

The Pug Mark

Sanctuary Update

It's fall and cold winds are right around the corner.

Time passes so quickly, it is hard to keep the seasons straight and we have much to do before winter sets in. Volunteers have started winter preparation and stringing electrical cords for heated water buckets. This is our busy time of year and it takes a huge amount of effort to prepare for each winter. We are hoping we won't get severe weather this year but the meteorologists are predicting a "not so nice" winter because El Nino is gone. Please say prayers for the animals and everyone who attends to their needs each day. Happy beautiful Fall to you all and thank-you for supporting our cause.

**Love and Xtra big Hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends**

Disturbing News

We have been receiving e-mails and letters from people about the retail sales of Lion meat. Restaurants are selling Lion burgers for \$20.00 in Illinois and other states. This is not something new! It has been going on for many, many years and is an approved practice among collectors, with our Federal Government's stamp of approval. When lions and other exotics are raised, for profit, in captivity, you can do what ever you want with them. Greedy owners may part them out, sell the meat, hide and head for thousands of dollars. This goes on daily here in the

U.S. Endangered species are not exempt from slaughter if they are "captive raised". They are only endangered in the "Wild". Exotics are being shot and slaughtered for greed at an alarming rate! Last fall a lion head fell out of the back of a pickup truck in Marengo, Illinois. Our inspectors could not tell us where it came from, but only that it was harvested via "USDA standards". We have a letter signed personally from John Cuneo who owns the multi-million dollar Hawthorne Corporation in Libertyville, Illinois. The letter states that he sees nothing wrong with selling hides of big cats! He had supplied the majority of big cats and elephants to circuses before being shut down due to animal abuse charges and fined by USDA. Tuberculosis among animals and workers were discovered which cost some of the elephants their lives. He has harvested many big cats throughout the years and continues to do so. Young exotics are purchased for pennies on the dollar at auctions throughout our country. Big cats are almost worthless alive, but dead they are priceless for parts and meat. At one particular auction in Cape Girardeau, Mo. a lion went through the sale with only a \$50.00 bid. The buyer took the animal out back, shot it, pelted it, then left it's carcass on the side of the road by the auction house. The crate that lion was transported in, went

(Continued on page 4)

Letters from Members

Dear Valley of The Kings,
My name is Justin Sekiya and I am a grade 8 student that goes to the Calgary Science School in Canada. I am writing a letter of support to the Valley of The Kings Sanctuary and Retreat organization. I think what the organization is doing is really great because tigers and many other animals are really interesting. Also, by seeing what the organization is doing and knowing that the organization is helping these animals is really amazing as well as going out of your way to help those poor animals. People may save other animals such as cats or dogs, so what VOTK is doing I think is very helpful to the animals that have been mistreated in many different ways. This program probably means a lot to them and that at least they know and have someone to care for them. You can't save them all but at least the organization is saving all the animals that they can and trying to make their life better than it already was. Also, I think it is great that VOTK is saving a diverse type of animals such as cows, foxes, and tigers whom many think don't need saving. Thank you for taking time to read this and I hope that you and the organization continue to help save animals that need it.

Yours Truly,
Justin Sekiya
Calgary, Canada

Dear Jill:
Knowing that you are there for your beloved animals is such a comforting thought. Your selfless care, love and understanding goes beyond caring for these

helpless creatures. In addition, your such kind and encouraging words for those who support the mission, goals and purpose of the Sanctuary. That gesture, even though not expected is soothing, goes a long way and so very appreciated.

Thank You kindly,
Ruth Hartmann
Glendale, Wisconsin

VOTK,
Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I would never take in an animal that wouldn't get the best possible life, and you by agreeing to take my ducklings, allowed me to get the experience of having ducks, while having the comfort of knowing they will grow and thrive! With you they will never have a bad day, and I love knowing that! Also, Jill your advice on fostering and rehabilitating wildlife was so helpful! I truly appreciate it. I so look forward to visiting VOTK and helping as much as possible. Thanks for all you do, you are truly inspirational. You helped me realize my passion for saving unwanted and unloved animals. I can't thank you enough. You guys are the definition of HEROES! Never Change! Thank you for everything!

Lexxi Manassa
Crystal Lake, Illinois

Dear Jill and Jim,
On behalf of the "Around The Neighborhood" class from National-Louis University's Lifelong learning Center, I want to thank you again for allowing our visit on July 21st. Your cooperation in

(Continued on page 5)



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your legal needs

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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.

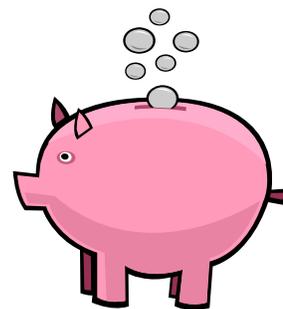
To use PayPal, simply log onto www.paypal.com. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address info@votk.org for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund or a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



(Continued from page 1)

through the sale the following day and brought a \$200.00 bid. No one wanted to take home that precious life and his fate was sealed the moment he was consigned to the auction. These stories are heartbreaking but ones that need to be heard. I have held a big cats paw in comfort as he or she lay dying, while we waited for a vet. Many sleepless nights have been spent throughout the years caring for sick and injured animals. The depth of love that pours from your very soul can never be measured and the heartache one feels at defeat when attempts are unsuccessful. How can someone look one of these majestic creatures in the eye and pull a trigger. We will never understand the lack of honor and respect! Our quest to save is one of pure love and dedication: to protect and educate humans concerning the plight of all living creatures who think, feel pain and sadness like us and also know right from wrong. Humans don't give animals enough credit for they are perfect in every way, without flaws, unlike we humans. We can only save a handful of these majestic creatures as is with every Sanctuary in the Country. Many will continue to be raised for slaughter as long as ignorant people continue to buy exotic meat. Don't we have enough food to feed the human race in the U.S. without eating carnivores! A man who lives in Neshkora, Wisconsin supply's restaurants with lion meat and has for many years. Only now is there a movement to try and stop him. We have to start somewhere and it's a tiny beginning.

The Sanctuary has received many calls through the years from people "looking" for big cats to "adopt" or "return to the wild". Many pleas come from people telling us how "free" and "happy" they would be in their "new forever home". We have never agreed to place any exotic in our care and we never will. Other Sanctuaries were not so lucky! Burdened with huge feed bills and overwhelming operational expenses, some did place big cats in the hands of these con-artists only to discover they were shipped overseas and ended up in a canned hunt. One such person recognized her beloved lion in a hunting magazine because he had such an unusual head. How can someone be so cold hearted to destroy such a magnificent creature, look into it's eyes in the final moment and feel nothing. Greed, ego and the almighty dollar is what fuels the demise of unfortunate exotics in the hands of these horrible individuals. Through the years we have been targeted and held to different standards by our County and other agencies because we only want to save animals and let them live out there days in dignity. If we had a hunting range in our back acreage, that would be the "appropriate use" of the animals in our care. We fought the system with our belief of a better world and living side by side with sentient beings and we were punished and severely restricted by our County officials. They have never understood why we do what we do and ruled against us when there were no zoning rules on the books 37 years ago. We were

harassed and fined years ago by the DNR for refusing to put our bears and cougars on concrete. Many years, we fought in court and finally reached a settlement with variances and most importantly "NO" concrete. Many sleepless nights, heartaches and tears through the years and we have finally come full circle. I do believe we have finally been somewhat accepted in our County although they still don't understand why we want to save them and not kill them. It is a cruel world we live in, If we had a hundred acres and enough funds for enclosures we could save many more. We can only do what we can with the room we have and make a big difference in a handful of precious lives that will never end up on someone's dinner plate or be exploited in anyway. By supporting Valley of the Kings you have made a huge difference in giving those without a voice, a voice, for the first time in these animals lives. You are standing up for them and letting the world know these animals are very precious and worthy of a long and unexploited life. God Bless you all!



(Continued from page 2)

planning this visit, and arranging for Andy to be our docent was really appreciated. His presentation was outstanding and the way the cats responded to him was even more impressive. Learning about the history of your refuge and the background of many of these animals contributed to our understanding of the issues related to keeping lions and tigers. We were all impressed with the cleanliness of your facilities as well as the knowledgeable, dedicated people we met. Your commitment to this endeavor gave us even more respect for your work. Both of you are remarkable in your devotion to these animals and truly an inspiration to all. Hopefully there will be fewer animals being mistreated or euthanized, as a result of your outstanding efforts. I intend to continue to support your organization not only with the donation made during our visit, but also with my membership in the future. We had a perfect experience--beautiful weather with animals looking so happy and healthy in such lovely surroundings! We wish you continued good luck and success.

Sincerely,

Roasalie Dixler

Coordinator

National-Louis University

Skokie, Illinois

Dear VOTK,

Thanks so much for the educational and thrilling tour of your wildcat Sanctuary. The "romp with the animals campers" love the cats, bears, wolves etc.. you house at VOTK!

Washington County Humane Society

Slinger, Wisconsin

New Arrivals

The State of Wisconsin passed a law June 2010, which outlaws Wolf Hybrids as pets. We have been receiving many calls from owners wanting to relinquish their pets before county officials step in, seize, then euthanize the animal(s). **Knight and Magic** are two new arrivals. Knight is a 10 year old black hybrid and is the father of Magic. Magic is 7 years old and is also black. They are both imprinted and very sweet animals. The owner could no longer keep them because of the new laws and also lost his house. They are living along side Nadia and both are in need of sponsors.

Our next arrivals are **Cubby and Lika**. These two F1 leopard cats are very shy. The owner could no longer keep them and they had been housed in small cages their whole lives. They currently

are with Bruno and Simba but will be moved to the main barn for winter as they are very tiny cats. They also are in need of sponsors.

Angel, a beautiful Wolf Hybrid was picked up at the Fond Du Lac Humane society August 17th. Had we not been able to take her she would have been euthanized that same week. She has only a hint of wolf in her, but because of that miniscule percentage it meant a death sentence for her. The Humane Society took her in as an owner relinquish and then called us. Angel is in need of a sponsor.

Funds to construct new wolf enclosures are needed. The cost of each one is approx. \$2,500.00. We will be building six new enclosures for more incoming hybrids.



photo by Chris Block

VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY

Yes I want to give a VOTK membership to a very special friend. I am enclosing \$ ____ for:

- ____ 6-month Membership(s) @ \$60 each
- ____ 6-month Family Membership(s) \$75
- ____ 1-year Membership(s) @ \$120 each
- ____ 1-year Family Membership(s) \$150



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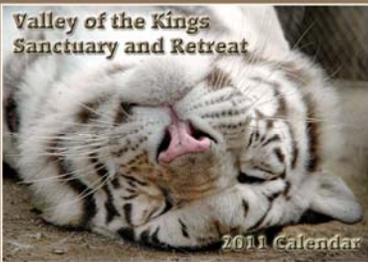
Please mail this form, along with your check, to:

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

Winter's Coming — please donate blankets!



2011 VOTK Calendars



The 2011 VOTK calendars will soon . Get your orders in now, before they're gone! You can purchase them from the VOTK gift shop for \$20. Or send a check for \$20 for each calendar *(including shipping)* to the Sanctuary.

Send checks to
Valley of the Kings Sanctuary
W7593 Townhall Rd Sharon, WI 53585

Remember — each calendar you purchase helps the animals.



In memory of my sweet 20lb cat **Porter**, a gentle and loving soul. He is missed by all who knew him

Sherry A. Fox
Appleton, Wisconsin

In Memory of **Molly**, Beloved Doberman of the **Ron Sorenson family**. So gentle and such a fun loving spirit. Molly will forever and always be held dear

In Memory of my sweet **Violet**. The perfect cat who died in her sleep of heart failure. A beloved little angel, so missed and forever loved

Constance Rawa
Palatine, Illinois

In Memory of **Jasper**, from all the kids and teachers who loved him through the years at **Lake Louise Middle School**.
Palatine, Illinois

In Memory of my Father, **Jack Taylor** who saw beauty everywhere he looked. A very special man who will be missed for all eternity. Love you so very much Dad.

Anne Ryan
Des Plaines, Illinois

In Memory of **Spanky**. Forever loved, missed and always will be dear.

Sue Bond
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In Memory of **Dr Phyllis Swanson**. A very special lady and lover of all animals.

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.

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Be sure to specify size.



Alice Dukelow
Orland Park, Illinois

In Memory of my good friend and animal lover **Phyllis Swanson**.

Dottie Kozeluh
Oak Lawn, Illinois

In Memory of **Jerry J. Mul-**

venna (1-25-54 - 7-27-10) Jerry was a true animal lover and leaves behind two of his best friends, Stormy and patches.
Earl Regnier, George and Beverly Watermann, Dennis and Paulette Edson, Kathy Owens and Jeanette

**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 4:00 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!*

We're on the web!
www.votk.org



*Dedicated to the rescue and refuge of abused,
abandoned, injured and retired exotic animals.*

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