



The Pug Mark

The doomsday many had predicted has come and gone with no events. December 21, 2012 was the end of the Mayan calendar and many threw parties while others waited quietly to see what, if anything, would happen. As we chart new beginnings, we all pray that the world becomes an enlightened and hopeful planet. No more war or senseless killing and we as humans all learn to live as one. No nations divided and no more homeless animals. We humans need to change, we need to love and respect all that Mother Earth offers, return to our roots, traditions, family values and restore honor among humankind. We live in a very materialistic and wasteful society and it has to stop. We as a human race need to embrace one another regardless of our race, creed or color and no longer stand divided. Prayers for our beautiful Planet and all its inhabitants go heaven bound daily along with billions of others doing the exact same thing to bring light to the areas of darkness on Mother Earth. We wish everyone a Blessed Summer and upcoming fall season. We give many thanks for all the wonderful people and animals in our lives.

**Love and Extra Big Hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends**

Sanctuary Update

A VERY rare cat now calls VOTK her home. Welcome TiLer, a beautiful Ti-Liger. Her mother was 1/2 lion, 1/2 tiger and her father a white tiger. She is one of the rarest cats in the world; there are fewer than a handful in existence today. TiLer has green eyes, stripes and spots with a

beautiful reddish tawny body. She is beyond sweet and is only four years old.

We picked TiLer up just north of Houston, Texas the first week in April. She has never been abused or mistreated in any way and was raised by a wonderful lady who had to part with some of her animals due to health reasons.

We had a wonderful trip with volunteers Vicki and Tammy Vieau and the weather could not have been better! Temperatures in the lower 70's made TiLer's trip home better than we could ever have hoped for! Once we had TiLer's crate loaded on our trailer it started

to rain, then it poured, then it hailed and the downpour was so heavy you couldn't hear anyone talking in the truck. It was an unbelievable violent and volatile storm and it followed us for almost two hours. We were grateful to drive out of it and leave it behind. Later we heard on the news that softball size hail had

taken out nine police squad cars in the town where we had been. Perfect timing from the Universe on our behalf as both our vehicle and trailer were undamaged.

On our return leg, we stopped in Little Rock, Arkansas and picked up four wolf hybrids as a favor to a USDA inspector who had been trying to find them a home from a licensed facility that was not caring for them properly. There was a male and female and two of their offspring, which are 2 and 3 year old females. Dr. Rudawski spayed, neutered and vaccinated them right



TiLer
(photo by Susan Reinholz)

Letters from Members

We would like to Thank You, again, for giving Molly the bear a good retirement home. It was painful to part with her. She allowed us to share her strength and gentleness for many years. Born in captivity, the freedom to live with Vinnie in your environment must have felt very freeing. I still think of her often and we appreciate all that you have done for her.

Best Wishes,

Grace and Dave Brehm

Thank You for giving a home to Honey Bear.

Virginia Thomas

Washington Island, Wisconsin

I would like to Thank You for your tireless work, dedication and accomplishments on behalf of the animals you love. It is very comforting knowing that your organization is out there doing this important and lifesaving work. I believe there is a special place in Heaven for people like you. God Bless you and your staff,

Sofia Dober

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Dear Jill and Jim

Volunteering at VOTK on Wednesday was a revelation.

You have extraordinary volunteers who are dedicated. It is not an easy thing to do; I can see the work is never ending. That you have been able to keep going for 30 plus years is nothing short of remarkable. There is so much love and sacrifice and unyielding commitment! It was very moving to work on behalf of the animals, to see and feed them.

Sabrina Bryant

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Dear Jill,

We have been following the newsletters, and remain very impressed with the work that you do for all of the animals. It certainly has been a difficult year, what with the losses of dear friends you have suffered. In late October we visited you and brought

down a load of blankets and towels. We were treated to a wonderful tour, as we had not been there for several years. We continue to applaud you for the work that you do, and wish that there was more we could do to help.

Sincerely,

Rob and Ann Bassett

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Dear Jill and Jim

Thank you for the cool membership card. It really means a lot to me. Thank you also for giving me the opportunity to do my Eagle project at VOTK. I know it's going to be really fun, and I know my troop will have a blast. I am really looking forward to doing this project.

Thanks again!

Lhito Camson

Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Valley of The Kings

The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Society of UWSP would like to offer you our most sincere thanks for allowing our club to volunteer at your facility. The success of our club depends on the

knowledge and guidance that you convey upon us.

You can have confidence that the time you've spent with the members of the club has positively impacted each student and the

animals we will be caring for in the future. We strive to exemplify your professionalism and passion for the student body and animals of all types.

Sincerely,

The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Pre-Veterinary Medicine Society



Ways to Help ...

Here are some ways YOU can help the animals at VOTK:

1) Please consider a stock donation through Raymond James. Contact Jack D. Simpson at Jack.Simpson@RaymondJames.com or call 414-935-4190.

2) VOTK now owns a shopping website. The website has 1000s of stores with over 50 million products. As you shop you will receive cash back, while earning funds for VOTK. WWW.ShopForVOTK.Com.

3) VOTK now has an account with Charity Buzz. We are looking for items valued at \$500.00 (minimum) to be auctioned off to benefit the animals at VOTK. Sports memorabilia that is rare or signed with documentation, vacation packages, classic articles, opportunities with famous individuals, anything unique and different to gain high bids. You will receive a full tax write off for your donations.

4) We have T-shirts, hoodies and calendars soon to be available. T-shirts are \$20.00 ea have choice of our lions or tigers. Same for hoodies which are \$35.00 each and are pull overs. Our 2014 calendars are \$20.00 each with \$3.00 for shipping. Calendars will be available in September.



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Our Wish List

We are in need of a **printing service** who would print our newsletters as donation or at cost. It costs \$1,000.00 or more in printing each time we can afford to put out a newsletter and envelopes and postage add another \$600.00 or more to that cost.

We are in need of **donated hay**. With the drought last year our hay costs were astronomical. We have been forced to find forever homes for some of our hooved stock to lighten our hay costs and it's been difficult to decide who needs to go and who can stay. All donations are tax deductible and we are very grateful to everyone who helps with our endless needs.

We also are in need of **canned and dry dog and cat food** — any brand. We feed 1,200 lbs of dry cat food per month and the same in dry dog food. These items are needed for all our smaller cats and wolf hybrids.

Feed we use daily is as follows: scratch grains, game bird feed, hog feed, calf grower, senior horse feed, goat feed, alfalfa pellets, Mazuri Brand tortoise and emu feed, cracked corn, duck and goose grain... our list goes on and on. We are a multi species Sanctuary and have many mouths to feed!

Other things we need daily are: paper towels, toilet paper for the outhouses, paper plates, non toxic disinfectant, bottled anise for fly control, boxes of Borax for fly control, Dawn dishwashing liquid, bleach and scrub brushes.

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.

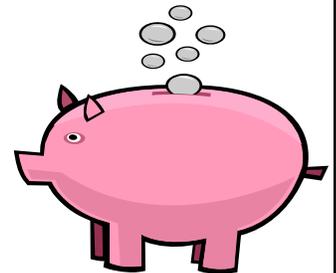
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund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

On December 16th, 2012 Roary was humanely euthanized. He was one of the big ten pen boys. We brought him with eleven other lions and a Tigon from Mississippi back in 1996. Roary was an adult when he came to us, so we estimate his age to have been in the middle 20's.

We neutered him and a few other males a short while after the cats arrived because of aggressiveness toward pen mates. The boys that were neutered lost most of their manes as that is all hormone related. Once castrated, the mane falls out and visitors mistakenly assume they are females.

The boys loved to sleep in a big buddy pile on top of their house. When that group of lions roared it was impossible to hear a person talking next to you. They were truly, an amazing group of cats.

Roary's death came swiftly and quietly; he was ready to go and suffered from bone cancer. With as sick as he was, we could not believe his appetite and roaring with the others on his final day. Within moments of letting him go all the lions in both compounds paid homage to their fallen friend. A chorus of roars went on for what seemed like an eternity. Tears flowed from us and the volunteers making the beginning of our transition without this kind wonderful old soul a difficult one.

Kivu watched over Roary and helped him in his final days by encouraging him to come and eat, grooming him and always by his side. Kivu knew we were helping Roary cross over and stayed with us on the other side of the guillotine. He



missed his friend and his days were difficult without him as his health was also failing. Mishka and Kivu, the two that were left in the ten pen, had the two girls next door but it was not the same. Their entire life they have had each other to depend on and were all one big family. They were survivors and beat all the odds that were thrown their way before their rescue.

We have all been blessed through the years with the chorus of beautiful roars and by those who enjoyed them each and every day. Roary is missed and his once huge presence leaves a lasting void with his remaining two friends. Our hearts were heavy with this loss but take comfort knowing the last sixteen years he and the others gone before Roary had a great life at Valley of the Kings. They had no wants and fresh meals were provided each and every day.

We committed to eleven lions and one Tigon from a large seizure in Mississippi. There were a total of over eighty cats and they all lived in deplorable conditions. There were many dead large cats decomposing in the tiny pens with living ones walking on them. The pens were made from badly rusted cattle panels, not safe and very dangerous for those removing them. Some had no tails or ears from fights and battled each other for small scraps of food that were thrown to them. A cougar lived in a metal fuel oil drum with no protection from the sun in above 100 degree heat. He had to be eu-

thanzed as the bottom of his feet were horribly disfigured and burned. This group of cats suffered untold misery, they fought to survive each and every day of their precious lives until being rescued and sent to creditable Sanctuary's like ours, with the promise of forever homes.

The years have flown by and we can't believe it has been more than sixteen years since this group of cats came to us, for it only seems but yesterday.

Sanctuary Update, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

away. They were all extremely thin and gaunt. They have picked up weight since their arrival and have settled in nicely. We are having a drawing to name them and the winners will receive a free t-shirt and a photo of the wolf hybrid that has their winning name. Please submit a name and the size t shirt you would like to VOTK if you win and good luck! Names need to be submitted by September 1, 2013.

On May 18th we headed to Washington Island, Wisconsin to pick up a bear named Honey. Her owner was forced to part with her through divorce and foreclosure on her property. Honey bear was the last of the animals to leave her facility.

When we arrived at the ferry to go across to the island, the ticket girls were very excited "You're here for Honey aren't you!" We discovered Honey was a famous bear on the island and a favorite among the visitors each year. Even our neighbors had visited Honey bear through the years never thinking she would end up at VOTK! It took everyone to the last possible moment to load her into the crate then

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In Memory of Kari

Kari was with the ten pen group when we picked them up in Mississippi. Kari, Snickers, Pumpkin and Sabrina were the four girls we took in and all lived in the Pumpkin Patch next to the Wolf Hybrids. Sabrina, Pumpkin and Kari are now re-united with the ten pen boys and each and every day they play in the fields of Rainbow Bridge.

Kari surprised us with two male lion cubs when she first arrived and are affectionately known as the “Cuddlebugs”. However they do have attitudes at times and grumble at most people because of severe inbreeding.

All 87 cats that were seized in Mississippi from Kathryn Twist were related to each other and severe inbreeding took place over many years. They all had a splash of tiger in them, as tigers lived with lions and babies were constantly being born and killed and eaten by the others. The living conditions were horrific as dead cats by the dozens were found dead buried beneath feces in the tiny cages!

Kari was named after a VERY special young lady by the name of Kari Tarbox. Years ago before we named the cats Jim and I were at Indian Summer Fest in Milwaukee. We were with some friends and were getting ready to leave; everyone wanted to go through the Native American tent once more before we departed. So as we headed back we came to a small grandstand and I was immediately frozen in my tracks. I told the group to go on and I would wait for them in that spot. (When the Angels send me a loud message like that I never ignore the opportunity to see what they have in store for me and know I’m suppose to stay in that moment.) I sat down on the corner of a bleacher and in a few moments I saw a mother and a stroller frantically making their way to the bench I was sitting on. The little girl was having a seizure and I helped her

mom take her out of the stroller. Immediately I put a bubble of white light around her and sent her healing energy from the Universe and her seizure stopped. She was lying across her mom’s lap and mine and just started smiling from ear to ear.

The little girl’s name was Kari and we found out she was in her early 20’s. She suffered from a severe disorder caused by childhood vaccines and was the size of a four year old child. Jim and our group joined us and we all marveled at Kari’s beautiful radiant spirit and knew she was on this planet for a very special reason. Her smile lit everyone up like a Christmas tree and we were so blessed to have had the Angels direct me to her that day.

Jim and I were so moved by this precious girl we named Kari the lion after her. Kari and her parents would come to see Kari’s namesake and on one occasion I brought up Bob, one of our quiet horses for Kari to ride. When Jim lifted her up on the saddle her eyes grew wide with excitement and never have we seen a bigger smile on anyone in either of our lives.

Jim walked Bob as her Mom held Kari and it became a priceless moment for us all and is still etched in my mind. Kari was in her element and this awesome young lady continues to be a big part of VOTK today!

Kari the lion started to grow a mane a few years ago due to a hormonal condition called, polycystic ovary disease. We opted not to spay her because of her age and decline with old age issues. We found her one morning laying in her enclosure and moaning. Kari was bleeding out into her belly from rupture of a tumor which was more than likely cancerous. We immediately put her to sleep and although her passing was not expected, we were at peace because

she had lived well beyond her years for an old Granny lioness.

Snickers was suddenly alone, the only one left in the Pumpkin Patch and went through the grieving process for a few weeks. She was very happy, when the door that divided the ten pen squeeze and the Pumpkin Patch was opened and Kivu and Mishka could visit with Snickers which helped her recover from her loss.

Kari had a big beautiful mane like one of the boys and was very unique and beautiful. We miss our “Granny” but now forever young she is sunning with her family in the fields of Rainbow Bridge.



Assam



Boo

(photo by Chris Block)

In Memory of Kivu

On March 14, 2013, the gates of heaven opened for yet another ten pen lion. Our beloved Kivu was humanely put to sleep from old age issues. This past year Kivu did the old man shuffle and walked like Tim Conway did when he portrayed the elderly man on the Carol Burnett show. Kivu had severe arthritis in his spine and joints yet he would shuffle each and everyday around his enclosure and always had a hearty appetite.

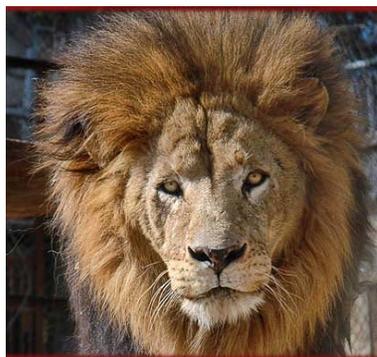
He had an enormous presence in his younger days and was by far the biggest lion in his group. Through the years, at night, we would always hear him banging a plastic 55 gallon drum with his two front paws as if running a marathon. He wanted to be with the girls next door badly and perhaps drumming was his way of communicating that wish to the ladies on the other side.

He spent his days sunning himself with his brothers and playing with big boomer balls like a soccer team. The ten pen boys were all tightly and uniquely bonded.

Kivu's passing was quiet and swift. He let me know about a week before he wanted to go and thanked me for the wonderful life he had at VOTK. He shuffled to the squeeze pen that day, deliberately taking his time with Mishka walking ever so slowly by his side. After a full body and head rub between the two as they said their good-byes, Mishka then turned away and walked down the path by Snickers, never looking back. He wanted to remember his friend alive and spare himself the grief of witnessing him go.

Kivu continued on into the squeeze, his tired old body showed the wear and tear of his years as the head lion of the ten pen. His once beautiful black

mane now gray and patchy with black and red highlights evidenced his very old age. Kivu was castrated a short time after coming to the Sanctuary because of his aggressive behavior but still kept some of his mane.



Kivu
(photo by Chris Block)

Many scars from battles with other males prior to his arrival were etched throughout his entire body. All our hearts were heavy that day but we took comfort in knowing the timing was right and

Kivu wanted our help to relieve him of his tired old body. This was the last act of kindness we could provide for this old man.

As his heart beat its final beat, all the lions roared their final farewell to their beloved brother. Kivu's passing was particularly difficult for me as a flood of memories passed before me when the ten pen was full of bright, young, big beautiful male lions that roared all night long and seemed to play 24/7, and now only one remains. At each grave side service, throughout the years, when prayers were done and everyone stood in silence, the ten pen roared their hearts out and all the lions joined in chorus to bid their fallen friend farewell. With his final breath, his tired old body's spirit rose to walk side by side with his brothers gone before him, guiding Kivu home on the well worn path to the other side. Forever loved, forever missed. Rest in Peace our beautiful old friend.

Mishka's passing will soon be on the horizon, as he is frail, thin and arthritic like Kivu but he comes to take his medications daily. He is still mobile and is eating and drinking. He is now living with Snickers and they enjoy each others company.

When Mishka's time comes we will move Festus in with Snickers. The Cuddle Bugs will go to the ten pen and Jappa and Shera will then go to the Cuddle Bug's enclosure. They will all be getting much needed extra living space. Kivu was sponsored by Joe and Donna Stachowitz from Palatine, Illinois for many years.

In Memory of Our Sweet Emily

On March 22nd we put our beloved Great Pyrenees "Emily" to sleep. She would have turned 12 years of age later this year. That is extremely old for a large breed dog.

Emily has quite the story behind her and I have to start by mentioning our beloved deceased Sumatran tiger Sammy. Sammy and his mate Farah came to the Sanctuary many years ago and were in their late teens. We lost Farah, Sammys mate of 27 years, to cancer and Sammy lived another eight years after her passing, making him the oldest living tiger in the world; he was 36.

They both were Ringling Brother cats and when retired at 18 years, the pair had been sold to a private collector. When the collector grew tired of them they were donated to us with a variety of other exotic animals. Sammy touched the lives of thousands and did not have a mean bone in his entire body.

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In Memory of Our Sweet Emily (continued)

(Continued from page 6)

He lived in the house with us for many years and had to be hand fed each day because his old owner took cable wire and sawed off both his and Farah's fangs in a very brutal and inhumane attempt to make them safe! This horrific insult to their mouths caused hairline fractures in their lower jaws. This caused a massive unattended abscess in Sammy's lower canine stub and jaw bone. Dr. Rudawski took care of Sammy and Farah as soon as they both came in and for the first time in their lives discovered humans who were compassionate and loving.

We could not possibly count how many lives Sammy touched and we still receive cards and letters about him to this day. He truly was a saint and ambassador of the tiger world. We had to make the painful decision to put Sammy to sleep as his hips had given out, yet his heart and soul wanted to go on.

Volunteers dug his grave and the following day as we waited for Dr. Rudawski to let our old tiger go, a beautiful tan and white dove sat on his grave dirt all day, waiting for an old friend to help guide him home.

That evening we had a candlelit service for Sammy and before he was put to sleep I told him not to come back as an exotic. That was on November first, All Saints Day of 2000. A few months later I dreamed I walked across our road into the tree nursery which suddenly gave way to fields and valleys with thousands of animals and people who loved them, reunited on the other side. I was greeted by so many happy to see me and was overwhelmed by the out-

pouring of unconditional love, innocence and purity. I saw a young tiger peeking from behind a small hill, instantly I knew it was Sammy as tears of joy streamed down my face.

After staying in the unconditional energy of the animals for what seemed like a long time, it was time for me to head back and I gave Sammy a final hug. He was insistent on coming with me and walked beside me back into the tree nursery. Each time I told him he needed to go back he repeated "I'm coming with you". I gave him what I thought was his final hug at the edge of the road and stepped on to the pavement when



Emily

(photo by Chris Block)

Sammy changed into a little white kitten! I was jarred awake, tears still fresh on my cheeks and woke Jim to tell him Sammy was coming back soon as a domestic and we would know it was him by two signs.

A few months later I received a call from Dr. Rudawski asking if we would like to have a Great Pyrenees puppy. She was a breeder relinquish because of bad knees. Dr. Rudawski surgically repaired both knees and we went down to pick Emily up after her surgeries were complete. When I saw Emily she was beyond excited to see

me and it was instant recognition. As I scooped her up in my arms, the first thing Emily did was wrap her long tail around me just like Sammy used to do. She was all white with tan splashes, the same color as the dove that sat on Sammy's grave dirt. She also had the same black outline around her eyes. Sammy had indeed returned.

Emily touched just as many lives in her 12 years as her former self and truly was a testament and ambassador to her breed. Emily was as sweet as they come and the struggle one goes through of coming to terms with their beloved animal friend's final days is extremely difficult. Knowing we all have to be strong enough to let our beloved animals go, is the last act of kindness we can give our animal friends. I felt overwhelmed by an Angelic presence when Emily crossed over. She walked with the Angels that evening on her journey home, along the well worn path to Heaven's gates.

Before she left she told me her work on this earthly plane was done and I know she, as Sammy, will be the first to greet me when one day my journey here is also completed. Loved beyond any words I could ever describe, our hearts are heavy with our beloved Emily's passing. She is but only a heart beat away and will forever remain with us each and everyday.



Sanctuary Update, continued

(Continued from page 4)

into the trailer, so they were kind enough to hold the ferry from leaving until we reached the dock. There were cheers and lots of waving as we drove onto the ferry to leave.

Christy, Honey Bears owner was devastated as was her family but they are taking comfort in knowing they can visit anytime and volunteer. We look forward to many

years of friendship with Christy and her family. They are truly wonderful and so is Honey Bear! She is a very sweet Cinnamon bear and is ten years of age. Her favorite food to eat is pecans.

Festus has been moved from the Wolf Hybrid area

and is now the sole lion in the "Ten Pen". He is extremely happy having the entire enclosure all to himself and has certainly earned it. He had to be removed from that enclosure years ago when the Ten Pen boys decided one day Festus needed to die. Everyone in the pen was separated and Festus lived in the main barn for a period of time and then moved to the enclosure where Honey Bear now lives. He has been returned to the Ten Pen. He is everyone's favorite old lion with his big black mane and his Bob Marley dreadlocks. The Pumpkin Patch enclosure next door now houses Mishka and Snickers. We originally were not going to put the two together as Mishka is very frail but the body language was right and they now have a beautiful relationship. When Mishka passes, Festus will then live with Snickers and the others will be moved into the ten pen.

On June 1, we took Kubwa down to

Dr. Rudawski's for what we thought was a tumor in the subdural layer of his belly. Well, to make a long story short, he did not require any surgery as he is just "fat!" His blood health panel came back normal and we have a very healthy, albeit, fat tiger. The amazing thing is that he's not a big eater, unlike Trio his pen mate, who is always a bottomless pit! We were all relieved and Grateful Kubwa was a false alarm!

Special thanks for traveling with Kubwa to help were his wonderful sponsors Dr. Firdaus and her husband Dr. Aref Hashim. It took ten volunteers to get him to the trailer and a considerable amount of time to put him back. Kubwa is well over 1,000 lbs!

On Saturday June 8, Snickers had surgery to repair a hernia caused by her spay a couple years prior. Her surgery took a long time but Dr. Rudawski was able to restore her tummy and removed a tumor which looked cancerous. Fortunately, the tumor came back a benign meningioma. Her recovery was uneventful and she is back with Mishka, soaking up the sun together on hot days. Special Thanks go to Derek, Amy, Vince and Jen for riding down with us and assisting with her transport.

We have had a very busy Winter, Spring and now Summer. Just not enough hours in the day! The newsletter will now go out two times a year because of the rising cost of printing and mailing; every penny needs to go as far as we can possible stretch it if we are to survive in this economy.

Rain in our area has restored the water tables and we are no longer in drought, that's the good news. However, all the record rainfall though, has caused the roof on our house to spring new leaks and is in dire need of

being replaced...that's the bad news! We are looking into buying used sheet metal and looking for people who can install it. It would be too costly to tear off, replace the wood underneath and put on new shingles. Metal saved the main barn and should be perfect for this old house. We also have a broken water line that will have to be fixed before winter. Hopefully the water will bubble up through the ground in a short period of time before we start a costly process of digging for it. If there is anyone out there reading this that can help with these two urgent issues and can donate your time to help us, please let us know.

Fund Raising results

February 2, 2013: Franks Country Market in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. \$561.84 was raised in four hours. Special Thanks go to Derek, Amy, Vicki, Tammy, Angel and Jayne.

February 16, 2013: Lincoln State Club Cat Show booth raised \$330.70. Special thanks to Chris Block.

March 15,16 and 17: Arlington Park Pet Show netted \$1,176.15. Special thanks to Sharon, Daryllynn, Chris, Derek and Amy.

May 4th, 2013: Amy Ducach Harley benefit ride which started at St. Matthews Parish in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and began with a bike blessing, netted \$291.00.

June 4th, 2013: Milwaukee Harley ride netted \$763.00.

June 25th, 2013: Lauderdale Ladies Golf League held a wonderful fundraiser for the animals and netted \$1,301.00, and the ladies also donated many wonderful much needed supplies! Special thank you to Fran and Mary who set up this event! These two ladies went above and beyond even though the event was rained out, it was still a success.



Honey Bear
(photo by Susan Reinholz)

In Memory of Beautiful R.C.

R.C our blind Morgan mare was humanely euthanized May 1st. R.C. suffered from COPD for many years and had severe breathing issues early this spring during 40 degree weather. We knew it wouldn't be long because once medication is needed in cool weather it's not fair to prolong the inevitable.

R.C's struggle for breath each summer became worse as the years went by. We almost let her go last July when the temperatures were in the triple digits but, by the grace of God, she made it through. R.C. Turned 33 years old this spring and the COPD had taken its toll on her body. R.C. had some muscle wasting issues and was retaining fluid in her belly which is a significant change in end stage COPD.

Dr Tracy, from Elkhorn Veterinary services, whom R.C. loved, came to help our beautiful mare cross Rainbow Bridge where her sight and her lungs instantly were restored.

We buried her with her cherished blind Appaloosa friend Skyhawk, who suffered a stroke a few years ago at the old age of 36.

R.C. came in many years ago from a huge horse seizure in Walworth. Forty Registered Morgan horses were in deplorable conditions and a dead horse was found in one of the sheds. The small pasture was 4 feet deep in manure and the horses had narrow paths worn through it. R.C. and the stallions were locked in the barn in stalls that had not been cleaned in many years! R.C and the other horses that were stall bound also had well worn paths in their stalls and their ears were all touching the ceiling.

The horses were seized by Lake Land Animal Shelter and we hauled many for

the shelter, to Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. They were all re-homed to loving, forever homes.

R.C. was always one of the big favorites here at the Sanctuary. People would call her from across the pasture and she would come running for carrots and apples, always stopping inches before the fence. She would take treats so sweetly and didn't let her handicap ever slow her down.

R.C. never missed a beat, she knew her pasture and stall entrance and never acted displaced in any way. When R.C. would need to be hauled to the Veterinary Clinic, she would lean onto Jim's shoulder and let him guide her right into the trailer.

R.C. was such a gift and her whinnies of greetings are missed. She would cock her head and listen and if her friends were not right by her she would circle and call then wait until they came.

Each summer and fall her hay would need to be soaked in water; she was self fed alfalfa pellets, beet pulp and her daily measured grain. You never would have known R.C. was 33 years old! She was in excellent flesh and although very sick was feisty right up to her last breath. There will always be a special place engrained in our hearts for this old horse. She had many wonderful years with us and years ago veterinarians felt she should be put down. R.C. proved them wrong, blind animals can have quality lives and R.C. will always be a testament to that. R.C. was sponsored by Mariah Forster Olson from La Crosse, Wisconsin.



R.C.
(photo by Susan Reinholz)

In Memory of Assam

Our beautiful Golden Tabby Assam died peacefully in his sleep June 5th. Assam suffered from cancer these past two years and had tumors on his jaw that Dr. Rudawski debulked a few times to buy him more time.

With the horrible spring weather, cold then warm then cold and rain, all the cats this year struggled to adapt to the sudden changes. Assam went outside a few times on beautiful warm days to sun himself and we were praying he would be around to enjoy the summer but it wasn't meant to be.

Assam and his mate Patti Abra came from the Naples Zoo in Florida quite a few years ago and we lost Patti a couple years ago to a feline virus. Assam was devastated when he lost his beloved Patti and we paired him with Tia, who breathed new life into that old tiger.

Once Assam fell ill with cancer we had to separate them and bring him up to the main barn area for close observation. We had to keep him in a temperature controlled environment with big indoor rooms and an outdoor enclosure to enjoy each day. He was bedded deep in hay and blankets and how he loved it when Summer and Nicole made him fresh beds. He loved those two girls and had a very special bond with them.

When we did his evening meal and



Assam
(photo by Chris Block)

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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.

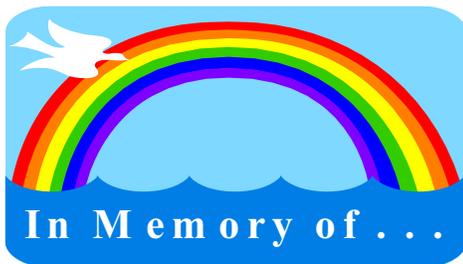
We do not believe in taking any of our animals to programs or fund raisers.

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 beautiful Brittany, **Jack**, who crossed over on December 27th, 2012. Our beloved Jack was almost 17 years old and came to us from American Brittany Rescue with his sister, Penny [she left us in June 2011]..his joy in life was following his sister in her [mis]adventures.

Don Martorelli
Prospect Heights, Illinois

In Memory of **Justice**. Big beautiful Tennessee Walker that was as kind as he was tall.

Loved and forever missed by the **Ron Sorenson Family**
of Walworth, Wisconsin

In Beloved Memory of **Sam and Marylou Rutzky.**
Vicki and Tammy Vieau
Genoa City, Wisconsin

In Memory of **Hilary Bryant**
Susanne Carman
Sabrina Bryant

In Memory of my sister, **Chrisy** and mother **Mary**. They were both taken too soon.

Sofia Dober
Elk Grove Village, Illinois

In Beloved Memory of **Jean Ann Forbe**, my cousin, who passed away in 2012. It was through her that I first came to your Sanctuary many years ago and I want her memory to live on there through your kindness and help for your wonderful and beautiful animals.
Blessings to you,
Nona Belle Paulsen
Phoenix, Arizona

In loving Memory of our beloved Chihuahua, **Elvis, aka Pork Chop**. He will be missed greatly.

Dan Johnson Jr.
Ginny Knuth

In Memory of my sweet and beautiful **D'Artagan**, the cat who I loved more than there are words to express, died Feb 6th, due to a variety of ailments including kidney, heart disease, pancreatitis and IBD. One of the many things I will miss are the times he would jump on the bed in the early morning and cuddle into my face and torso to the point I could hardly breathe. I would wrap my arms around him and pull him to me even closer, and he would purr. So many precious memories, so little time with him. Always dear and forever near.

Sabrina Bryant
Brookfield, Wisconsin

In Memory of **J.R.**, my Beloved cat I had growing up and in honor of all our pets.

Kathy Gronceski
Poplar Grove, Illinois

In Memory of **Dan Gonzales** who passed away April 24th, 2013. He was our dear friend and loved visiting VOTK with the love of his life Mary Fornek. He is missed by all who knew and loved him.

Kelly Sroka and Rick Smith
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

In Memory of my dear friend, **Alice Hurlbutt**. She loved and respected all God's creatures in the animal World. We started the Lambs gift shop in Libertyville, Illinois for mentally and physically handicapped adults that needed special care. Alice was my rock, my strength and my hope and I am devastated by her loss.
Sandy Santoni
Huntley, Illinois

In Memory of **Tom Werner**
James and Carol McGowan
Rockford, Illinois



D'Artagan



Justice

(Continued from page 9)

meds, Assam would always sit up to greet us and loved cut up heart, livers and fresh meat with blood poured over top. When we were short on meat he loved the chicken breasts we gave him instead. He always had a hearty appetite and rarely missed a meal.

Assam was very content and loved being pampered. It's amazing how much time one spends with an ailing animal and when they are gone, it's only then that you realize how much time you spent caring for them each and everyday. Assam was cherished by many and all our hearts are broken with his loss.

Assam and Patti Abra were never abused or mistreated a day in their lives. They had the best life two tigers in captivity could ever possibly have. They were loved by all who knew them and their special spirits now shine on among the heavens to light the path for others, to guide their journeys home.

Assam was sponsored by Beverly Navara of Morgan Hill, California

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

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

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