

# IRONWOOD

ISSUE  
NO 96

SEPTEMBER  
2020



Precious

# PIG SANCTUARY



# Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490  
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2020

Dear Supporter,

Is it possible that we are approaching the end of this long awful summer? As I write this letter, we are still in the throes of 105 to 108 plus temperatures every day for as far ahead as we can see. With any luck by the time you receive this issue we will begin to see a change. The lack of Monsoons has made this summer much longer, hotter, drier and more unpleasant. It seems that each September issue we are ending a summer that was worse than the one before. The headline in the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson yesterday said July was the hottest month ever recorded in Tucson. I have been pondering how am I going to ask employees to work 8 hours a day in temperatures over 105 degrees for months at a time. All indications are this is what we can expect in the future and with that comes a huge challenge to maintain the well-being of all people and pigs at Ironwood now and in the years ahead.

The virus still rages, but all indications are we are seeing far fewer cases here in Arizona. I hope where you are that you are experiencing a downturn as well. As with the 2008 economic downturn we have received calls to take pigs because people have lost their jobs and have had to move because of the virus. At the sanctuary we have been able to maintain without any staff contracting COVID-19 and without any major setbacks. However the burden of pigs coming to Ironwood and also being involved with larger rescues continues unabated.

Life at Ironwood is much the same as always except for having to work even harder as some of our staff are home for quarantine or waiting up to two weeks for test results. During the summer months we normally don't do tours or welcome many volunteers because of the heat, so things have not been much different. However, I personally feel a sense of sadness as we approach the fall. Our volunteer trailer has sat empty all spring and summer. Our usual volunteers have not been coming and as fall approaches we will most likely not be open for tours. We are cancelling our Open House that so many hundreds look forward to each year. I will personally miss meeting and talking with so many of our supporters who come each year. These are difficult times for all and has had an effect on everyone in their own personal experience.

None the less we carry on. Taryn is planning a virtual tour and we will keep you posted on that. Also calendars have been ordered and puzzles and mugs will be ready for sale. Our pigs still enjoy their life here with all the amenities like cold towels for the old arthritic pigs and afternoon juices and fruit slices. The large herds in the fields are up and waiting for us each morning as always. We fill the wallows full for them to enjoy and our trucks keep bringing in the water.

“We can do this” to quote FDR.

Stay Well.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Schanz  
President & CoFounder



# Faces of Rescue

These are some of the many pigs we have continued to rescue in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our work continues and all of our staff rank as essential workers. I sincerely thank them for their dedication. —Mary



Checkers



Skipbo & Checkers



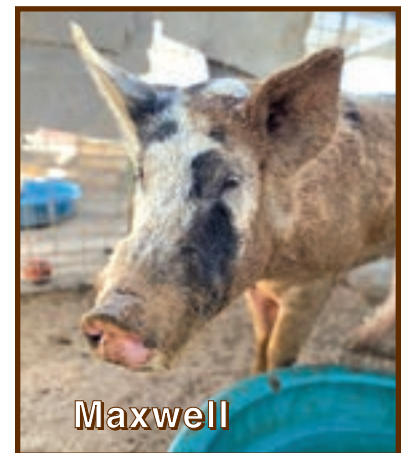
SkipBo



Maxwell



Maxwell & Paula



Maxwell

Maxwell, a full grown hog, and Checkers and SkipBo were abandoned in the desert in Sahuarita in the exact same area where Nurse Judy and her babies were found. PACC, Pima Animal Care Center, was called to help then they called us. There were three pigs, four goats and dogs all left in broken down pens with no house in site. It turns out the people had been living there in an RV and just left all the animals behind. Checkers was nearly gone from dehydration when the Animal Control officer reached him. At the vet it was discovered he had a deep laceration as well as a fractured vertebra. SkipBo was soon spayed and found to have pyometra. Maxwell was taken to PACC where we picked him up. He soon went to his new home in Gilbert where he is happy and safe with his new friend Pumba and Paula of course. The owners had the gall to go to PACC and try to take these animals back. All the other animals were taken to a rescue for goats and to PACC. I believe this is currently in litigation.





Hamilton



Meg &amp; Hannah



Little Man



Taco



Meg



Hannah



Jitterbug &amp; Jubilee



E.V.



Maeby

During the same months that COVID has gripped the world all these pigs were looking for a new home where they could be safe and cared for. Hamilton and Taco couldn't go with the family who were moving. Little Man, Hannah, and Meg came to us because a couple had broken up after 33 years. Little Man, now Archie, was spoken for as soon as he was seen on an Instagram posted by Taryn. Jitterbug and Jubilee were strays that we picked up at PACC. We were asked to take E.V. and Maeby when the ladies who had rescued them lost their property due to the virus.

Pumba was a lucky boy who was rescued from 4H before he was sent to be slaughtered. Paula, who adopted Maxwell, also adopted Pumba and they have become friends. Cobbler had been rescued a year ago, but the lady who had him felt he needed a better home. Rubble was a stray



Pumba



Cobbler



Rubble



Pua

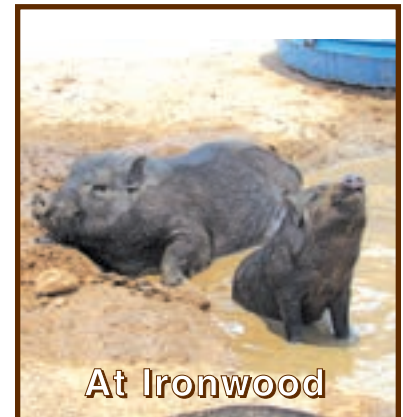
oddly enough in Ashley's neighborhood. She is on our staff and was able to get him into her yard since she has three pigs she adopted from us. And Pua was given up because she was in danger of being attacked by the family dog. Some like Little Man and Pua will find a new home, but most will stay with us at Ironwood. They all have a story to tell, but whatever the reason, they needed a place they could call "Home" and that place is Ironwood.



Before Rescue



Secure in Pen



At Ironwood

This young mother named Nurse Judy after her sponsor's deceased wife and her seven babies were surviving in the desert when they were befriended by a young family and other local neighbors who were providing food and water to them. Denise called us to say they were coming to her house regularly and could we come get them. Knowing it would not be possible unless we could trap them, we went down and built a pen where they could be fed and enclosed. The kids had grown attached and had been feeding them, so it was not difficult to get them in the pen where we were able to catch them and bring them to Ironwood. In the end we were able to save Mom and her remaining six babies. Had we not been able to act quickly others would have been lost. They are safe and happy with us. Thanks to Denise, her family and others for helping these young pigs who were only weeks old when they started to come to Denise's home.

—Mary



# Pot-Bellied Pig Particulars

**H**ere are just a few tidbits about pigs. Many of these are frequently asked questions from visitors or prospective pig owners. Hopefully you will learn something new!

**LIFE SPAN:** On average pot-bellied pigs live 14-18 years. We have had quite a few make it to 20 or 21 but the majority tend to pass away in their mid to late teens.



Malcolm 19.5 Years Old

**SIZE:** This can vary a great deal due to genetics but if a pig is bred and fed properly they should weigh around 120-150 pounds. Pot-bellied pigs are referred to as “mini pigs” because in comparison to other breeds like the feeder hogs that average 400-



Marty & Izzy

600 pounds, they are small. But make no mistake, these are stocky, heavy animals so don't let the term “mini” mislead you.

**MATURITY:** Pigs reach their full adult size by 3 years of age



Billie Jean at 4 Weeks



Billie Jean at 2.5 Years

although the growth slows down a great deal after 2. Their emotional maturity falls into the same range. The “terrible twos” for human toddlers can also kick in with pigs as they begin to assert themselves to

become the alpha of their herd whether it is with pigs, people, dogs or whatever is in the household. This is the age when many owners begin having behavior problems with their pet piggies.

**FERTILITY:** Here is where pig owners run into trouble. Piglets are fertile at a much younger age than anyone would expect. Males can be fertile at 9 weeks of age... yes, weeks! Females can be impregnated as early as 12 weeks. It certainly is not healthy to breed them at that young of an age but it happens. Mothers can become pregnant again as soon as a litter



Son Pursuing His Mom

has been weaned and sometimes while they are still nursing. The gestation period is 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days with litter sizes anywhere from 4-12 depending on the size and age of the mom. The population can easily get out of control in a hurry as pigs show no discretion at mating with family members.

**SHEDDING:** Pigs don't actually shed but do what is called “blow their coat”. Unlike a dog that will only shed the undercoat, pigs will



Perry, December

drop all their hair for the summer and be totally bald. The coat grows back slowly until the nights begin to get cooler. Many times



Perry, August

elderly pigs in their late teens stop blowing their coats but the mane will continue to grow. We have seen some with extravagant manes 1-2 feet long.

**BODY TEMPERATURE:** A normal temperature for a pig can



Domino

range from 98-101. Pigs cannot pant or sweat like other animals and must have water in order to keep their body temperature down on hot days. Here at Ironwood the pigs are provided wading pools and mud wallows which are cleaned and refilled daily. This gives the pigs options for cooling off. Some like to roll in the muddy waters of the wallows while



Petunia

others prefer lounging in the pools. Then you have some that roll in the mud then jump in the pool to wash off. It will always bring a smile to your face to see a grown pig sitting in a water bowl cooling its buns.

**AGING:** The most common issue for aging pigs is joint problems, mainly arthritis and elbow dysplasia. There are medications and supplements that can be administered to alleviate the discomfort. The majority of pigs will need some help as they enter their teen years. Unfortunately, joint pain is not just for the elderly. Pigs carry a lot of weight on their short little legs and many things can affect their joints. Genetics...pigs that are inbred to remain small



Cleo

experience arthritic type problems at an earlier age. Weight...obesity puts more stress and wear on the joints leading to early onset of joint pain. But even healthy, perfectly proportioned pigs will usually end up with arthritis somewhere down the line.

**SUNBURN/SKIN CANCER:**

Living in the Sonoran Desert is tough on all pot-bellied pigs because of the heat but can be especially hard on the white pigs. They can suffer from sunburn and develop skin cancer just as people do. Some are more susceptible than others and frequently need to have cryosurgery to freeze cancer spots. We use zinc oxide on the pigs. We have even needed to move a few pigs to living areas that are completely or mostly shaded to help them make it through the summers.

*In the 19+ years that Ironwood has been open we have learned a lot about pigs, their behavior and their care. But we are always learning more all the time. Your support makes it possible to provide a safe environment with proper medical care for more than 620 piggies. Thank you!*

—Donna



# Sponsor a S



Lando

After my owner got arrested for animal abuse a bunch of us ended up at the county shelter but luckily got moved to the sanctuary the next day. I am lucky to be here with my friends!



Brosnan

My mom and I were rescued from two things. One, we were running loose in the desert. Two, a farmer was threatening to shoot us! One of his workers helped us get to Ironwood.



Salvador

My owner hardly was real skinny. by a Sheriff's Dep me get to safety. where there are lo do.



Most of these pigs had a rough start to life, but thanks to you they now live in a safe, comfy environment.



Jasper & Donna

One of them can become a part of your family for a \$30 monthly donation. You will receive their background story along with photos then later get an update with new pictures to keep you connected to your piggy. Please join our family of sponsors today!



-Donna



Hercules

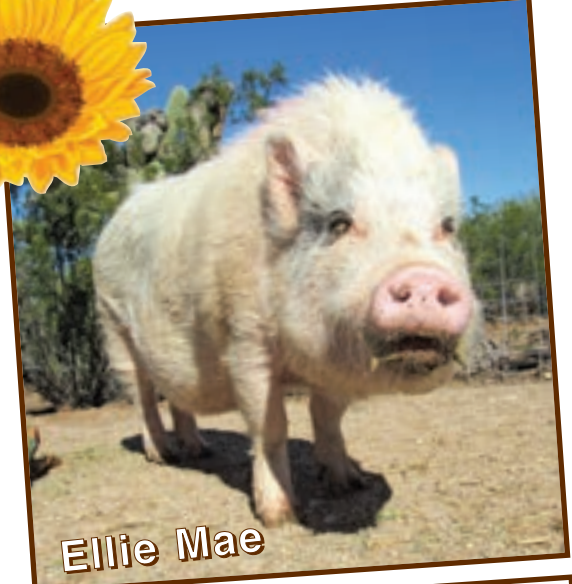
My owners tried to get me, but I didn't only pig around so especially with the much happier here



# Special Pig!



...ly ever fed me and I  
...y. He got in trouble  
Deputy who helped  
...y. I love living here  
...e lots of fun things to



Ellie Mae

I had a horrible childhood! My owner hid me inside the house because she wasn't allowed to have me then she starved me to keep me small. Thank goodness her landlord caught her.



Zantina

My name means "little saint". Isn't that sweet! I came here with my four sisters when we were real little. It's been great to grow up here where we're safe, well fed and loved.



...d to take good care  
...n't like being the  
...so I got aggressive,  
...the kids. I am so  
...ere with other pigs!



Waffles

I was born at a bad place where pigs were sold to be eaten. There was hardly ever any food or water. I was super lucky to come here with a bunch of my friends. Yay!



Luke

Me and my friend Petunia were taken away from our owner because we had no water. We had to go straight to the vet clinic to get fluids. Now I live here with plenty to eat and drink!



**M**et Robert who has worked as an animal caretaker at Ironwood for almost two years. He is also part of the hoof trimming team. When asked who his favorite pig was with over 600 to choose from, there was no hesitation to come up with Hercules, one of our biggest boys who is a pot belly/hog mix.

*This is Hercules. He is one of my favorite pigs here at Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. His strength has been known to get the best of him in the past. After the time I have spent here, I've learned that he's a big, friendly giant that is misunderstood sometimes because he gets a little bit too excited every once in a while. I always make sure I have an extra couple of minutes while loading the grain and hay at the feeding stations to say hello to him because he's always waiting for my belly rubs. We've gained each other's trust and now have a great bond.*

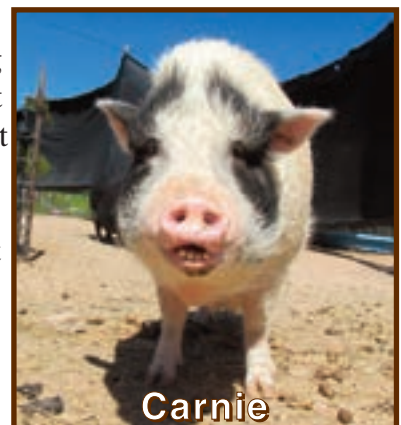
---Robert

# My Favorite Pig



## Open House

Normally in the September issue of the newsletter, we are excitedly reminding people about the upcoming annual Open House held in November. Sadly, that event will be yet another missing piece of 2020. The COVID-19 crisis brought the world to a screeching halt and is not ready to release its grip on us. The safety and well-being of our staff is of utmost importance in order to keep the sanctuary running and the pigs taken care of properly. On top of that we want to keep the sanctuary supporters well and healthy too. The heartbreaking decision was made to not hold Open House this year in order to eliminate any unnecessary health risks. Everyone keep your fingers crossed that this too shall pass and hopefully we'll party with the pigs in 2021.



Carnie



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

- Antibiotic Ointment
- Fiber Powder (Non-flavored)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy Only)
- Sheets
- Antibacterial Wipes
- Canned Pumpkin
- Desitin
- Swat Fly Ointment
- Animal Crackers
- Famotidine Acid Reducer, 20mg
- Fig Newton Cookies (NOT Individually Wrapped)



Bailey

GIFT CARDS

- Master Card
- Discover Card
- Fry's
- Home Depot
- Lowe's
- Office Max
- Staples
- Walmart
- Amazon
- Walgreen's
- Tractor Supply

## AmazonSmile Charity Wish List

The easiest way to provide for the pigs' current needs is to order from our **AmazonSmile Charity Wish List**. It is kept up to date with items required to care for the pigs properly. To find Ironwood's list go to your "Account & Lists" on the top right of Amazon's home page then scroll down to "AmazonSmile Charity Lists" on the left. Do a search for "Ironwood Pig Sanctuary" and our Wish List will appear.

Please make all your purchases including your personal purchases on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary as your charity of choice. Log on to [smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0999483) using the same log-in information that you use for your amazon.com account. At the top of the page you will see "Supporting: Mary C Schanz Foundation". The Foundation is our parent organization and is doing business as (dba) the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your total purchases to Ironwood. And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping on many items.



Miley

**All your packages and donations are a great help to the pigs and are much appreciated! Thank you!!**



# In a Galaxy Far, Far Away

**A** long time ago (actually it was only about a year) in a galaxy far, far away (but still in Arizona) there lived some really chubby pigs whose owners had overfed them...a lot! (There actually is a good reason for the Star Wars reference. Keep reading.) During the first half of 2019 we had taken in 64 pigs. Eight of those were overweight, some to the point of obesity. The first of that group was a pair of piggies, Pixie and Hamlet, whose



Pixie

owners were being evicted from their home. Hamlet barely fit in the largest carrier that we use for transporting. As we were unloading him and he squeezed himself out of the doorway, someone commented, "Wow! He's as big as a planet!" And because we have had numerous pigs named Hamlet or Hammie, this guy suddenly became known as Planet.

Two more oversized boys arrived within days of one another. Charlie Brown, a young house pig being fed too much at meals as well as getting a constant supply of "snacks" all day, became an



Charlie Brown Before



Charlie Brown After

Ironwood resident because he... surprise...grew too big to be in the house. Porky had been with his family for nine years then they



Porky

retired and wanted to travel so the husband could see some of the country before he became completely blind. A couple of



Wilma

months later Wilma showed up. Her parents really loved her but

the wife was extremely ill and the husband was overwhelmed with caring for her and needed to



Wilma Relaxing in the shade

lighten his load. As many people do, they had shown their love for Wilma by feeding her treats and more treats. The poor girl was not even full grown and was already huge.

Next up was Sunflower. She actually arrived as yet another Miss Piggy. Since she did not respond to her name at all, we changed it. Isn't Sunflower a beautiful name for such a pretty girl! Her family was moving and could not handle taking this obese





Sunflower Before



Sunflower After



Planet

gal with them. Just as well, since she was so chunky and had super long hooves that had never been trimmed. She needed help!

weight. All that pressure can cause early onset of arthritis in the joints. It also makes the front feet in particular splay out in an

rescued in June of 2018. The young ones from that rescue spent many months living in one end of the North Field that had been enclosed for them until they were old enough to be released to join the North herd. The boys all have Star Wars names...Ewok, Chewbacca and Lando. Once they moved out, that section was expanded a bit to allow room for the eight chubbies. So, we had a Planet moving to where Star Wars characters had been living and The Galaxy was born. A unique field name for a distinctive group of pigs.



Iris Before



Iris After

The last pair in this story is a grandmother and granddaughter, Onyx and Iris. Their family had to move out of state on very little notice and was really in a bind about what to do with the girls.

effort to stay balanced which causes the hooves to turn at an awkward angle and not touch the ground properly. That brings about problems with hooves curving upward and not wearing down in a normal pattern. With all that said, these plump piggies were not going to fair well in a field with other healthier pigs. We began thinking of where this group could go that would be a safe place for them to live.

So now we had a total of eight rotund pigs that needed a field to live in. Overweight pigs move very little as well as very slowly. They can't easily defend themselves against healthy more mobile pigs. They tend to have breathing issues, getting winded easily and overheating after little exertion. Several of them have deformed leg joints and/or feet due to carrying so much extra

You may have read in past issues of Ironwood's newsletters about a group of Kunekune pigs that we



Dining In

These eight pigs have all been dieting for more than a year. The differences are obvious although the majority still need to continue dropping the pounds. Half of





Dining Out

growing years which should have been full of boisterous play were instead spent lethargically, weighed down by so many extra pounds. But these days things are looking up for



Porky Loves His Pool

them are fed in individual pens in order to control the amount of grain they eat. The other four are fed individually spread out across the field. The progress is slow. Losing weight doesn't happen overnight, but it is happening. As the pounds have come off, the activity level has increased...again in small increments. As the pigs feel lighter and better, they begin to walk around more often, maybe exploring parts of the field that before just didn't seem worth the effort required to get there. Iris, Charlie Brown and Wilma have all just recently reached adulthood at three years of age. It's rather sad that their young,

them. Iris is probably the most active of the little herd and has taken to wandering about to see what else The Galaxy has to

piggies were too fat to step up over the edge. Extra water bowls were scattered about to ensure each pig was able to get to fresh drinking water. A staff member comes through the field numerous times throughout the day to place cool, wet towels on the shoulders of the pigs to prevent them from overheating. That person checks on each pig and if anyone is inside a house and looks too hot, they get them out into a wallow and hose them off. The Galaxy pigs still require a little more personalized attention but are definitely on their way to becoming slender, healthy, independent piggies. Well, maybe slender is stretching it a bit! Regardless of their lack of the perfect figure, this group has you to thank for the opportunity to come to Ironwood to try and reach that goal. In the present time in The Galaxy far, far away there are pigs getting thinner, happier and healthier...thanks to your support!



Onyx Enjoying a Wallow

offer besides what is in her little corner of the universe that she shares with her grandma, Onyx. The hope is that the rest of the bunch will perk up as well as more pounds are shed.

Special adaptations were made for this herd to compensate for their weight. The wading pools had one side cut down because the

--Donna



Onyx



# Front & Back Cover



**P**recious and her entire family came to Ironwood in December of 2015. A couple had taken two adults, intact male and female, and one other young female from a Craigslist ad. Precious had babies and a couple weeks later Lily also had babies. The couple was able to adopt out Lily’s babies,



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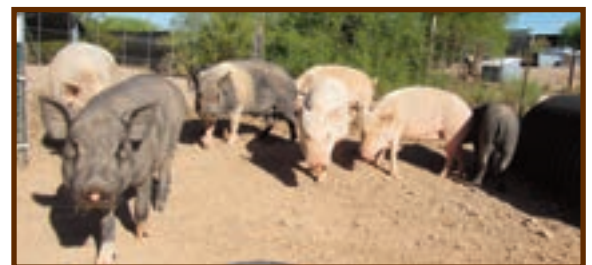
but they knew they were in trouble so they called Ironwood for help. We agreed to take all 6 remaining pigs to spay and neuter then return them to their home.

We returned all 6 pigs to their home in February of 2016. It was a happy homecoming and we were delighted to have been able to help. Outreach is part of our Mission and they had the forethought to call for help before their situation was out of control.

Sadly, exactly a year later on December 18<sup>th</sup> of 2016 the whole family was returned to us to live here forever this time. One of the owners had suffered a second stroke and he had to go to a nursing home.

Precious and her family all live together in the North Field with the exception of Drummer who now lives in one of the special care fields after suffering an injury. All the others hang out together and have remained a close family. Precious has been lame with arthritis for a long time now, so she takes medicine and eats in a feeding pen so she does not have to move around a great deal. However, she is still able to live with and enjoy her family.

**T**hese are the Gotham City pigs congregating under their tree. Their story has been told before both as a group and individually. You may remember they came in as part of a hoarding situation in April of 2018. We were only able to rescue 12 of the 34 pigs that were on the property. When I go there to feed they all happily gather around. As I work my way through them as they crowd around to be fed, they are all so well-behaved, never once exhibiting any aggressive behavior. They are such a beautiful, small herd of pigs who so enjoy their life with us and enjoy each other. We love having them with us.





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**Gotham City Pigs**