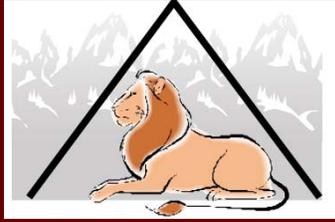


Apr/May/June 2010



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Pug Mark

Sanctuary Update

Many projects have been started this Spring and we hope to have them completed by Fall. The Sanctuary's needs are endless and we need help year round for construction projects and restoration of older enclosures. Please set some time aside to help, especially on Saturdays or Sundays. Only if you care can a difference be made in the lives of the animals. We need to complete some major projects before winter sets in so please make arrangements to help today!



Lena

Please send prayers to all the Marine life and people affected by the oil spill in the Gulf. Also include the eleven workers who lost their lives and their grieving loved ones left behind. It is devastating to watch the news each evening and feel so helpless about this National disaster as it

unfolds. The world is slipping away before our very eyes with disasters, natural and those caused by humans. Please say prayers for our planet and animals to be healed through all this turmoil and let us all find peace and harmony in all we do each and everyday to make this world a better place. Mother Earth is screaming to be healed and prayers will make a difference. Follow your hearts and tell those who are important in your life you love them each and every day. God bless all those reading this.

Love and Xtra Big Hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends

A very special **Thank You** to those who have helped with on-going construction projects over this past year.

Craig Zeigler and students

Chris Block

Chuck Sherrard III

Jim Goriesky

John Beller

Andy Carlson



Letters from Members

Dear Jim and Jill,

In all the years I've received the Pug Mark, I marvel that you keep going, continuing to rescue yet more critters, always finding enough food and shelter for the new arrivals. I don't know how long your mailing list is; I do know we all have cut back on donations. And you struggle to make due with what you get in. Bless you and your volunteers. I drove to Sharon one time with blankets, so I know the Sanctuary is a reality on that side of the road. Like another reader said "If I had a million dollars, I'd send it your way" (and to my kids). Here is a minute help.

Love,
Jeanne Malterer
Iron Ridge, Wisconsin

Dear Jill and Jim,

I had the pleasure of visiting your Sanctuary on April 17th. We had the most amazing visit and I want to express sincere gratitude to Andy the volunteer who spent 2 hours with us. He is a very special person and made a huge impression on my daughters.

Warm Regards,
Natalie Benamou Scotti

On Angels'Wings
Crystal Lake, Illinois

Dear Jill, Jim and all your dedicated volunteers,

Thank You for being the adoptive parents and giving a loving home to so many of Gods gifts to us. They are our heaven on earth!

Sue Rainer
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Please use this wherever it is most needed. I know that in giving money to VOTK, nothing will be wasted. Let's hope for an end to human neglect and cruelty to our animal companions.

Joy Schochet
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Jill,

The story from Peru, Indiana made me sick to my stomach. I have a saying which applies to this situation, "Humanity Insanity". I love you for what you do and who you are.

Sincerely,
Pat Berquist
Fox River Grove, Illinois



Tel 847.691.1665
Fax 847.991.9962

Joseph Crimmins
Attorney at Law

182 S. Stonington Drive
Palatine, IL 60074



Just Cakes & Pastries

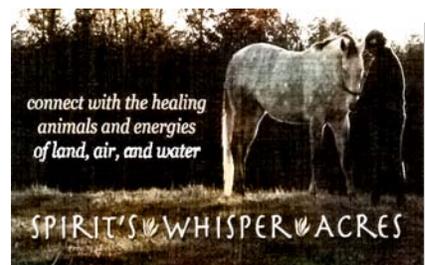
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photos in this issue courtesy of Chris Block

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414-304-7282

wll773.1@netzero.net

Photo Book available online

A Photo Book of VOTK animals by Monika Blaz is available for purchase at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1300663>. Monica did an internship with us and earned college credit for photography from U.W. Madison. Please check out her beautiful book, it took months to complete and Monica captured moments that are absolutely priceless.

Things We Need!!

We are once again in need of **blankets, blankets and more blankets.**

Also needed: .

- ◆ **items for gift shop**
- ◆ **utility poles** (new or used)

It would be impossible for us to get through the winter without donations of these much needed blankets. Thanks!

A paragraph from *The Animal Manifesto* by Marc Bekoff:

"It feels good to interact with animals because it's in our evolutionary heritage. Our old, reptilian brains get a bad rap, but having them means we are tightly tied to other animals and to nature. However, modern culture pulls us away from having close relationships with our animal kin. Our lifestyles and jobs and cities disconnect us from the natural world, forcing us to deny the innate pull we feel toward animals and nature. But we have to learn to live - to coexist - this way. Children experience a natural and immediate connection with animals. Their senses haven't been dulled, and they aren't made to feel guilty for their love and empathy for animals. However, our current lifestyles can easily alienate children from animals and the natural world."

Are you looking for a way to help the sanctuary financially, but don't know how? VOTK now accepts PayPal!

PayPal is a **secure** internet-based way to send and receive money. All you need is an email address and a credit card. Anyone can use PayPal to buy gift shop items, buy or renew memberships, or donate money to the sanctuary.

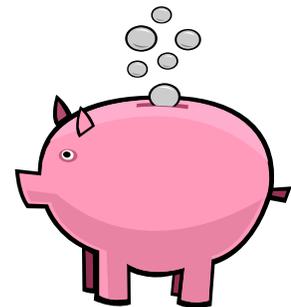
To use PayPal, simply log onto www.paypal.com. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address info@votk.org for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund or a specific project. Enter the amount you wish to send. You can pay either with a credit card or checking account.

The sanctuary will then get an email, informing them of your donation. It's a quick and easy way to make a difference to the sanctuary, even if you can't make it up to see us every weekend!!

If you write us a check for a donation, please note on the check whether it is for our moving fund or for general fund.

HELP US TO GIVE THE ANIMALS ALL THEY DESERVE AND MORE BY CREATING A SAFE HAVEN AND TRUE SANCTUARY FOR ALL ETERNITY.

PayPal®



In Memory

In Memory of Jasper 1990 - 2010

Jasper died of liver disease May 13th. He had a very short illness like his brother Jara who ironically died of the same thing September 21st, 2008. The last

of the three brothers, Satchel, is holding his own and although very old for a lion seems to be in good health. The three brothers have been sponsored their entire lives by Lake Louise Middle School in Palatine, Illinois. Students have sent valen-

tines every year for the lions to play with. The brothers have had hours of fun each and every year with the valentines. Regardless of their age, the three have always been young at heart throughout their lives. They were originally from the Duluth Superior Zoo in Minnesota and came to us at six months of age. The brothers have always been inseparable and not overly human friendly nor handle-able. They loved to come for treats and were all bottomless pits when it came to food. One day Jim and my son put in a huge 650lb rib cage from a fresh cow, and Jasper, by himself took the whole thing and dragged it in his house not wanting to share it with his brothers! It was an unbelievable sight to see the strength and determination in Jasper who was not a large lion, but we can still hear the sounds of the door creaking as he struggled to pull

it inside! It has been difficult to watch our senior residents fade one by one and with each ones passing it never gets any easier. We had Jasper cremated and he is in a huge horse size urn with Jara. Satchel will one

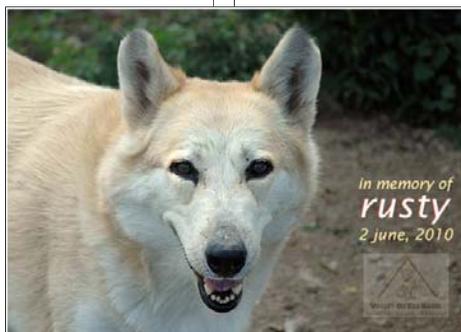


day join them but hopefully not in the near future. Sometime this next year we are going to have a cement vault put in ground, up in the high cemetery, for burial of all the cremains we have in our house. We will have an open ceremony for all our members and volunteers to share in the memories and will then bury them with stories from each newsletter. It will be a wonderful time capsule full of precious memory's and lives who once graced the Sanctuary. We then want to purchase a monument with all the animals names so they can all rest in peace. Forever honored, forever loved,

each and every one of them. We know Jasper was greeted by Jara and his parents at rainbow bridge and we find great comfort in their reunion. Satchel has come to terms with his loss, perhaps because he was the strongest of the three. We pray he will remain healthy and strong for a few more years, even though he is an old man.

In memory of Rusty 1996 - 2010

The last of our beloved woolies was humanely euthanized June 2nd. Rusty had very bad hips from old age and had been on medication the past few years. She suffered heat stroke the last week in May and did not recover fully so a decision was made to let this precious girl go. It is not the same walking through the wolf area and not seeing the beautiful golden woolies. They all are greatly missed and were so very loved by many. They all came from the



same breeder in our County. Two were seized by our local animal shelter and the other two were owner relinquished. Many people think wolf hybrids make a great pet because they are part dog. If anything they are far more dan-

(Continued on page 6)

New Arrivals

Molly, a beautiful 9 year old black bear has found her way to us to be a friend for Vinnie. Molly's owners could no longer keep her be-



Molly

cause of health issues and they contacted us to see if we had room for their beloved bear. Molly has been extremely well cared for her entire life and very loved. She is a good laid back bear and has a very sweet disposition. Vinnie has been lonely since Kumah and Yummie died and we swore after Vinnie passed on that would be the end of the bears. Well, surprise, surprise! The Universe works in mysterious ways. We believe Molly was sent to us for a reason and are grateful this precious life will be a part of Vinnie's and all of our lives. Molly's favorite thing to eat is grapes, sunflower seeds, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and berries.

Spring Arrivals - Update

Thena, Lena and **Molly** have all fit in beautifully. Molly and Vinnie share food with only an occasional difference. Molly loves her pool but doesn't like sharing it and she is crazy about berries and grapes! She is a very bright bear and has Vinnie wrapped around her big paws. Thena has so many precious moments. She plays all day

long and shows off to anyone visiting her. She runs, jumps, plays hide and seek and is an absolute joy to be around. Her personality is bar none and you can't help but fall head over in heels in love with this precious little lion. Thena no longer staggers or side steps, she is now strong and powerful and has gained over fifty pounds. By the time you receive this newsletter she will have been moved in with Chaucer. She has no physical or mental issues which is amazing for being confined in a small roll crate her whole life by her previous owner. The only thing we have noticed with her behavior is she is very food aggressive. This will hopefully pass in time when she realizes she will always get her fill each day and never be fasted again! Lena the little tiger, is a sweetheart like Thena but has many emotional and physical handicaps. She "star gazes" by rolling her head sideways and then up to the sky. Lena has difficulty with vision disturbances and cannot judge distances. She loves to have volunteers sit and talk to her but when you leave she jumps up on the fence in wonder of the sudden or slow movement. She does not have much control over her hindquarters and will always be crippled. Some days her limp isn't as noticeable but most days it is very obvious. She is on medication and her disability doesn't appear to slow her down. We have installed handicapped ramps in her pools but so far she is afraid to use them. Confidence is not her greatest strong point and Lena is very slow to pick up on things. Much improvement has been made seen since Thena and Lena

have arrived in February though. Lena is much stronger in her hindquarters. When she first came she would stand for short periods, could barely walk and would swivel on her hips paddling her legs helplessly behind her. She can now jump, run like a bunny with both rear legs in a hopping motion and will stand for long periods without tiring. Her appetite is very good and she loves tur-



Thena

key and chicken. We are hoping she will continue to improve through the rehabilitation process and very hopeful of a long life at the Sanctuary. Please continue prayers for this very special little spirit, she needs all the help she can get and there is tremendous power in prayer. We had hoped to put her in with Zipper but think her emotional issues will cause problems. Perhaps one day Lena can have a friend and be a somewhat normal tiger because she certainly deserves to be all she can be. All that was taken from her as a youngster will always follow her emotionally and physically her whole life through.

(Continued from page 4)

gerous and many people get into trouble with them because of their unpredictable nature. Owners are usually mauled or bitten in a sudden rage or by making them do something they don't want to do. They are not a house pet and there is no approved rabies vaccine for exotics. When the owner seeks help for an injury, the animal is then seized and usually euthanized. They are never returned to the owner and the only saving grace for the hybrid, is if there is available room at a Sanctuary such as ours. We have had to turn away many through the years due to lack of funds to construct necessary housing. We are grateful for the time we had our woolies and for all the people who enjoyed them as much as we did. Gone now but never will they be forgotten. Rusty, Alpha, Loki and Harley re-united once more and all together forever.

New Projects

We are in the process of putting in a new compound that is attached to our high compound.. We will be removing the old perimeter fence once the new one is complete. Then we will start construction on new enclosures for more homeless exotics. We estimate costs for this project to be \$45,000 or more and we are in need of funds to complete this urgently needed area. Please help us to save more lives and provide a forever home to displaced animals in need. You can't put a price tag on saving any animal! They are so appreciative and we are receiving a record amount of calls due to the economy. The Sanctuary is always struggling to meet the animals' needs each month and I truly believe we have a crowd of Angels who watch

over us because in our darkest hours a light always seems to shine through for us to continue on with our work. We set aside what we can for needed projects and when we have enough saved we are able to move forward toward a completion goal.

In October we will be here 37 years and still going strong thanks to everyone who has and does support our cause! A new sign in the shed was built by John Beller and it is awesome! Our old one was hanging on by a thread and we were surprised it held up for as long as it did. Little by little we are making changes as we can afford to and everyone who is helping with these projects monetarily or physically are a Godsend! Thank-you all from the bottom of our hearts.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY

We need help with construction costs to build bigger, better, safer and more comfortable areas for our animals. Please help us help the animals. Any amount will help, but if you give \$250 or more, we'll send you a VOTK T-shirt.



Yes, I'll be glad to help with construction costs for the animals!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

T-shirt size: _____

My Donation amount:

- \$50 \$100
- \$150 \$250
- \$500 \$1000

Other: _____

Please mail this form, along with your check, to:

VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY W7593 Townhall Road Sharon, WI 53585-9728



In Memory of **Max**, beloved German Shepherd and best friend of **Ron Sorenson**. Always will he be near and forever dear.

Jill, Jim & Animal Friends

In beloved memory of **Dino**, Best friend and beloved dog of **Elisa Reiger** and son **Steven**. Dino crossed rainbow bridge on March 6th after a long battle with cancer. He is missed beyond measure.

Joe Crimmins
Palatine, Illinois

In memory of **Rhett**, my 1st born grand kitty with major "attitude". He was very happy being an only for a few years and was not happy about other siblings joining the family. He finally mellowed and allowed those other animals (even though he wasn't really an animal) to play and snuggle with him.

Sue Rainer
Waukesha, Wisconsin



What we Do and Don't do

We do educate the public about animal abuse and bring awareness to public schools, university's and special groups.

We do feed our animals 365 days a year, **we do not** believe in fasting them.

We do educational programs with videos and educational materials.

We do not believe in taking any of our animals to programs or fund raisers.

We do not sell our mailing list or share it with other organizations.

We do not believe in professional fundraisers. They take 90% to 98% of funds raised from organizations.

We do believe in raising funds the traditional way, through members' help and local fundraising events.

Unfortunately we do not receive any State or Federal funding. The Sanctuary is funded 100% through tax deductible donations from our dedicated members.

MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDES

TO VOTK FOR 2010:

Saturday, May 15 – Diablo Lobos MC, Delavan, WI

Sunday, May 23 – Ladies of Harley, Chicago area

Saturday, June 12 – House of Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee

Saturday, June 26 – City Limits Harley Davidson, Palatine, IL

Saturday, July 10 – Woodstock Harley-Davidson, Woodstock, IL

Saturday, July 17 – Top Cats Motorcycle Club

Sunday, July 25 – McHenry Harley-Davidson, McHenry, IL

Sunday, August 29 – Moose Riders (In memory of Sherry Castro, Obie's late sponsor)

Saturday, Sept. 11 – Wildfire Harley Davidson,



The Diablo Lobos MC ride on May 15 turned a \$500.00 donation to the Sanctuary

Riders on May 23 from the Ladies of Harley, Chicago area, donated \$495.00.

The riders on June 12 from the House of Harley, Milwaukee, donated \$537.00 to the Sanctuary.

**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Tours only at 2:00 and 4:00 Saturdays and Sundays. Workdays are every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. If you want to help make a difference in the lives of the animals, please consider joining our Construction Crew. For information regarding construction projects or general volunteering opportunities, please contact the Sanctuary at 262-736-9386

**Sanctuary is closed on holidays. We are not open to the public.
Members must have valid membership card.
(Sorry, we cannot accept new memberships at the gate.)**

*Please note: There is a charge of \$10 per person each time you visit with more than one guest.
Additional single visit passes may be obtained by mail order only!*

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www.votk.org



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