

TRONWOOD

Happy Holidays
ISSUE
NO 121

NOVEMBER
2024



Waddles

PIG SANCTUARY

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

Dear Supporter,

November 2024

We are at the beginning of the Holiday Season and all of us at Ironwood, people and pigs alike, would like to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season since this is our last communication until 2025.

As of this writing, we are still in three digit temperatures so it sure does not feel like fall or the holiday season to those of us in Arizona. I can only hope by the time you actually receive this newsletter the folks doing cold towels on hot pigs for the “summer” will have hung up their towels and moved on and the pigs will be snuggling in the blankets you send our way.

This November, I have decided to write about what happens beyond the gates of Ironwood. I have often spoken about outreach and fostering, but I have never really told you the extent of our fostering program. There are so many great people involved. Not only those who do the fostering but also those who work so hard to find foster homes, do the yard checks, transport, and build pens and shelters when need be. It is yet another Herculean effort by staff and volunteers to save the lives of so many pigs. But you are the real force behind all of this. Fostering is neither free nor cheap. Your support makes this program possible and saves so many more lives in Arizona. We now have over 450 pigs in our foster program. Why would we have so many in foster homes and where are they all coming from? There are literally hundreds of pigs in Arizona who need homes. We get calls and emails daily. We clearly have to limit our intake in order to be able to maintain a good quality of life for our pigs. Therefore, we have reached out to so many people around the state for help. We have fosters from Sierra Vista to Kingman and everywhere in between. In the past 1 ½ years, we have taken in three large rescues where the females came mostly to us and the males went to Kleigh who fosters many pigs for us. Patrick has helped Kleigh by taking six of the males to foster at his home.

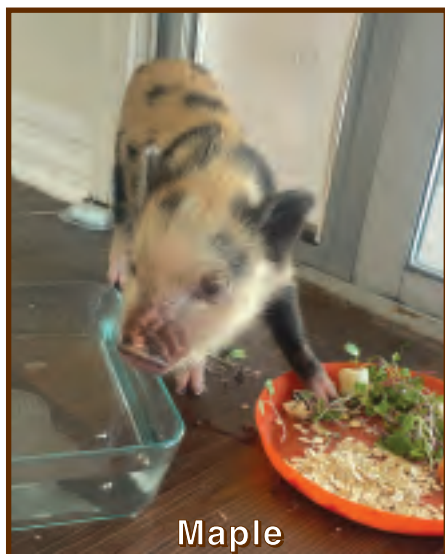


Phoenix and Joey (on right) were among 25 pigs who were being starved that were rescued by Ironwood. They are gaining weight and learning what it's like to be loved.

At the end of July, we got a call to take 25 starving pigs from a lady in Casa Grande. Carrie and her team of volunteers were able to find fosters for all of them. The pigs have gained weight and are doing well.



While many of the pigs we place in foster homes come from large rescues, not all do. We sometimes have tiny pigs like little Maple found running around alone in Glendale, AZ. A good Samaritan took her in. She was born without an anus and required an operation to save her life. She is now in a reliable foster home with two ladies who have fostered special needs pigs in the past.



Maple

Another little girl is from way north in Sanders, AZ where a rancher threatened to shoot her if she came near his livestock. A neighbor took her in then a volunteer picked her up and took her to a foster home. She was very



Jellybean

pregnant and later delivered four healthy babies. Jellybean, her new name, is happy and safe and busy being a good momma. Not that we ever want more babies, but on occasion there is no option.



Casper & Mojo

These two little ones, Casper and Mojo were both strays. Mojo had been attacked by a dog and was nursed back to health by a foster then released to us to find a pig friend. Casper also needed a buddy so now they are best friends. They are now in a foster home together and getting lots of love.



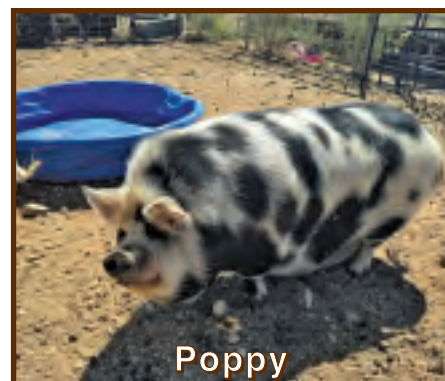
Apollo

Apollo and his two young sons, Jake and Ziggy, were surrendered due to owner hardship. None of the boys had been socialized and were very skittish when they arrived at their foster home. After being neutered and learning to trust people, Apollo soon became



Jake & Ziggy

quite the love bug. Jake and Ziggy took a bit longer to come around to being comfortable with humans but eventually turned into sweethearts.



Poppy

Poppy is a 3 year old Kune mix whose owner fell ill. She is the sweetest girl! She was severely overweight from being on a pop-tart and cake diet. She has lost a lot of weight since the foster got her and put her on a healthy diet.

These are a fraction of the stories and lives saved because of your generosity. Once Ironwood is contacted, the effort begins to get them into foster homes if we are unable to take them at Ironwood. We pay for most food, spays and neuters, more serious medical care, medicines, and hoof trimming. None of this would be possible without your support. If you combine our pigs at Ironwood numbering nearly 680 and over 450 fosters, you are supporting the lives of over 1100 pigs. Your support is the best Holiday Gift our huge pig family could ever have!!!

Happy Holidays,
Sincerely,

Mary Schanz

Mary Schanz
President and CoFounder

Health Issues

The pig population at Ironwood has been holding steady right around 680 this year. It's a miracle if a day goes by that some medical issue isn't called in over the two-way radio. "Londyn isn't eating and is hiding in the back of the field." "Raphael is limping on his back right leg." "Baby Girl has an abscess on her face." There is always something going on. Being observant whether when feeding the pigs, watering in the fields, repairing a gate, or stocking feed stations is stressed to all our staff. Many of the issues can be dealt with on the spot. The caretakers have medical kits with basic supplies with them as they go about the daily feeding. Some more serious problems require moving a pig to another area for monitoring or even a trip to the vet clinic.



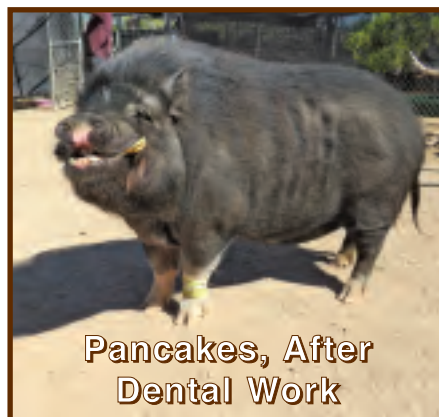
Joey's Hot Spot

One of the things to watch out for during fly season is hot spots. Pigs naturally secrete fluid from their eyes and the flies are attracted to that. To get rid of the flies, a pig will rub their face on anything and everything sometimes to the point

of opening up a sore. This attracts more flies and a vicious cycle begins. We try to keep the sore coated with ointment as well as putting fly repellent around the area. It is important to stay on top of the problem to keep the pig from continuing to rub and open the sore up even worse. It's a nightmare!

Another summertime problem to be aware of is head tilts. Rolling around in the mud and water can pack dirt into a pig's ear. If a head tilt is reported, an ear cleaning is the first order of business. The majority of the time, that's all it takes to clear it up. Some pigs like Paisley Mae have chronic ear issues. She needs her ears cleaned more frequently due to an excessive buildup of wax.

Having difficulty eating can be a sign of dental problems. The staff involved with feeding or handing out the sandwiches with medications hidden inside need to notice if someone is having problems. Pancakes is just one of many that have gone to the vet clinic this



Pancakes, After Dental Work

year for dental exams which usually involve having some teeth extracted. Males are also at risk for infections at the base of their lower tusks.

Abscesses can be a year-round problem. If abscesses form along the jaw line or face, it can be indicative of a dental problem and require a trip to the clinic for an exam under anesthesia. Pigs that arrived obese then lost a lot of weight have excess skin folds and abscesses can form inside those folds often not even visible until you give a belly rub.



Worming

All new arrivals to the sanctuary are wormed with two doses as a precaution. Occasionally worming needs to be repeated, again with two doses. Those are usually easy to administer since the medication can be sneaked into a peanut butter sandwich. As long as the pig has an appetite, down the hatch it goes!

Another problem with newcomers is all too often obesity which creates limited mobility, fat blindness, and joint problems.



Kitty's Weight Issue

This year alone we have had to put newcomers Pug, Mooney, Barbara, Charlott, Kitty, Margie, QQ, Pumba, and Molly on diets to get them down to healthy weights. Three of these poor pigs are suffering from fat blindness due to the fat rolls covering their eyes for so long.



Hansel Gets Adequan

Arthritis is the number one medical problem that pot-bellied pigs face. Those dense, short-legged bodies have a lot of weight and pressure on the joints, yet another reason to keep the weight off. For most of Ironwood's pigs, arthritis pain can be relieved with oral medication. This year the veterinarians have been trying out steroid injections into the problem joint on some of our pigs. The jury is still out on whether we'll continue with that treatment in the future. Java, Avon, Nurse Judy, and Hansel are

among several that get monthly injections of Adequan, a supplement that helps with joint issues.

Besides the common health issues mentioned, there are unusual cases that crop up. Leroy Lee had a bad limp diagnosed as a dislocated shoulder. A vet in Cave Creek, AZ examined the x-rays and recommended a procedure called PRP (Protein Rich Platelet) injections. He had only used it on horses but advised our vets who studied up on it before trying it out on our boy. Leroy Lee responded well to the treatment and after a long recovery, he is living with a small herd in the Special Needs Field. The PRP was later tried on Dobby with minimal success and on Hansel with no improvement. You can't win them all!



Rocky's Nasal Spray

Jeni, Rocky, and Truffles are three pigs that have chronic respiratory problems. By far, Rocky has the most difficulty with nasal blockages and breathing difficulties. We occasionally need to get him cornered and flush things out with some nasal spray. That is always exciting!

Mike had a growth above his eye that could not be removed. Instead, while under anesthesia the lump, called an Eosinophil



Mike's Growth

Granulomata, was injected with a long-acting steroid that would shrink the growth then it would eventually disappear. Mike responded well and now sports a small indentation instead of a lump. Another unusual eye related problem is with Mr. Pitts and his daughters. They have a genetic condition called Pannus that causes a sensitivity to light. The family has eye ointment applied on alternate days to help keep that under control.

Sometimes pigs that have lived together peacefully for years have a day when something sets them off and they end up fighting. That is what happened to Wilbert. One morning he was found with



Removing Wilbert's Staples

several large gashes that required an emergency trip to the vet clinic to clean and close the wounds. Two weeks later we removed the sutures and staples. Wilbert healed up great with little scarring.

Bart, Maple, Chucho, Thumper, and Dante are among a few pigs that have chronic problems with



Bandaging
Dante

their feet. At times, they need to have their feet treated and wrapped in bandages for extra protection. Keeping wrappings on a pig's feet is difficult and we're always trying out new ideas and materials to help them stay on longer.

Richard and Carl have kept the vets and us mystified with scaly, crusty skin. Both have gotten a variety of supplements, vitamins, medications, and ointments for years with little change in their appearance. Neither of the boys have shown signs of pain or discomfort other than itchiness with Richard. He was a feral pig and has never gotten comfortable with human contact so he's difficult to treat. Carl tolerates the ointment applications pretty well.

The Ironwood staff works hard to provide quality, individualized health care for each of our pigs. It isn't always easy, it can get messy and gross, it can be frustrating



Coating Carl

due to a lack of results, but we keep on trying. Taking the best care possible for the pigs is always our goal.

...Donna

2025 Calendar



You can support the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary while shopping for holiday gifts or other special occasions. Our 2025 calendar features Ironwood pigs at their seasonal best. The \$25 purchase price includes shipping.

Three ways to purchase calendars:

- * Go to Ironwood's website to use PayPal or a credit card. Click on "Donate" in the drop-down menu under Support. After filling in the amount of your order/donations, click on "Write Us a Comment" then specify the number of calendars you wish to order.
- * Call 520-631-0894 to pay by credit card.
- * Use the enclosed envelope.

SANCTUARY TOURS

Tours of the sanctuary are happening **every Saturday** through the end of April. You must register online and remember to include the total number of people in your party. Please go to www.ironwoodpigs.org and click on the Visit page to sign up. The piggies can't wait to meet you!



Our Wish List

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Used Blankets are needed year round.**
- **Canned Pumpkin
- *First Class **Forever** Stamps
- *Ensure (or Generic), **Vanilla Only**
- *Famotidine, 20mg
- *Peanut Butter - Creamy Only
- *Fig Cookies (NOT individually wrapped)
- Fiber Powder (**Non-flavored**)
- Animal Crackers



Pepper

GIFT CARDS

Fry's
Home Depot
Lowes
Office Max
Staples
Walmart
Amazon
Walgreen's
Chewy's

Amazon and Chewy

Holiday shopping for the pigs made easy! Go to the "Support Page" on Ironwood's website, www.ironwoodpigs.org, then click on the links in the drop-down menu to go directly to our wish lists for both sites.

Sponsor a S



Blossom

While my human was in jail, his friend was taking care of me and my brothers. The guy got tired of coming over and asked the sanctuary for help. We're saved!!



Persephone

My dad and 3 brothers came here when we were young. We still stick together even though we live with a herd of other pigs now. It's a safe, peaceful place for us.



Ella

My human moved home and left me. The homeowner found a place for me. It turned out to be



Here's a great gift idea for this holiday season! Become a sponsor with a \$30+ monthly (or \$360+ yearly) donation to symbolically adopt a pig and support his or her life at the sanctuary. You will receive an introductory letter and photos then an update with new pictures later in the year. Please join our family of sponsors yourself or as a gift for someone special.



Donna & Thatcher

** Go Green! As a Sponsor, you may request to receive your letters and photos by email. Better for the environment!*

sponsors@ironwoodpigs.org



I was born at Ironwood. I was rescued by my mom. Now I live with my aunties. They spend love every minute

Special Pig!



oved out of a rental
ne to fend for myself.
r was nice enough to
me to live which
e Ironwood. Yay!



Molly

My human had to move to an apartment and knew that was not the kind of life for a pig. I love living here with other pigs and being able to play in the dirt and stuff.



Atlas

My pig mom died so my human dad hand-fed me and my siblings. He did his best but was physically unable to continue our care. Ironwood took us kids and my pig dad in.



Finnick

Ironwood after they
and her friends.
Mom and my 11
oil me rotten and I
e of it!



Eros

I got neutered right after coming here then got terribly ill due to pre-existing conditions and prostate problems. It was touch and go, but the people here saved my life.

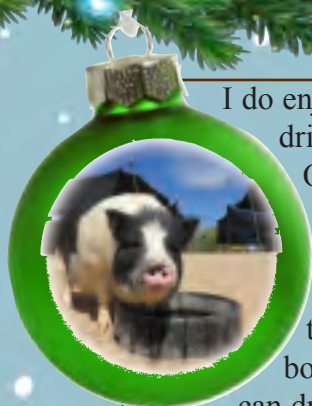


Pug

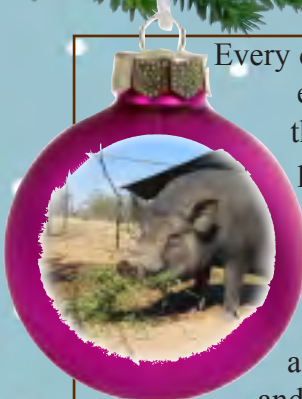
I came here with Molly (also on this page). Can you imagine two big piggies like us in an apartment? Thank goodness our human had the good sense to get us to the sanctuary.

Bountiful Blessings

Being home to around 680 pigs, there are so many things that are needed to keep them all safe, fed, comfortable, and cared for. Your donations, whether monetary or material, are so important and appreciated by all at the sanctuary. With winter approaching, we are thinking of carpets to enclose the open-sided community shelters and hang doorways for the smaller houses to create warm, cozy spots for the pigs to sleep. Blankets are loved by all the pigs to nest in, scoot under, or drag out in the sun to lie on. But there are things we use all year long as well to meet the needs of these sweet pigs. Check out what some of our piggy residents are thankful for.



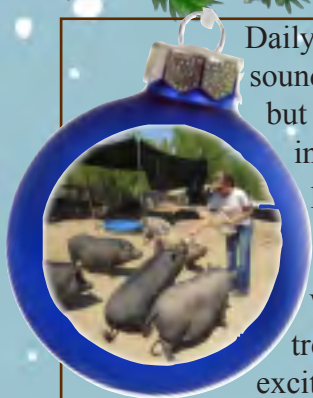
I do enjoy a fresh drink of water! Our water truck drivers are busy bringing us pigs plenty to keep our bowls filled. I can drink, blow bubbles, stand or even sit in it! What fun! ...Jessie



Every day after we eat our grain, the caretakers put alfalfa hay around in the field for us to graze on. I like to grab a big wad of it and run off to a spot by myself. Delicious! ...Po-Boy



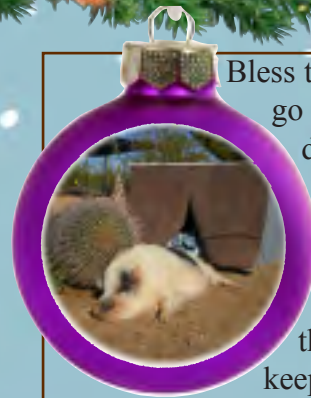
It can get sooo hot out here in the summer! Thank goodness we have shade ramadas built over our homes, pools, and mud wallows. We love having a comfy place to relax. ...Princess Field Gang



Daily medication sounds boring, but we get ours in a tasty peanut butter sandwich. What a treat! It is so exciting to gather round when the meds are handed out. ...Main Field Med Pigs



We love having a shelter just our size tucked up under a mesquite tree. Sometimes we sleep in bigger houses with others, but mother/daughter time is special. ...Marsha & Mallow

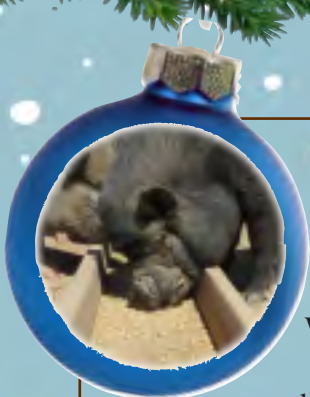


Bless the guys that go dumpster diving at the carpet stores! The carpet doors on the shelters keep the cold wind out and the carpet floors inside are super nice. I love it! ...Oinky



Do you know what's the best thing on a hot summer day? A pool full of water!

It's so luxurious to soak in the pool. Sometimes I just sit there and daydream the hours away. ...Reba



A pig's best friend is the person who feeds him! Haha! We all love to eat and the

sound of that grain hitting the troughs is music to my ears and a signal to start chowing down. ...Miles



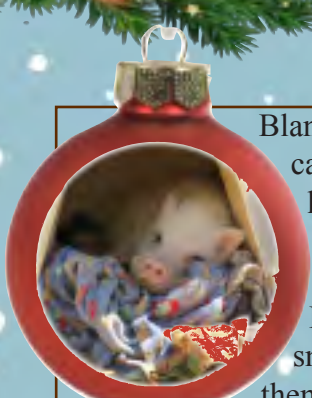
While getting sunscreen is NOT my favorite thing to do, I

know it's necessary to keep me from getting skin cancer. So even though I duck away, I do appreciate the effort. ...Jerome



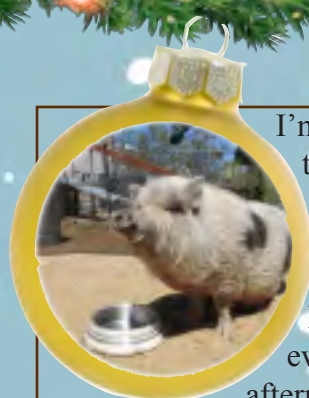
A few times each year we get loads of dirt to fill in low spots in front of houses or

wallows for the winter. The dirt piles are so much fun to play in before it all gets used. ...Patch



Blankets! One can never have too many blankets. I like to snuggle in them, use

them as pillows, wrap up inside them on particularly cold nights, or lie on them in the sun. ...Fozzie Bear



I'm in one of the special care areas where we have Happy Hour every afternoon.

Drinking a bowl full of juice is delightful, especially on a hot day. Good to the last drop! ...Olive

All the pigs are appreciative of the things you do for them. As you can see, your donations go to good use to please the piggies and keep them happy and comfortable. Food, water, medicine, extra hydration for seniors, shade, pools, blankets (and more blankets!), shelters, plus the staff to get all those chores completed each day. Thanks for being a part of Ironwood! From all of us here (pigs and people)...Happy Holidays!

Ironwood's Mission

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.

The above Mission Statement was developed over 23 years ago when Ironwood first opened their gates to begin rescuing pot-bellied pigs in need. Let's talk about the pieces of that statement and look at some examples of how we are still living up to the challenges of doing what it takes to help these precious animals who rely on our care.

* eliminating the suffering of pot-bellied pigs

There is so much that could fall into this category. We have taken pigs in from horrible home situations, rescued those running loose on the streets or in the desert, and saved many who were simply abandoned when the owners moved away. We make room for those living in dangerous conditions and give them a safe place to call home. We also provide any necessary medical care at the veterinary clinic like we did for Ajo who was hit by a car, Digger who was viciously attacked by dogs, and Effie who was nearly starved from neglect. Basic medical needs are met onsite such as sunscreen protection for the white pigs prone to skin cancer,



Females From Abuse Case

antibiotics for infections, medication for arthritis, etc. We also believe in humane euthanasia for pigs who are suffering from extreme arthritic pain or a debilitating illness for which there is no cure. When their quality of life has declined, we are there to help them pass on peacefully.

* promoting spaying and neutering

Of utmost importance is neutering the males as soon as possible after their arrival at the sanctuary or at a foster home. Males can remain



Buckeye, Neutered in August

fertile up to 45 days after being altered so care is taken to keep them separated from other pigs until their quarantine period is over. All females going out for adoption must be spayed prior to leaving for their new homes. We strive to have all the females living onsite spayed even though the males are neutered. This prevents the development of uterine tumors or cysts that can be painful and shorten lives. There is a waiting list of girls because some were too obese upon arrival and are dieting before being able to safely be spayed.



Outreach for Owners

* assisting owners

Sometimes owners call wanting to release their pigs out of frustration and a lack of knowledge on how to handle or care for their pigs. We offer advice, encourage an educational tour of the sanctuary, help with shelters,

shades, and fencing, and can sometimes help with transporting pigs to the vet clinic. Earlier this year, a couple needed assistance with their unaltered males and females. Two secure, fenced areas were built by Ironwood staff to separate the genders and housing was brought in. If we can help owners keep their pigs in a safe environment, it's a win/win situation for the pigs and people. It allows the sanctuary to keep space available for emergencies or for pigs in danger.

* assisting other sanctuaries

In our early years, Ironwood helped several sanctuaries in Arizona that were experiencing overpopulation and hardship by taking in large quantities of pigs to reduce their numbers, provid-



New Arrivals
Blackie, Bob & Snort

ing feed and hay, and helping with medical care, particularly spaying and neutering. Three AZ rescues

failed and their entire herds were brought here. Running a rescue is a tough business and we have been fortunate to be able to help others when they have hit a snag.



Lil' East Field

* providing a permanent home in a safe, nurturing environment for those that are abandoned, abused, neglected, or unwanted

Ironwood's living quarters are protected on the outer perimeters by six-foot chain link fencing. The 30+ fields are divided with hog panel to provide separate places for pigs with similar physical abilities and emotional needs. For example, Apache's Field is home to a herd of 36 pigs ranging in age from 2-7 years, all in good health and active. Shakey's provides peace and safety to 12 pigs with disabilities or medical conditions who would otherwise be in danger of injury if living with a large, boisterous herd. The Lil' East Field was

designed for a large group of youngsters rescued from different places around the same time. This group of 34 pigs has grown up together and are now settling into their middle-aged years. Each field or yard has plenty of shelters, shade, pools and mud wallows for the hot season, and space to roam and explore.

Ironwood's current population of 670 pigs are all well-cared for and loved. Each pig is named and known by the staff. Individualized care is provided as needed. The staff works hard to meet the goals of our Mission, but we



Jeni and Babe,
Longtime Residents

know that none of it is possible without your support. It is a team effort to provide a safe home for so many pigs in need. Thank you for being a part of the Ironwood Team!

...Donna



Holiday Shopping

Shop for Ironwood merchandise on our website, www.ironwoodpigs.org. On the Home Page find "Support" on the menu bar then choose "Store" from the drop-down menu.



Front & Back Cover



Waddles comes in at the top of my list as a favorite pig. He has the cutest squeaky sound and just makes me smile every time he talks to me. It is so endearing. In September of 2019, Ironwood got a call from Yuma, AZ about a stray pig that had wandered into Ralph's field through an open gate. He came out and found him under a shade tree. He was a big boy with long tusks and very long hooves. Ben and I headed to Yuma to pick him up. He had made himself at home there under the shade tree and green, grassy yard. We hated to take him away from his newfound home. But it really was not his home, so we brought him home to Ironwood. Because of his excessive weight, we put him in the Assisted Living area to adjust to his new home and begin to make friends.

He has lived in Assisted Living now for five years and I have to admit he still waddles, just not as much. I do spoil him because every time I pass through his area he comes waddling over to me and I always give him a pat and talk to him and, well, often he will get a small treat. I just can't resist that cute face smiling up at me and that squeaky voice. I hope Waddles and I will have many more years together sharing our special relationship. I pass through his area so often and get short visits with him daily. He waits to go into his feeding pen each morning for his breakfast and juice and then wanders out to munch on hay and nap under a bush. Sometimes he sleeps in the barn with others and grumbles when the summer towel people come around and put a cold towel on him. I think bringing him home from under the



shade tree in Yuma proved to be the best move for him so that I could have the pleasure of knowing and loving him. ...Mary

Buud came to us under rather strange conditions. It was almost like a drug deal or some nefarious situation. Buud was a 3 to 4 month old baby pig. The man said he found him in a ditch in a carrier and called us for help. So on December 28, 2022 Amy went to meet him as requested on Highway 71 at mile post 242 and he would give her the baby boy. When Amy got there, the truth was he had given his wife Buud as a Christmas present and she was afraid of him. Why all the secrecy who knows, but this was far from anything nefarious ... a tiny, baby boy pig in need of a good home. Amy lives at the sanctuary, so she took him right into her little home and there he has lived for almost two years now. He is for sure a Mama's boy, but he now has a good friend, Waylon.

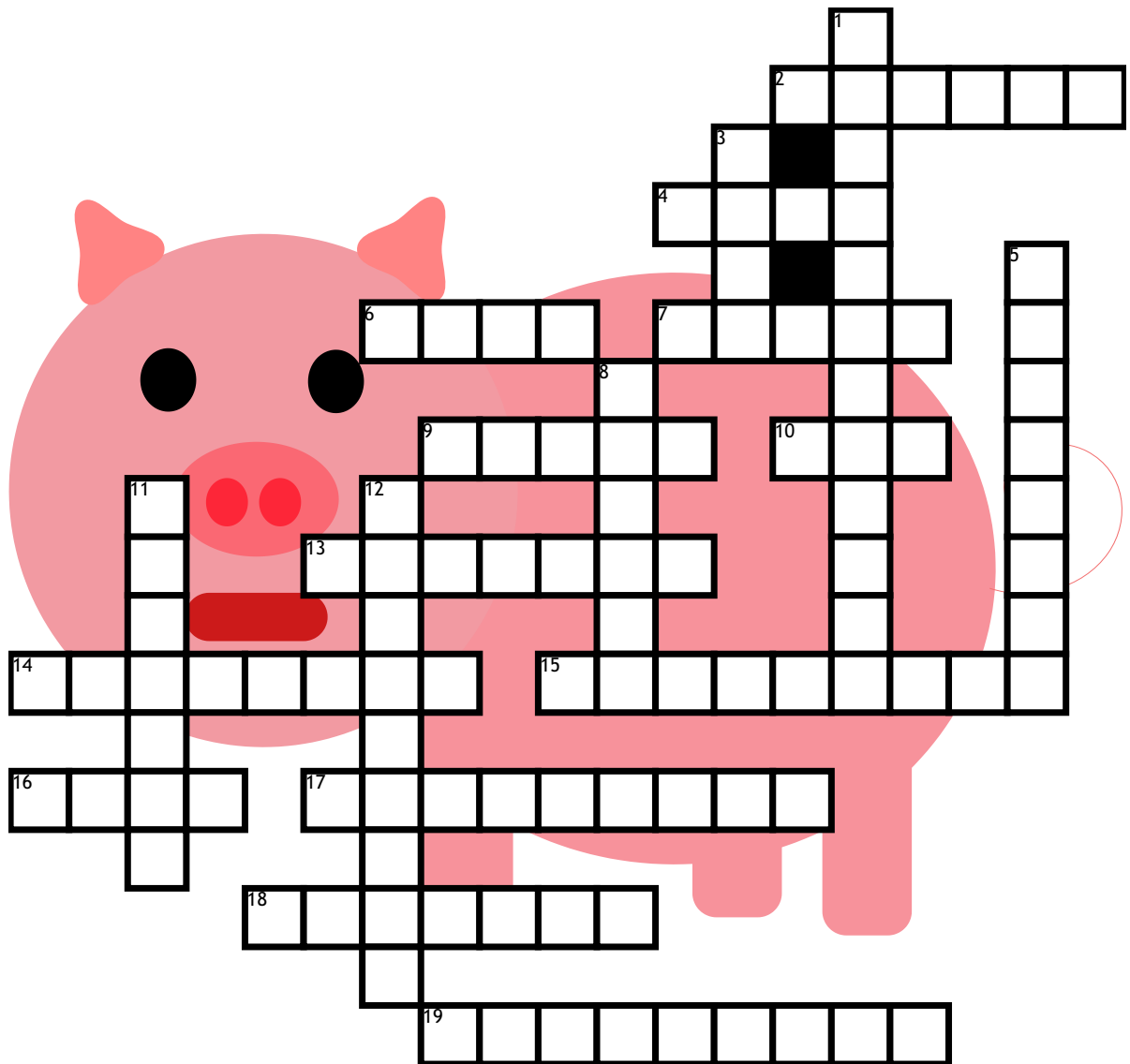


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Waylon was another tiny, baby boy in need of a good home and so it happened that Buud was in need of a pig friend. On February 23, 2023, two months after Buud arrived, we got a call from a lady in Tombstone who had a baby pig who had had 3 seizures that morning. She had several other pigs who were healthy, but he was in trouble so she asked us to take him. We told her to take him directly to Adobe, our vet clinic, and sign him over to us. He did not have more seizures at Adobe and he recovered from that episode. No real reason for the seizures was determined. So he was the perfect companion for Buud and joined Amy and Buud in her home. Buud and Waylon have become besties, but they are pigs after all and sure have given Amy a rough way to go at times as pigs will do. They have their own little yard and while Waylon is happy to join the larger group of pigs around Amy's home, Buud wants to hang by Mama. Waylon is cross-eyed and on examination by our vet, they feel he has a neurological problem resulting from a trauma



to his head. Whatever happened that day in Tombstone probably was the cause of his issue, but he goes on his merry way running around in our big open space and does not seem to notice. Amy and her two boys have all been so important to each other these past two years as they have grown up. Thank you, Amy. ...Mary

**Across**

2. What all boars need
 4. Ironwood provides a permanent _____
 6. Pigs need a _____ environment
 7. What goes in the trough
 9. Hot pigs need this
 10. Po-Boy loves alfalfa _____

13. Makes good shelter doors
 14. Hide pig meds inside
 15. Fat rolls cause this
 16. Reba loves hers!
 17. White pigs need it
 18. All new pigs get this
 19. #1 medical issue for pigs

Down

1. See for serious medical problems
 3. Happens every Saturday
 5. Make comfy nests
 8. Pancakes had this type of work
 11. Ella and Pug want one
 12. Ironwood is a _____

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