

The Pug Mark

Sanctuary Update

Greetings from Wisconsin! This has been a long hard winter for the Sanctuary. The blizzard of February 2nd was interesting as it took a few days to unearth everything. All of the animals including our special need and elderly, came through the winter months in good health for which we are grateful, except for a few.

Donations were way down for the holiday season and we will not be able to add on or do construction projects this year. We must construct new wolf, fox and Raccoon habitats for animals that came in over the winter. Unfortunately, we are in a "survival mode" and are concentrating on getting through just one day at a time.

The newsletter will go out three times a year because of cost in printing and postage. We have to save as many pennies as we can to make ends meet.

Deer vendors have brought us road kill deer for many years. New vendors have taken over and do not want to drive the distance to bring us the much needed deer. The farmers are still good to us but once the warmer weather arrives our meat source will dry up. We may have to buy chicken for all the big cats that can average \$1,200.00 a day, which we don't have! Many rescues and sanctuaries like ours are hurting nationwide; many closing doors forever. Displaced animals are filling over-taxed

rescues and those with nowhere to go, are being euthanized. We know of fifteen rescues that have closed doors forever since November. Please help us survive 2011. We are in need of your precious donations and much needed prayers. Love and Xtra Big Hugs, Jill Jim and Animal Friends

Funds Needed

We are a multi-species sanctuary. That means we accept all kinds of different animals: large cats, horses, donkeys, sheep, goats, cattle, emus, camels, bunnies, wolf hybrids and more. We have a huge variety of animals that eat a lot of different



food each and every day. Please help support our mission so we don't have to turn animals away. We desperately need to construct a portable recovery barn/unit for sick animals, one that is heated and air conditioned. We would be able to use this building the entire year. The estimated cost of this project is \$20,000. We have needed a recovery barn for many years as we have no place for animals to recover from surgery or trauma in the winter months or cool a heatstroke victim in the summer months. Our needs are great from day to day. The costs to operate are enormous and we have much needed construction

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Letters from Members

Dear Jill and Jim,
It, indeed, can be saddening that so much work exists to be done for animals whose lives have been harmed by the ignorance of humanity. At the same time, it is so uplifting and hopeful to know that souls like you two exist; that souls like your fantastic volunteers give themselves so freely to such an important cause; that in the face of so much needs, you provide compassion and care to many beautiful beings! Educating the younger generations in the necessary principles of ecological conservation and animal rights cannot solely come from books or classrooms. The teaching must also come from role modeling and actual living example. Beyond the vital care VOTK provides its residents, you also achieve this critical secondary function--- Your work enlightens people to our impact upon the Natural world, and in so doing, illustrates the responsibility we owe this planet and ALL of its inhabitants. Thank You for who you are and what you do!
Peace and Love,
Mike Benjamin
Rockford, Illinois

Dear Jill and Jim,
I remain amazed at the marvelous work you do for the down and out of the large animal world. While I can't get down to visit and help your ongoing efforts, I can at least provide a bit of financial support; it is an honor to do so. Keep up the good work!
Dr. Dean Manning
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Jill and Jim,
I can think of no better place to give than this loving "home". It's home to some of the most wonderful animals and and some of the most caring people anyone could meet. You guys make miracles happen and you may not even know it, but the animals do! May this special place be with us for a very long, long time.

Stan Tappa
St. Frances, Wisconsin

Dear Jill and Jim,
My one and only visit to your Sanctuary has always left a lasting impression on me! The articles in your newsletter always bring tears to my eyes (both for sadness and gladness). Keep up with your wonderful care of the animals!! I wish I could do more.

Ms. Nona Paulsen
Phoenix, Arizona

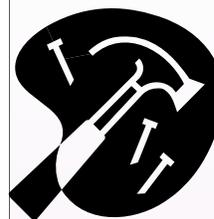
Dear Jill and Jim
I always love getting the Pug Mark. The stories are sometimes so touching that I reach for a kleenex. Now after finally having visited you for the first time, I more fully can appreciate all that you and your staff of volunteers are doing. What a Job! Thank You for making this a better world.

Love and Big Hugs back at you,
Irene and Joe Sollano
Douglaston, New York



Tools Needed!

Most of our tools have "disappeared" over the years and we are in need of replenishing our tool barn. We use a variety of different things, but any tool is appreciated. You may



also send gift cards from Lowe's, Home Depot and Menards to help us purchase needed tools,

or you can send or drop them off at the Sanctuary. Our tool wish list is; ratchet sets; 1/2 inch, pry & crow bars, all sizes; chainsaws, any size; circular (Skil) saws; reciprocating (Sawzalls) saws, any size (electric); Channellock pliers, all sizes; Multi-Fold & extension ladders; tree trimmers; bolt cutters, all sizes; 10" landscape spikes; pruning lopers, large; Heavy Duty 18 volt drill/drivers or corded drills, all sizes; all sizes of pliers; hammers and sledges, all sizes; screwdrivers, medium to large and chain link fence clamps and hardware. Also needed: .

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

It would be impossible for us to get by without your generous donations. Thanks!



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Fax 847.991.9962

Joseph Crimmins
Attorney at Law

182 S. Stonington Drive
Palatine, IL 60074

Lay back and relax.
I can handle
your legal needs

Words About Our Volunteers

Special people touch the animals' lives and ours at the Sanctuary on a daily basis. We have been blessed to know and love so many people. The Sanctuary could not exist without these wonderful souls who love the animals as much as we do. Their hearts fill with joy and goodness as they care for the animals. The work is hard and the days are long, yet they do not complain. They look out for one another and drop everything to help someone if needed. Volunteering is not a 9 to 5 experience it's a 9 till your done experience, which sometimes isn't until 8 or 9 at night. Our dedicated staff always go above and beyond our expectations. Laughter fills the Sanctuary grounds on any given day and that happiness spreads to the health and well being of our beloved animals. We give "Thanks" to each and every volunteer the animals have to rely on and the Sanctuary is blessed in more ways than one can imagine. God Bless you and Thank You!



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of land, air, and water

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Bill Delaney
Intuitive, Spiritual Teacher, Lecturer

9348 S Orchard Park Circle #2A
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

414-304-7282
wll773.1@netzero.net




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projects. We need a miracle to touch the Sanctuary and make our dreams come true. Please help the animals in one of our greatest times of need.

God bless all who read this.

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.

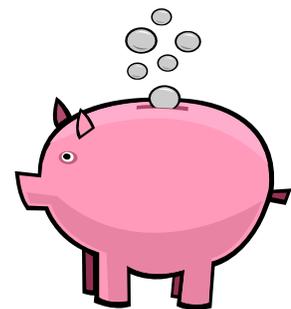
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund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

Our beloved little fennec fox Bic died January 9th and had lived at the Sanctuary for the past 12 years. During that time he entertained us each and every day. Bic was purchased on the internet by his previous owner who could not stand his hyper nature, so a call was made to us. We met his owner on a street corner in Kenosha and picked him up. Bic's owner was very happy to get "rid" of him and told us he was going to replace him with fish! Bic loved mini beanie babies, soft blankets and mini carrots. Bic would bark like a yelp when we loaded the wall of wood for our stove and he would "coo" when you petted and loved on him. If he didn't like you Bic would bark and growl. We never heard so many sounds come out

of a tiny little body. Bic weighed only three pounds, Fennec Foxes are tiny but feisty. It is amazing the void one

feels in the absence of a four legged loved one. Bic had a heart as big as the sea and loved his human friends. He was sponsored by Jayne Rohleder from Milwaukee. Jayne would bring seasonal mini beanie babies for Bic and he proudly carried them around, slept with them and played with his mini friends for hours. Bic is missed



beyond measure and will continue to be missed for a very long time. Good-bye little friend. Our hearts are broken.

In Memory of Pumpkin

Pumpkin was part of the group of lions we took in 15 years ago from Tennessee. She was taken during a raid in Arkansas of 86 lions and tigers. We committed to eleven of them and they were all in really bad shape. Pumpkin lived on the girls' side which is fondly called the "Pumpkin Patch" and is right next to the "Ten Pen" where the boys are. She was a year old when she came to us fifteen years ago and was mother-raised. Pumpkin would take

treats by hand and occasionally would ask to be scratched. She never offered to bite or use her claws, she was always sweet in nature which followed her through out all her years. Last fall she slowly started to drop weight. We were not too concerned as this tends to be normal for older animals and Pumpkin was a Goodyear blimp all her life. So we were happy she had shed some weight. Pumpkin ate all that was in front of her and never missed a meal right up to the day she died on March 6th. The day before, she was pacing the fence line and seemed agitated like she was waiting for food. It wasn't out of the ordinary for her as she lived to eat! Pumpkin died in her sleep with her family by her



side. Snickers, her sister, and Granny Kari fiercely guarded her body and it was three days before we were able to lock the two girls up and safely remove Pumpkin. All they knew was to protect

their loved one and it was heart wrenching for all to watch them in such distress. We could only stand by unable to comfort them. Kari and Snickers are having a hard time without Pumpkin. Animals grieve as we do and it will take them time to come to terms with her passing. The past fifteen years the group sunned themselves arm over arm, bellies up during the summer and winters huddled together in the warmth of their house. They have always been together, eating, sleeping and just hanging out being lions. Pumpkin is missed by everyone who knew her and we know she is now with others who have gone before her.

In Memory of our beloved Too Boo

Too Boo was a big beautiful cougar who died suddenly March 9th. Boo did not have a mean bone in his body and purred constantly. He had always been a big drinker, couch potato and not much of a socialite. Boo never let us know how sick he was until two days before he died. He stopped eating but was still purring up a storm. We were not to

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worried about him as it is sometimes normal for the cats to go off food a day or two. So we were shocked to find him deceased. Boo died from diabetes, a silent killer. We have had other cats die of this dreaded killer and when a big cat has diabetes it is not treatable. The insulin numbers vary wildly and you just cannot regulate them. It is a death

sentence. Boo was a great cat who came from Vicki Thornton in Iowa, she could no longer keep him because of a divorce. She loved Boo very much and it was devastating for

her to part with this magnificent cat. Boo was cremated and we returned his cremains to Vickie because we felt Boo should be with the person who loved and raised him. We will miss this big love ball for a long time, he was a big part of our lives and lived in the house with us.



The **Arlington Park Pet Show** on March 18-20 was a success! We raised \$1,507.88. The volunteers did a great job this year in presenting the sanctuary in a professional yet fun manner.

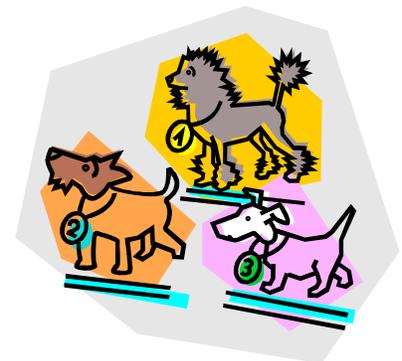
We give many thanks for all the hours donated: **Karen Smith, Daryl Lynn, Jayne, Chris, Laurie and Alan, Pat, Karen B., Tammy and Angel.** We are so blessed to have such a great staff!

New Arrivals

Liam and Esa are two wolf hybrids that were seized by Illinois Animal Control in February. The owner had 180 dogs that were removed, some had to be euthanized. They found both hybrids tucked away in the back of a barn. Esa and Liam are extremely sweet and handleable. We are in need of funds to build them an enclosure this spring which will cost \$2,500. They are living in Nook and Ieshias old house for the time being. If we did not have space for them they would have been put down. Liam and Esa are in need of sponsors; they are young, healthy and approx. two years of age. Liam is the darker of the two and they both are 50% wolf. The fee to sponsor each one is \$50.00 per month.

Candy is a blind pony that was sent to us for lion and tiger food. We have no intention of killing her as she is very healthy, other than not having sight. Candy is very sweet and is now living with RC, our blind horse and two mini donkeys who live next to Chewie, the camel. They have a large indoor, outdoor area and Candy fit in with RC and friends very nicely.

Blyndee a blind Raccoon, also found his way to us from a rehab center in December. He is a big beautiful, friendly raccoon who had no problem finding his way around the enclosure. He is living with our two other raccoons. Goldie, who is a golden color and also blind, and Chipper, a normal healthy raccoon. Blyndee bud-died off with Goldie right away and are fast friends. They cuddle up with one another and are so cute! The rehab felt bad for Blyndee because he missed all his friends that were released. To put him in the wild would have been a death sentence as he was born without eyes. Goldie has cataracts from old age and lost her vision three years ago. We need to build them a bigger and better habitat this Spring. The cost will be approx. \$1,500. The trio of raccoons are in need of sponsors which would be \$25.00 a month for each raccoon.



Blind Animals Are Blessings!

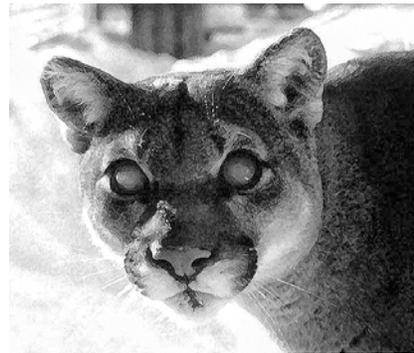
Blind animals have made their way to the Sanctuary throughout the years and each and every one were and are very special.

Paco, a blind llama, was one of the first to come in the late 70's. He had a beautiful white, tan and dark brown coat. He was donated to the Sanctuary by an elderly lady who could no longer care for him. Paco would follow us all over the grounds by listening for our foot steps or us, gently talking to him. We let him out to eat grass during the day and stalled him each night for his safe being.

Dr. Rudawski removed Paco's eyes a short time after his arrival, per our request as they were very painful, all white and 3 to 4 times larger than normal. Paco had glaucoma and his eyes were huge with tumors found behind them. After his surgery, Paco became very content for the first time in a long time. He had suffered in silence for many years with that painful condition. There are more nerve endings in your eyes than in an entire body!

Paco would hum when brushed and he searched every pocket he could find for treats. He was partial to sweet potatoes and apples. This much loved llama lived into his late 20s.

Then there was our beloved **Penny**, a little tiny cougar that came from the Duluth Superior Zoo with her brother **Fritz**. They both had cerabella hydroplasia, which means water on the brain. They were born with this defect. The front end of their body would move differently than the rear, so they always staggered and looked like they had had a few to many. These



precious cougars were the love of everyone's life in the late 80's and early 90's. Fritz died before little Penny and at that time we brought Penny up to the house as she was lost without her brother. She searched frantically and called for Fritz. She was devastated. It was important for us to fill her with love at a time she needed us most. Penny was born with juvenile cataracts and gradually lost her vision. We built her a handicapped play ground inside her enclosure with fenced sides so she would not fall and hurt herself. She was a regular visitor in the house and loved to cuddle. Penny was by far the sweetest of all the cats we ever have had and truly a little "love bug". With her vision gone, Penny would always follow your voice. Occasionally,

if she were really hungry she would run as fast as she could after Jim and you could hear him say, "Penny No", "Ouch" "Penny No", "Ouch" as she snapped at Jim's legs looking for dinner. We miss those days with that precious girl and the years we had with her and Fritz; they were such a special time in our lives. Penny developed cancer in her late teens and Dr. Rudawski tried unsuccessfully to remove the tumor. The

mass was lodged between her pelvic bones. We took her to a surgical clinic in Madison, whose staff also tried to remove the mass but to no avail. We then let our precious little Penny go after all attempts to make her comfortable failed. She is buried in the lower cemetery with her favorite toy, "Penny's bunny", on top of her grave. How she loved that bunny! She would sleep with it, clean it and carry that bunny all over the house. Penny and her precious Bunny were inseparable. We think she liked to substitute her bunny for her brother Fritz. We don't know how many more years "Penny's bunny" will survive the elements, but for now it is a precious reminder of one very precious cougar buried below.

Blind Animals Are Blessings (continued)

Penny, like Paco, didn't let their handicaps slow them down; they lived their lives in bliss and peace and never missed a beat. Here you have two examples of two lives that would have been snuffed out in a perfect world because of being blind.

The Sanctuary has several blind individuals now. **Candy**, a blind pony, came in for big cat food. She was a 4-H pony her whole life and now she is a friend for **R.C.**, a blind horse that came to us from Lakeland Animal Shelter. R.C. is a purebred Morgan and was seized in the sleepy town of Walworth, WI quite a few years ago. Her eyes were larger than normal with white streaks in them. The veterinarians at Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic removed them for us and made R.C. comfortable for the first time in her life. She had been blind for over 17 years in a very painful condition.

R.C.'s old stall mate, **Skyhawk**, died a few years ago. He was also blind and came from a local riding stable who could no longer use him because of his failing vision. He lived to be 32 years of age! Candy is very sweet and accepted R.C. as her companion immediately.

We then have **Blyndee**, the blind raccoon, and **Goldie**, his companion who is also

blind. **Seava**, one of our tigers is almost blind from cataracts. We tried a few years ago to see if we could have them removed but they are inoperable.

Blind animals turn on other receptors. They heighten important senses for survival: smell, hearing and touch. Blind animals always want to touch just to make sure you're there. They crank up the sweetness which makes one fall hopelessly in love with them and what they give back is absolutely priceless — years of lasting memories one cherishes forever. They are missed beyond measure when gone and your heart aches for just one more day. These are lives that others discarded because they were not perfect or could not be bothered with a handicapped animal. To us, these discarded living breathing creatures are and were some of our greatest treasures. Their message is plain: don't cast aside life, for they are all on a very personal journey, to touch lives in a way humans have never felt before. Blind animals we have been entrusted to care for throughout the years were blessings and thousands of people have been able to enjoy them. We still receive cards and letters from members who remember Penny

and others. It brings us joy that others have found blind animals to be worthy of a quiet retirement. Barriers removed by proving their happiness and acceptance of their handicap. Animals move forward and complete their journey by touching lives making memories that last a lifetime.

Benefit Motorcycle rides for Valley of the Kings:

- ◆ May 1 - Group Ride (Amy Ducotch)
- ◆ June 12 - Milwaukee Harley-Davidson (Jayne Rohleder)
- ◆ July 10 - Woodstock Harley-Davidson (Teri)
- ◆ August 27 - B.O.N. Ride (Sandy Sherman)

Note: If your group would like to have a benefit ride for VOTK, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thanks to all the riders
...enjoy!



All photos in this issue courtesy of 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
 - ____ 6-month Senior Membership(s) @ \$30 each
 - ____ 1-year Senior Membership(s) @ \$60 each



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY AND RETREAT
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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

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.



In Memory of our feisty little lady "Tiny".

Jon and Mary Mullaney

In loving Memory of my beloved cat "Spanky" who lost his battle with lymphoma on New Years Eve, 2010.

Stacy Zacher

In Loving Memory of **Virginia Litza.**

In Loving Memory of **Nick Shaudy.**

In Loving Memory of **M.C. Manning**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Block

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Glazewski

Ms. Tina Ignatowski and Ashley

Mr. Larry Kluck

Mr. Gregory Kroll

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mc Cabe

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Ribich

Dr. Robert Ritter

Mr. and Mrs. Richard

Stecher

Ms. Kathleen Van Gheem

In Memory of **Tim Frickelton** who lost a long, hard battle with cancer. It was an honor to have known him and his memory will live on through his tremendous loving family and friends.

Jill, Jim and Animal Friends

A Letter From the Treasurer

I want to take this moment to thank all of those members and friends, who have supported Valley of the Kings in the past. Your generosity is evident in the faces and the healthy well-fed bodies of all the animals here. Without your memberships and donations, the Sanctuary and the animals in our care would surely not have survived these many years.

The cost of all the food, supplies and medications we need to care for the animals has risen sharply, in some cases as much as three hundred percent.

Jill and I realize that everyone is suffering financially. Some of our major donors, who have been very generous in the past, have given half or as little as ten percent of their usual donation, because of the present economic situation. We heartily thank them for any and all donations given, as every donation we receive is precious and all of which goes to the care of our animals.

The vendors contracted to pick up road-killed deer have been very generous in previous years, but with new contracts came a change to distant vendors that almost cut our supply of the "perfect meat" for our large cats to nothing. We have not had the abundance of wild venison that had filled our "reefer" to capacity for the coming lean months of summer. We have now gone into "survival mode", as almost every scrap of meat we get goes to feed the cats on a day by day basis. Every extra bit of meat we receive goes into the freezers. We are exploring other avenues of purchasing or having meat donated. Our farmers have saved us during these times, by donating calves, cows and frozen meat.

We have had to temporarily halt any major construction projects and the completion of the new large enclosure area, south of the upper compound, and concentrate on the 'basics'. At the present time, we're using every dollar we receive to cover everyday expenses. We are very thankful we

can afford to do what is required daily to care for the animals as well as always. Again, thank you!

If your foundation or company would like to contribute to our daily expenses via an operating grant, please contact us at: info@votk.org.

Here is a rundown of *monthly* operating costs:

- Electricity costs during the winter months, with all the heated water buckets and tanks runs around \$2200. Summer cost: \$1200 (includes 15 chest freezers).
- Hay, grain and feed: \$2500 to \$3000
- Wood Shavings: \$1600
- Special needs diets (includes miscellaneous packaged meat): \$2000
- Large animal veterinary care: \$500 to \$1,500
- Contracted worker pay: \$5000 to \$6000
- Bulk diesel fuel, gasoline and propane: \$2500 (varies w/weather)
- Landfill fees: \$1200 to \$1,800
- Fuel (gas & diesel for vehicles): \$600

Note: If we had to purchase meat for the healthy big cats, the cost would range between \$1200 and \$2000 per day as we serve approximately 2000 lbs. of meat per day!

Total cost of the above: \$17,000 to over \$21,000 per month.

Again, thanks for your continued support of our mission.

James L. Tomasi Vice President-Treasurer

**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!

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



**VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY
& RETREAT**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

W7593 Townhall Road
Sharon, Wisconsin 53585-9728

Phone: 262-736-9386
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