

July/August 2007



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Dug Mark

Sanctuary News

Passion for all animals keeps our hopes alive for future growth of the Sanctuary. At the same location for 36 years, we have struggled to keep our dream alive with blood, sweat and many tears.

Through thick and thin, good and bad times, our struggles may lessen somewhat but I do not believe they will ever cease because the work we do is extremely difficult. Forever

and always we will be ambassadors for all animals until the very day we leave this world. My entire life has been devoted to them and will continue

to be because it is a life's calling. Prayers and faith in knowing there is a bigger plan keeps egos in check and keeps everyone who feeds and cares for the animals centered daily. It's not about humans but only the animals; our comforts come last and that is how it has always been and will continue to be.

Through the years many have tried to persuade us to sell some of the exotics in our care, especially Nook! "Just name a price, everyone has one". I would love to have a nickel for every time we have heard that. I am one who has never had a "price" and never will. Unfortunately, these lesser souls do not know what the true meaning of life or honor represents in a world full of material

things, greed and "gotta have now" attitudes. We may take the long way around but we always follow our hearts. At the end of each and everyday we know what we did that day was right. You can not put a price tag on feelings deep within your soul, or the passion that drives one's every breath of life. The animals are truly one with us, intertwined for all eternity;

the connection so deep no bond can ever be broken. If each and every person were passionate about what they felt deep within themselves, all that is positive, productive and life changing for the better of all, then act on it, imagine what this world

could be? To love, not hate, and honor all that is around us in all our daily lives. It is that day we wait patiently for and pray we will see World peace in our lifetime.

Special Blessing to all,
**Love and Xtra Big Hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends**

Reflections

August 12th, 2006 our world as we knew it stopped abruptly when Jim was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He was in several ICU units on different floors throughout St. Lukes Medical Center in Milwaukee for many months. A ruptured bowel from large doses of steroids required emergency surgery leaving him with a tempo-

(Continued on page 2)



rary colostomy. His life hung in delicate balance for many months and my emotional roller coaster was out of control. Jim's heart went into atrial fibrillation, requiring months of dangerous blood thinners before the brain tumor could be addressed in November of '06. His colostomy was reversed in January but the steroids finished off his right hip requiring a total right hip replacement May 1st of '07. Four days later, his large bowel shut down and doctors tried to save it for almost two months. Unfortunately, the large bowel had to be completely removed June 22nd '07. Jim has suffered many severe life threatening infections, induced diabetes from months of IV nutrition and has lost more than 60 pounds. He is now dealing with deep vein thrombosis (blood clots) in his right thigh and will be on blood thinners for another year.

Jim's battle to survive against all the odds stacked against him have been overwhelming. Many days I didn't know how I would make it through to the next. Emotionally drained and filled with despair, I found myself at some of the lowest points in my life. The only saving grace is his not remembering all of his trials and sufferings. Never a complaint, his strength through all his illness has deepened our devotion to one another and realization of how fragile and precious life truly is.

Most of us take life for granted, rush about our daily lives and never stop to smell the roses or appreciate those around us. No one knows what tomorrow will bring and a positive difference

we make today can bring no regrets, or "wished we would have" for all the tomorrows we have left. Take time to tell loved ones they are appreciated and loved; take time to smile at a stranger; help someone through a door or just hold a hand in need. When one life touches another, whether human or animal, magical things happen. Our hearts open and our level of awareness and compassion unfold into who we really are. Take time today. Don't put things off and wait for "tomorrow", for tomorrow may never come.

We have met many wonderful people throughout Jim's illness, and are very grateful to all the medical personal, doctors, nurses and aides who went above and beyond for this special man and continue to do so.

Please keep Jim in your prayers, for his journey will continue on for the time being. I know in my heart all our prayers will be answered for his restored strength and recovery.

Bless every one of you who has kept us in your prayers and in your hearts.
Jill and Jim

The printing of this newsletter was donated by the good folks at

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In loving memory of
Dennis Vance



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Wanted:
donation of items to
sell in our gift shed
— t-shirts, prints,
anything cat-, wolf-
or bear-related.



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.

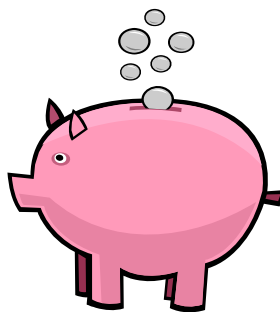
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK or to donate to our **special moving and construction fund**. Enter the amount 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.



The Sanctuary can now accept Visa and MasterCard. We take major credit cards at the gift shop, or over the phone for donations or memberships, and at all fund raisers. We are thrilled this service is now available to our members and prospective members.

☐ Master Card

☐ Visa

☐ Discover

Card Number:

Expiration Date

Signature

Name (printed)

Address

City/State/Zip

Donate your used vehicles

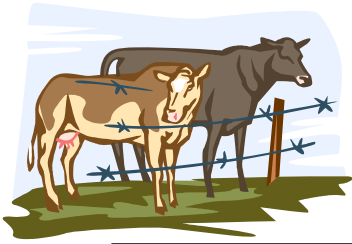
We are looking for two and four wheel drive trucks, dump trucks, trailers (Gooseneck or pull behind), cars, boats, campers, all terrain vehicles, farm and lawn tractors any size to be

donated to the Sanctuary to use or raise funds to help the animals. If we receive enough vehicles, we will have an auction day. All vehicles donated are tax deductible to the fullest extent. We ask that they be in good shape and road worthy.

Any make, model or year. We have volunteers that can pick them up. Please ask your friends, family and relatives; this fundraising idea has a huge potential.

Contact Mary Bashford at 773-631-3142 or the Sanctuary at 262-736-9386.





In memory of Nettie and Norman:

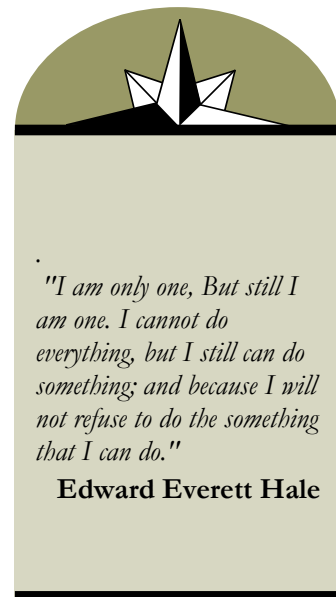
Nettie was a 26 year old Belgian Blue Holstein-cross cow; Norman was a 10 year old blind Jersey steer. Nettie died of old age June 26th and Norman followed her a few days later from a broken heart. Nettie babied Norman as if he were her own and the two were inseparable. She would spend much of the day cleaning Norman and pulling branches from trees down so he could eat the leaves. It was sad losing them both so close together, but at the same time a blessing, as we had no other bovine who would have accepted Norman and cared for him like his Nettie.

Nettie was my son Edwardjohn's cow and we have had her since she was four days old. Edwardjohn showed her in 4-H for many years. She was a 2,000 pound sweetheart. Nettie and Norman both thought they were dogs. Edwardjohn would lay across or sit on Nettie's back or sit under a tree reading a book and she would come and stand by him just to be close to her human friend. Nettie loved to lick your jeans and gently nuzzle your face. Norman came from George Williams College in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. He had been used in their educational farm program as a calf and they learned of his blindness early on. The Univer-

sity contacted us to see if we would take him. Nettie's and Norman's love affair started the day he arrived; they ate, drank and stayed together immediately. Whenever you went to the pastures, they were always in very close range of one another. Nettie was so kind and patient with her blind friend. Nettie died suddenly of heart failure from old age and Norman stood guard over her until Ron, our neighbor, buried her. Norman cried for his beloved Nettie nonstop, even through the nights, until a few days later he too died, laying right next to her grave. Food and water were offered but he only wanted his cherished friend and no amount of consoling could comfort him. We have seen this kind of bond between a mother cow and her calf but never in older cattle.

These two bovines were everyone's favorite at the Sanctuary and are missed more than anyone could ever possibly imagine. They both had a wonderful life and now live on in a better place. Nettie and Norman are buried side by side and it was especially difficult for me because their death brought back a flood of memories from my beloved son Edwardjohn who died in 1998. I can still see his grin, ear to ear, as we loaded 80 pound Nettie in the back seat of our car and Edward-

john cuddling her the whole three hour trip home. The hours, days and months he spent with her and how much he loved his Nettie, who was named after Edwardjohn's Grandmother. He now is watching over Nettie and Norman as well as all the others that have crossed the rainbow bridge. The animal kingdom could not have a better ambassador on the other side, as my son lived and breathed for all animals.



"I am only one, But still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I still can do something; and because I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

Edward Everett Hale

Emergency Transport Van needed

The Sanctuary is in need of a newer or new cargo van, one ton for emergency transport of animals to and from our Veterinarians. Must be dependable with low miles. Being stuck in the middle of nowhere with a tiger on board is not something we wish to experience, so it must be extremely dependable! The van we now have is old, needs to be retired and has in excess of 100,000 miles on it.



Did you know?

A little known law will allow the transfer of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity from an IRA, tax-free, if someone is 70 1/2 years of age or older. The transfer will count toward the required minimum distribution from the IRA. The law signed by President Bush on August 17th is called the Pension Protection Act of 2006. You can find a summary on the Web site of Congress's joint Committee on Taxation (www.house.gov/jct). Click on the eagle (where it says: "Click Here To Continue"). Then click on JCT Publications 2006," and look for Publication JCX-38-06, dated August 3, 2006, in the online version, see the section starting on page 263. This provision applies to transfers of as much as \$100,000 a year only during 2006 and 2007.



Campfire dates

Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs and blankets. Children are welcome, but must have adult supervision at all times. Campfire times are 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. and are the last Saturday of each month. August 25th, September 29th and October 27th.

Letters from our Members

I always enjoy your newsletter, but I was especially touched by the article about your grandmother-in-law and the poodle. (I LOVED the part where the fox brings him to you!) Thanks for reminding people to check out the older animals when they adopt pets. About four years ago I was at the local humane association to adopt another cat. The kitten room was crowded with visitors, so I went into an adjacent room and saw a gorgeous 20-lb yellow cat caged alone. I asked what his story was and why he was segregated. Porter was 7 years old and had been surrendered when his family divorced and no one could keep him. He was off by himself because no one was interested in an "old guy". After having been a foster mother for orphaned kittens, raising them until they could be adopted at 8 weeks, I knew how easy my life would be taking in an adult cat who was already through that kitten stage (adorable but destructive as evidenced by shredded upholstery fabric, torn screens, etc.) Porter is a total delight and I am grateful every day that I have him. I also have three younger cats, but he's the favorite of everyone. I can't finish getting ready for work in the morning until I brush his hair too, and his deep purr turns into a moan of pleasure whenever he's petted. He's the gentlest of souls but nips at my toes when I sleep through my alarm. When my sister discovered VOTK through a biker friend, I knew I wanted to help. Thank you for all you do! It is my great privilege to help support your work. I look forward to visiting soon and wish Jim a full and speedy recovery.

Best regards, Sherry Fox

New Additions

Martin, a year old Serval, was relinquished by his owners to the Sanctuary in June. He is exquisite in color and quiet in character. He is living alongside Kiku, the Canadian Lynx, and friends will be joining them in late summer or early fall. Everything is moving forward in the right direction as the interaction through the fence looks very positive!

Martin was not abused and he had been extremely well cared for by his previous owners. His issue was not using the litter box and his owners tried months of re-training without success.

Unfortunately, very few exotics will ever use a litter box and breeders do not disclose problems that may arise past kittenhood. Exotics are sold as pets throughout the United States to unsuspecting people who want something different. Many animals die because of lack of knowledge in care and housing, others are dumped in isolated areas to fend for themselves, the attitude being, "Well they're a wild animal!"

If you turn any animal loose that has received food, water, shelter and all its needs met since birth, it would have little to no chance of survival in the wild regardless of what kind of creature it may be. Yet it happens every day.

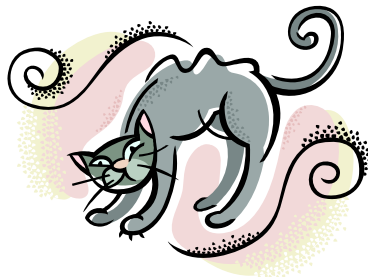
We are grateful when we take an animal in that has been cared for responsibly and the owners realize they cannot meet the animals' needs or deal with behavioral issues, then go the extra mile to

find proper placement. That is the reason we are who we are, a safe haven for all.

Without rescues and sanctuaries, thousands of animals would die each year. There is a huge need for animal shelters and sanctuaries of all kinds. Millions of animals are euthanized each and every year simply because they are no longer wanted.

We live in a disposable society; please support your local animal shelters and your favorite sanctuary. Adopt from shelters, do not buy from breeders. You can find any type of purebred at all shelters any day of the week if you just look.

Very few animal rescue organizations receive any State or Federal funding and depend on donations for survival. It is always "feast or famine" and the animals have to eat and be properly cared for 365 days a year. It is not a hobby or something you can do part time; it is a true calling from a higher source above and beyond being human. Dedication and devotion to all living things, caring about one another, is our purpose in this life and it is an honor for all rescue workers throughout the world to be part of it.



Volunteers Needed!

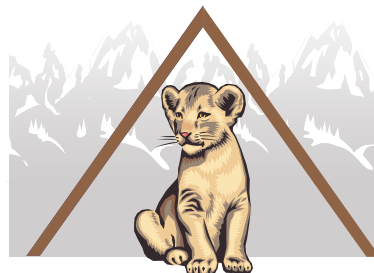
We are in desperate need of people with construction skills. We need to complete Samson the lion's cage and erect a three-sided shelter to store hay before winter. Both of these projects are urgent and can be worked on seven days a week as long as we have at least two people. Please, we are desperate to have these projects done sooner, instead of at the last minute. Now is the best possible time with the beautiful weather. If we have to hire someone to complete these urgent projects, both combined would be approx. \$12,000 and we do not have available funds to do so. Please contact the Sanctuary at 262-736-9386 and let us know when you can help! We are also in need of people who can finish restoring and painting the barns. We had a wonderful turnout this Spring and early Summer and a great amount of awesome work was accomplished. Now that Summer is here, everyone has disappeared when we need people most. Construction and maintenance projects never stop year round and it is so important we have nice weather to work in. Struggling with trying to erect shelters in wind, rain, sleet or snow is beyond difficult and when things don't get done because of the elements, we are forced to struggle with what we have until Spring in hopes of new helpers or enough funds to do necessary projects. Even a few hours a week can make a huge difference in the lives of the animals at the Sanctuary. So PLEASE HELP if you can or know of someone who can.

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
- ____ Please send a gift card to announce my gift.



Gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Gift from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Note: Beginning May 2007 there will be 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!

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

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

Spread the word!

There is a bill HR4387 that is before the U.S. Congress. This bill would allow a tax refund of up to \$2000.00 per year to non-profit volunteers. Entitled, Support American Volunteer efforts (S.A.V.E.) it needs a lot of people to show Congress that Americans support volunteer efforts. For more information on this campaign and to vote for S.A.V.E., please visit their website at www.saveusa.info. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors.



Members and Volunteers — Obie's Big 7th Birthday Bash is coming up!

Saturday, Sept. 3 2:00 p.m. until ... ?
Please bring a dish to pass or cold beverages. See u there!

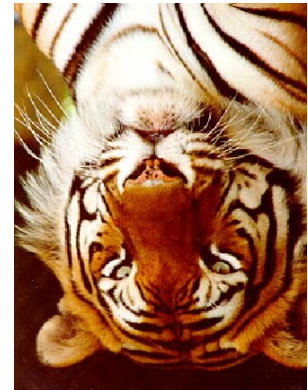


**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to sunset**

Tours at 2:00 and 4:00 Saturdays and Sundays only. Workdays are every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 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.)**

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



***Dedicated to the rescue and refuge of
abused, abandoned, injured and
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