong with her pig because her hair was falling out led me to wonder how many other people are unaware of the



Morgan

shedding process for pigs. Most animals will shed their undercoat when the weather heats up, but keep a thinner layer of fur or hair. Not so with pigs....at least here in the desert. It all comes out! At first the hair, particularly along the mane and back, gets stiffer



Lucille

than normal. Usually within a week the pig will be completely bald or maybe left with some patchy spots along the stomach and hips. It can totally change their looks.



Morgan

Morgan is a pretty girl with blondish hair and obvious black spots. During her summer baldness, however, she just looks gray with the spots barely visible. Lucille's winter coat is a gorgeous, shiny black with tan



Lucille

and silver highlights. When it's hot though, she simply has a dull gray crew cut. The white pigs begin to turn sort of yellow in the summer, partly due to rolling in the mud but it's also a change in the hair just before it's ready to drop. You can actually be petting a pig and come away with clumps of hair in your hand. If you've never experienced that with a pig before, it can be alarming! Charlotte from the Sunset Field looks like a completely different girl after her hair has dropped off.

Other pigs have a rather thin coat to start with so when they shed it isn't much different. Many pigs like Peaches, Sal and Amelia are all short-haired and are easy to recognize all year round.



Charlotte

A lot of the elderly pigs in their late teens stop shedding each year. Sometimes the hair continues to



Charlotte

grow along the spine giving pigs like Major a handsome silver mane. Sarah's hair is super long on her forehead and mane. She



Sarah



has the coolest hairdo! Corky, a pig from our past, was a senior gal that ended up with a mane almost two feet long. Amazing!



Prissy



Pearl

As summer slips into fall the bald piggies begin to grow their coat back and have a nice, soft crew cut for a while. When the nights get cooler, the coat will fill in until they once again have their beautiful winter thickness. A full head of hair does more than just keep a pig warm. The mane, the hair along the neck and upper



Wyatt

spine, can signal different emotions from a pig. When I talk to Wyatt his mane will rise up just at the sound of my voice. Petting Diamond will cause hers to stand on end. Diamond and Wyatt are using their manes to show their pleasure. When something makes



Diamond

a pig happy, that mane will stand right up. Then again, raising the mane combined with some side-stepping can mean the total opposite. When new pigs are introduced into a herd they have to establish a pecking order. This involves a lot of posturing and bullying to determine the status. When Poke'mon first moved into the Peoria Field he challenged



Mohawk & Poke'mon

everyone who crossed his path. It always began with him clacking his jaws, his hair standing straight up and him dancing sideways up to his adversary. This action makes him look bigger and tougher. It's a combination of the hair and body language that

makes the difference. If you are giving Pearl a back rub and the only thing she does is raise her mane, then no worries. Her next move will most likely be to melt to the ground and lie on her side so you can rub her belly. If you are talking to Stinkbug and his hair goes up and he starts chomping his teeth, you better watch out! You have to pay attention to all the signals. A pig's mane standing up is a major signal, but that's a tough one during the summer when most of them are either bald or have a crew cut just growing in.

---Donna



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Si



# Planned Giving



A planned gift is an investment in the future of your favorite charity or charities that ensures the means to continue that charity's mission into the future. Donors are encouraged to make a bequest in a Will or Living Trust to benefit the charity of their choosing.

Planned giving offers a wide variety of benefits to you as you plan to accomplish your charitable and financial goals. Benefits may include: personal satisfaction in providing for the continued mission of your favorite charity or charities, income tax savings, avoidance of capital gain tax or federal estate tax, reduction in the administrative costs of settling your estate, and a reminder to your heirs of your dedication to your favorite charity or charities.

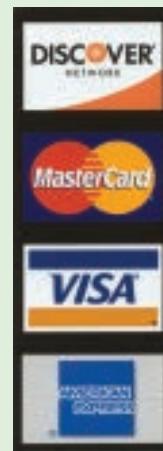
Thank you for considering the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in your estate plans. The Mary C Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your Will please use both names (although it is okay if you've already used only the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary name), the post office address from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

## Double or Triple 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 employers will match and sometimes double their employees' or retirees' charitable contributions.

Simply request a matching gift form from the personnel department of your employer, fill it out and mail it to us with your donation or use it for one of your past donations. Your gift, with your employer's match will go further toward taking care of the 600 pot-bellied pigs at the Sanctuary.

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](http://www.ironwoodpigs.org).



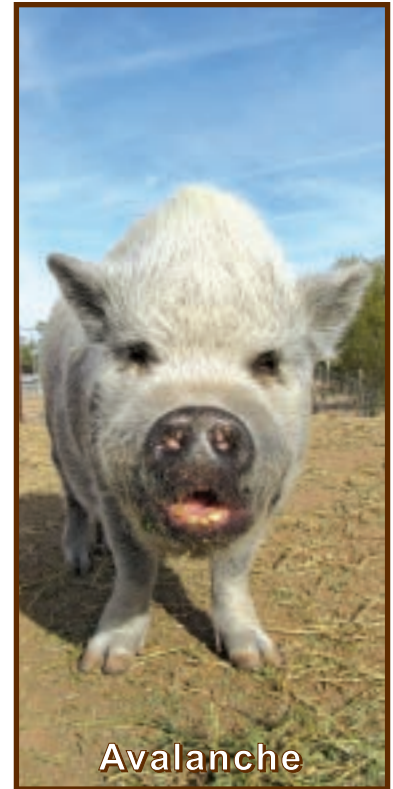
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**All your packages are a great help and are much appreciated!**



Avalanche

**Our Wish List**

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**\*New Items**

**GIFT CARDS**

**\*\*Used Blankets are needed year around.\*\***

- \*Fig Newton cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
- \*Wire Cutters
- \*Lineman's pliers
- \*Sheets (NO pillow cases)
- Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
- Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
- Vitamin E capsules 400 IU
- Flaxseed Oil Capsules
- Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets
- Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
- Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 47 and 34 cents)  
Other denominations can also be used
- Animal Crackers
- Probiotics
- Stool Softeners
- Utility Knives
- Neosporin

**We have a wish list on Smile.Amazon.com. They offer free shipping on many items if you sign up for Amazon Prime.**

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



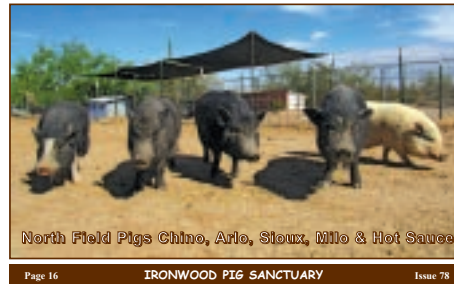
# Front and Back Covers



Jared is heading down the chute leading six of the 14 pigs to their new home as Donna discussed in her accompanying article. They have all happily adjusted to their new large field and run from wallow to wallow and shelter to shelter

checking out what is now available to them. We no longer have to spend the time rounding them up and putting them back in their pens after their exercise time.

Their backgrounds are varied with some having been born here after the moms were rescued from precarious situations. Anderson was a stray in the Tonto National Forest when a man lassoed him and took him to a kind family who nurtured him back to health before they called us to take him. Señor Piggles is another stray who was rescued with his mom. Later they were attacked by stray dogs at their rescuer's home. Shaq arrived unannounced on a hot day so we agreed to take him and neuter him for the owners, but they did not want him back. There is a story why each of these little orphans are now following Jared down the chute with tails wagging, grabbing the little treats that are being dropped along the way. Whatever their reason for coming to Ironwood has been forgotten now that they are happy and content.



Chino, Arlo, Sioux, Milo, and Hot Sauce along with their friends Sweet Tea and Cole all came in

from various situations much like those on the front cover. They were all young so once they were spayed and neutered we started to put them together as a herd then moved them into a small field together where they were later let out to enjoy the large North Field. They have grown up together and have become best friends. Chino was released to us because the people were not zoned to have him. Arlo was a little baby stray found behind a Walmart on the east side of Tucson. Sioux, Milo and Cole all came from an animal control facility in Riverside, CA in June of 2015 along with Napoleon, Roxanne and Jezebel. All



six of these pigs were strays. Hot Sauce and Sweet Tea had to be given up when their family's home burned down and they no longer had a place to keep them. They all arrived at Ironwood within a month of each other. Their life stories brought them here to us where they have created their own new family together.

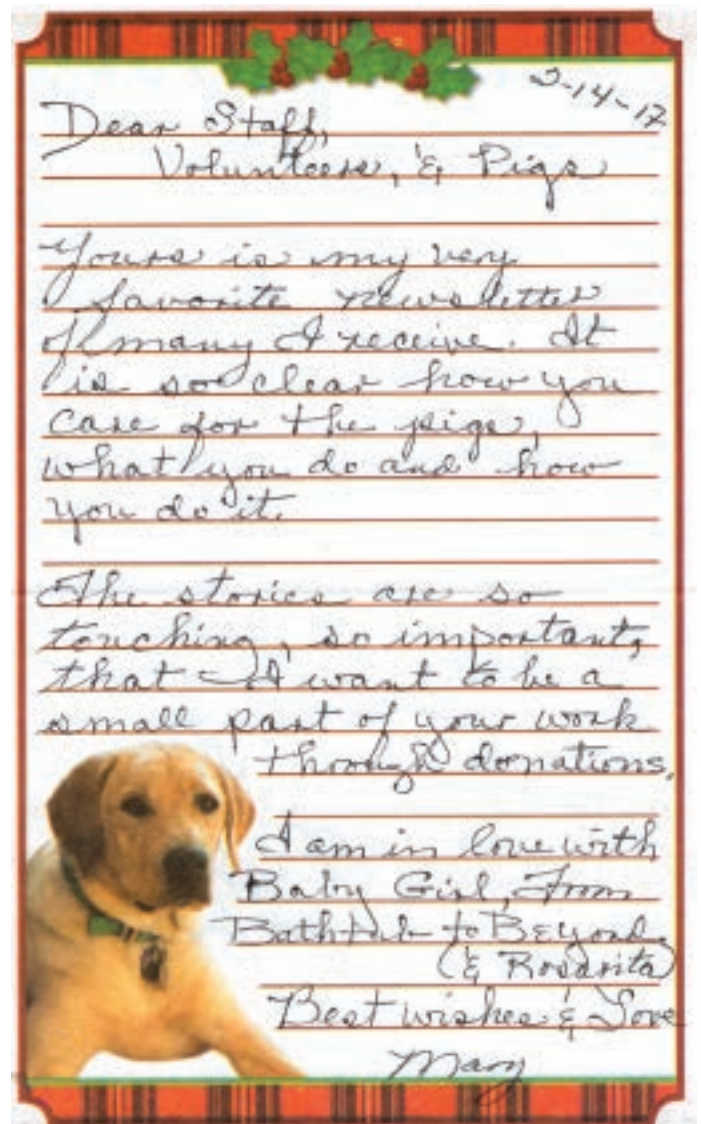
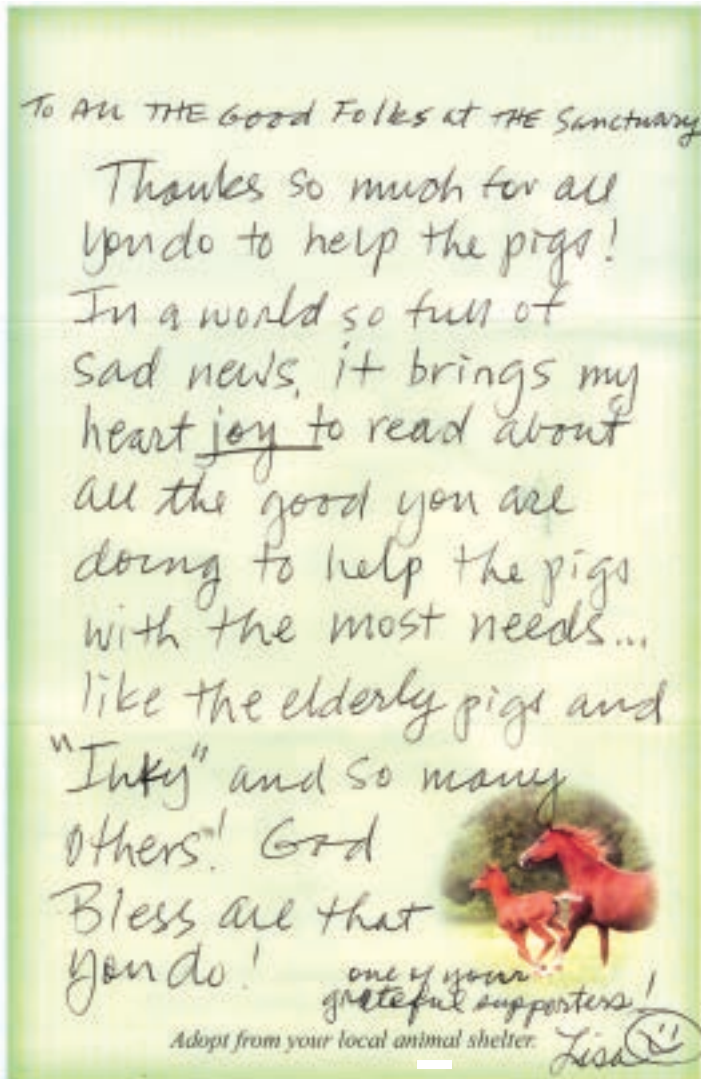




## MISSION STATEMENT

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**



**North Field Pigs Chino, Arlo, Sioux, Milo & Hot Sauce**