



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Pug Mark

We don't know where the year has gone. So much has happened since last December and I really don't know where to begin. The first week of January 2014 I had a complete reversal shoulder replacement and muscle repair. My arm did not wake up after surgery because of nerve damage. Pain shot throughout my arm for many months. It was almost six months before I could lift it and I still have problems using it. Five months of therapy and grief has caused me to fall behind in all my paperwork. It wasn't until early summer that I could get back to my mountain of work on a limited basis. My arm will never be the same, I have a bad knee that needs to be replaced and I'm passing on that surgery. Seems like the older Jim and I get, the harder it is to come back from each surgery.



Winter was extremely hard on the animals, volunteers and us. We thought this past spring would never arrive but we were very grateful for the cooler summer! Our electric bill was less than half and we rarely had to turn on the air conditioners. Our remaining

senior citizens were also appreciative of the cooler summer and have all been very active, playing and showing off for cameras. The bears have not furred up like they did last year and I believe we are going to have a mild winter. Last year in July 2013, all the bears were beyond furred up! They all looked like very wooly caterpillars. The winter blew in with a vengeance and we were prepared for a long one. The

cold didn't really leave till July and threw off all the animals' ability to shed properly. These weird weather patterns are only going to worsen as time marches on and I find myself buried in prayers for

World Peace, for animals and humans to be safe in all corners of our Earth.

Sanctuary Update

We have lost some of our old timers this year. Winter came with huge amounts of snow and spring was especially hard with the wet and cold. It seemed to last forever. Festus is still with us as of this writing at of the beginning of November. Bless his heart, as he has suffered two mild strokes and is so

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Letters from Members

Mary and I admire your work. I wish we could do more for the Sanctuary.

Joe and Mary Mohr
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Jill and Jim,
God Bless you and all your helpers at VOTK. You are all special Angels for all you do. The dignity, love and respect you show to God's creatures touches my heart. When a friend and I visited VOTK a few years ago' it was so wonderful – a trip I'll never forget. God Bless you and all those in your care.

With Love and Prayers,
Irene Sollano
Douglaston, New York

Dear Jill and Jim,
You are so amazing. The love and support you give these beautiful animals is above and beyond. You are truly a gift. We have never met personally. I was lucky enough to come and visit your Sanctuary a couple of times and it touched me deep down inside. How beautiful is that!! The love and beauty there stays with you long after you leave. Thank you for what you do!
Linda Halko
Genoa City, Wisconsin



Dear Animals and loving caretakers of them,
I came to the Sanctuary with Asia Voight and was amazed at how wonderful you have made the lives of these abused, tortured and sometimes forgotten creatures. Thank you for all the care and work you put in for the betterment of these deserving souls. I thank you too for the great experience – I think of them often and pray for their higher good.

Sincerely,
Karen Vinyeta

Dear Jill and Jim
I had the privilege of visiting your Sanctuary in October with Asia Voight and my fellow animal communication students. It was a deeply moving experience.

I came away with the sense that it was life changing for me, as I was able to share energy with some of the animals. I can tell by reading some of the information on your Website that you value the Spiritual connection with the animals you care for as well as their physical needs. That is very important to me and I want to support your work. Thank you for caring and for making a difference.

Sincerely,
Kristin Cramer
Cottage Grove, Wisconsin

Dear Valley of the Kings
We have been saving part of our allowance money to share with a good cause. We love big cats and want to help the big cats that you take care of.
Love,
Anna and Abby Gartner
(Age 7 and 5)

Dear Jill,
I continue to respect you and Jim in your Mission as evidenced by not only the enclosed check, but my loyal support over the years in your work. I can't recall the words of Mahatma Ghandi of India who said "Every Nation will be judged by how it treats its animals." God's Blessings in your endeavors.
Irving Blaesing
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Jill,
I just wanted to "thank you" for your preserving care of so many animals. I'm sure if they could collectively recite a poem, they would note how their latter years on this Earth are personified by the familiar words of Browning. "Grow old along with me/ the best is

(Continued on page 9)



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Joseph Crimmins
Attorney at Law

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Tina Herfel
President

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Ways to Help ...

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

1) Please consider a stock donation to help the animals this holiday season. 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 vehicles, opportunities with famous individuals, anything unique and different to gain high bids. You will receive a full tax write off for your donations.

Our 2015 calendars are \$15.00 each plus \$3.00 for shipping.

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.

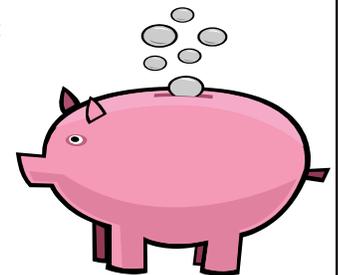
To use PayPal, simply log onto www.paypal.com. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address info@votk.org for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund or a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



Sanctuary Updates

(Continued from page 1)

old, yet eats every day and greets everyone, looking for treats. We have put in a new heated barn for Festus attached to his enclosure because he would not do well with the confinement in the main barn area. If we have long cold spells we won't have to worry about that old man, he will be nice and warm all winter long. Festus and Snickers are the last of the ten pen cats. We put them together in mid-October and they are now inseparable.

How we miss those old lion roars in the middle of each night, pounding on a 55 gallon drum and tossing boomer balls in play. Time marches on and ushers in room for more as we lose our precious four legged friends along the way. Those who have crossed over to the heavens are missed beyond anything we could ever measure. They are all so very precious and we are very grateful for the time we have with them. We have some retired Circus tigers coming in next spring. I'm not sure how many we will be able to commit to, but probably seven to ten. There are 39 to choose from, most being white tigers. We have been busy preparing enclosures for their arrival.

This year our Foxes and Rac-



coons both had 20'x30' enclosures made and they love the nice big areas. They are now in the high compound up by the mini goats. This coming year we will be putting in more enclosures for our smaller animals. We have two Savannah cats and a porcupine that have been waiting for new areas with a new heated barn.

With all the rain this summer, the roof on our house was damaged and is now tarped in hopes of putting on a metal roof sometime in the future. It has needed

to be replaced for a long time but keeps getting put on the back burner. We always seem to muddle through somehow and are very grateful two volunteers tarped it over for us this past spring. We estimate the cost of a metal roof will be over \$15,000.00, and it will have to wait a long time.

One of the Sanctuary horses, "Chi", needed emergency surgery for colic the first weekend in July and had to have ten feet of her small intestine removed. It was being strangled by a benign tumor. We were saying "Save the horse"? "Fix the roof"? Really wasn't an option so we saved the horse. Her surgery was in time and her recovery slow but she made it through and is

2014 VOTK Fund Raisers

Rock For The Kings, a Benefit Concert for the Sanctuary, was put on by the Kola Music Rock School from Palatine, Illinois. It was held March 29th and the kids raised \$1,400.00

Amy Ducach's group, BON (Biker or Not), had their motorcycle run May 4th and raised \$425.00.

Milwaukee Harley-Davidson motorcycle ride was May 24th and raised \$1,016.00.

Derek Becker's Annual Fundraiser for Valley of The Kings, July 17th, raised just under \$10,000.00.

Terry Molitor's Woodstock Harley-Davidson motorcycle ride was July 19th and raised \$2,100.00.

Sandy Sherman's group motorcycle ride was August 23rd and raised \$1,900.00.

Lake Shore Harley-Davidson had a ride August 3rd and raised \$430.00.

Jo Jo Giovannoni's ride was September 21st and raised \$443.00.

back out with the herd of her horse friends. We will be paying on that bill for quite some time as it was \$7,500. God Bless the Doctors at Morrie Waud Center, UW Madison Extension, and especially Dr. Goodin and Dr. Chris for saving our beloved mare. They are dedicated gifted surgeons and worth their weight in gold!

In Memory of Those Who Have Crossed Rainbow Bridge

In Memory of our beloved Cougar, Chicar.

Chicar died peacefully in his sleep



of old age just before Christmas 2013. He loved to be brushed and cuddled; not one mean bone could

be found within his sweet old body. Chicar was well into his 20's and was on a variety of heart medications for many years. I would lay my head on his chest and listen to the rhythm of his beating heart, knowing full well his time left was short and each day with him a Blessing.

Our sweet boy's heart just gave out and he died a quiet, peaceful passing. We miss brushing him daily and sitting by his side hand feeding him treats he loved. Chicar's overwhelming greetings "Roow" "Roow" still echo in my head as he was always so glad to see us. I look at old photos and smile with all the wonderful years we had with him. He truly was a very unique and special cat.

Chicar came to the Sanctuary when he was just six months old. His owner could not handle his young energy and was frustrated he couldn't train him like a dog. The owner promised he would not get another exotic cat but after dumping Chicar on us, he went out and bought another Cougar thinking that cat would be different! We ended up with Pickles, Chicar's brother a year later!

Now that new Federal regulations have been passed, people without permits can no longer just go buy a large cat on a whim. For that we are grateful.

In Loving Memory of Mishka;

We lost Mishka January 24th, 2014. He was a very old lion who struggled with arthritis these past few years. I was on the fence and could not make a decision to put him to sleep before my surgery in January. He was still getting around and had a great appetite. I didn't think it would be fair to let him go and



break Snickers' heart. He so bonded with Snickers and was constantly by her side.

In the morning of January 24th, Mishka came out to get a drink of water and slowly made his way back into his house settling in right next to Snickers. Within an hour as he lay beside Snickers he died quietly and very peacefully, our big seasoned male who was always the leader of the pack and was well into his mid 20's.

Mishka was one of the last Ten Pen boys. His roar was always one of the loudest and he was the patriarch of the group. His tired old body bore many battle scars from all his years as the leader. He always stood his ground and never gave in. He was proud and Majestic as every male lion should be right up to

the end.

Mishka was one of the first lions we castrated because of his aggressive behavior. It made a huge difference and he was then able to live out his days with his brothers. When the group of ten male lions roared you could here them five miles away in town. They were amazing! At every graveside service for an animal we lost, the ten pen boys would all sit on their big house and attentively watched the goings on. At the end of each ceremony like clockwork, they would pay homage to the one crossed over and would roar their hearts out. Everyone would stand in silence as the Ten Pen closed each ceremony and all of us with goose bumps watching, in awe. Now there is but one ten pen lion left, Festus, and this old man's days are numbered as well. Then they will be gone, all reunited at heaven's gate to carry on their close bond and welcome home the two and four legged friends they knew and loved at VOTK with magnificent roars of welcome home.

Mishka was sponsored for many years by Revel Miller of Skokie, Illinois.

In Loving Memory of Chelsea;

On February 11th 2014 we were shocked to find Chelsea deceased. We could tell she died suddenly without a struggle. She had been acting normal and eating right up to that day. There



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Rainbow Bridge, continued

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was absolutely no evidence of an illness or struggle, her heart just stopped in mid-stride. Chelsea was in her 20's. She was an old cat but young in compared to other tigers that have gone before her. Czar and Chelsea would play for hours in the snow and in the summer months would share their pool. They had a very tight bond and Chelsea's death was very hard for Czar as he mourned for months without her. We have since paired him with Topaz and the pairing was successful. Both Czar and Topaz are very happy together. Chelsea came from a place in Pennsylvania called Water Wheel Exotics with five other tigers and one lion. They were shut down by the USDA due to animal abuse. All six cats we accepted from that seizure had to be re-declawed. They had botched declaws as cubs and bones were actually sticking out of their paws! Some of these back yard breeders use tin snips to declaw their lions and tigers as babies! It is extremely inhumane and the animal pays the price with pain its entire life! Czar had multiple surgeries to try and correct his crushed toes; two toes had to be removed completely. Needless to say the animals at Water Wheel Exotics suffered untold stress and pain virtually their entire lives.

In Memory of Vinnie

Vinnie our old black bear did not wake from his winter slumber. We guesstimate his death to be on or near March 3, 2014. Vinnie turned 29 years the end of January. He was extremely old yet

weighed over 800 pounds right up to the end. Vinnie came to the Sanctuary when he was six months old. Through the years he never hibernated until his final year. We were surprised he laid down for a long winters nap but glad he did. He slowed considerably the past three years and you could tell his stride was not that of a young bear.

Vinnie lived for years with Yummie and Kumah, two other fe-



male bears. They died at 25 and 26 years of age so we were very surprised Vinnie out lived the girls. However there may be a reason for that! Volunteer Terry baked Vinnie a cake every Saturday when she and Sue fed the bears. Vinnie would sit like a person in front of his little pedestal and eat his cake. He loved how Sue and Terry spoiled him and we are positive that is why he lived as long as he did.

Vinnie was able to receive a friend a few years ago, Molly a black bear from northern Wisconsin. They never really hit it off and Molly would complain every time Vinnie walked by. But that old man just took it in stride and appreciated her company however distant their relationship was.

Vinnie came from Land O'Lorin, a roadside zoo that was closed not from animal abuse but right-

fully should have been! Lorin tried to kill his girlfriend's husband and is currently serving a life sentence without parole. The USDA tried unsuccessfully to close Land O'Lorin for over eleven years! Cats ate each other out of hunger, a young black leopard with rickets had multiple fractures throughout its body, a Water Buffalo that was peeled from the icy ground in the dead of winter, skinning her alive. The list of nightmares go on and on for the animals that suffered at his hands. We took in quite a few animals from him and have but one left, Socks, a big male tiger, now too a senior who lives with our white tiger Oxsanna.

In Memory of Satchel

Satchel was a very old male lion who died

March 11th, 2014.

He died peacefully in his sleep.

He and his two litter mates were from the Duluth Minnesota Zoo and have been with us since they were approximately four months old. Both Satchel's brothers died of liver failure a few years apart, two years ago. They were never handleable but yet I trained them when they were little to move from one side of the pen to the other as I dipped my shoulder in either direction. Years later we added a squeeze pen but rarely



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used it because they were so well behaved. They would allow me to sit on a milk crate directly in front of them and take photos. All three were drop dead gorgeous with their big beautiful manes! We neutered Satchel later in his life because he became quite aggressive toward his brothers. Once neutered, he calmed down and there was quiet and peace in the valley once more. A few years ago we took in a lioness named Sheba, from western Iowa, who lived right next to Satchel. We could never put them together because Satchel was too frail but they slept side by side along the fence line that divided them each and everyday. We know, without a doubt, in Satchel's final years she made him happy to be next to another lion. Satchel was sponsored by Lake Louise Middle School in Palatine, Illinois

In Memory Of Lelia

On March 21st 2014 Lelia, our wolf hybrid, died suddenly of a seizure caused by an unknown source. She had been completely healthy and eating normally the night before. Inbreeding is a possibility but the sad fact was she

was only three years old. It's painful to lose our old timers but when it comes



to a young animal it is magnified

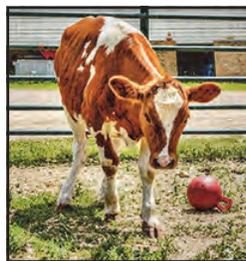
ten fold.

We have her brother Milo who is healthy and strong so we think it had to have been an isolated event. Lelia came in with her brother Milo as three month old puppies from the Washington County Humane Society. They were products of a back yard breeder who dumped them about a mile apart on a country road.

Lelia was sponsored by Karen Harris of Chicago, Illinois

In Loving memory of Rosie

Rosie was a beautiful red and white Holstein calf that was found alive at our gate one morning. She was about 24 hrs old



and was born with a dislocated hip. We tried to save her and make her comfortable but unfortunately it

wasn't to be. We humanely put her to sleep just after her first Birthday. Everyone was extremely attached to little Rosie and she was buried here at the Sanctuary with another crippled calf.

In Memory of Little Annie

Annie was a Mini Pom (mini Pomeranian). She found her way into our life several years ago. Volunteer Karen Harris was on her way up to the Sanctuary when she saw a tiny black thing walking along the road looking lost. Karen stopped and discovered the little black thing was a dog that was thickly matted and unkempt. She was extremely thin and there

were no houses or farms nearby. Karen brought the little dog to the Sanctuary and we were going to find a small dog rescue for her but first we wanted to put her back together again. We named her Annie and she was one big matt from head to toe, she had a huge hernia and foul smelling breath. We took her to Dr. Rudawski and he fixed her hernia, spayed her and pulled eight teeth. The groomer gave her a lion cut and she was the cutest 2 pound dog you have ever seen! It was only but a few days Annie wormed her way into our hearts and was the best little dog ever, so we kept her. She loved car rides, getting cuddled, being carried around and was so happy all of the time. She never had a bad day. Unfortunately, Annie had a bad heart murmur and soft esophagus which is common in small dogs. Four months before Annie died she began to suffer from seizures and a cough which medications didn't seem to help. We lost Annie March 26th 2014, one of the saddest days of our lives. Our precious little Annie Bananie gone. Although Annie weighed only 2 lbs she had the heart and will of a lion. She has left a big hole in both Jim's and my hearts. That horrible void one feels over the loss of a beloved pet can't be filled and we know Annie watches over us each and everyday.





In Loving Memory of John Bacon, brother and brother-in-law of Ray Bacon and Alice Perlin.

Richard and Linda Morris
Evanston, Illinois

In Loving Memory of Dave Powell: VOTK volunteer and wonderful man. He is missed by his human and animal friends.

Brad Miller
Ormond Beach, Florida

In Memory of Dave Powell from his friends at Bell-Memphis, Inc, a happy customer.

Roy Bell

In Loving Memory of Susan M. Zewiske
Dr. Ruth A.Hartmann and Frank J.Herzberg

In Loving Memory of Ingrid L. Regal: Her Mother was a supporter of the Sanctuary for many years.

Dr. Ruth A.Hartmann and Frank J.Herzberg

In Memory of Carol Nehring: Catherine Ansay
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In Beloved Memory of my husband Richard Teske who loved listening to his daughter Sam's stories of the Sanctuary.
Sincerely,
Kathy Teske
Janesville, Wisconsin

In Memory of my Beloved Brittanys:
Kathy Preziosi
Prospect Heights, Illinois

In Memory of Lena, who departed from this world on July 5th, 2014, the dearest German Shepherd of Susan Reinholz.
Lucille S. Weiman
Whitewater, Wisconsin

In Memory of my friend Ken Marks who passed away suddenly last February.
Janey Mohr
Madison, Wisconsin

In Memory of our Beloved Cat Kaiser, our Baby, and Kubwa's older brother (May 17th, 1998 – October 14, 2013)
The two of us, united forever to be together, yet, unknowingly, we were incomplete. There was something missing within each soul, then you came along. You made us whole. A blue eyed fur ball, you walked into our hearts with padded feet. You teased us with hope for your affection when all you wanted was a treat. You kept us on our toes and lifted our spirits with just a rub of your nose. You al-

ways knew when Mommy was home. Ever ready at the door to greet her the moment you heard her little red car, but nothing compared to hearing you purr. Just like the Earth revolves around the Sun, our lives danced around you, little one. Your unconditional love shone so bright. We were never alone at night, but now your time has come and you have flown. You ruled our hearts and now you leave a hole. Life without you will take its toll. As we learn, once again, to sleep alone. We will always cherish our departed soul.
Aref Khwaja and Firdaus Hashim

In Beloved Memory of Carol Ahrens who was a Very special light in this World.

In Memory of Adena Anderson who passed away at the wonderful age of 105! She was a dog lover and had her dog Lilly who survived her. She loved all animals.
Sonja Pluess
Edgerton, Wisconsin

In Memory of Vinnie Maynard who loved all animals and would have enjoyed helping.
Mary K Miekina
Deerfield, Illinois

In Memory of Adam Rudawsky, Beloved Son of Dr.

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Holiday Gifts that Give Back

This holiday season, send a gift that means an automatic donation to **Valley of the Kings Sanctuary and Retreat!** When you shop at any of over 1,000 participating online stores through iGive, a portion of each purchase comes back to us in the form of a donation check.

It's free for you, free for us, and you pay the same (or less!) than you would by going directly to the store. Shopping online means no wasted gas and no more standing in long lines at the mall. And to all you smart shoppers: don't miss iGive's treasure-trove of coupons, sales, and free shipping.

Save money, save time, and send gifts that give twice. What could be better than that?

See for yourself at: www.iGive.com/VOTK

Here are just a few of iGive's 1,000+ online stores, where a portion of each purchase benefits our cause:



Dreamin's Free

The tree nursery across the street from us has been put up for sale. It's over 200 acres but can be divided into 35 acre parcels. If a miracle could happen, we would love to purchase 35 acres and put in log cabins for members to stay in and a small log home to replace the one we live in now, as its days are numbered. Most of the trees would remain and we would also put up buildings for much needed storage. We could then move the farm animals to that side making more room for the exotics where they're at now. They are asking \$10,000.00 per acre, but are open to offers. The property is way beyond our reach but the thought of the Sanctuary expanding across the street makes our hearts sing.

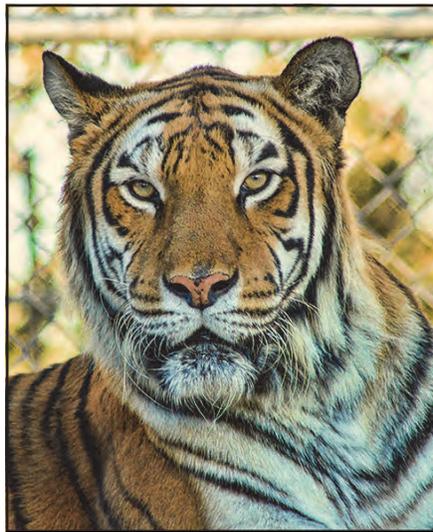
Wish list for winter

Dog and Cat carriers, kitty litter, dry dog and cat food (any brand), canned dog and cat food (any brand), cat and dog treats, paper products; plates, paper towels, grains for: horse, llama, emu, pig, chicken, peacock, and wildlife mix for raccoons and the porcupine.



Who's New?

Peppy the Porcupine has found his way to the Sanctuary during the summer. He was from a well known humane educator who used Peppy in programs to educate the public on wildlife. Sadly, his owner passed away from COPD and a new facility needed to be found for Peppy. He is certainly a character and loves treats which included everything bagels and sweet corn. Please ask to see him when you visit, he will make you smile!



Native American group presents Peace Pole

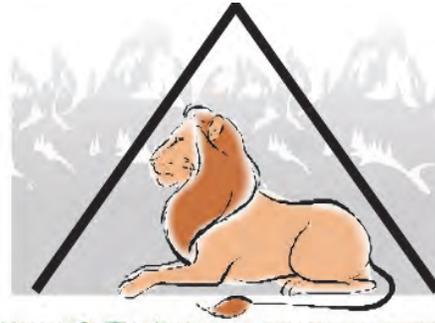
Honoring the Circle members drove from various parts of Minnesota to present us with a Peace Pole for our upper cemetery. They provided a wonderful Ceremony and brought blessed water from Lake Superior. Honoring the Circle are Native Americans whose goal is World Peace through the interconnectedness of all beings, including animals and humans. They honored us for the work that we do here and it was an incredible experience for all who attended. After the Ceremony, Festus roared his heart out facing all of us and it was the perfect ending to that beautiful day!



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) @ \$75 each
- ____ 6-month Family Membership(s) \$100
- ____ 1-year Membership(s) @ \$150 each
- ____ 1-year Family Membership(s) \$200
- ____ 6-month Senior Membership(s) @ \$37.50 each
- ____ 1-year Senior Membership(s) @ \$75 each



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY AND RETREAT
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Please send a gift card to announce my gift.

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Gift from:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

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

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



2015 VOTK Calendars

The 2015 VOTK calendars are here! Get your orders in now, before they're gone! You can purchase them from the VOTK gift shop for \$15 Or send us a check for \$15 + \$3 (shipping) for each calendar .

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

**Remember —
each calendar you purchase helps the animals.**



Black Panthera, Spirit of the Night by Cindy Bloom

Every animal has its own story, a hero, healer, prophet, magician, or friend. Panthers have an ancient and mystical beginning associated with the "Dark of the Moon". They bring us into the hidden forces of nature. Black animals are symbols of quiet strength, protection, and mysticism; "Panthera pardus" are panthers in the leopard family and are found in Africa, China, India and Asia Minor. "Panthera onca" are panthers in the jaguar family and are found in the Southwest United States, Mexico, Central and South America. Both Species are endangered.

Ivy and Charlie are our resident Black Leopards/Black Panthers. They are survivors not from the wilds of the world but from the hands of humans. All black cats are melanistic having excessive dark pigmentation the opposite of Albinism. They have the classic rosette patterns on the trunk of their body and spots cover their limbs, head and hind quarters. When Ivy and Charlie bask in the sun these patterns become quite apparent.

Leopards in the wild are nocturnal and solitary hunters that move in the silence of darkness. They strategically search, stalk, and with an explosive sprint take down their prey. Storing prey three times their size in trees protects it from scavengers and other predators. Hypnotic to watch, their movements are agile, graceful, and purely captivating.

Ten year old Ivy when fed still acts as if her food is prey. 20 year old Charlie had all of his teeth and claws removed by his former owner so he could do photo ops with movie stars. Charlie has to be hand fed ground turkey. Both of them mistreated as young leopards their world now is a sacred place. With relatives that surround them with the

imminent spirit of rebirth.

Females have 2-3 cubs, giving up their nomadic way of life until the cubs can travel with her. Cubs old enough to be on their own rarely leave their natal areas. Leopards must avoid overlapping territories with lions and tigers. Many of their habitats are fragmented and starvation is always a concern. Females weigh 80-90 lbs. and males weigh approximately 130 lbs. Leopards are most vulnerable to the lethal hands of humans. Their behavioral adaptation, wide geographic distribution, ability to successfully integrate diverse range of habitats and climates, has aided in their survival and skill to live in the shadow of the man. Ivy's behavior may seem a bit ornery but she is always willing to talk, hiss, growl and then roll over, belly exposed which is a submissive pose, a place of acceptance of your presence. Charlie is polar opposite, he is always talkative, joyful, and interactive with everyone.

Ancient mythology and scripture world wide have divine beliefs about panthers. They are believed to save people from danger. In medieval times panther typifies Christ who went into a cave and emerged from darkness three days later with "sweet breath" Repetitive stories emerge telling of the sweat breath of panthers. Croats depict panthers with fiery "sweet breath" representing its alluring essence.

"Panthera onca" are in the jaguar family, these black jaguars/black panthers live throughout the Americas. Their habitats are quite diverse, living in swampy savannas, grasslands, and dense woodlands. The largest populations are in Central and South American rainforests. Their habitats are fragmented and they are hunted for furs and sport. Humans are their main threat. Jaguars like leopards are en-

dangered.

They are the largest and most powerful cats in the western hemisphere. A male can weigh up to 300 lbs. These cats have keen eyesight, are highly territorial and stealth hunters. Heavily muscled, shorter stocky legs and big heads, they look more like a wrestler, unlike the leopard's petite stature and grace.

In the Americas jaguars are considered to be one of the Ancient Ones that guard and protect the universe. In the Amazon jaguar is the God of Darkness and can swallow the sun to cause an eclipse.

Tribes from the Northeastern and Southeastern U.S. have stories about "underwater panthers. "The Mishibigiu" of the Ojibway tribe guarded the copper in the Great Lakes. There is an intaglio mound in Ft. Atkinson, WI. of an underwater panther. It is cameoed out of the earth and in ancient times it would be surrounded with water during ceremonies.

If Black Panthers... Leopard or jaguars cross your path; they can open a secret doorway into an initiatory path of Ancient Mysteries.

This story is dedicated to: 1) Ivy and Charlie; two black panthers who teach us by walking alone and in silence, creates an acute awareness of the magical world we share with all life; 2) Jonathon Ivey my great-great-great grandfather who survived the "Trail of Tears", I am honored to carry his namesake and stories of Panther that have been passed on to each new generation; 3) To Boo Boo and Chicar our beloved elder cougars/panthers who both have journeyed on... may we walk in the grace of their shadows.

**Sanctuary Winter Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 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 Derek at beckerd73@yahoo.com

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

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

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