

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

October 2022

While much of the country is experiencing the trees' color changes, falling leaves and cool temperatures, the signs of autumn are not as evident here in the Sonoran Desert. The trees here are dry season deciduous meaning they drop their leaves whenever the ground is dry, so we miss out on the fall colors. The average daytime temperatures for October are 83-92 with nighttime at 54-65. Those dips into lower temps don't usually come until the last week of the month. But...it's still a nice change for us and the pigs.



Pancakes

A sign of fall around the sanctuary is seeing the staff busily cutting carpet doorways for the shelters to replace damaged

ones from last year. Around mid-month, those carpets will be hung to create warm enclosed homes for the pigs. Later this month, we'll also start putting blankets in the houses for when it dips down into the 50s at night. The piggies have been using sheets and lightweight blankets and will be ready for some cozy comforters.



Mac

As the temperatures drop, the pigs' coats grow longer. After being bald for the hot season, now is



Perry & Mindy

the time to fill back in. It's easier to tell the pigs apart when they're sporting their winter coats with distinctive markings and highlights. Pigs will begin snuggling closer inside the houses during the nights too. Those that have been "camping out" under the trees all summer will begin using shelters once again. There are always some diehards that will drag blankets out to the trees and continue spending the nights there until it gets really cold. (I'm talking about you Teddy, Sadie, Liz, Janelle and Miriam!)

Because of your continued support, these seasonal changes can take place in order for the pigs to be at their most comfortable no matter what the weather. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator

Just a reminder that there will NOT be an annual Open House in November this year. The population of 660+ pigs is keeping us very busy and our priority is their care. Thank you for understanding!

That's Mr. to You

The expression, “That’s Mr. to you!” can be used with a haughty attitude for someone on a power trip or in a joking manner to emphasize something done not quite up to par. These 3 Misters, each with his own unique personality, are neither haughty nor below par.

Mr. Pitts has been at Ironwood the longest, having arrived in December 2016 with his companion Precious and their children Lily, Patch, Drummer and Christie. The family had come in December 2015 to be spayed or neutered then returned to their home. Sadly, their



Mr. Pitts

humans got very ill with one in the hospital long term and the other placed in an assisted care facility. The 9-year-old Mr. Pitts lives in the North Field with a herd of 37 pigs. He has a very close relationship with his family who chose the northwest corner of the field as their home base. Mr. Pitts is active and loves to wander the length of his field

most days. He enjoys attention from people but can get bossy with other pigs in his herd if he thinks they’re getting something he deserves.



Mr. White

Mr. White came to the sanctuary in August 2018 with his sons Sully and Stitch. Their human liked to buy animals, let them breed so his children could “experience life” then pretty much dump them where he could and get something else. These guys were on their way to being auctioned off, most likely for food or further breeding. Luckily, we got word of it so the boys are here living in the Far East Field with 34 pigs. Mr. White, now 7-9 years old, is very sweet and gentle. He is a bit shy but once he is comfortable with you, he melts to the ground to get his belly rubbed. He and his boys settled into different parts of the field. Mr. White hangs out in the back portion with his friends Oinky, Jasmine, Oscar B., Mike and others. He loves Jasmine the most and is often cuddled in a house with her for the nights. Sweet!

Mr. Wiggles arrived in April of 2019 and is now 7 years old. He had been purchased as a pet for the kids, but none of them played with him and the dog had begun to bully him. His “family experience” must not have been very positive because he had a big chip on his shoulder toward people for a long time. Actually, it’s still there but he forgets sometimes that he’s supposed to hate us and will be nice then suddenly the aggression rears up again. Mr. Wiggles is definitely not one you’d want to hug and cuddle with. 😊 His favorite girl



Mr. Wiggles

Piggy Spears does though! His home, Assisted Living Phase III, is a small field with only 5 pigs. Mr. Wiggles gets along great with his roommates.

Thank you for giving these Misters a place where they can spend their lives with friends and family in a safe environment with all the comforts of home. You’re the best!

—Donna

Bluebell

In March of this year, the Sheriff's Department confiscated a large number of animals from an abuse case. Ironwood took nine pigs from that rescue, including four 7-week-old babies. One, named Bluebell for her one blue eye, was lame on her front left leg. X-rays taken at Adobe Veterinary Center showed a lesion on her shoulder joint that required orthopedic surgery. Thus began a search for someone willing to do a CT scan on a pig as well as an orthopedic surgeon.



A big thanks to Mobile Animal CT who made the trip from Glendale, AZ to perform the scan on Bluebell. It was done at Adobe Vet with one of their vet technicians experienced with intubating pigs assisting with the anesthesia. (Intubating pigs is challenging and technically difficult due to the pig's oral anatomy.) The CT scan was sent to Saguaro Veterinary Surgery in Tucson whose orthopedic specialist did the surgery in June, again with the assistance of a vet tech from Adobe.



Bluebell's surgery involved curating the lesion down to the bone until it bled. A clot would form there that would turn into fibrin that would then turn into cartilage within 8-10 weeks if everything went as expected. The clot could not be dislodged during the recovery period, so Bluebell had to remain in isolation for at least 5-6 weeks. On returning to the sanctuary, she moved into the bathroom inside the Visitor Center to minimize her mobility plus she had air-conditioning. There were two tiny incisions on her shoulder; one for the scope and one for the curating instrument.



The next step of Bluebell's recovery was moving out to the smallest of the individual pens. One month later, she was allowed to go into the exercise yard for a short time. She was so excited! Being able to run again even for a few minutes was pure heaven! As time went by, the yard turns became longer. Bluebell still shows a very slight limp when running, but the rest of the time she looks totally normal.



Recently she joined her mom and siblings who were living in a field with two other families of youngsters. Her family, a new home, new friends to make...and all without a limp! Life is good!

—Donna

If you would like to help Bluebell with the expenses from her vet stays, CT scan and surgery, please include her name with your donation. Her total bill from all 3 clinics came to \$8,497.02. Thank you!!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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**Charlotte,
Resident
Since 2007**