

IRONWOOD

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Profit

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

September 2009

Dear Supporter,

It is September and the kids are back in school and this leads me to think about what part we at Ironwood play in education and what impact that may make on people, kids, and most of all on our pigs. The American Sanctuary Association (ASA) has been having an online discussion about what part sanctuaries play in education.

For me personally education was crucial, but it is what we choose to do with what we learn that matters. I was raised on a farm in Ohio and we raised animals to eat like most other farm children. It was not until I was in my 40's and had moved to Tucson that I began to receive literature about the plight of animals in ours and all other societies.

Gradually, through education and reading, my views were changed from thinking that animal rights activists were kooks to being one. So for me education changed my whole being and how I think and feel about the world. This change in my thinking and morality has led me down this path to being the Co-Founder of the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary.

Education works for those who are receptive and one is uncertain who or how many will hear you. But for the few that do hear you their impact can be great. Maybe that person or persons will be a leader in society and will implement changes in laws that impact many more animals than we can here at our sanctuary. At Ironwood we have limited resources so education is limited to our newsletter, our tours, occasional off-site talks at schools or the Humane Society, occasional tabling events, and our phone conversations.

Education comes in many forms. It is my hope that everyone who comes here for a visit or reads our newsletter will understand how difficult it is to care for all these homeless animals, and what they learn from us is to never buy or breed another domestic animal until there are no more homeless companion animals. If those who are part of our sanctuary can take that lesson with them, we have done our part.

Sincerely,



Mary Schanz
President & CoFounder

P.S. As I look at all these contented pigs with tails wagging in the fields I know they are saying to one another, "I sure am glad Mom got some meaningful education and glad she was listening."



Mojo Jojo & Mary

The Chicken and the Pig

Charmin the chicken and Pepper the pig lived together for several years so when we went to pick up Pepper and were asked if we could take Charmin, well, how could we not take her. So we now count one chicken in with our one goat and our nearly 600 pigs.

I want to tell their story, among so many others, because it lets me know and you know how one person who cared enough to make a phone call while on vacation in a motel no doubt saved the life of Pepper.



One hot afternoon we got a call from a woman staying in a Motel 6 in Tucson. She said there was a pathetic little pig outside her window that had very long hooves, what appeared to be hemorrhoids on her bottom, and very little water. Could we help with this pig? I told her to call Animal Control since we are a rescue not a legal agency. She did call Animal Control. They came and talked with the owners and an additional water container appeared. They came again to check on the pig, but Pepper was



still in her small pen with two small pans of water that can easily be dumped over and were dumped when we arrived to check on her.

When we got there no one was home so we gave her water on what was to become a very hot day and left a copy of our newsletter with a note that said if they would like to give up their pig we would take her. We felt she needed some medical care.

Days passed without a phone call and the lady who called to alert us had moved on. I thought about that little pig often but knew I had done all I could do. Then the call came and the owner told us she would like to give her pig to us. She was ill and could no longer care for her. We quickly arranged to pick her up knowing how little water she had and the temperatures were going to be 109 to 111 in the days ahead. When we arrived to pick her up she had about 1 inch of water in her pan and no wallow.

The very first thing she did when

she arrived at Ironwood was walk into the wallow we had for her, start to root and then she laid down. Pepper was home and she would be safe and comfortable in the awful heat ahead of us.

She was very constipated and dehydrated and had to be treated with enemas, soft food, pumpkin, Benefiber and mineral oil, but in time she recovered. Donna and Tim trimmed her feet the day after she arrived. Her rectum is surrounded by tumors but our vet feels it would be too risky to try to remove them. She is an old girl so we have decided not to risk surgical complications and to let her live with us in peace with her friend Charmin.



I wish the lady who interrupted her vacation to worry about little Pepper could know that because she cared, Pepper now enjoys all the water and wallow time she wants and Charmin lays her eggs and announces them to all the sanctuary.

Plump Piggies

Let's be blunt...some pigs are FAT!

When I started this article I wanted to approach it with a musical theme. The first thing that popped into mind was an old rap song called "Baby Got Back" that opens with "I like big butts and I cannot lie." Then there's the country tune called "Rockin' the Beer Gut" with the lines "well it's just some extra love around her waist.....and with her jeans a little tight around her butt, rockin' the beer gut." After a little googling on my computer, I found several songs that speak favorably of an enhanced behind but while a healthy derriere might be attractive on some people, it will only attract trouble for a pig.

Does your 'baby got back'? If so, you might want to cut back on the amount of food you're giving him or her. Big butts can lead to big trouble with pigs' joints. Being overweight seems to be a very common problem. We've heard many times from owners that they love their pig so much and give them treats all the time. That's not the best way to show your love for your piggy! Pigs can't control their appetites so you have to do it for them. On average, an adult pig should get 2 cups (8 oz measuring cups, not Big Gulp cups!) of pot bellied pig pellets each day. This may need to be



adjusted to meet the specific needs of your pig. For example, when pigs start to enter their "golden years" and slow down, you may need to cut back. However, when they get much older the metabolism changes and they might need an increase. My 17+-year-old, Gorby, had been getting four cups a day for the last couple of years then Dr. Page informed me that he needed even more to maintain a healthy weight.

To help you judge the proper weight for your pig, refer to the charts on these pages. The ideal position for an adult pig is



halfway between the "2" and "3" category. Unaltered males can be a "2" because they're always so, umm...busy and burning lots of calories!

We have had several "4"s and "5"s released to the sanctuary in the past few months. Those pigs are now on diets of 1-1/2 cups of pellets daily. The weight can come off but it does take a long



time. Don't get discouraged if the pounds aren't obviously melting away in the beginning. Another of my pigs, Precious, was extremely obese when she came to Ironwood. Her strict dieting continued after I adopted her and after nearly two years she finally became a "3." I gradually increased her pellets to reach the average of two cups daily and she is easily maintaining her fabulous looks!

If you want to supplement the pellets, you can feed a small amount of alfalfa hay or a few greens or veggies. Foods such as fruit, cheerios, or popcorn (air popped, no salt or butter please!) make good occasional treats. Just remember that fruits have natural sugars that can add unnecessary calories to your pig's diet. Save those for special occasions and limit the amount. I admit that we do sometimes give our pigs fattening goodies, like the hogs got fruit pies on their birthday and once we had a truckload of



Francis

donated donuts, but those are few and far between. Just like with people, sweets need to be eaten in moderation. Geez, I'd love to eat chocolate chip cookies and Ben and Jerry's ice cream every day but then I would probably be "rockin' the pot bellied gut" like Susie here! (Okay, now I can't stop thinking about Phish Food, my fave B&J flavor!)



Susie

Pigs already have issues with their



Sammy

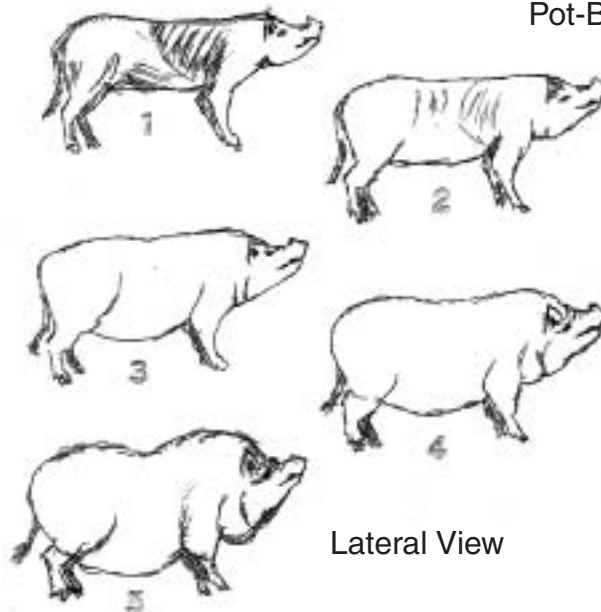
joints and a tendency towards arthritis and elbow dysplasia. Carrying extra weight just multiplies the chances for your pig to suffer from these problems and the likelihood that they will

occur at a much earlier age than normal. Why put your beloved pet through that kind of pain and discomfort unnecessarily!

Just remember, YOU are the alpha in the herd (or at least you pretend to be!) and you control the amounts and types of food for your pig. Feed your baby what is best for them, not what makes you feel good! The goal is to be a "3," not tipping the scales to an off-the-chart 10! If your pig starts rapping out "Shake that healthy butt," just tell it to shake it a few laps around the yard and get that weight off!

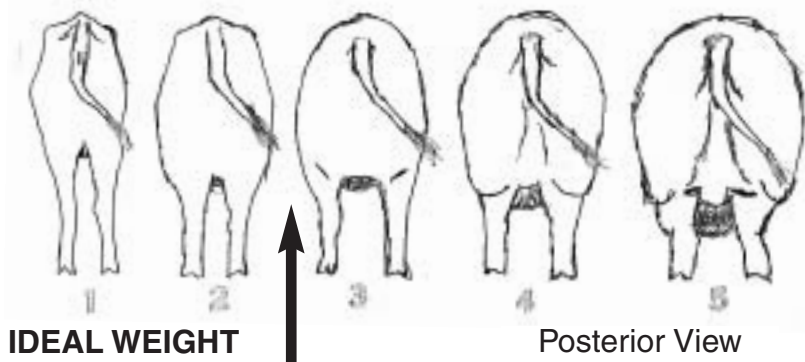
---Donna

Pot-Bellied Pig Body Score



Lateral View

We would like to thank Dr. Arlen Wilbers for these graphics of Pot-Bellied pig body scores. He is at the Quakertown Veterinary Clinic, Quakertown, PA



IDEAL WEIGHT

Posterior View

Sponsor a S



Tallulah

This is Tallulah reporting from Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. I interviewed several pigs that do not yet have a sponsor. Here are excerpts from our conversations. (FYI, I don't have a sponsor either!)



Lola

"Have you been doing the cha-cha at the Copacabana lately?" Lola: Okay, enough with the Barry Manilow! Every time Donna walks by she starts singing, "Her name was Lola, she was a show girl, with yellow feathers in her hair....." Give it a rest or at least sing in tune!



Emmett

"Wow! You sure smiling so big?" My belly is full a believe you can you know how lo the newsletter?!



Little 'En

"You and I live in the same field but I never see you. Where have you been?" Little 'En: Of course, I'm avoiding any and all reporters! Or at least I was trying to....anyway, I've been lying low in the back of the field with my friends, Morgan and Chrissy, just living a quiet life so if you'll excuse me.....



Diamond

"What a beautiful name for a beautiful girl! How did someone like you end up at Ironwood?" Diamond: I was part of that big rescue in Peoria about a year and a half ago. Wow! I can't believe it's been that long. Time flies when you're having fun and happy and well cared for and.....well, you get the picture!



"How did does it m around m admiring uh, thou use that

Special Pig!



“You look happy! What has you Emmett: I am so very happy. and life is good! And I can't come over to interview me! Do you think I've been waiting to get in 10 years, I'm telling you, years!”



Lily

“Not to be rude, but what happened to your ear?” Lily: I lived at a home with lots of dogs that attacked me all the time. Once they went a little too far and tore my ear off! It was just awful!



Kwili

“That's a very unusual name. What does it mean?” Kwili: I came from New Mexico with several friends. Most of us have names that came from Native American tribes. Kwili is the Zuni word for two which is the number on my ear tag.



Gip

“How do you get your name and what does it mean?” Gip: Well, I had a sign on my neck that said PIG. I was looking myself in the mirror and, well, I thought it said GIP so.....You won't see it in your article, will you?”

JOIN OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS

“What have you and Donna been doing?” Abby: We were just talking about how for a \$30 monthly donation you can provide for one of these pig's food, shelter, health care and share of sanctuary expenses. Then



Abby & Donna

Donna will send you a letter and pictures with a history of your pig and how they came to live here with frequent updates throughout the year. Donna: Abby has never had a sponsor before and would love to make a special friend!

No Open House This November

Starting October 1st the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary will be closed to ALL non essential traffic, including visitors, sponsors and prior caregivers. This more stringent policy is in response to the H1N1 virus (swine flu) under advice from our medical advisors. Recent research shows humans can transmit it to pigs. If it's anything like the real swine flu we could have 20-30% morbidity. AND, most importantly, if we ever had anyone visit here and they later developed the flu, we could be identified as the "source" even though we were not. The USDA has the authority to "depopulate" any herd they feel affects the human health of any community in the country. So we have removed every possible risk we can.

The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is operated solely to provide a safe and comfortable refuge for the pigs that live here. We are a no-kill sanctuary and do not breed any pigs. Pigs are sentient, sapient beings and we hope you will view them with that in mind as you hear their stories and see how they live.

We wanted to print the following letter because it fit in with Donna's article on fat pigs and how hard it is to keep your pig from getting fat.

Dear Mary, Ben and Other Sanctuary Saints:

I have very much enjoyed your excellent piggie magazine that you send me regularly, and all your wonderful articles. Thanks to everyone for all the effort you put into them.

As you know, I have my own elderly piggie, Tootsie Rootabaga, to love and care for. She turned 17 in April, and had her physical from Dr. Page that day. She's in quite good health for her age except, of course, the arthritis that they are all bound to have by that time. And her weight was perfect, no easy accomplishment. I know it is such a temptation to overindulge these piggies with treats—they are so demonstrative in their enthusiasm. And it's so satisfying to give food to a critter so eager and grateful—what a task it is to resist overdoing those treats!

I'm sure Tootsie missed her uncle Snorkie Pigbottom when he first was gone—I had to have him put down over a year ago due to his age-related condition. But Snork had always been in charge and took the lead in everything, including pushing Tootsie out of the way when strokes and tummy rubs were being handed out. I loved him dearly and still miss him, but I have to admit he could be a real bully and 'male chauvinist pig'—yup, that was my little guy! Now Tootsie gets lots of those well-deserved strokes and rubs, and eats it up cuz she finally gets to be queen of the roost. I feel blessed to have such a sweet little friend.

Thanks for everything you all do for these special, bright little pig friends. I'm proud to be a supporter of the Sanctuary and only wish I could help more.

Love and Hugs to you all.

Sherry Conlee

Surviving the Pig Days of Summer

My hat goes off to the Staff and Volunteers here at Ironwood, Shannon and Jeff at our Annex and Donna Scoggin who runs our satellite facility caring for 28 of our pigs.

Just like we could not provide a home for all these pigs without your support, Ben and I could not possibly care for all these pigs on our own.

All summers in Arizona are brutal. It is a desert after all. But this summer has been the worst in my 21 years here. June was relatively cool but July and August, when we expect some cooling in the afternoons from summer monsoons, were the worst we have experienced. We have had only one inch of rain here and temperatures well above 100 degrees all summer.

It truly has taken dedication and a labor of love for the pigs for everyone to work out in temperatures as high as 115 degrees. Thank you all. I personally have had it with this summer and welcome the fall, or what I hope will be fall.

--- Mary

Help With Special Projects

When one is on a tight budget such as the Sanctuary's, it is often difficult to spend money on a special project even if the project is important but not critical. We have a number of special projects that we would like to mention and possibly you might like to fund. It would give you special pride knowing that you made it possible to help out in a special way.

Air Conditioning for Our Van for Transporting Pigs in Hot Weather \$1,750

Virtually all of our pigs are transported in our Astro Van during all seasons. We don't like to use trailers or open pickup trucks. During hot weather, which we have plenty of, we make sure that the air conditioner is on high so that the back of the van stays comfortable for the pigs. However, some of the bigger pigs have trouble staying cool so we spray them down with water periodically. Sometimes this is not good enough and the pigs become stressed and uncomfortable. We want to add an air conditioner to the back of the van to keep the pigs even cooler so that there is no danger of overheating. The existing air conditioner compressor is sized for an additional cooler in the back of the van.



Pole Barn in Front of our Existing Barn for Hay and Equipment \$5,000

We have a small barn (it didn't seem so small at the time) which we are outgrowing. We would like to build an extension to the barn by building a roof supported by posts. This extension would not have any sides but would be used for our loads of hay we receive each month and for keeping some of our equipment out of the rain. The original barn would be used to store blankets, extra carriers, wading pools, and other supplies. Our hay comes in what they call squeezes of 84 bales. Because our existing barn is not tall enough to accommodate a squeeze, the 84 bales need to be moved by hand into the barn each month. We are always worried about the exposure to rain when the squeeze arrives. Moving the hay takes a lot of work, particularly in hot weather, and takes time away from other demands of the sanctuary.



Safety Gates for Feeding Pens \$8,500

We feed 85 of our pigs in feeding pens mostly because they are not able to compete with the other pigs in the field for enough food. These pens have two problems. One is that they are difficult to open and the other is that a pig may perish during one of our hot days if left in the pen. We put bungee cords on the gates so that the pigs could push out but the other pigs figured out how to get into the pens. In order to avoid having a pig in the pen after feeding we check each pen and mark it off on a check sheet. We want to put a safety gate on each pen so that the pig can push out when finished and other pigs cannot get into the pen.



Smaller Water Truck Driveable by our Staff \$17,900

Our existing 4,000 gallon water truck is not driveable by any of our staff. Ben is the only one who is able to drive this truck safely. During six months around our long hot summers it is essential that we obtain water almost every day from town to supplement our well. The water is critical for the safety of our pigs. We have a total of 53,000 gallons of water storage on site as a reserve just in case either the water truck or well breaks down. Since we don't have any backup if Ben "breaks down" and the existing water truck is very old and failure prone, we have decided that we need another truck that our staff can drive. We have located a 1999 Ford F800 2,000 gallon water truck that has an automatic transmission that is driveable by our staff with a minimal amount of training. It is relatively new and easy to operate.



Hoof & Tusk Trimming

Pig owners in the Tucson, Phoenix and surrounding areas can contact Donna Norton for tusk and hoof trimming. Donna is an experienced trimmer, having lived on site at Ironwood for over four years. Donna provides weekend house calls for pig and goat trims. Please call 520-780-8832 or e-mail hoofandtusk@yahoo.com to set up an appointment.

Thank You Humane Society of Southern Arizona

As Mary has written in previous issues, up to 85% of unspayed female pigs will develop uterine tumors. Most of these tumors when advanced in middle and older age will result in ending the life of the pig. We had many middle age and older female pigs who had not been spayed. In order to give these pigs a longer healthier life, we made a concerted effort last year and this year to spay as many of the 120 unspayed females as we could.

We want to thank the Humane Society of Southern Arizona and their Medical Director Karter Neal for offering spay and neuter services for the Sanctuary. Over the past year they have spayed a significant portion of the 60 pigs spayed this past year.

What limits us now in doing spays is that we do not have a recovery building so we must wait for moderate weather where wallows are not needed.

Our Wish List

- * Large or Giant Igloo Shelters or Large Dog Houses
- * Gift Card to Fry's, Home Depot, Lowes, Office Max, Office Depot, Walgreens or Target
- * Used Blankets are Always Welcome
- * Box Cutters
- * Zinc Oxide Ointment 1 pound container
Best value is from Rugby Labs
- * Glucosamine Chondroitin +MSM
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Flax Seed Capsules
Best value is from Puritan's Pride
- * Postage Stamps (44, 28, 17 cents)



COVER

Profit just celebrated 7 years with us here at Ironwood. He is a handsome fellow indeed! We picked him up on 8/27/02. He was living in Tucson in a tiny area off an apartment. The lady had gotten divorced and her husband did not want him and she could not keep him with her at the apartment. I find it hard to believe, but he is 17 years old. We were told he was 10 when we picked him up. He has always lived in our Special Needs Field since he was already lame with arthritis and aging when he came, but he still gets along very well and enjoys all of his friends.

Sisters Peaches & Patches



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