

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary Post Office Box 35490 Tucson, AZ 85740

July 2011

Dear Supporter,

As you read the articles in this newsletter you will become aware of many issues that we have to deal with while caring for our pigs here at Ironwood. Ensuring that they have a good supply of water, preparing them for their life at the sanctuary by transitioning them from their safe little pen to a large field with many pigs, and providing the old ones with all the extras to keep them comfortable through these hot months ahead are all part of what we are faced with. People call us to ask if we could take just one more pig. They don't understand how difficult it is to introduce pigs to one another, how much time it takes or the reality for a pig at a sanctuary who has spent the past ten years of its life as a single pig.

We now have nearly 30 pigs on our list who need a home and another 20 at the Apache Junction location that have not yet been rescued. We just took in Charlotte, pictured below with me, who is only 5 years old but has been bred repeatedly. She is emaciated, is missing an ear and looks like an old pig. The owners called us to take her and the boar and two neutered males claiming to love their pigs but they have lost their home. So far we have taken her and not the others. The owners simply said they take her babies to the feed store in order to "get rid" of them. The feed store then sells them for \$25.00 each. Two of Charlotte's previous babies, Shadow and Adam, were found abandoned on a foreclosed property a block away from Charlotte's home. Shadow had babies of her own the night before we arrived and her babies all died from exposure. How many more of Charlotte's babies are in Phoenix continuing the cycle of pig overpopulation?

We are faced with the hard decision about who can come and who cannot come to the sanctuary. I am angry and frustrated by uncaring people who have no sense of responsibility. We often find ourselves taking pigs from the worst owners because their pigs are in such dire situations. This results in making it more difficult to help the people who have cared for their pigs because of our limited resources. People like us rescue animals because so many are in deplorable situations and in need of a home. The problem is huge. It has been created by and can only be solved by everyone. Legislators need to have the courage to pass laws to ban breeding and they need the support of the public. The public needs to refuse to buy or breed and accept that they should adopt a companion animal, adults as well as babies. When I meet a "Charlotte" and

see her condition, I find it difficult to not get emotional. There are no responsible breeders as long as there are still domestic animals without homes or being euthanized.

Sincerely,

Mary Schon

President & Co-Founder

P.S. Charlotte is recovering with us, getting good nutrition and will never have babies again. This is what I wish for all the pigs. You have made this possible and I thank you so much. Like us, you can only do so much. It has to stop at the source.



Charlotte and Mary

The Big Move

hen you come to visit the Ironwood Sanctuary you will see hundreds of pigs living in various sized fields in herds as small as 6-12 or as large as 50-75. These pigs are happily sharing shelters, eating from feed troughs together, lying around in pools and wallows and spending time with their piggy friends. It all looks peaceful and harmonious but getting to that stage is not always easy.

Sometimes we can introduce new pigs into an existing herd with no problems at all. For example, in May Wilbur and Baby moved into Assisted Living Phase Six and the other pigs hardly paid any attention to them. It was smooth and easy, mostly because Phase Six has a very small herd of elderly pigs. Unfortunately, this is the rare exception. Because pigs are herd animals, there is a



Elisa & Sean Introducing
Pigs To Each Other In The
Exercise Yard



Hero and Wiggy Sizing Up Each Other

social hierarchy in place and when new pigs arrive it shakes things up. New arrivals have to find their place within the herd and old members try to protect their position. How is this done? By fighting with one another! The pigs have to prove how tough they are to see who is going to be dominant and who is going to be submissive. The fighting can be passive...sort of push and shove with a lot of stomping and chomping. At other times the fights can get rather vicious ending up with torn ears, scrapes and scratches.

We tracked the lives of seven recent arrivals; Hero, Snuggles, Ellen, Lincoln, Chaco, Pickles and Wiggy. These pigs first lived in individual holding pens while we observed their physical and emotional status before deciding which field to place them in. The pens open into an exercise yard. Once we felt that this group was physically capable of being together, we began to let them into the yard at the same time to

see how they would interact. This involved 1 or 2 staff members acting as referees, standing around with boards watching the pigs and being ready to break up fights that were progressing into the danger zone. Some degree of fighting must be allowed or the pigs will never establish dominance and the tension between them will remain. On the other hand, we don't want anyone hurt, so if it gets out of hand we slide a board between them to break them up. Some of these



Jonny & Matt Moving A Shelter Into Position With Mary Directing

pigs were easygoing...Ellen completely ignored the other pigs, Snuggles just wanted to look for scraps of hay and Pickles played in the wallow. Others spent time sizing each other up...Hero, Chaco and Lincoln did some "slap-jawing" (chomping and clacking their teeth to sound tough) then some pushing and head slams, a favorite move that

Continued on next page--

Continued from page 3

really hurts. We spent two weeks putting these pigs together in the yard for short periods to get some of the tension out of their system before making the big move into



Elisa & Sean Breaking Up a Fight

the field to meet the existing herd. Before that move could be made, several discussions were held between Mary, Taryn and myself deciding which field they should go to. It needed to be a big field because these are all fairly young, healthy pigs needing plenty of space to roam. What we call our Main Field, which was the first field of pigs set up ten years ago, was going to be their new home. The next step was moving in new shelters, digging more wallows, adding shade ramadas and pools, then crossing our fingers that all would go smoothly. Then a few days before "moving day," we decided to add Ashley and Pebbles to the mix. These two girls were moved to our Peoria Field after they had gone through their time in the holding pens. It turned out not to be a good match. Both of them fought with everyone and got beat up themselves. At that time we moved them into a pen within the

Peoria Field hoping they would get to know the pigs through the fence then we would try the introduction again. The second time brought the same results. The third attempt ended with both Ashley and Pebbles lame and bruised. The girls were just relentless with the fighting! So now the decision was to try them in a completely different field with a different mix of pigs and see what happens.

Finally the big day arrived. We had to pick a day when there would be additional help to stay



Casey Moving Pigs To Their New Field

out in the field all day to be referees breaking up fights and to act as saviors making sure all the pigs found water and stayed cool in the 100+ degree temperatures.

Staff and volunteers all brandished boards, took a deep breath and began walking the nine pigs down a chute leading from the pens to the Main Field where they would make their home. We had set up an area with their new "stuff" in the back of the field hoping they would gravitate to the

unoccupied homes and ramadas. The transition was not smooth but



Jonny Building A Shade For The New Pigs

also not nearly as bad as we've experienced in the past. That first day there were a lot of fights but nothing severe. Unfortunately after some initial exploration, the nine new pigs all came back to hang out around the gate wanting to go back home to their pens. It was hot that day and there they were pacing the fence! Some of them eventually settled in the shade and took things easy. Lincoln and Ellen continued to walk all over the field swinging



Area Ready For The New Pigs

past the gate every once in a while to see if it was open yet then heading off to walk some more. Lincoln got into many scuffles that day with various pigs but never anything serious. Hero is a little guy, but he never hesitated to push back when one of the herd was testing his strength. Chaco, a total sweetheart with people, turned out to be a feisty gal with the other pigs. And of course, Ashley and Pebbles were popping off at anyone who got close, although it wasn't nearly as bad as the previous fights they had in the other field. Things got so heated that members of the original herd who have lived together for nearly ten years were fighting with each other!



Taryn Getting Lincoln Settled In The New Field

The second day was not too bad...a little rough at breakfast since the new pigs didn't know the routine or where they were supposed to go eat. We continued to check on them frequently throughout the day, hosing down those who seemed overheated and checking to see who was resting in the shade. Day by day things got better and better. Lincoln and Pickles appear to be in love and are spending a lot of time together. Chaco is hanging out with Ashley and Pebbles. Hero is trying to be Snuggles' buddy, but



Lincoln & Pickles

she is sort of ignoring him so far. Wiggy found a pigloo she likes. Ellen is still wandering around on her own but is doing okay.

It will take time for these new pigs to establish themselves, settle into a selected shelter and make new friends. In the past, we've had introductions that were calmed down in a matter of days and others that took several weeks. On rare occasions it just doesn't work out at all and we end up moving a pig or two to a totally different field where they fit in more comfortably with a different group of pigs (like we did with Ashley and Pebbles).



Chaco & Wiggy In Their New Field

These herd introductions are always nerve-racking for us, time consuming for staff and volunteers, and can be physically

and emotionally difficult for the We've all cried while doctoring bitten ears (a favored tender target during fights) and sighed in frustration as we put yet another pig on antibiotics for wounds incurred by another pig. But eventually there is a happy ending....the pigs do become members of the herd, determine their favorite hang outs, make new friends and live long, happy lives in their new home. We will help nurture these nine pigs as they establish their places within the existing herd and do our best to provide a safe home for them.

---Donna

Hoof & Tusk Trimming

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



Summer Concerns

s we've mentioned in previous articles, the winters bring a plethora of problems to the sanctuary. Summers are no different! As soon as the sun rises we are on the lookout for dry wallows, empty water bowls and struggling pigs. With the summer comes many concerns and busy days. spend a lot of time before summer prepping the sanctuary with more shades and wallows, but we are still always keeping an eye out for hot pigs, building and repairing shades and digging wallows. It seems there is always something more to be done.

During the summer we get some pretty heavy winds that really take a toll on our shades. We have to take notes as we go around the



Jonny Repairing
Summer Shade On The
Pens' Roof

sanctuary of any shades that have been ripped or have come down. Sometimes it can be a simple repair, but other times we are left having to redo an entire shade. We also take notes of where we might be lacking shade. As the



Elisa Giving Some Cool Juice to Mickey

sun changes positions we often notice certain areas or shelters getting blazed by the sun. We are quick to fix this as we know the consequences of lacking shade.

As we are looking at shades we also have to check up on our wallows and pools. wallows take a few times of filling up before they will hold water, so we need to ensure that they are filled often. We also have to make sure the wallows are appropriate for the types of pigs that will be using them. If the pigs in a certain area are more lame, we make sure that the wallow will be easy to get into. This goes for our pools as well. If a pig is too lame to get into a regular pool we will cut out a section of the side of a pool so that the pig can easily walk into it. It's also common that we run into dry pools. This is because they are

either cracked or have holes in them. If the holes go unnoticed the pigs will be left with empty pools. We make sure to have new pools on hand at all times as you never know when you'll run into a cracked pool.

Although we are always out and about in the fields working, we have instilled a midday walk-around where we do checks to ensure that our pigs with special needs aren't too hot. During this check we often take melon or juice with us to ensure these pigs are getting enough fluids. Often times the pigs just aren't getting



Matt Digging A New Wallow In One Of Our Shade Ramadas

up frequently enough to drink water, so we have to make sure they get something to drink. One of our biggest concerns is the older, more crippled pigs. If they are struggling to get up and get too hot, they risk overheating. During our checks we've found many pigs showing signs of

overheating such as breathing heavy. Recently on one of our



Mary and Taryn Cooling Off Arnold

checks Arnold, an older pig, was found very overheated. He was breathing loudly and heavily, his body was very warm to the touch and he had been struggling to get up. We immediately sprayed him off with water and kept cold towels on him. He would eat melon, so we offered him that as well. We stayed with him until his body was at a normal temperature.

Often times we've also noticed pigs staying in their shelters instead of getting into the wallows



Taryn Cooling Off Mary Lou

or pools. To cool them off we will spray them with a hose, use towels from buckets of ice water or give them melon and juice. We have thermometers on hand to monitor their temperature. If necessary we can bring them into one of our pens that have either air conditioning or misters, or if need be we will bring them into a house. We stay with them and monitor them until their temperature is back to normal and they are settled. We continue to do checks on the pigs throughout the evening.

To say that the summer heat keeps us busy is an understatement. It's vital that we are fully staffed in the summer as it takes many people to check on the pigs, get the watering done and do the



Mary Spraying Squeakers
With Cool Water

shade repairs.

Our work is never finished and we are constantly on the go trying to get things done.

---Taryn

Ironwood's Facebook Page

Taryn, one of our resident staff, maintains our Facebook page with frequent updates about the sanctuary. Check out her Facebook page at: http://www.facebook.com/IronwoodPigSanctuary



Arnold's Feeling Better

Sponsor



One of my owners died and the house ended up in foreclosure, so I came here to live. I'm blind and it was hard to adjust to a new home but I'm managing pretty well. I would love to have a sponsor to help me out.



My mom had heart surgery then a stroke, so she was no longer able to take care of me. Having a sponsor would make both of us feel better about me being here.



I'm fairly new around here and feel honored to have been chosen to be in the newsletter! I am friendly and a the newsletter! I am friendly and a little unusual because I have blue eyes. There aren't too many blue eyed pigs around! Anyway, it would be terrific if you chose me to sponsor.



I had a sponse but they had financial hard shock after all friendly guy a new friend to



This makes me sort of nervous being in the spotlight.....I mean, I'm kind of shy and it's hard to get up and ask for a sponsor. I've been here several years and finally got up the nerve, so here it goes....Would you please pick me so I'll have a mom or dad? (And so I don't have to do this again!)



Ironwood recent anniversary. I'v years...in fact l live here! And r sponsor. It just of help me out?

SC10



or for a really long time to drop me because of ships. It was sort of a l this time. I'm a real nd would love to have sponsor me.



ly celebrated their tenth e been here the entire ten was the very first pig to now I'm suddenly without a loesn't seem right. Can you



My owner died and there was no one to take care of me any longer until Ironwood stepped in to save me. They're my hero! Now I'd like to become your hero. Please let me be your friend!

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

Fred

But then again you're sort of here

since you're reading this, but

you're not really here, like

standing next to me. Geez, I

think I'm flubbing this up! Uh,

maybe I should just stick to

'please be my sponsor'.

We have so many pigs that need a sponsor.... new ones coming in as well as long time residents that have lost their sponsors. These are just a few of them. For a monthly donation of \$30, you can support one pig's



needs here at the sanctuary. In exchange, you'll receive letters and pictures to keep you updated on your pig's life. We would love to have you join our family of sponsors!

---Donna

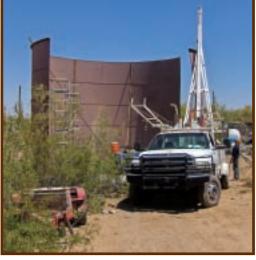
Ironwood's New Water Tank

most important consideration at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is the health and safety of our 600 resident pigs. We go to great lengths to give our pigs the medications and medical care that they need. Each morning we give out over 120 peanut butter sandwiches containing medications and supplements for the day. We also make special meals and "milk" shakes for our geriatric pigs and sick pigs in order to encourage them to eat, put on weight for a thin pig, or give them the supplements they need for their daily living. In the morning after feeding we have medical rounds for pigs with temporary conditions and medical rounds in the evening for those that are on medications twice a dav.

However, the most important



Inside View



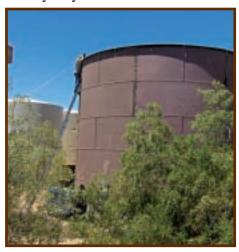
New Water Tank Under Construction

thing, particularly during the summer is WATER! Many of our pigs would not survive a day without water for drinking and cooling during our hot weather in summer. We spend many hours during the day and hire extra help for the summer in order to make sure all our pigs have fresh water for drinking and wading pools and wallows for cooling off during a hot day. During the summer we use 5,000 gallons of water a day for all the pools and wallows scattered over our 15 acres of pigs.

All this water comes from three main sources. We have a well on site where we pump 2,000 gallons of water a day. This is sufficient for the cooler winter months but is not adequate for the hot summer months. Since we use 5,000 gallons of water a day we need to supplement our well with multiple trips into the nearby town of Red

Rock with our two water trucks. We are able to get 5,000 gallons total with both trucks during each trip. Over a week we need to make four or five trips. Each trip takes almost two hours with driving, loading, and unloading. We usually do this on one day a week and for the balance of the week we use water in our storage tanks.

These storage tanks are critical in two important ways. First, they supply us with extra water without having to go into town every day for water. It is much



New Water Tank Almost Finished

more efficient to set up the water meter on the Red Rock fire hydrant once or at most twice a week for the weekly run of over 21,000 gallons. Second, and more importantly, the tanks hold an emergency reserve just in case we are not able to get water for some reason. Our current water tank capacity is about 53,000

gallons. This is only a ten-day reserve and only a six-day reserve if we haven't been into town lately to get water.

There are many things that could go wrong to interfere with



Ben Loading The 3,500 Gallon Water Truck

providing all the water that we need particularly in the hot summer months that could put our pigs at risk. Our well pump could fail. This could take up to two weeks or more to repair and would require us to make three extra trips into town per week with the water trucks. If one of



Willie Getting Water From The Fire Hydrant At Red Rock

the water trucks broke down this would be a greater burden on the remaining truck.

With the uncertain situation in the Middle East there may be a fuel crisis resulting in not being able to get diesel fuel for our water trucks. We have a 500-gallon diesel fuel tank at the sanctuary and are just waiting for fuel prices to drop a little more before filling this tank. This would provide the fuel we would need during a fuel crisis.

We could also have a power outage that might last a day or more, depending upon the cause, where we could not pump water through the miles of piping to the hundreds of hose bibs and automatic waterers watering our pigs. We are remote from Tucson, so major repairs to the power grid might not come as quickly as they would in town when more people are affected. We have a 30,000 watt generator that we used originally before the sanctuary received power almost three years ago. We run this generator once a month for an hour or so to make sure it is still serviceable. In a power outage we would be able to use it to power the pressure pump to supply water to all our fields.

In Arizona we are subjected to what is called the Monsoon Season where we can receive localized brief major storms during the summer that can drop inches of water in an hour or less. These storms can make the 4 miles of dirt roads to the sanctuary impassable. We have had storms in the past where some of the

roads were not passable for a week. A longer time is surely possible if one of the exceptional storms hits our area.

We are on our own out here in the remote area of the Arizona desert and need to provide for ourselves. Considering all the reasons that we might not have enough water, we have purchased an additional 65,000-gallon used water tank that is being installed as I write this article. The tank should be finished by the time you receive this newsletter and maybe even be



Karisha Filling A Wading Pool

half full. This tank plus the other tanks at the sanctuary should be able to supply at least three weeks of water and a lot more with conservation assuming that we were not able to get water any other way.

This has been a large effort over the years to make sure that our pigs are safe. Our sweet pigs have no idea what goes on behind the scenes for their welfare and safety.

---Ben

Get A Sanctuary Credit Card

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

Share your passion for the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary and make donations with your everyday purchases. 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. Apply today by visiting www.CardLabConnect.com/ironwoodpigsanctuary

Be A Sanctuary Sustainer

You can become a **Sanctuary Sustainer** by making a **monthly donation** of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100 or any amount you choose which is 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. 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 and make your individual or monthly donation by PayPal (no PayPal account required).

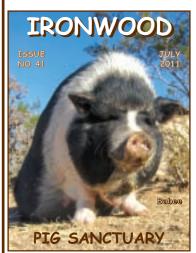
Remember The Sanctuary In Your Will

Bequests can be a percentage of your estate or a specific dollar amount, a particular stock, bond or mutual fund, real estate, or naming the Sanctuary as a remainderman after providing for family and friends, or stipulating that the Sanctuary will benefit from a portion of your estate if certain beneficiaries predecease you.

The Mary C. Schanz Foundation is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. For your will please use both names and the following tax ID number: 86-0999483. Thank you for your support.

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

Front Cover



Babee is one lucky pig. You might say she has nine lives, or at least close. A lady we know that had pigs for many years rescued Babee when she was a baby. She was having difficulty with Babee due to aggression. She brought her to us to be spayed hoping that would help. Sometime

later we got a desperate call that she had been knocked down by Babee and attacked by her. This was the last straw since she had had several encounters with her in the past. She could not keep her or adopt her, so she had contacted several vets and was going to have her put down. However, none were available. One was on vacation, one had a broken leg and so it went. I called my vet and she said put her in a field and let the others deal with her. It took time and effort and we had to restrict her to a pen next to her field, but she finally became part of the herd. She is no longer aggressive with people, but once she established herself she was a bit too pushy with the pigs during feeding and now has to be restricted to a feeding pen to feed her because she had gained way too much weight. So 7 years later she is content in her field and I often think how lucky she was that a vet was not available.

Our Wish List

- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens, Target, or PetsMart are an easy way to give.
- * The above gift cards can be purchased on-line
- * VISA gift cards that can be used anywhere
- * Postage Stamps (44, 29, 20 cents)
- * Used Blankets and Sheets are always welcome
- * Antacid
- * Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters
- * Flax Seed Capsules
 Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Utility Knives
- * Benefiber Powder Unflavored (NOT Metamucil)
- * Sun Screen Lotion (NO Spray) SPF 30 or above
- * Cranberry capsules 2000 mg preferred
- * Zinc Oxide Ointment 1 pound container
 Best Value is Rugby Labs Brand
 purchased from Amazon.com (\$6.50 +
 Postage)

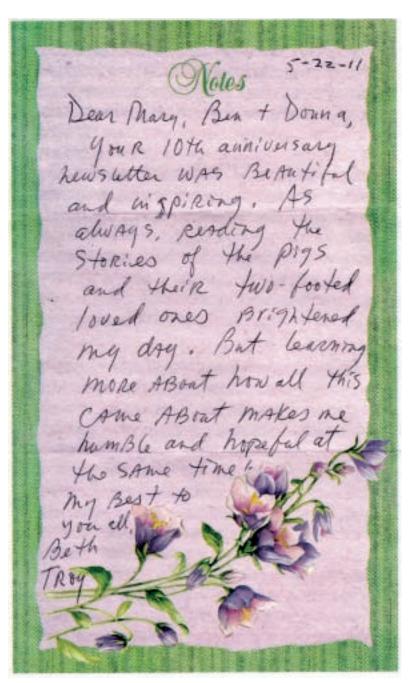
Items in Purple are the Most Needed at this time



Back Cover

Petunia came to us in June of 2010. She had a lovely home and a family who loved her, but when her family lost their home she came to live with us. Petunia was quite overweight and has trimmed down considerably since her arrival. Once a pig is fat-blind it is difficult to get weight off their face so she still does not see well. However, she has been moved to one of our assisted living fields and has found her niche there. She is familiar with her surroundings and is comfortable. She eats in a feeding pen that helps her to feel secure and safe. We are hopeful that one day Petunia will be able to return home to her family.

Our Supporters Write



5/19/11

Dear Mary, Donna, and Ben,

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary. You and your staff are amazing!! I love your pigs' pictures in the newsletters!! Pigs are so smart!! I do wish I could donate more - I hope to go back to work soon and then ...

Best wishes for the next 10 years!

A bíg fan, Nancy Fífer

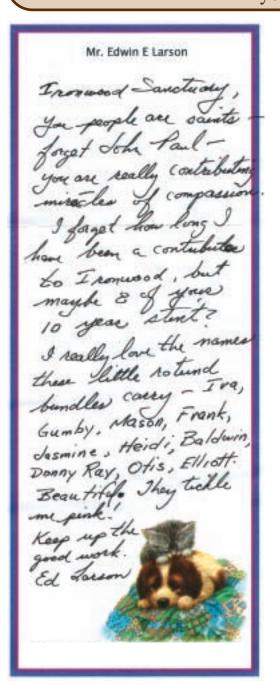
Jeally enjoyed your 10th armiversay issue of your Mewsletter. What a story - it would make a good book! Thomps for all you do for the pigs. Sincerely, Ball Johnson

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.



Donate By Means of eCheck

Many of you are making monthly donations as a Sponsor or Sustainer using your credit or debit cards. We greatly appreciate that we can count on this monthly income to take care of the 600 pigs at the Sanctuary.

We are now able to process eChecks which are debits directly from your checking account. The advantage of eChecks are that they are less trouble for you and the fees are half of the credit card fees.

To change to eChecks just include a voided check with a signed note authorizing us to debit your checking account.

Thank you for all of your support.

Hí Guys,

Loved the story of Molly and the happy ending! It seems sometimes we as animal lovers just have to step up to the plate when these precious ones need help!

Many thanks to Nan in Virginia for being a hero for Molly!

Jan Eckhardt

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY NEWS



