

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

August 2017

I travel to people's homes to trim the hooves of pet pigs and often come across pigs suffering from obesity. Talking with owners about what they feed their pig as well as how much, I am astounded at what I hear.....snacks of pizza, donuts, cereal, nuts, candy and unlimited fruit. All this on top of being fed several cups of grain 2 to 3 times a day! No wonder the pigs are fat! Many of the "house pigs" that are released to Ironwood arrive carrying 50-100 pounds of extra weight. All those pounds add more stress and strain to joints that are already working hard on those short little legs.

The weight can come off though. For pig owners....YOU must be the one with the self control to limit the food and snacks. The pig can't do it without your help. Pigs love, love, love to eat and will keep on eating as long as you keep giving them food. If you really love your pig and want it to feel good and be happy, then stop overfeeding it! Limit snacks to special



Rasputia 5 yrs Later



appropriate amount, usually ¾-1 cup twice daily (and that's a *measuring cup*, not a 2 pound coffee can!)

The pigs pictured on this page are prime examples of proof that pigs can lose weight given

time and a strict diet. Don't expect it to happen overnight. It has been amazing to not only see



the difference in the weight of the pigs but also in their activity



Anxiety 5 yrs Later

level. These girls were all "lumps" when they arrived; barely able to get up by themselves then lumbering around for very short periods before tiredly collapsing to catch their breath. These days they are all over their fields wandering around, exploring, interacting with others and actually enjoying themselves. What an improvement to their health and well-being!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsor Coordinator



occasions and make sure it's a healthy, low-cal snack. Cut the grain back to an



Esmerelda 4.5 yrs Later

Mushu

Mushu, now 4 years old, came to Ironwood to be boarded after his mom moved here from New York. He was 6 months old at the time and intended to be an indoor pet, but we noted that his long legs, curly tail and long narrow snout were characteristic of a hog mix. With a lot of growing still to do, it was clear that Mushu was going to outgrow “house pig” status. After much discussion and many tears, his owner decided to let us keep Mushu, knowing he would be happier with lots of space and other piggy friends.



Mushu had a slight lameness on his front left leg but last fall it got progressively worse until we had to move him to a holding pen. He went to the vet clinic for x-rays which showed major elbow displacement from an injury the vet feels occurred as a baby. Nothing could cure Mushu’s problem, but a steroid injection in the joint plus laser treatments could alleviate a lot of the pain and discomfort. Mushu got both



done during that initial visit then returned to the clinic 3 times for more laser treatments. Those did help with his lameness but then he ran into a different problem.

Mushu developed a high fever along with vomiting and diarrhea. He returned to the clinic for blood work and IV fluids. His condition was serious and he ended up staying there 8 days. After returning to Ironwood, Mushu’s treatments were continued, but he kept losing weight as his appetite dropped off even more. We seriously thought we were going to lose Mushu but then things slowly began to turn around. After 2 weeks of eating almost



nothing, Mushu began to eat greens and crumbled bread mixed with increasing amounts of pig pellets. Gradually he began consuming normal amounts of regular feed.

As his appetite increased, Mushu’s activity level went up as well. Finally he was able to go back to the North Field to rejoin his herd. Mushu eats in an individual pen so that we can monitor the amount he eats as



well as give him extra to help him regain the weight he lost. It’s so great to see him out there again! It was a hard 4 month struggle for Mushu and seems like a miracle that he recovered and was able to go home. ---Donna

If you would like to help with Mushu’s medical bills, please designate your donation in his name. The total cost for his vet care, medications, laser treatments and overnight stays at the clinic was \$4,297.03. Mushu and everyone here appreciate all your support! Thank you!

Best Friends

When Oompa arrived at Ironwood eleven years ago she was

extremely obese with incredibly long hooves that had never been trimmed. Oompa got a trim, was put on a diet and sent off to live in Assisted Living Phase 4 because she was too chubby and inactive to survive in one of the larger fields with a herd of



It isn't long before Oompa nestles in beside her though.

During the hot season Pinky and Oompa spend a lot of time lying in the mud wallow near their home. Both of them enjoy napping in the wallow and

are often found side by side in the water. It is so sweet to see how the girls want to be near one another all the time. Even when it's hot they are at least lying so that they are touching. In the cold

due to Patrick's age and physical condition. He was taken back by a friend of his original owner soon after that. It was then that Pinky and Oompa's friendship began.



competitive pigs. About a year later Pinky came to the sanctuary with her elderly friend Patrick. The two pigs also went to Phase 4

Oompa, now 16 years old and Pinky at 13 years of age were drawn to one another and soon became inseparable. They have been together for over ten years. The girls have shared a shelter for most of those years. There is a



creosote bush in the middle of their field that is a favorite hangout of theirs. Pinky and Oompa almost always wait in the shade of that bush for their breakfast. After eating their meal then munching on hay for a bit, that bush is where they head for a little siesta. Even though Pinky is the younger of the two she is more arthritic and is usually first to head off for naptime.

weather Oompa and Pinky snuggle into their blankets together. How awesome that they have remained so close for over a decade! We should all find such friendships in our lives! Oompa and Pinky are prime examples of why we encourage the adoption of two pigs rather than just one. Pigs want the companionship of another pig. Life is better with a good friend!

---Donna



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UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY UPDATE



Pumba Three Years Later