

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490

Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Friend,

June 2021

At the sanctuary in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, the hot season extends from May to October bringing temperatures of 100-115 degrees. A lot of work is involved in getting the pigs safely through the intense heat over the next several months.

While there are some shade trees on the property, it is necessary to build shade ramadas to provide enough protected areas for the pigs to relax in. Part of the seasonal preparation is repairing or replacing the shade cloth or constructing new ramadas. New



Shade Repairs

mud wallows must be dug out or the old ones reshaped. All the fields had

wading pools throughout the winter since there were plenty of warm days even then, but now the number of pools more than doubles. The pigs love rolling in the water to cool off and many often take naps in the pools. The number of people on the watering team increases during the summer to compensate for the added amount of work that goes into providing enough water to keep the piggies comfortable.



Cleaning Pools

Another huge job involves the pigs' shelters. For the winter, the doorways were covered with carpet

to hold in the warmth. Those must now come down to be stored in the barn. The blankets in the houses have to be sorted. The pigs still enjoy nesting, so we leave behind blankets that are too worn out to save. Those in good shape are shaken out, folded and



Tennille's Carpet Door

stored in bundles for next winter. A lot of them are shredded and simply need to be thrown away. This is also when sheets are put in the houses where there aren't enough light blankets left. Those are great for giving the piggies something to root and nest in.

A lot of labor goes into switching things over for the season, but all of it is necessary due to the extremely high temperatures that we experience here.

Your financial support as well as the material donations such as the sheets are so important to help us get the pigs safely through the long, hot summer. Thank you for your contributions that maintain the level of care these pigs deserve!

Sincerely,

Donna Thomason
Sponsorship Coordinator



Shakira Sorting Blankets

Peter Pig

Peter Pig belonged to a woman who moved and was unable to take him and his companion Scarlet along. They were left with a friend who had a pit bull. The dog viciously attacked both pigs killing Scarlet and ripping both of Peter's ears off. Peter was taken to the vet in her town for surgery to clean up the wounds and suture them closed. Afterward he went to the owner's daughter's home, but she also had dogs and was not zoned for pigs. Three days later in



temperature had to come down to 103 before transporting, so he was packed with cold towels and ice packs as well as given an injection of medication to help. Within an hour his temp was down to a safe level and he was taken to the vet clinic. Peter's sutures were removed and the vet found a lot of necrotic tissue on both sides as well as in the ear canals. It was a lot of gunk but luckily, no infection. He remained at the clinic for a few days receiving IV fluids and antibiotics. The vet staff kept a close eye on Peter and tested him for muscle damage due to the high fever but from that aspect, all was well. Before returning to Ironwood, the wounds were once

again debrided. The ear canals were open and things looked much better.

Peter returned to the sanctuary but then had issues with not defecating and occasionally vomiting. He got enemas most days which produced a lot of stool, but he was not attempting to go on his own. On April 7th he went back to the clinic for a checkup. The wounds were healing great. The left ear hole was open, but unfortunately the



3-15-21

March 2021, Peter Pig came to Ironwood to continue his recovery and become a permanent resident.

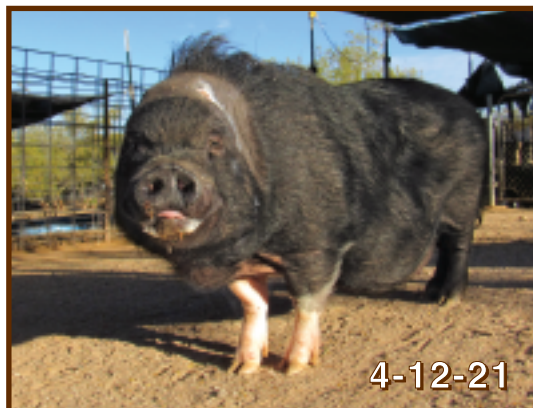
At that time Peter needed to have warm compresses on the sides of his head to keep the swelling down. Thank goodness he is a super sweet guy and was a great patient. This six-year-old neutered boy had obviously been well loved by his human mom who is now his sponsor mom. One afternoon, he would not eat or drink anything and was running a very high fever. We called the vet who said his



5-3-21

right one had closed up. He will need surgery in the future to create an opening to the ear canal to prevent it from getting plugged up, but he needs to heal more before that can be done. Peter Pig is currently doing very well as he continues to heal.

—Donna



4-12-21

If you would like to help with Peter Pig's medical bills, please allocate your donation in his name. His current total is \$3988.28. This sweet boy appreciates your support!

Who Wants Mexican?

Yummm...who doesn't love delicious Mexican food! While these pigs are NOT on the menu, their names will surely make you hungry. Let me introduce you to Tamale, Taco and two Nachos. The first Nacho arrived in February 2019 after having been found as a stray along with his siblings Twizzler and Popcorn. He is 3 years old and lives in the



Nacho - Northwest Field

gentle, quiet boy who spends a lot of time on his own. Sometimes he hangs out with Pancakes, but their relationship is a bit rocky. They've been known to snuggle then turn around and end up fighting. We're not really sure who starts the ruckus, but Nacho says it's definitely Pancakes' fault!

Taco is a cutie pie that came in June 2020 with his buddy Hamilton when their human family moved away. He was



Taco

overweight and has been dieting. His legs and joints are weak. Because those issues limit his mobility, he and Hamilton moved into Assisted Living Phase 3 to

join four other pigs. The boys share a house and spend nearly all their time together. Taco is not real thrilled with human contact and is happiest just hanging with Hamilton doing piggy stuff all day.

Tamale has been here since September 2020. Her owner claimed that her home insurance



Tamale

company was forcing her to downsize her animal population. Tamale was very obese and has lost a lot of weight already. She resides in the pen area where new arrivals stay until moving to one of the many fields. Lately she is sharing her exercise yard turns with a few other chunky pigs that will later join the herd in the Galaxy Field once they are better acquainted as well as slimmer. Thanks to your continued support, these four piggies and their friends have a safe, permanent place to call home where they are loved and cared for.

—Donna



Nacho - Princess Field

Princess Field with a herd of 32 pigs. He is friends with Pua, Conner and Daisy and enjoys hanging out with them in the quiet, back section of the field. Nacho has issues with his front feet/legs and takes daily doses of anti-inflammatory medication to alleviate his discomfort.

The other Nacho is a 4½ year old that came in January 2020 with his companion Pancakes. They had lived at a school for disabled adults that moved locations to an area not zoned for pigs. This Nacho lives in the Northwest Field with 29 others. He is a

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY

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NEWSLETTER UPDATE

IRONWOOD PIG SANCTUARY



Sisters, Amelia and Jeni