

# The Pug Mark

## Sanctuary Update

Happy New Year to everyone reading this. Can you believe it is 2010? The years fly like the wind and it doesn't seem possible '09 is gone and the beginning of 2010 is over! We want to accomplish much this year and will need many volunteers to help with ongoing projects such as revamping old enclosures and making bigger and better upgrades from electric to plumbing. Just wish there were more hours in the day!

Due to the economy, more animals are finding themselves homeless. Either the owners cannot afford to take care of them or they are being abandoned. We need to build new enclosures for incoming displaced animals and will be opening up a new compound next to the high compound.

It is imperative that we raise \$50,000.00 or more to purchase necessary fencing for this huge project. We need to build new wolf hybrid enclosures, make Festus' enclosure larger, build new enclosures for our newest arrivals and have at least four or six empty places available for Law Enforcement Seizures. Please help the animals by making a tax deductible donation today! Happy 2010 and lets all make this a year to remember!

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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Sue Orlowitz** from all of us at Valley of the Kings! Sue was chosen **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009** and we are so proud of her compassion and dedication to all the animals! Sue puts in very long days each and every week year round and never ever complains. All last summer Sue virtually worked alone each Saturday with no volunteers to help because we were

short staffed. She has put in 14 to 16 hour days and if she has a day off work she spends it at VOTK helping out. We could not



from L.: Sue Orlowitz, Jim, Jill  
photo by Chris Block



ask for a dedicated individual. Sue has truly been a blessing. When Jim was very ill in 2007 she took care of all the animals that are up by and in the house for us. She has dropped everything to help in emergencies, illnesses and when we're short of staff. Congratulations to a wonderful lady who deserves only the best life has to offer. Thank-you Sue from the bottom of all our hearts!

## Letters from Members

Dear Jill, Jim et.al.,  
 Just a quick note of praise, thanks and appreciation for ALL you do for our precious animal friends 365 days each year...I do believe there are angels here on earth and you and those who so faithfully help you-are certainly among them. I admire your dedication tremendously. The animals you take in are so lucky to have a second chance and to receive your loving care. How blessed they are that there are such wonderful devoted people in the world! May God richly bless you in the coming year, may your donations increase one hundred fold and may you have many reasons to smile each and every day. Again, my sincerest thanks and admiration.....

**Pat Benson  
 Delavan, Wisconsin**

Dear Jill,  
 I can't tell you how much joy visiting your sanctuary has brought into my life. Every visit is different; I learn or experience something new each visit. Because VOTK has opened my heart to a happiness I've never before experienced, I am eager to share my experiences with friends and family. I sincerely hope my guests will become members and lend a hand in some way. I vow to never come up for a visit empty handed. What little supplies I can donate in no way compares to the amount of pure joy that fills my heart when my visit has ended. Thank you so much for all that you do. You will never know just how much happiness you bring to those of us who look forward to each and every visit!

Sincerely,  
**Kathleen M. Difatta  
 Elk Grove Village, Illinois**

Jill,  
 Just had to write and tell you how I was moved by your wonderful story of Sammy and your "gift". You are truly blessed in many ways. I have shared your story with many. Your journey is difficult but blessed, stay the course.  
**Sandy Schilingo  
 Oswego, Illinois**

Dear Jill,  
 May the next year be upbeat for you and all your feline residents. The emotional experiences you write about in the Sanctuary up date are so beautiful. I read and reread and wish that the world population could feel for the animal world the personal insights you write about. Yes, I think the most wondrous connect we can achieve is the opening of our hearts and minds with the animal world. Best of the holidays to you, Jim and Emily. Wish I had lots of money so I could donate to VOTK and other wonderful organizations.

Love,  
**Shirley Stevens  
 Shorewood, Wisconsin**

Jill, Jim and Animal Friends,  
 You are all such special beings and any time I spend at VOTK I feel I am in the presence of great-

*(Continued on page 3)*



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ness! May you all be rewarded with love, peace and happiness both here and beyond.

With Love and Appreciation,  
**Kathleen Difatta**  
**Elk Grove Village, Illinois**

Dear Jill and Jim,  
Thank you for all you do to care for all the animals who come to the gate. Every visit I make to the Sanctuary, the more grateful I am for you care and concern. The animals there are truly "family". How wonderful they have you as advocates. Some of them have experienced such abuse -- many don't treasure our four footed friends. You and the dedicated volunteers are to be commended. Keep up the good work!

**Sonja Pluess**  
**Edgerton, Wisconsin**

Jill,  
Just had to tell you what a beautiful story "The afterlife and our companions" was. Thank you for sharing.

**Tom and Angie Clarke**  
**Lake in The Hills, Illinois**

Dear Jill and Jim,  
I wish I could send more! I love your newsletter-it is filled with hope, generosity of spirit and deep love for all of God's creation. Jill-I'll bet I am not the only one who would appreciate hearing more about your psychic / spiritual encounters.

With love and appreciation,  
**Francine Tolf**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

Dear Jill,  
When visiting my niece, one of the GREATEST days I spent in my life (I am 85 years old) was spending a day at Valley of The Kings feeding your wonderful animals. What a great day that

was for me and I will never forget it! Take care and many Thanks for the terrific care you give your animals.

**Helen Hess**  
**Goshen, Ohio**

Hello All,  
I know it would be a rare occurrence especially since you mostly care for wild animals....However, please make your members and volunteers aware of our group. We are a National organization that can take household wanted pets into our foster care until soldiers return from deployment. This is open to all five branches

of military who would otherwise have to give up their beloved pet to a shelter/rescue, because there isn't anyone else to take care of their pet while they're away serving our Country. Thank-You!

**Patti Heiman**  
**Mukwonago, Wisconsin-GASP**  
**Volunteer**

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

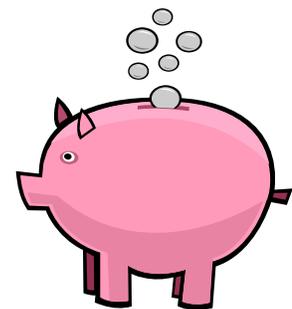
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The sanctuary will then get an email, informing them of your donation. It's a quick and easy way to make a difference to the sanctuary, even if you can't make it up to see us every weekend!!

***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.



# In Memory

## In Memory of Shamman

Sometime early Thanksgiving Day morning one of our "three pack", wolf hybrids died from old age. The three pack are all related and have been here many years. They were seized from a puppy mill in Northern Wisconsin in 1997. They lived in squalor in tiny kennels that had not been cleaned in years and they were sliding around in feces as we tried to capture them. They were not imprinted, very scared and very thin. When we got them back to the



*Shamman  
photo by Chris Block*

Sanctuary we washed them five times and still could not tell what color they all were.

Shamman had a great life with us and lived out his days with his litter mates. We have lost a few others along the way to old age that came in with them and we will miss his distinct chorus with the other hybrids each evening.

## In Memory of Alpha

On December 27th, 2009 our sweet beloved Alpha died from old age. He was one of the

"Woollies" and had the most outgoing attitude of them all. Alpha had just a splash of wolf



*Alpha  
photo by Chris Block*

in him and was a beautiful golden color. He never had a bad day and was always the first to greet anyone who would pass his way. His presence will be missed for a very long time and our hearts are all filled with deep sadness. Alpha was so loved.

## In Memory of our Beloved Penny II.

On February 26th we humanely put Penny II to rest. She had fought a long battle over this past year with Lymphoma. She was seized by our local DNR wardens many years ago and since then has had a great life with us. She suffered from se-



*Penny II  
photo by Chris Block*

vere metabolic bone disease due to lack of nutrition as a cub and her legs were very wobbly when she walked. It didn't stop her from jumping high into her loft, amazingly enough, or picking on her roommate Boo Boo. We will miss this tiny little cougar who had the cutest face we've ever seen, the loudest purr when scratched and an unbelievable feistiness each and everyday.

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## New Arrivals

We took part in a governmental seizure of ten lions and tigers February 9th near Peru, Indiana. We were able to take two of the cats and the other eight went to another Sanctuary in southern Indiana.

The living conditions were the worst we have ever seen in our 36 years of rescue and it was extremely difficult, emotionally, to be within 3 feet of the 'human' who put these animals in the situation they had been in for MANY, MANY YEARS as Law Enforcement kept him at bay! Imagine for a moment a dark, dreary shed filled, bumper to bumper, with old rusted small cars that have been in the same place for many years just sinking into the ground and covered with dust and slime from a leaky roof. Now imagine the only light available coming from a makeshift work lantern in a corner. There are no windows to let in any light and there is no one who cares. Now replace the cars with tiny roll crates filled with lions and tigers that have been imprisoned in these crates, some as long as 16 YEARS or MORE! No place to exercise, no toys, no bedding, just a cold 4 foot by 5 foot crate with a plywood floor. No water bowls, just pans slid to them at the owner's convenience and then taken away. Thirsty cats went thirsty, hungry cats went hungry. All were thin,

some were just bones, and in bad shape.

The owner said he used them in his circus but had not been "On the road" in many years. He used to take the roll crates with the cats inside and secured them to a flat bed trailer. Then he stuffed his makeshift tent under the crates and off he went to fairs to show off his abused and neglected lions and tigers. The animals had to be terrified traveling down the highway in the open. Why this man wasn't stopped and closed down years ago is beyond our imagination. We had everything we could do to control our anger.

Originally we were to take a tiger that had been imprisoned from the time she was a tiny cub. She lived in her crate which was made of a tiny diamond metal pattern and her area was virtually pitch black 24-7. You could not even tell how big she was or her color, it was that dark. We tried for over two hours to transfer this terrified tiger into our crate but it didn't happen. We tried everything humanly possible. Her fear was so great she would not allow herself to set one foot out of her prison. The entire crate with the tiger inside went to the other Sanctuary. Sadly, we didn't

have room on our trailer for three crates, otherwise we would have come home with three cats.

We took a young lion 4 years of age. She is very thin but seems healthy. Her name is **Thena** and loves attention and lots of people around her, something she's never had before. The 2nd cat we took is a tiny tiger who is a special needs individual. She is crippled in her hindquarters either from a horrific accident as a cub or she has severe hip dysplasia. When the warm weather comes this Spring we will be taking her down for x-rays and to be

spayed. We will then know the extent of her condition. We cannot tranquilize the big cats in the winter as it is not safe and they have to

be kept extremely warm to recover. Dr Rudawski will be watching her very closely and helping us with her care and rehabilitation. Her name is **Lena** and she is a Siberian tiger but has been severely stunted.

Many of you will remember **Ieshia** who was **Nook's** buddy for many years. Lena is smaller than Ieshia. We are in great hopes of putting her with Zipper as he is our best candidate as a match. None of the cats have ever had toys, ever felt the sun on their backs, ever felt grass or dirt between their toes ever seen snow and have seen only an oc-

*(Continued on page 6)*



*Lena*  
photo by Chris Block



*Thena*  
photo by Nichole Ramey Counley

*(Continued from page 5)*

casional glimmer of light. They have never been exposed to love or affection from humans nor treated like their lives mattered. They were merely housed like old cars stuffed end to end in a dark horrible dirty old building day after day, month after month, year after year with no one to hear their pitiful cries and no one to come to their rescue.

Many died in this evil man's care. One was a liger, more than likely Nook's brother, who lived in one of these crates 16 YEARS before he died! To make matters worse, this man had an elephant living in similar conditions in total squalor and chained in another area of the barn.. Who knows how long that magnificent animal has been held hostage. We can only pray the elephant has found a safe haven by now, too.

A blizzard was brewing in Northern Indiana and Chicago and as we headed home, the storm grew worse the farther north we went. Angels were watching over us that day because everything took time but went off like clockwork. We had 10 inches of fresh snow and drifts when we arrived home that evening with our precious cargo and we could not try put them in their new enclosures until two days later because of the snow and wind.

When it came time to unload them, we tried the tiger first. Hours went by and she was so frightened of leaving her crate we ended up giving up and putting her back in the trailer. As soon as we did that she settled down and was right at home. We had to wait for a semi warm day to secure the roll crate to her new enclosure so she could come out

in her own time. This little tiger we fear will never be right and only a lot of time and TLC will hopefully bring her around. She takes a few steps and then sits down, then takes a few more. It is obvious her hindquarters are atrophied and very weak.

The little lion was easy to unload and has a very unsteady gate from being confined all of her life. She walks like a weeble. Before we unloaded her she was taking everything in with each breath, the birds, the sky, the new sights and sounds. It reminded me of the first time I got glasses when I was 4 years old, I could see! After we unloaded her, she watched the roll crate leave with sadness and worry. That was the only housing she had ever known and, like a child with a security blanket, it now was going away for good.

Our hearts ached that day for these two cats and yet no justice will ever be served to the human who mentally tortured all of the cats and pushed them beyond the brink into a life of living hell. The one question that comes to mind is WHY? Why was he not stopped years and years ago. Why did it take so long to get these animals help and for some is it to late? The laws are so vague and things need to be changed because how many more across the United States have the exact same fate dealt as these ten cats and elephant?

We need to expand our upper compound and we need to build as many new areas for big cats as we can afford. I don't ever want to have to turn away an animal in dire need, and we know with the present economy, more will be headed our way. We need to

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raise funds for fencing, help us to reach our goal. Please help those in need of the four legged kind and help us save more with no voice.

From the hearts of Lena and Thena they both say THANK YOU, for without our members' support we would not have been able to rescue them. God Bless each and everyone of you!





In Memory of Elena's wonderful dog and faithful companion "**Abby Rose**".  
Irene Sollano

In Memory of our beloved Aunt, **Margie Stepniewski**.  
With love,  
Geof, Dorien and Peter

In loving memory of my grand puppy **Cocla Bear**. A sweet, loving 100lb 'Rottie' who thought he was a lap dog. I know your girl Lexie met you at the Rainbow Bridge with kisses all over your face and Aunt Phyl has been scratching your butt ever since. As soon as grandma gets there, well take a walk.  
Sue Rainer  
Waukesha, Wisconsin

In loving memory of my precious cat, **Callie**, who peacefully passed away in my arms on 12/23. The tears flow daily and my heart is truly broken. RIP, Mommy's little peapod...  
Pat Benson  
Delavan, Wisconsin

In memory of Julie's beloved horse **Professor**. He was so loved and missed beyond any words.  
Joe Crimmins  
Palatine, Illinois

In Memory of our sweet **Charlie and Jackson**.  
Sally Cycholl-Paterson

In Memory of **Cheddar**, beloved rat of Chance Johnson.  
Shari Lendy

## 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.



*photo by Chris Block*



**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.  
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