

Ironwood Pig Sanctuary

Post Office Box 35490
Tucson, AZ 85740

July 2014

Dear Supporter,

As I come to you this July I can only think of the quote by Thomas Paine, "These are the times that try men's souls". It is HOT. Day after day of 110 plus or minus a few degrees. A tough existence for most of the pigs here in Arizona so what possible good reason could there be to continue to breed pot belly pigs here? GREED! Thanks to that woman from England and the American media blitz, the fad to have a "micro mini" or "Tea Cup" pig spread like wildfire across this country and now there are thousands more pigs in need of homes because people believed the lies they have been told by the "Tea Cup" breeders that these pigs will be 35 to 50 pounds.

Not one minute of thought or consideration is ever given to the innocent animals behind the human insatiable appetite to massage their ego with exotic animals. Ever since the first group of pot belly pigs were brought here in 1985, the flood gates of abuse and neglect of one more exotic species were opened. Once the initial fad began to die out because people began to realize that they did not want a 120 to 170 pound strong independent animal bulldozing their backyard or pushing over their furniture or attacking them or their household members, the new "Tea Cup" fad began. They inbred them until they become smaller with many congenital health issues or starve them so they won't grow big and you will have the ideal little house pet, a "Tea Cup" pig. WRONG! It is animal cruelty pure and simple and the breeders should be turned in to animal control. They are no different than any other individual whose animals will be confiscated and the owners prosecuted for starving their animals. Why do we put up with this? Because it is a commercial business and there is money to be made just like the Puppy Mills.

Pigs are wonderful, sensitive, intelligent animals and many who have them love them dearly but not enough people do. Just go to the livestock auctions here in Arizona and see how many are not loved. It is outrageous that we as a "moral" society accept killing of all of our disposable animals when they no longer fit into our life styles or there just aren't homes for them because we have either unintentionally or intentionally overbred them.

The ages of pigs now needing homes are younger than ever before and the numbers are out of control. It is becoming more difficult for us to cope with these increased numbers. Please do whatever you are able to do to stem this tide. I know that I am preaching to the choir, but maybe you will encounter one person and convince that person to not buy a "Tea Cup" pig. One at a time we hope to stop this insanity.

Thank you for caring,

Mary Schanz
President & Co-Founder



Mary With Snooky

Insert: When Snooky was a "Tea Cup" Pig