

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

February 2019

Dear Friend,

February...the month of love! Love comes in many forms for us and for pigs too. Sometimes we rescue family units. Most often these related pigs will remain in very close relationships throughout their lives. Huey and Louie are brothers who have been at Ironwood for over 18 years and have always been best friends. Peaches and Patches are sisters who made lots of friends during their twelve years at the sanctuary, but still love each other the most.



Ginny & Piggy

been together but their relationship is solid.

Minnie Pearl, a pot-bellied pig and Geena, a Kunekune pig (pictured on page 4) love one another dearly but are obviously not related. They were rescued from a hoarding/breeding situation, so we have no idea how long they've

Many of the pigs at Ironwood arrive here alone. Some are lucky to find love within the herds where they are placed. It took a few years, but Dexter and Bella in the North Field finally fell in love. For Ginny and Piggy it was love at first sight when they ended up as neighbors in the holding pens upon their arrivals. Penelope



Peaches & Patches

Mr. Pitts, Precious, Lily, Christie and Patch, a family living here more than two years, share a home and spend a lot of time together; clearly

familial love.



Poppin & Agnes

Love between pigs can also develop when they have been

raised together even if they aren't related.

Poppin, Agnes and Frodo grew up in the same household before coming here and remain close.



Petunia & P.W.

always delighted when we find single pigs snuggled with new friends and watch to see if a long-standing love will bloom. Giving these pigs a place to call home with others of their kind where they can either remain in established relationships or develop new ones can only happen because of YOU. Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day!

bonded with the brothers, George and P.W. The three piggies happily share a house and their time. We're

Sincerely,
Donna Thomason

Lives You've Touched

Fall Arrivals



Sparkle

Sparkle is a youngster on the move! She loves to get attention from people...when she can slow down from her explorations enough to enjoy it! She and her siblings love going out into the yard for playtime. They'll have so much fun once they get settled into a field.



Georgie

This young lady is such a sweetheart. She loves everyone she meets and is very gentle. Her owner, a member of the Air Force, was transferred overseas. It's obvious that Georgie was a loved pet. She enjoys meeting new people!



Harvey

Harvey was very nervous and frightened when he arrived here. He still doesn't allow much touching but has made a ton of progress socially. He is much more at ease with us and with his surroundings. Harvey has also become good buddies with Mac.



Dawson

This adorable little guy came to us with his penis permanently extended and dragging on the ground. A partial amputation was considered but after being neutered, it began to slowly retract on its own. Dawson made a remarkable recovery and is such a happy boy.



Rosalie

Rosalie was never socialized by her owner, a 17 year old breeder who lost interest. Thank goodness she is here with her sister and other family members who she feels safe and comfortable with. It will take time for her to relax around people.



Bailey

Bailey is one of many strays that ended up at Ironwood last year. She is a real cutie! She has begun to have her exercise time in the yard with six other pigs that will all go out to the same field to join a herd. It's always interesting to see how the new pigs interact with one another.

Dental Health Month

February is National Dental Health Month. It was established back in 1950 to encourage regular dental checkups for children but now serves as a reminder for everyone including pets. For pot-bellied pigs dental exams and surgeries can be expensive but are necessary to ensure that the pigs remain healthy and able to eat without pain.

During the past year several of Ironwood's pigs went in for



Sam

dentals at the vet clinic. Sam was exhibiting hesitation while eating, a sure sign that something is amiss inside. At the vet he had several bad teeth pulled and plaque cleaned off the rest. We noticed a growth along the gum line inside Ethel's mouth. While under anesthesia to have that removed, she had a full dental getting several teeth pulled. Poor Karma had 15 teeth pulled during her dental surgery. That was pretty extreme, but she sure is having an easier time eating these days!



Ellen

Besides problems with eating, another symptom can be facial swelling or abscesses. This past fall Sasha was dealing with both. The vet lanced and flushed the abscess. There were several infected teeth that needed to be removed as well. Sasha actually had to make a second trip to the clinic for a second lancing and draining. That was a lot for a gal in her upper teens to deal with, but she was a trooper and recovered well. Another of our seniors, Penny was constantly twisting her mouth



Karma

back and forth as if something was caught in the back of her mouth. She only had three teeth pulled but one was infected and required daily mouth flushings which was loads of fun for all involved.

These are just a few examples of pigs that needed dentals during 2018. We keep a list of pigs exhibiting problems so more will be heading to the vet clinic in 2019; Rupert, Thor, Randy, Ellen,



Mohawk

Mohawk, Walter and Tyler just to name a few. Because of YOU these pigs will be able to receive the medical care they need.

---Donna

If you would like to help with the pigs' dental bills, please designate your donation to "dental health". The average cost for a dental during the fall of 2018 was \$1,172.51. Thank you for caring!

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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Minnie Pearl & Geena