

IRONWOOD

ISSUE
NO 75

MARCH
2017



Daisy

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

March 2017

Dear Supporter,

I am often asked about how happy are animals living in a sanctuary setting compared to how happy they are in a home with a family. This is of course a very difficult question with no easy answer since we cannot ask the animal directly. Also it varies greatly depending on the species and the quality of care given either at the sanctuary or in the home.

Since our species is pot belly pigs I would like to give my opinion and would say I am ambivalent for several reasons. It very much depends on the individual pig and the individual companion person. Ben and I have picked up many hundreds of pigs all around Arizona. My overall impression is, even in homes where the pigs are well cared for and loved, people really don't provide or know how to provide an adequate home for pigs. We find they don't have adequate space, shade, shelter, water, wallows/pools, bedding or even **more importantly pig companionship.**

Pigs want to be pigs, not people, dogs or any other species. They want to root and dig holes, wallow in the water and mud, graze on grass or in our case hay, run and twist around, snuggle with and sometimes fight with their best pig friend. They are generally outdoor animals or indoor/outdoor and don't like living in crates or confined to a room. Who would want that kind of life?

Sometimes we get a pig in who has lived with a family and has never been around other pigs and clearly is frightened by their new environment. Most of the time they adjust but not always. Those are the ones I try hard to place in another home. For those who don't adjust well and for which we cannot find a suitable home, we try to put them in a smaller field together. They still have to adjust to sanctuary life but it is not as intimidating. They most often will make friends with one of their new pig companions.

Many pigs who come to us love attention and often pigs that come in from the fields for medical attention will soon be rolling over for belly rubs from us. But conversely since pigs are social animals nearly all of our pigs find a companion pig or pigs and we will see them snuggled up together in shelters under blankets or lying together taking in the sun. So I think they are content and happy with their own kind but welcome the attention of us humans.

So what would I conclude? As I said in the beginning it is a difficult decision and the answer lies in the environment of the sanctuary or home. Here at Ironwood we are able because of the support you give us, to provide all the needs of our pigs. They have food and fresh water, shade and pools and wallows, they can run and play like pigs want to do, and root until their hearts are content. And they can pick and choose their pig friends and form tight bonds. Their pig friends are always there, not just after work or on weekends. They also get the best medical care when the need arrives and transportation to get them to the vet. They pass peacefully and without fear when their time comes. If a family is able to provide all the above AND the one on one attention from human companionship then I believe the family setting would be good for the pigs.

Sincerely,



President & CoFounder



Mary & Lois at the Annex 11/2001

Goodbye To Our Annex

After nearly twenty years of volunteering and later owning the property at 10909 Mars Lane we moved the remaining 15 pigs living there to Ironwood in December of 2016. It was a difficult decision since the pigs had lived there since the mid to late 1990's and 2000. They are all very old, and most had lived there their entire life. They were in need of more intensive care and it no longer was a good financial decision to continue to have a caretaker on the property.

We prepared a nice field for them and began the process of making them comfortable in their new home. Some adapted well from the beginning but others took a



Annex

article in the Arizona Daily Star about a lady who had a pot belly pig rescue and was in desperate need of help. Ben and I decided to take a trip out there since I was involved with an animal rights organization and we had received some calls describing the need to help the pigs there.

that became known as the condos. We put in a water system, built a concrete pond with the help of some of our caving friends and generally improved the infrastructure throughout the property. Ben and I, Willy, Bob, and Jim and Gloria alternated collecting produce from local grocery stores and cut it up and delivered it to Pigs*A*lot on a



regular basis. This was the pigs' life line and healthy food for them when money to care for them was in short supply. Donna joined us



New Home At Ironwood

few weeks to accept their new digs. Now they are all up and ready to eat each morning and have learned to trust that they will be well cared for here.



That was the beginning, and the next two years we and other volunteers built shelters out of dumpster wood and also shelters



on many Saturdays to help cut produce and rake the entire property.

Flashback to the beginning of our story. In late 1998 we read an



But a crisis was about to happen. We went out as often as possible but were sometimes gone for some time and we still were not

too pig savvy. In the spring of 2000 a volunteer who had some pigs said she thought one of the pigs was pregnant. That sent a chill through me since as far as we



knew there were no boars on the property. The owner had not noticed that a pig Ben and I had transported for her only had one testicle removed and the other partially undecended testicle remained and he was still fertile.



That had to be the worst summer of my life when many litters were born there and the number of pigs on the property exploded. It went from about 100 pigs to nearly 200 pigs in a few short months. We gathered and neutered all the young males over time. In one day alone Dr. Page neutered 26 baby pigs. By that time we were hooked on pigs and knew that something had to be done to help these and other pigs in need of a

home. We began a search for property. In the fall of 2000 we found the property that is now Ironwood and began the process of starting our sanctuary. By the spring of 2001 the owner of the Annex location began to refer release calls to us.

Still she had far too many pigs and the ones born in the summer of 2000 were beginning to grow up. She had several pigs that were my favorites and not doing well there so she agreed to let me have them in exchange for taking some of her big pigs. In January of 2002 we loaded 58 pigs and brought them to Ironwood. We had already taken another 20 plus of the ones most in need bringing her total down to not much over 120 remaining pigs.

On May 5th or 6th of 2003 we got a call from a friend of the owner and she asked if I was sitting down. She said the property was in foreclosure and where would the pigs go? Many of these pigs were our friends and how could we not help them. Surely if the property was foreclosed on the pigs would be removed and sent to auction. We had only a few days to act and things were frantic. But on May 15th of 2003



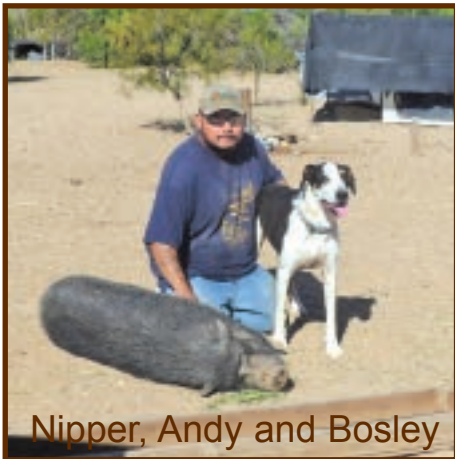
Pamala & Her Son

the Annex was born when we bought the property in a foreclosure sale and the pigs could all remain on the property. How lucky we were at the time to have a lady, Pamala, working for us who was ready and willing to move onto the property and care for the pigs. The previous owner took about 35 of her sponsored pigs, but they came back to us not long thereafter when she could not care for them. What a relief it was to know all of our original pig friends, about 120 now on the property and 75 at Ironwood, were now safe and cared for. We built a separate area for the 35 that were returned to us and called it the community. How happy I was to have them back with us.



Shannon

Pamala lived there for several years after which she moved to Texas then Shannon and her husband Jeff and their children moved in. Four years later they moved on to Phoenix and Andy, who had already been employed by us for some time, moved in to care for the remaining pigs. It has been 3 ½ years since he moved onto the property, but now the time had come to bring the pigs home to Ironwood. Andy is now a full time employee with us again so he gets to see and visit his pigs



Nipper, Andy and Bosley

here at Ironwood.

So it is the end of a long history, often tumultuous, often happy that led us to the business of rescuing and loving pot belly pigs. Repairs are being made to the house and we are deciding what will be next for the property. We will most likely sell it and close that chapter of our lives. However it remains a very nice place for an animal rescue. The entire infrastructure that we put in during our volunteer years and after we purchased the property remains in place. It somehow seems a shame to lose what could be a home to more animals in need. There are not many places for animals to take refuge and this has been a good place over many years. There is still time to make a final decision.

Because of our volunteer time and our association with the pigs there Ironwood was born and the lives of over 1,500 pigs have been saved. The crisis of the population explosion of 2000 forced us to take action to open Ironwood, so out of chaos came a safe haven for pigs.

---Mary



Mike & Wylie

Mike and Wylie arrived at Ironwood about a month apart in the summer of 2016. Mike was a stray boar that had been picked up by the AZ Department of Agriculture. Strays are held there for a few days in hopes that the owners will claim them and if not, the officers try to place them in homes. If homes cannot readily be found, the stray pigs are euthanized. Mike and another boar we named Eli were never



claimed and a home could not be found for them. One of the officers called and asked if we would be willing to take them rather than have them euthanized. We willingly agreed and the officer loaded the boys in a horse trailer and made the trip down to deliver them on a hot July day.

Mike was neutered a few days after his arrival. He did great during the surgery and recovered with no problems. Like all new arrivals, Mike was living in one of the individual holding pens. When pigs live in the holding pens they are allowed to go out



into the exercise yard for a brief period each day. Since Mike and Eli came here together we thought perhaps they could go out to play together, but the two did not get along at all. Since the boys fought so much we just let Mike go out by himself for his turn. He is a sweet, shy boy with a very calm personality.

A few weeks after Mike's arrival we got a panicked call from a woman in Tucson who said she had heard screaming in her backyard and ran out to find a small pig cornered by two coyotes. She was able to scare off



the coyotes then catch the pig who was badly bitten and scratched up. We took the little pig who we

ended up naming Wylie straight to the vet clinic. His tail had been bitten off and he had numerous bite wounds all over his body with some rather deep ones on the inside of his back legs. The poor guy was anesthetized while the vet cleaned, treated and stitched up his wounds. It was decided that he was in good enough shape to go ahead and get neutered while he was under anesthesia so that got taken care of as well. When Wylie returned to Ironwood we continued treatment on his wounds but it was difficult because he was such a frightened, traumatized little boy.

Like Mike, Wylie was living in a holding pen by himself while he recovered from his surgery and wounds. His stitches were successfully removed a couple of weeks later and it appeared that he would have no permanent damage from the coyote attack. However, a month later Wylie had what looked suspiciously like rectal tumors forming on his bottom. He made another trip to the vet clinic to have that checked out. Thankfully, it turned out to only be thick scabs over some raw spots where Wylie had apparently been rubbing his butt probably due to the itching as his bite wounds healed. A few days of Desitin applied to the area kept him comfortable and allowed the wounds to heal.

Once Wylie was well enough to



Mike

Wylie

go out for his turn in the exercise yard we found that he and Mike were visiting through the fencing and seemed to like one another. We began letting the two boys go out for “recess” together each day and discovered they got along just great. After a while when it became obvious that they were bonding, we let them move into a



pen together. Mike and Wylie have become the very best of friends and are very happy together. It’s wonderful that two strays from different parts of the state and from different rescue situations have joined together as best buddies. These boys were lucky that their rescuers got them here and just by coincidence at nearly the same time so that they could meet one another. Due to your generosity, Ironwood was able to open their doors to these two boys that needed help. Thanks to your gifts, they were able to receive the medical care they needed. Because of YOU, Mike and Wylie will be able to spend their lives together in a safe, comfortable environment.

---Donna

Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

****Used Blankets are always needed for our cold winters****

Postage Stamps (Forever, Post Card Stamps, 47 and 34 cents)
 Other denominations can also be used
 Peanut Butter, CREAMY ONLY
 Animal Crackers
 Probiotics
 Vitamin E capsules 400 IU
 Mucinex
 Fiber Powder (NOT Metamucil & NOT Orange Flavored)
 Flaxseed Oil Capsules
 Glucosamine/Chondroitin, capsules or tablets
 Stool Softeners
 Ranitidine Acid Reducer, 150mg
 Utility Knives

GIFT CARDS

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 Lowes
 Discover
 MasterCard
 Office Max
 Walmart
 Amazon
 Office Depot
 Target
 Fry’s
 Staples

We have a wish list on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).
 They offer free shipping on many items if
 you sign up for Amazon Prime.

Sponsor a S



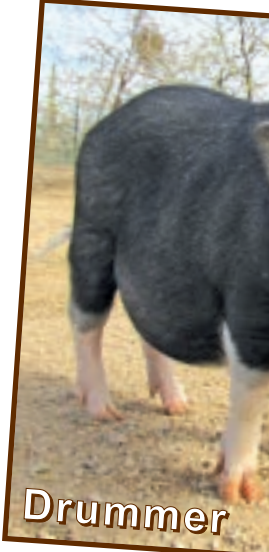
Mr. Pitts

I came here with the name Bacon Bits but thankfully that was changed to something that sort of rhymes. I like it! The "Mr." part makes me feel important.



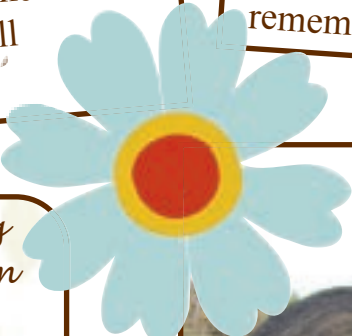
Pokémon

I had been shuffled to six places by the time I was two but got lucky and spent 8 years at a foster home with four close friends. We're all together at Ironwood now.



Drummer

It was Christmas to Ironwood as a after the Little Dr don't ask me to si remember the dru



Most of these pigs have had multiple homes before ending up at Ironwood. Thanks to you we are able to provide them with a forever home where they have no worries. For a monthly \$30 donation, you can provide part of the daily



Collie

Donna

basic needs for the pig of your choice. In return you will receive a letter with your pig's history and photos. An update with new pictures will arrive later in the year. Become a member of our family of sponsors today!
---Donna



Precious

I was sold on Craigs who bought me and r real sick and ended u home. I'm just glad together.

Special Pig!

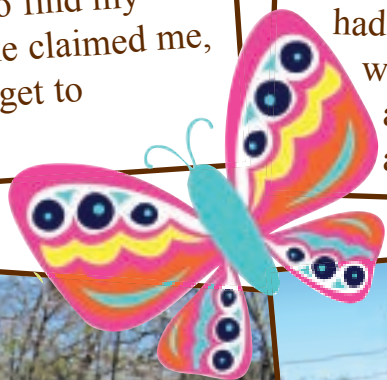


...as time when I came
...s a baby. I was named
...Drummer Boy, but
...o sing it. I can only
...drum sounds.

Phil

I wandered into a man's garage
one evening and made myself at
home. He tried to find my
owners but no one claimed me,
so he helped me get to
Ironwood.

I came here to be spayed then
returned home for a year. My dad
had several strokes and couldn't
work. Then he lost his home
and had to move. So here I
am again!



...igslist but the people
...nd my family got
...ed up losing their
...ad my family is still

Christie

I am Drummer's sister and my
named was picked because it was
Christmas. I should be wearing
bells and tinsel all the time. What
do you think? I'd be so pretty!

Patch

All of my family have pretty pink
spots on their noses. Mine is just
a tiny patch of pink. I hope it
never goes away! I did inherit a
really cool white stripe though.

Your Employer May be Able to Double Your Donation

You can easily make your donation to the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary go even further if you work for or are retired from a Matching Gift company. Many of our supporters have doubled and sometimes tripled their donation by receiving a matching donation from their company. AIG for example will match your donation 2 for 1 making your donation triple your original amount. For a list of the larger matching gift companies please go to the bottom of the Support page of our web site at www.ironwoodpigs.org. Even if your company is not on the list it pays to check with their personnel department because this list does not include all matching gift companies. All you need is a form from your company to include with your donation or use another procedure that they may require.

Blanket & Donation Drop Offs

It can be cold here in Arizona so collecting blankets for winter is a priority. We never seem to have enough and really need your help. For those of you in the Phoenix and Tucson areas there are four drop off locations for your convenience to save on shipping charges for blankets and other items from our wish list. Please note that no monetary donations can be accepted here. All other material donations are very welcome and much appreciated - don't forget the blankets.

For the Phoenix area you may drop donations off at Susan's in North Phoenix near E Union Hills Dr and N Cave Creek Rd. Call her at 602-339-6213 for directions. Also Carolyn's in East Mesa near Superstition Springs Mall. You may call 480-981-8069 for directions.

For the Tucson area you may drop items off at Ben & Mary's in Northwest Tucson near N Oracle Rd and W Hardy Rd. Call them at 520-631-6015 for directions. Also Sherry's in southwest Tucson near Swan Road and 22nd Street. Call her at 520-622-6304.

We appreciate all your support!

Smile.Amazon.com

Many of you like the convenience and certainty of sending something that we need by using the Wish List on Amazon.com. Our wish list is updated frequently and contains the quantity of each item needed and the number that we have received so far. This guarantees that you are sending something that is needed now.

Thank you for using Smile.Amazon.com. And by signing up for Amazon Prime you also receive free shipping which is particularly helpful when you are sending something heavy or large. Log on to 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. By using Smile.Amazon we will receive a donation of 0.5% from Amazon for all of your purchases not just the ones you send to us.

All your packages are a great help and much appreciated!

Reindeer Lady Goes Hog Wild

Ardis, an avid Ironwood supporter from Nevada has been known for the past 16 years as “The Reindeer Lady.” She made reindeer out of anything and everything for her friends, family and all the kids in her neighborhood. This past year



got the pig Janis Joplan. Each crocheted piggy had a picture of the actual pig and a note from Ardis about her favorite charity....Ironwood Pig Sanctuary. What a fantastic way to spread the word and bring a smile to people’s faces! We love what Ardis has done and were



along with a donation envelope. That way, the lucky recipient of one of Ardis’ pigs knew their pig’s name and a little of its history. Plus she encouraged them to send a donation to Ironwood to support the piggies.



Ardis decided to retire her reindeer making hobby and began crocheting pigs. But not just any pigs! She used pictures of pigs from the Ironwood Newsletters as her models. She would cut out the pig’s picture and write up from the Sponsor pages and attach it to a finished product

These adorable crocheted pigs were used as gifts for friends and family this past Christmas. Ardis went to the trouble to match up family names with pig names. Her mother, Gwendolyn got our piggy Gwendolyn. Her friend Sami was given our Sammy. Sami’s grandmother received our Grandma. Another friend, Janis

very excited to receive some of her crocheted cuties to offer for sale at our Open House this past November. What a fun way to let others know about the plight of the pigs!

---Donna



Corky is our Shar-Pei pig and lives in Princess Field.



We Need Help In AZ

In December of 1998 when Mary and I went over to Pigs*A*Lot, a pot bellied pig sanctuary in Picture Rocks, AZ to offer our help to Lynnette Warren little did I realize that 18 years later we would be responsible for the only remaining pot bellied pig sanctuary in Arizona. By some estimates the largest sanctuary of its kind in the United States.

Pigs*A*Lot was the first of the Arizona pig sanctuaries to fail and we eventually took in the 200 pigs there. Next came the 45 pigs from St Matildas in Queen Creek, AZ. After that we took 75 pigs over a few years from Piglet Acres, an Apache Junction pig rescue. Then we took 45 pigs from a abuse situation in Peoria, AZ. It wasn't too many years later that we reached almost 600 pigs. That is where we have remained since then with incoming pigs equaling those that have passed on.

Other than the large rescues mentioned above most of the other pigs were from homes that had one or two pigs. There were many foreclosures during the financial crisis starting in 2008 with people losing their homes and having to move into an apartment where they could not take their pig. In the early years the average age mostly ranged from middle age to older with some younger ones. Most of the reasons for giving up their pig were lose of home, getting

divorced, moving to another area for a job, not being zoned for a pig, caregiver death and some that were aggressive.

Well, the times have changed! It seemed to me that it started a few years ago when we would get calls from someone that wanted to give up their mini pig. A pig that was supposed to be 25-35# was now 80-120#. This was the beginning of the mini-pig or micro pig craze. Breeders all over

I have a pig that I used to take camping. We transported him in a 8ft x 4ft trailer. He was supposed to be a micro pig. He was 5# when we got him. He is now 100# at 1 year and is supposed to get to 200# and won't be able to fit through the doggy door. I need you to take him.

the country were advertising their

My 1 year old pig is very aggressive and jumps on people when in heat. The vet wanted \$1,200 to spay her. We have decided not to spay her because we do not want to keep her because we travel a lot and have trouble finding someone to look after her.

I have a 3 1/2 year old pot bellied pig. I need to find it a new home because it is becoming aggressive with my little dog and tearing stuff up.

mini or micro pig. Breeders in Arizona also jumped on the bandwagon. We heard story after

I am in a desperate situation. I have had my female pig for 5 years. The pig screams at feeding time and my new neighbors have called Animal Control. I found two other homes for her but she bites the caregivers. She doesn't bite us.

story about how their pig was suppose to be 35# and was now

I paid \$800 for my mini pig who is a year old and over 100#. I feed her 1/2 cup of feed twice a day. She is attacking my grandmother. Can you take her?

over 100# and sometimes as large as 150#. Breeders were inbreeding their pigs in order to keep them small. They were underfeeding them so that they would stay small. Telling customers that the pig they were buying was 2 to 4 months old when it was actually 2 to 4 weeks

old. Telling them to feed them 1/8 to 1/4 of a cup of feed when they should be receiving 2 to 3 times that. Pointing out the mother who was supposed to be an adult when she was only 7 months old. What happened was that these inbred underfed baby pigs that

“My parents rescued a pig that was in a yard with dogs and was hiding under a trailer. I am a rancher and the pig doesn't like baby calves. All my animals serve some purpose and the pig doesn't.” Once he realized that he was zoned for pigs he decided to build a pen for the pig so his parents could give it care.

were pulled from their mother at a young age not only were having developmental problems with trips to the vet but became aggressive in the household. We received more and more calls from a pig owner where the pigs

I have 2 female pigs that are 75-80# each. My adult female had 4 pigs (2M & 2F) because I didn't realize that they could breed at such a young age. The females are fine but the two males, which are not neutered, are attacking all my animals.

were attacking someone in the family. To compound the situation people who bought these

I have a problem with a 8 month old 40# female pig. She is well behaved and very social. I feed her 1/2 cup of feed twice a day plus fruit and vegetables. I have an acre of land and keep her in a 6 ft x 6 ft dog run. I have had her for 2 days and she is yelling and I need to find her a new home.

pigs thinking that they would be small and would be a good house pet along with the cat and dog quickly realized that pigs are best as outdoor pets.

This is a long introduction to what this article is actually about. The Ironwood Pig Sanctuary is a thriving organization with many, many great supporters all over the country. However, our facilities and our ability to take in all these pigs is limited. We need help in Arizona which seems to be one of the hotbeds of pot bellied pig activity in the country.

Are you interested or do you know of some group that would be interested in starting another pot bellied pig sanctuary in Arizona to complement the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary in taking care of all the unwanted pigs in the state? The need is great and doesn't seem to be abating. I know that there are numerous organizations that have gone to a Best Friends workshops to learn how to start and run an animal

I have a 9 week old pot bellied pig that I have had for 2 weeks. My friend received the pig as a gift but her mother won't let her keep it. She has given the pig to me. I have large dogs and I am afraid of the pig's safety. Can you take the pig?

My sister had a baby pot bellied pig. We have been living together and my sister has disappeared and her boyfriend doesn't want the pig. She has been gone about a week.

Becky wants to “get rid” of her father's pig because he can't take care of it any more.

I just moved to Arizona from Texas and can't keep my pig due to zoning.

sanctuary. Maybe your group is one of those who have attended the workshop and are willing to rescue pigs. Please send an e-mail with your interest and questions and I'll help you decide if you are able and willing to take on the task of another pig rescue in Arizona.

---Ben

PS: These inserted calls to take a pig are only a few of the many calls we receive for a pig in need of a new home.

Front and Back Covers



Daisy came to Ironwood in December of 2013. A family member had a stroke and life had become too difficult for the family to manage two pigs and being a caregiver as well. Knowing Daisy I can fully understand how that would not have been an

easy task. She was twelve years old when she arrived but that did not stop her from causing a lot of commotion in her new field. She wasn't there long when we began feeding her in her own pen since she was ready and willing to push others around and take as much of their food as she could manage to get.

Over three years later she has slowed down a bit but still must be one of the first to her feeding pen if we are to escape being pushed and shoved around. We don't mind. We are so happy to see our 15 year old lady still so full of life and anxious to eat and welcome a new day.

She became good friends with Ellie Mae, but sadly Ellie Mae passed away this past year.



Ellie Mae

Daisy



Bob

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IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

Issue 75

Bob and his brother Randy have been seen in past newsletters and now Bob is our back cover boy. Ben and I picked them up in Phoenix from Michael in August of 2014. Michael had gotten them when they were babies and they were 4 to 5 years old then. Michael is a veteran who had suffered a head injury and was experiencing a worsening disability so he had to give them up. We felt they would do better in a smaller field where they would not have to compete with and get to know as many pigs as in a large field. Bob has always been uncomfortable with people whereas Randy is a bit more at ease with us.

They have both worked their way into our Phase V Field and adjusted to the few other pigs who live there. They both will run up to us to take their daily med. We are very happy to have been able to provide a good home for these two boys. They are a bit too skittish for a family setting but also would not have been happy in a large herd in one of the big fields. I think where they live is just right for them to be content and happy.



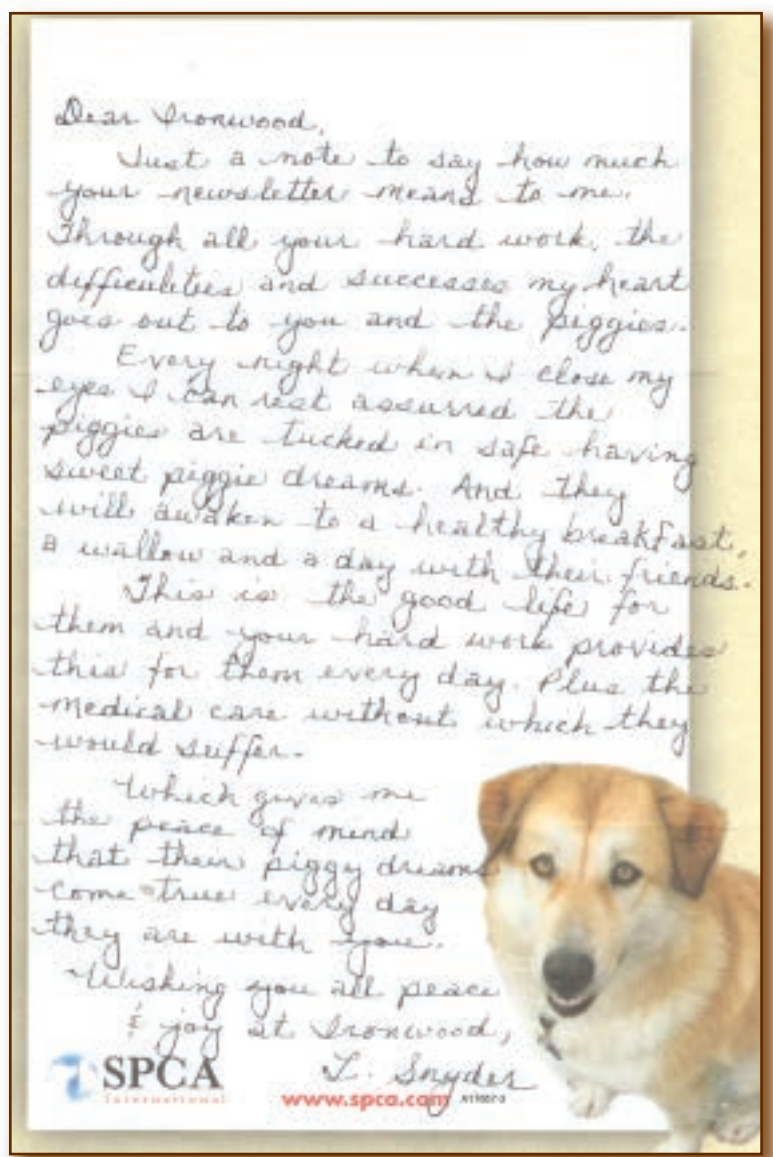
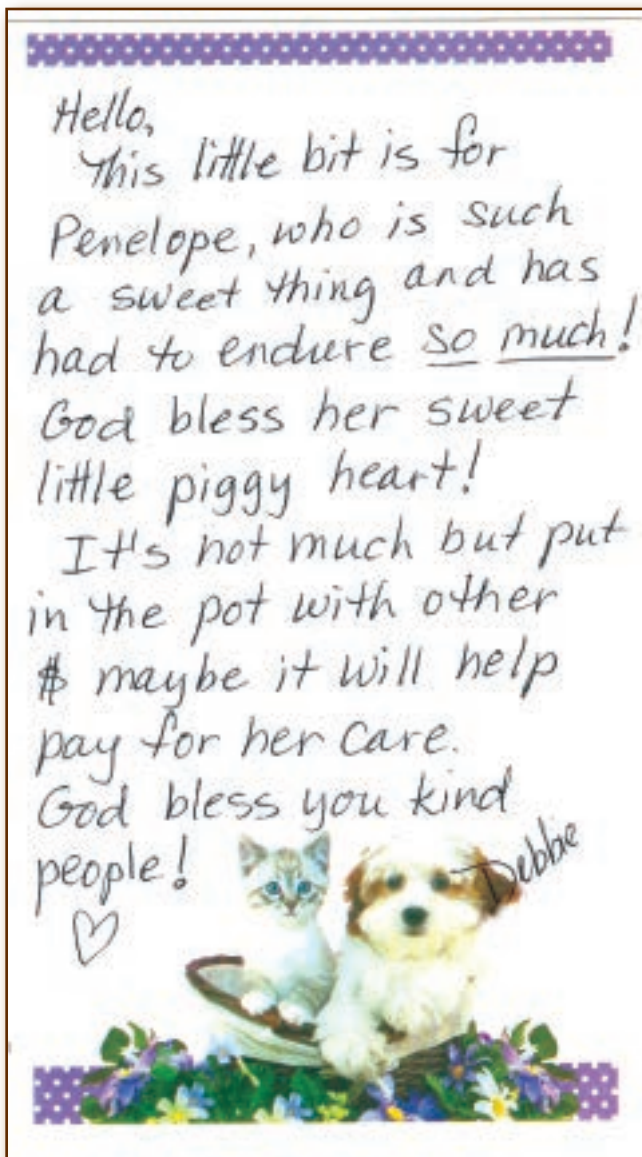
Bob & Randy

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.

Our Supporters Write



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Bob