

Issue 6

November 2003



**Ironwood Pig Sanctuary  
34656 E. Crystal Visions Road  
Marana, AZ 85653**

November 1, 2003

Dear Supporter,

When Ben, Donna, and I were having a short meeting the other day Ben told us it was newsletter time again. I nearly fell off my chair. How could it be? Didn't we just send a newsletter out? With everything else we have to do at Ironwood why is it so important that we meet our newsletter schedule quarterly?

Our newsletter is our voice to all of you. You learn who we are and who our pigs are from our newsletter. It is our way of saying thank you to our many supporters. We try to educate our readers about the care of their pigs. We share with you our joys and our sorrows, and our failures and our successes. And when you, our supporters, respond by sending us a donation we know that you appreciate the work that we are doing to provide a home for our 350 pigs and you want us to continue to do so. We hope that you enjoy hearing from us.

All of us are so relieved to finally see the end of summer. As many of you who live here in Arizona know, it was one of the hottest on record. By the time our next summer arrives we hope to have either a water truck or a new well to help resolve the months of hauling water on a near daily basis to supplement our well.

This quarter we had the first births at our sanctuary. Please read the article on Frances. We also placed seven of our adults in new adoptive homes, but Abby decided she would rather live at the sanctuary and made it known in no uncertain terms to her new adoptive mom. We welcome our pigs back if they are not happy and give credit to those who let us know that rather than keep them in a situation that is neither acceptable to the pig or the family. It is hard to know for sure what is best for our pigs. When they leave our sanctuary with our large open fields they almost always go to a smaller more confined space. But they go where they get individual attention and care and we hope the love that we all want for them. We adopt in pairs whenever possible so our pigs can still enjoy the company of other pigs as they adjust to their new families.

Sadly, we said good-bye to three of our dear friends, old Hamlet, Lucille, and Sophie. They will stay with us forever here at Ironwood as all our friends who pass on do.

Pictured here with me is Ebony. She was moved to Ironwood from the Annex. Ebony's personality is, well, let's say difficult, but we hold a special spot in our hearts for her.

Sincerely,

*Mary Schanz*

Mary Schanz  
President and Cofounder



PS: Thank you all so much for your outpouring of support during our recent hard times with the acquisition of the new sanctuary. Have a very happy and healthy holiday season and don't forget our open house November 15th.

# FRANCES

**B**en, come here, hurry. They're coming! It was May 15th, and scorching hot when I got a call from a woman in the Avra Valley area.

She and her family were packing and moving to Pennsylvania in a few days and this little gray pig just wandered into their horse pen looking for water. They said she was awfully dehydrated, hot, and thin but oh, so sweet. Her husband picked her up and put her in their wagon and pulled

her to their back yard to a shady area. They built a makeshift pen around her and called me. I told them to hold her there and that I was on my way as soon as I could load a carrier. I was alone that day so I hoped that she was not too big so I could unload her myself. Well, there she was in the small pen when I arrived. She was not a big girl and very thin indeed so it was no problem for me to unload her when we got back to Ironwood. She recovered nicely and soon was sponsored by Deanna who named her Frances after her grandmother who had recently passed away. It appeared that she had had litters in the past and she was a stray with no known history, so I gave her the appropriate hormone shots to avoid any unexpected litters.

In August Frances had began to look fat around the tummy, but

never suspecting anything I attributed it to all the food we had been feeding her in an effort to put weight on her thin body. Just before Labor Day it became



apparent that Frances was very pregnant. Oh dear. We had never had babies at Ironwood nor did we ever expect to have any, but here we were within a few days of a delivery. Donna checked the calendar and figured out that on September 8th we would have had her three months, three weeks, and three days. That is the



gestation period for pigs, so we knew she would have to deliver on or about that date.

Once we knew Frances was within a few days of giving birth

we put her in a nice pen with a good shelter and lots of nesting material and let nature take its course. It was Sunday afternoon about 2:00pm on September 7th.

We walked into Frances' pen and there she was giving birth. Two little gray babies had already arrived. I called to Ben and Justin, Donna's husband, and we all helped the best we could while Frances delivered eight healthy little babies that

Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately Donna was working at PetsMart that day and missed the delivery. We are all doing what any gushing moms and dads would do. Gloating over mother and babies and loving them.

This in no way changes our commitment to spaying and neutering and to avoid babies whenever possible. We are looking for good adoptive homes for our babies once their 8 week weaning is completed and of course they will all be spayed or neutered before being adopted. One of her babies will be going with Frances to her new adoptive home.

What a surprise it was when I called Frances' adoptive parents and told them to expect yet another scheduling delay!!

---Mary



# Meet Our Pigs

**BOB:** Fortunately, we have not had very many cases of pigs being abused by their owners but it does happen. Bob was abandoned by his owner; left in a 6x6 foot pen filled



with garbage for 3 weeks. He had little access to food or water, and this was during July in the height of the summer heat. The owner's father went over when he could not take care of Bob, but he was not in good health. When he had to go into assisted living housing, the father reported the situation to the Pima Animal Control Center, who took custody of Bob then released him to the care of Ironwood. At the time, all of our holding pens for new arrivals were full, so Ben and Mary took him to their home in Tucson. He stayed there for a couple of weeks until we had an opening. He has since been neutered, vaccinated and wormed as well as having his hooves and tusks trimmed. In September, Bob was moved out into the field along with 10 other new pigs. Now Bob can enjoy his freedom and never have to worry about where his next meal is coming from.

**SAMANTHA:** There have been several occasions when we have received a phone call from an

owner who has had their pig for many years then suddenly gotten a new neighbor who doesn't like pigs or just wants to cause trouble. If an area is not zoned for potbellied pigs, the owner can be forced by the courts to get rid of their pig. That was the case for Samantha, a sweet 12 year old. The new neighbor turned in Samantha's owner to the county and she was forced to find another home. Samantha arrived at Ironwood in early March then moved to the field at the end of that month. She was so frightened by all the pigs and activity that she retreated to a shelter. We coaxed her out to eat but joining a rowdy crowd at the feed trough was more than she could handle. We began feeding her from an individual bowl and standing guard while she ate so the others would not bother her. After several months, Samantha has gotten much braver about coming around the areas where the other pigs hang out. She now has a piggy friend, Bradley, who shares a



shelter with her. She has also become much friendlier with people and easier to pet. It was quite an adjustment for Samantha,

but she is now happy and comfortable with her new environment.

**FRANK:** In late May we received a call from a man in the Phoenix area. His tenant had committed suicide and left behind three young pigs. There was no known family to step in and take over the care. This man was unwilling to take the pigs himself but did not want them to suffer. An emergency trip to



Phoenix ended with all three pigs arriving at Ironwood. Frank and his two friends, Monty and Fred, were very skittish and afraid of everyone, but they soon settled into the routine of sanctuary life. This blue-eyed cutie has been neutered, vaccinated and wormed. He had to go through a longer quarantine period because males are still fertile for 45 days after neutering. Finally, at the end of July, Frank was moved to the north field. He spends his time wandering all over the field, darting in and out of various troughs at feeding time, or lounging in the pool on hot days with his brother Monty under some Palo Verde trees in the back corner of the field. Frank's was a fast, easy adjustment to life within a herd.

# Open House

**P**lease come to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary's second annual open house on **Saturday November 15, 2003** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. You won't be disappointed. It is a great experience seeing our sanctuary and visiting all of the pigs. Last year's Grand Opening was a great success with over 150 visitors! We got to meet so many of our supporters and their families as well as many newcomers to our organization. Everyone had a great time on the tour of the facilities, visiting with the pigs and relaxing in the Visitor Center with a vegetarian buffet. I think the pigs had the best time of all! They certainly enjoyed all the company and attention, the petting and belly rubs, plus the treats that people brought out. Let's make this year's annual Open House an even bigger success! Invite your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to come on out and enjoy a day at the sanctuary. Use the map below to find us or call for directions. Donna and Mary will be conducting tours all day so don't miss

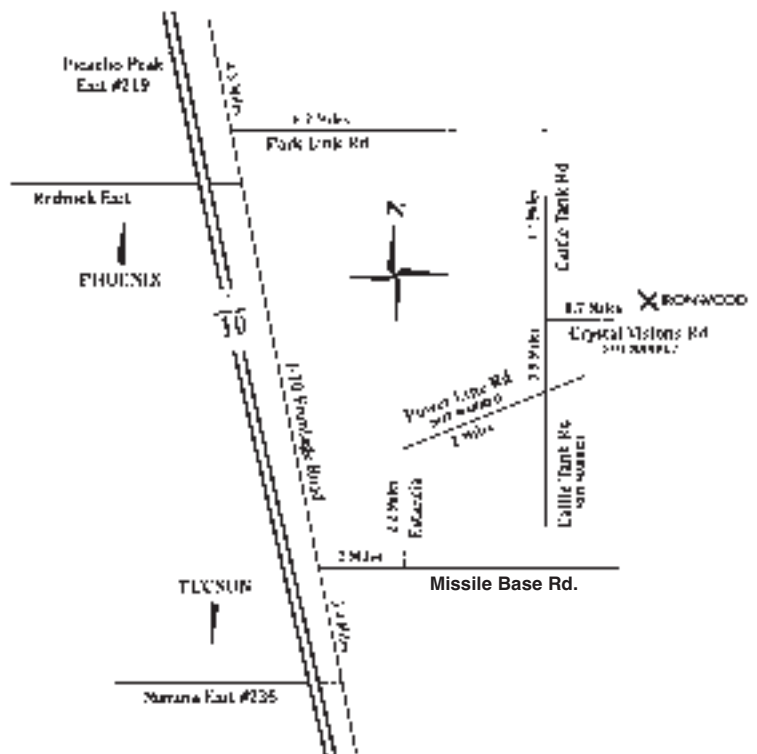
visiting the pigs. If you were at the grand opening last year, you will be surprised at all of the changes and the



increased number of pigs. Ironwood is a special place and we are sure that you will enjoy the serenity of being away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Please mark your calendar and come out for a good time.



Taylor



# Ironwood Receives ASA Certification

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**T**he American Sanctuary Association (ASA) has certified that the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary meets the highest standards of animal care. The ASA was formed to provide a more efficient means in which to find and identify quality facilities in which to place homeless, abused or abandoned animals, facilitate the exchange of information among animal caregivers, and to create public awareness of this national tragedy. The ASA affirms that the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary has joined

a network of caring sanctuaries working together to rescue homeless animals and to save animals from suffering and abuse.

From the beginning the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary was designed and built for the sole purpose of providing the best environment for the many pot bellied pigs in our care. We are pleased that the ASA recognizes all of our hard work to make the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary the best sanctuary we can.

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August 6, 2003

Hi everyone and critters too, I finally trekked into Scottsdale that Sunday night at midnight. The visit and respite at Ironwood enabled me to make the trip in one very long day.

My mother was released from the hospital to a nursing home. She will be there for about a month and then home. She will resume living in my home in Arizona with her companion pet pig Worf. Worf was depressed and missed my mother very much. He continued to stay near her recliner day and night. Even though my sister lives in the same house I did hire a pet sitter to give him belly rubs and "talk" to him while mom is away getting better. Ruth, the pet sitter is experienced with pet pigs and Worf already knows and likes her.

The drive was grueling done in one day alone at my age. Critter and I must have looked like two deranged road warriors when we finally pulled into your incredible place. Thanks again for your hospitality at such short notice.

I still have a zillion questions to ask. Above all I was so very impressed by Ironwood, the residents, the infrastructure, the volunteers, the programs, the organization and everything.

Of all the places I have visited from California to the East coast yours alone is by far the best for the piggies.

Keep up the good work and thank you for being there for these incredible creatures in need.

Maryann M.

# Winterizing Your Pig

**T**he cold weather is fast approaching. The nights are getting cooler and the piggies will need something extra to keep them warm. Here at the sanctuary, we will soon be rolling back the shade cloth to let in that warm winter sun. We're making sure that each shelter is watertight to prevent the cold winter rains from soaking the pigs and their bedding. Pigs like a warm shelter to burrow into when the cold sets in. We use dogloos (known around here as pigloos). These igloo type shelters are great and are available at major pet stores. We have also built many wooden shelters similar in design to doghouses. We make sure that the shelter is not too big so that it doesn't get too drafty inside. We hang carpet with slits in it across the doorways to cut the cold winds.

The inside of the shelter needs some type of bedding. Last year we used wood chips with good success. You can also use Bermuda hay or a good quality straw. Be careful with straw, however. We found during our first winter that as the pigs would

bury themselves in the straw, they were getting the corkscrew shaped pieces stuck in their eyes and we ended up treating several pigs for eye infections. The wood chips or Bermuda hay are safer choices for bedding.

**B l a n k e t s !**  
Pigs LOVE their blankets! Always make sure your pig has at least one blanket. They will nest and burrow down inside



**Valentine in His Winterized Shelter**

their blanket or just roll themselves up in it completely. We've seen pigs carry their blankets out into the sun during the day then drag them back into the shelters at night. So just remember these three things as you winterize your pig's home: shelter, bedding and blankets.

## Does it Ever Become Easy?

**R**unning a sanctuary is hard work. We take care of our animals every day, all day, including Christmas, New Years, 7 days a week 52 weeks a year. We haul out 300# of feed every day to the feeding stations. We use 2 bales of hay each day and these bales need to be distributed so every pig gets its fair share. We water three times a day in the summer. Add to that the feeding, medical care, maintenance, construction projects, cleaning the fields and pens, writing thank yous, and mailings. It is all hard work but you know it is a labor of love. It gives us great pleasure to be able to save a sweet animal from certain death at the Animal Control or rescue one



**Sophie**

running loose in the desert. We take every animal into our hearts and provide all the care and love that we can give. We become attached in short order and consider all of them our friends. We suffer along with them when they are sick or hurt. It grieves us when they fight or when they won't go into a shelter on a cold night. How many times have we built a shelter around the nesting spot of a cold pig or gone out on a particularly cold night to make sure everyone was sheltered for the night.

Yesterday we had to put Sophie to sleep. She was so much a part of our daily life at the sanctuary. It was a hard decision to make and we only made it after trying everything we could to improve her quality of life.

Does it ever become easy to say goodbye to a friend?  
I hope not.



**Thanks** to all those sponsors who have continued to provide their support for the pigs of Ironwood and to those new sponsors who have recently joined our program. All of you play a big part in allowing us to provide a home for these lovable, wonderful pigs. We can't do it without you!



Rudy

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor too, it

only takes \$30 each month to cover all your pig's expenses including food and health care. For your monthly contribution, you will receive background information and

pictures of your pig with updates



Donna

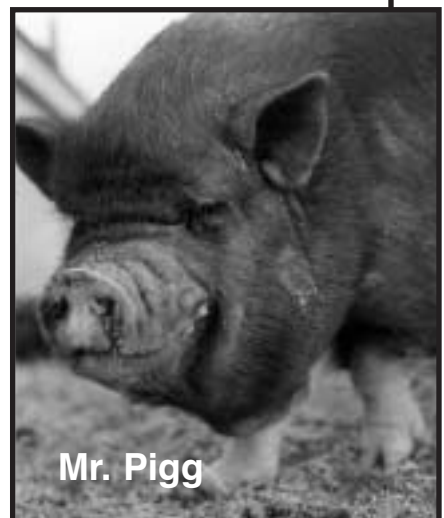
Emily

and new pictures throughout your sponsorship. The monthly donations can be set up with your credit card or I can send you envelopes for each month's check. Choose a



Mabel

name from this page, pick your own name for one of our unnamed pigs, or send me a description (male, female, young, old, special needs, etc.) and you too can become a special member of our sponsorship program.



Mr. Pigg

Thank you for making a difference!

----Donna



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email: ironwoodpigs@starband.net,  
website: ironwoodpigsanctuary.org

September 1, 2003

Dear Larry and family,

Great news for Bubba and 14 other pigs with similar arthritic type problems! The new area was completed in June for these pigs. They have their own small field complete with a barn type structure with a misting system, various sized wooden shelters, 3 shade ramadas and 7 pools. We call this new place the Assisted Living field and all the pigs adjusted very well and very quickly to their new living quarters. No more pens and limited yard time!!! They're free to roam.

Of all 15 pigs in the Assisted Living field, I think Bubba enjoys it the most. He is moving around more quickly than I've ever seen him move. At feeding time, they have troughs and bowls to choose from depending on what they're comfortable with. Bubba runs around trying out all of them! He is talking up a storm all the time (even if it's just to himself sometimes!) He seems to be one of the few that takes advantage of the entire field. I've seen him in all the different ramadas, shelters and pools at various times.

The only thing that bothers me about the new arrangement is that Bubba and Corky no longer hang out together. They did for a while, but Corky turned out to be a homebody that chose one shelter and one pool and seldom strays far from her corner. Bubba, however, is a man on the move! Lately, he's been spending most of his nap time in the barn snuggled up with Norman, a great big wrinkled pig that looks like a Charpei dog. They both talk a lot and make a wonderful pair of friends. Bubba is happier and healthier than I've ever seen him!

Your continued support of \$30 a month to sponsor Bubba helps us know what monies we can depend on monthly for the sanctuary. Thanks for continuing your sponsorship.

Sincerely,

*Donna Norton*

Donna Norton  
Resident Sanctuary Manager



# Annex Update

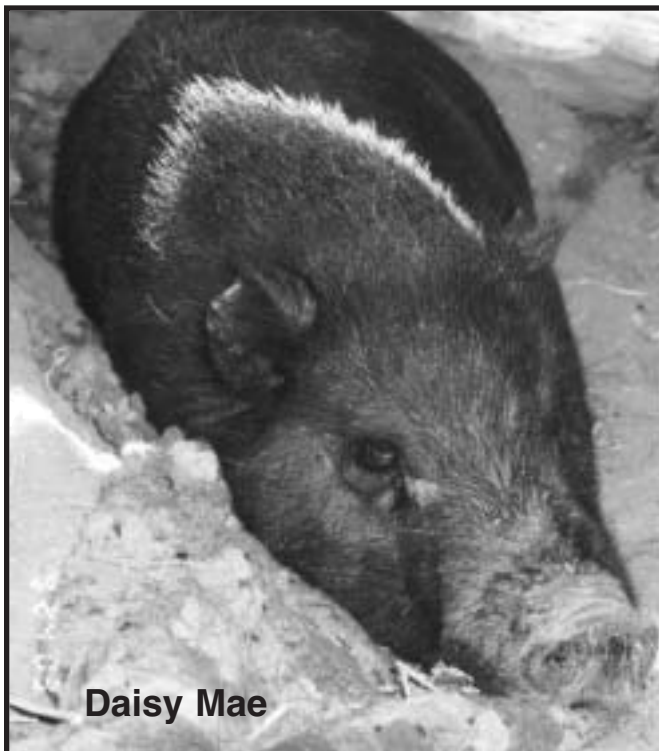
**P**amala and Matan have moved into the residence at the Annex, which was nicely painted by Laura Bayley. We have nearly completed the repair of the inside with a few incompleted projects left over and plan to start the outside painting soon. We have had to digress a bit from the pigs' winter houses to work on insurance requirements for the house, including a deck on the back and the pool fence, which, as I mentioned in my thank yous, has been donated by Scott. This fall we will have to concentrate on repairing the roof on the main large 30ft by 30ft shelter, and on building some smaller more secure shelters around the property. Life is slowing down to a routine, but there is still a great deal of work to be done. Herb brought out the first load of winter blankets and we will begin to stockpile them there as well as at Ironwood for the chilly nights ahead. We thank the many volunteers who have come out to help with the work there and are looking for others who could help a few hours a week or month with routine clean



Pamala

Strawberry

up. Raking and hauling pig poop is not a very exciting thing to ask folks to do, but we must ask, and it is part of the routine of a sanctuary and part of what improves the quality of life of the animals we have chosen to care for. So come on out and grab a rake and pooper-scooper and let your mind take a rest. And you get to meet our new piggies as well.



Daisy Mae



Megan

# RUBY'S PIG RESCUE

**H**ello, is this Ben?" "Yes, I said." "Well my name is Ruby and I have 10 or 11 pigs in my back yard and can no longer take care of them. Can you help me?"

That was the beginning of the Ruby rescue. She had males and females and they were breeding. We



## Some of Ruby's Pigs at Ironwood

knew that we had to move fast to minimize any unwanted babies. We decided to move the females first to stop any breeding.

Our ever helpful volunteer, Bob and I took Ironwood's large trailer with 6 carriers to Ruby's to pick up the females. We were prepared for 6 but as it turned out there were only 3. Her pigs were very wild because they had not been socialized. It took us quite awhile to pick up the three because as a herd they would run from one part of the yard to the other as we tried to get them into our carriers. With a lesson in patience from Ruby, we finally succeeded in catching the females and moved them to Ironwood. Upon arrival we gave them vaccinations and hormone shots to prevent any unwanted pregnancies. They all are now living happily in our north field. Edith, our pretty August cover girl, was one of Ruby's pigs.

The next step was to neuter her 7 males. We arranged to neuter them at her house and for her to

keep them for the 45 day quarantine period since we had limited space at Ironwood.

We set up an operating area in Ruby's back yard with our anesthetic machine, bottles of nitrous oxide and oxygen, and supplies, and our veterinarian, with our assistance, proceeded to neuter all 7. We had constructed a hog panel chute in order to guide the males into carriers so that we could anesthetize them for the operation. This worked great with the help of Chris, one of Ruby's tenants, John and Francie, Bob, Mary and myself. One of the males, later named Cedric, was being attacked by the other males. Mary and I decided to bring him home with us and let him use our backyard during his quarantine period. He loved his new home with a big shade tree, shelter, plenty of water, and no fights. We spent a little time every day getting him to trust people.

After the 45 day quarantine period we returned to Ruby's and picked up the remaining 5 males. One poor pig had died from unknown causes during the quarantine period.

That was the end of the Ruby pig rescue which was successfully completed in September with all 9 of Ruby's remaining pigs happily living together in our North field.



**Chris, John, Francie, Ruby, Mary & Bob**



**W**e would like to say a special thanks to all of you who responded so generously and repeatedly to our special appeal in the August newsletter to help with the new Annex with its 85 new pigs. Several people have sponsored a pig or added a new pig to their sponsorship or have become sustainers. It has given me confidence that we will be able to continue this huge responsibility we have taken on. Every day is a new challenge and we have relied on our supporters to help us meet these challenges. Susan Pascente and her friend Sara arrived with a truckload of feed, hoses, wood, shade cloth, first aid kits and vitamins. Liz and Todd Sharp and Mary Dawe and her daughter Sary rounded up 60 wading pools for us. Kathryn and Joe North also came with a truckload of goodies including treats and shade canopies, wading pools, and hoses. Diane Horen and her husband donated a truck load of

used wooden horse fencing that we will repaint and build a fence around the front yard at the annex, and Scott Bourque called with used pool fencing that has to be installed in order to get insurance at the annex. He is also going to install it. Tucson Oasis not only put on an Animal Benefit but they also did a work day at the

## SPECIAL THANKS

annex and brought a group of their friends out to help with our on going rebuilding projects

there. And also Lisa, Linda, Monna, Shannon, Julie, Cynthia, Nina, Joseph, Efriam, Regina, Elsa, and Debbie at ScriptSave for their help with our mailings. So our support web continues to grow with the help of those mentioned and many who I have not mentioned, and the center is held tight by Bob, Jim, John and Francie, our new comers Sandy and Justin N and our hard working staff: Donna, June, Justin, Pamala, and Sandra. They have pulled us through this brutally hot summer and we survived it. Thanks!

## Yoga Oasis Benefit

**W**hat links a yoga studio, vegan potluck, animal awareness, a rained out celestial event and Ironwood Pig Sanctuary together? Our very first fund raiser sponsored by Darren and Bronwin Rhodes of Yoga Oasis. Thanks to our friends and volunteers and vegan animal lovers, Ironwood Pig Sanctuary was honored to be the recipient of this wonderful event. We all had the opportunity of hearing Chris Kerr and Krisit Gholson from upstate New York speak about animal rights. Their dedication is



very powerful and uplifting. We also viewed two videos; followed by discussions and questions and answers. Some of the video was very hard to watch, but provided a real look at animal mistreatment in the so-called "food chain". After the videos and much discussion it was time to eat! The vegan buffet and silent auction were part of the fundraiser. What great people to share such healthy and good food AND we raised over \$1,400.00! We signed up some volunteers and had some interest in adoption. Thanks so much to Rachel and Ivan and of course Darren and Bronwin. Darren and Bronwin had previously adopted our sweet little Suzi who is the star of in town events and Farmers Markets when we are getting the word out about the Sanctuary. It was a wonderful evening and even the monsoon that cancelled our view of Mars couldn't dampen all the love and compassion and awareness we were fortunate to experience. Thanks so much to everyone who attended and to our special "family" at Yoga Oasis. ---Jacqui Eckert

# Ways to Support Your Sanctuary

We accept donations with the following credit cards for your convenience.



## Become a Sanctuary Sustainer

Almost everyday the sanctuary receives calls about pigs needing our help and we must always ask the question, "where will the money come from to help this one?" The answer is simple: from people like you who care and want to make a difference.

By joining as a sanctuary sustainer, a monthly contribution, be it \$1 or \$1,000, will be charged to your credit card. The amount, which is determined by you, will be there each month to care for the animals. To sign up, just fill out the form on the enclosed reply envelope and indicate your monthly contribution.

Thank You for caring.



## Donating Money the Easy Way!

Every time you make a purchase from an eScrip member merchant, the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will receive a donation from the merchant up to 5% of your purchase.

Please sign up by visiting [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), call us at (520) 575-8469 or write to us for an enrollment form. Our Group ID is **150540842**. Everyone can join, so be sure to tell all your family and friends. Thank you for all of your help!

## Greater Good

You can make donations to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary at no cost to you by shopping with your favorite web merchants through the Greater Good web site. Just request that you want to support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary which is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Greater Good can be found at [www.greatergood.com/partner/ironwoodpigsanctuary](http://www.greatergood.com/partner/ironwoodpigsanctuary)

# Employees Needed

**WANTED:** A trustworthy, caring person who loves animals to live and work at the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary, a non-profit pot bellied pig sanctuary located near Marana, a rural area of southern Arizona one hour drive north of Tucson.

This is HARD work. Job duties include, but are not limited to, cleaning pens and fields, helping with feeding, help with hands-on care of pigs who are disabled, injured, or sick, or general animal care. Help with trimming tusks and hoofs. Handling 50# bags of feed and assisting with moving bales of hay to the various feeding stations. Must be willing to work weekends and holidays as necessary. Must be able to lift 50+ lbs. Four day work week.

Housing consists of a room with private bath in a modern late model mobile home used as the visitor center. The housing will comfortably accommodate

## Special Thanks

A special thanks to Jane Schwerin. Because of her continued support we have recently been able to do a 50,000 piece mailing. This mailing will increase our support base which will help to insure our long term success and the security of our pigs. We extend our deepest thanks.

Thank you for your support in obtaining wading pools at the end of this summer for next year. Our sharp eyed supporters were able to obtain 70.

We expect to use about 200 next year with the 360 pigs we have between our main sanctuary and our Annex.

one person and a small companion animal.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is located in Marana, Arizona on 50 acres in a beautiful Sonoran desert habitat. The climate is moderate in winter and hot in summer. Summer daytime temperatures can be in the 100's with nighttime temperatures in the 70's. The surrounding mountains are perfect for hiking. Southern Arizona is a premier bird watching area.

We are looking for a dedicated person who is ready to commit to the care of unwanted and abused pot bellied pigs. Is that YOU?

## OUR WISH LIST

**Please let us know if you have any of the following items to donate:**

- \* Blankets for our cold winters
- \* 1500 to 2000 gallon water truck
- \* Children's Multi-vitamins
- \* Any size Dog Igloo Shelter but extra large and giant preferred.
- \* All sizes of Wading Pools and Turtle Sand Boxes to be used for water for the summer season.
- \* Shade Cloth - black preferred.
- \* Towels
- \* Fly Traps
- \* Digital Camera
- \* Pool Repair Kits
- \* Corrugated Roofing
- \* 1/2 inch Plywood
- \* Small Tractor with back hoe



# Ironwood

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is a pot bellied pig rescue, sanctuary and adoption facility. We provide a safe home for mistreated, unwanted, or rescued pigs.

## MISSION

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** is dedicated to eliminating the suffering of pot bellied pigs by promoting spaying and neutering, assisting owners and sanctuaries, and providing a permanent home in a safe nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted.

## FACILITIES

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in November of 2000 in Marana, Arizona, a rural community northwest of Tucson, as a result of the overpopulation of other sanctuaries in Arizona. Our sanctuary consists of 40 acres with 10 being developed exclusively for pot bellied pigs and the remaining 30 serving as a buffer or for future growth. Recently released or rescued pigs are housed in one of 24 holding pens in order to give us the opportunity to evaluate new arrivals, treat them for specific wounds or illnesses and provide the pigs time to acclimate to a different environment and to each other through the safety of fencing. Over time, the pigs are transferred from their holding pens to a 6 acre field where they can mingle with the herd yet still have plenty of room to find their own space when wanted. Individual and sharable shelters as well as mud wallows and pools are available in all areas.

## ADOPTIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS

**Ironwood** also places pigs in adoptive homes. All prospective “parents” are screened. We want to be sure that these lovable creatures are a welcome part of the family.

**Ironwood** has a number of resident pigs that have personality problems, have been abused or are too old to be adopted. Pigs not adoptable will live out their lives at the sanctuary. You can help them by sponsoring your favorite resident pig! A contribution of \$30 a month pays for all your pig’s expenses. Your sponsorship gives you all the background information available on your pig, including a photo, and periodic updates. Visit your very own pig as often as you like. They always like company and, of course, those special treats you bring.

## RESCUES

**Ironwood** accepts calls to rescue pot bellied pigs found wandering in neighborhoods or in the desert, those left in community shelters and any who are abused or abandoned by their owners. We also receive pigs from owners who are no longer able to care for them.

## BOARDING

The **Ironwood Pig Sanctuary** has a boarding facility exclusively for pot bellied pigs that provides a peaceful setting away from the trauma of barking dogs and other stressful conditions that can occur at other boarding kennels. Please call for more information about our boarding program.

## SUPPORT

Even if you can’t adopt or sponsor one of our pigs, you can always come out and help. We always have an extra pooper-scooper or you can help with one of our ongoing projects or just give tummy rubs!

If you would like to help the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary call Donna or Mary for volunteer opportunities or send in your tax-deductible donation.

**IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY**  
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