

February 2008



Y D O O H \ # R I # W K H # N L Q J V # V D Q F W X D U \ #) # U H W U H D W

The Dug Mark

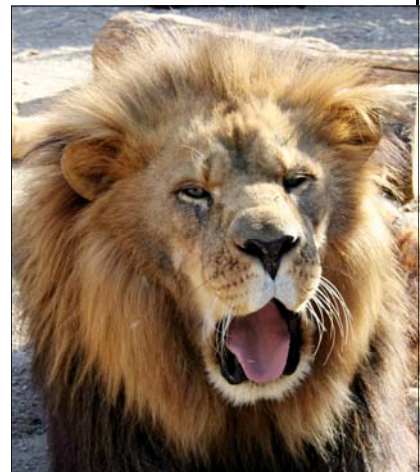
Sanctuary News

This has been a very interesting winter! Extreme in all directions, brutal cold, snow, wind, ice, rain, a 60 degree week and tornados that touched down less than six miles from us! It has tested the volunteers like no other winter, but the animals have been thrilled with all the snow! We are dreading Spring with never ending rain and flooding. It doesn't matter how much gravel we have hauled in, it is never enough. At times each Spring our thoughts drift toward building an Ark! The Sanctuary is graveled year round when possible, especially in icy conditions to prevent those in our care from injuries. We are so very grateful to hard-working volunteers for replacing some of the large cat roofs, and Togar received a new house so he doesn't have to walk far to his lock up area. It has relieved a great deal of stress worrying if everyone is dry and warm. We really are blessed to have great volunteers who always go above and beyond for the animals. We wish everyone a safe rest of the winter season and pray the elements will return to normal instead of the extremes.

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

Donate investment stock to help the animals. Please consider donating investments to make a difference in the lives of the animals. All stock is tax deductible and any amount is greatly appreciated. Our contact information is as follows:

Raymond James Investments
Attn: Jack D. Simpson
759 N. Milwaukee #101
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 532202
1-800-242-1523



Online Help for VOTK

Now you can help Valley of the Kings when you **search** online! New GoodSearch.com

(www.goodsearch.com) is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it is powered by Yahoo, so you get great results. Visit GoodSearch and be sure to enter Valley of the Kings as the charity you want to support.

You can also help Valley of the Kings when you **shop** online! New GoodShop is a new program from GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com). Every time you shop at their 100+ stores, a percentage of the sale will go to Valley of the Kings. No username or password is required. Just designate Valley of the Kings as your charity, click on the store's logo from the GoodShop page, and then shop as you normally would.

When you register with the iGive site (www.igive.com) and choose Valley of the Kings as your charity, a percentage of every purchase from 680+ retailers will be donated to

the sanctuary. From now until July 31, 2008, iGive will award 5 cash prizes of \$1,000 each month to charities with the most members visiting new stores at their site. Members can generate 10 chances per day by visiting 10 different shopping websites. Help make Valley of the Kings one of the winners by comparison shopping and browsing a wide variety of websites at iGive.

Coming Soon...Valley of the Kings will be available as a charity of your choice at Giveline.Com (www.giveline.com). Giveline.com is an online store that sells a wide range of products including books, music CD's, DVD's, electronics, housewares, specialty gift items, and even vacations. Choose Valley of the Kings as your charity and then shop giveline. A donation will be made for each purchase. The donation percentage will vary based on the item, and can be seen on your screen when you place your order. You can use this link:

<http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V001998538>



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

**Vance Printing
Beloit, Wisconsin**

608-362-2049

In loving memory of

Dennis Vance



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.

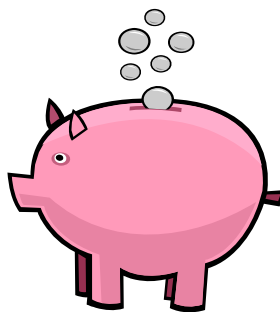
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK or to donate to our **special moving and construction fund**. Enter the amount 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, MasterCard and American Express. We take major credit cards at the gift shop, over the phone for donations or membership, and at all fund raisers. We are thrilled this service is now available to our members and prospective members.

- ☐ Master Card
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ American Express
- ☐ 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.



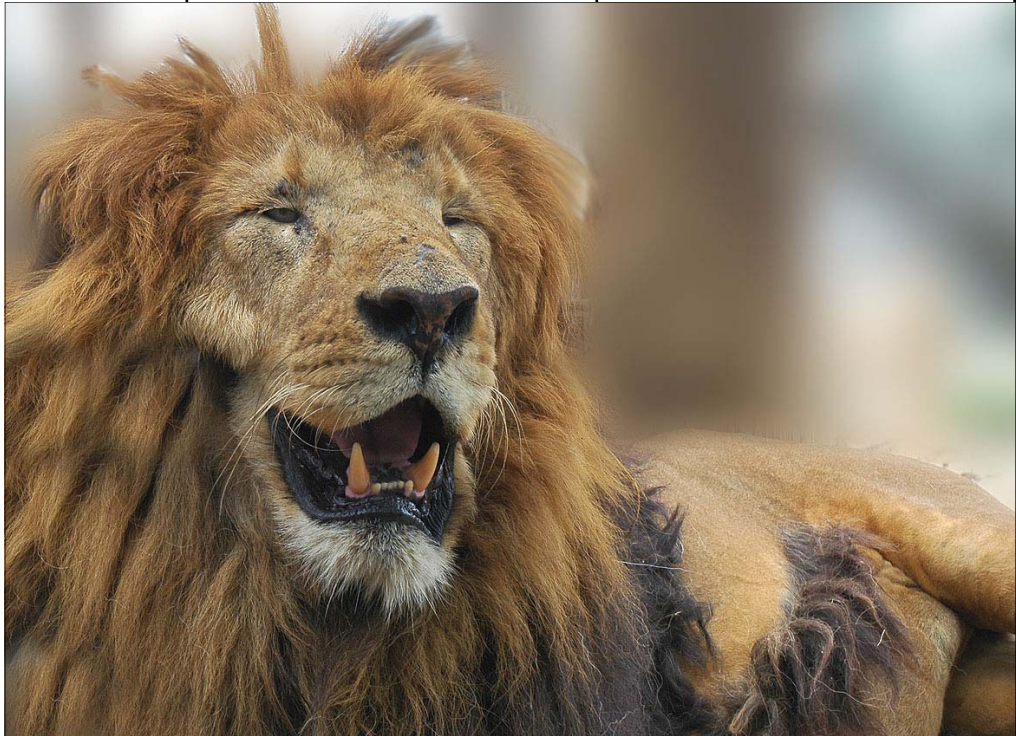
Aslan

The Sanctuary has lost yet another beloved cat. Aslan, one of the beautiful black-maned lions from the 10 Pen, died unexpectedly January 11th, 2008. Chris Pagel, DVM, posted him to determine the cause of death and revealed that he had right sided heart failure from faulty valves. He was a time bomb waiting to happen and there was nothing medically that could have prevented his death. The last week before he died, Aslan was quiet and not his usual self. We were watching him closely for illness but other than being quiet

there were no other signs. His death was sudden and without warning, it was a blessing. Aslan was related to all the boys in his group and they are all a product of severe inbreeding. They were seized from a woman by the name of Kathryn Twiss in Arkansas. They were all a product of a "Tiger-Lion Mill" where in-

breeding went left unchecked for many years. Deceased animals were found in tiny enclosures loaded with 10 to 15 cats walking on them. It was a 100 degree day when the seizure took place and a cougar was found housed in a steel oil

losing any from their group, but the cards were stacked against any of them seeing old age from day one. We are blessed to have this group of cats for whatever time they have left. There is no way to know if the others have defects



Aslan
(photo courtesy of Chris Block)

drum with no protection from the hot metal. He was permanently crippled with severe burns on the bottom of his feet. Eighty five animals were seized in all and some had to be put down because of the severity of their condition. We committed to eleven of these cats and at this time have seven remaining. It has been difficult

other than Festus who has an outward deformity. His face is crooked from inbreeding and we suspect he has other undetected issues as well. New laws passed can stop a lot of these people in there tracks but it still is an issue here in America and has been for many years. Good sanctuaries are

(Continued on page 5)



Sand Needed! Lots of it!

(Continued from page 4)

full and the only alternative is death. For some it is a welcomed reprieve, others have a long future ahead of them and could have a quality life if there was a good place for them to go. Our prayers have been to grow larger in size for many years, lack of funds have always prevented us from doing so. Perhaps 2008 will be our year to spread our wings and shine. We have faith that if it is meant to be it will happen. It is all about Universal timing and a higher plan, we are here to do what we are called to do however great or small and know it is all about the animals. Animals depend on us for their every need, they were born into a greedy, selfish world and many will succumb to a horrible fate. We have and continue to

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 150,000 miles on it.



Wanted:

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



make a difference in the lives of those who have come through our gates over the past 36 years and we will forever and always be grateful for the opportunity to save each and every one of them. They are truly our life's work and give us the strength and wisdom to help more of their kind in need.



Tel 847.691.1665
Fax 847.991.9962

Joseph Crimmins
Attorney at Law

182 S. Stonington Drive
Palatine, IL 60074



Just Cakes & Pastries

Home Based Business
Wedding Cakes • Chocolate Cakes
European Tarts and Pastries
Special Occasions

Licensed • Insured • Wholesale • Retail

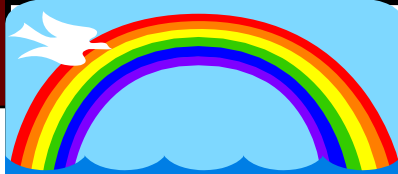
Debbey E. Fischer Ph: 761-3002
1861 West Puertez Road Fax: 761-3499
Oak Creek, WI 53154 By Appointment
Closed Sunday, Monday & Major Holidays

Current Events

New Arrivals

Boo, a 12 year old Cougar made his way to the Sanctuary January 10th from Iowa. He is big, beautiful and a Western Mountain Lion. Boo has been extremely well cared for and was rescued from a trailer park when he was two years old by a rescue organization. They held animals temporarily until permanent placement could be found at a Sanctuary. The rescuer fell in love with Boo and him with her, he has remained with this wonderful lady for the last ten years. Due to her recent divorce and need to divide the property, Boo's life hung in the balance. If a permanent loving sanctuary could not be found, Boo would have been euthanized before risking him being put at poor facility. Thankfully, we had an area to house him that was already DNR approved and Boo can now live out his days happily ever after. We wish all those we have had to turn away through the years, due to lack of space, a happy-ever-after endings; unfortunately we don't live in a perfect world. Boo's rescuer is able to visit him on a regular basis. This special animal has the best of both worlds with many who are devoted to his needs and shower him with all the love he's used to. Boo's area is Charlie's old outdoor enclosure by our lower Cemetery and he also has an indoor enclosure attached to the house that is heated. Charlie is not happy about giving up some of his space but he will hopefully have his area back soon after we build Boo a new enclosure by Sheba and Boo Boo this summer.

We welcome yet another blind horse! A few weeks after Marley arrived we received another call for "Justice". He is a Tennessee Walker and matches Marley in size and is also black in color. His owners loved him dearly but were not in a position to care for his handicapped needs. They had him many years and it was difficult for them to make the decision to part with him. They were thrilled when they discovered Justice would be living out his days at VOTK. He is blind in one eye and losing sight in the other. Justice and Marley have cataracts that have robbed them of vision. We are in the process of raising funds so both horses can have surgery to restore their vision. Surgery was not an option for our two other blind horses R.C. and Skyhawk. R.C. had to have her eyes removed because of a rupture from previous abuse. She suffered 17 years, with eyes in great pain and was locked in a stall that had not been cleaned for many years, before her rescue with 39 other Morgans. Skyhawk has a condition called Moon Blindness that is not correctable. In early January we had to have Skyhawks left eye removed due to complete deterioration. He will be 36 years old this spring and came through surgery with flying colors. Skyhawk arrived from a local stable for retirement quite a few years ago. Drs. Scott Lesley, DVM and Rick Tully, DVM, of Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic performed the surgery and did a remarkable job! If you would like to help Marley and Justice with a donation toward their upcoming surgery we would be ever so grateful. They are both



In Memory of . . .

In Memory of our Beloved Matilda who crossed Rainbow Bridge in September of '07. Our sweet, loving calico.

Donna and Joe Stachowitz

In memory of my beloved beautiful son Jeff, my precious Samoyed "Sasha" and "Ruger" my beloved German Shepard. If tears could build a stairway to heaven, I'd climb them and bring all of you home again.

Forever dear, Always near.
Kelly Bullock

In Memory of the Sanctuary's Beloved Nook the Liger. A tree has been planted in his honor in the fire-devastated Gallatin National Forest, near Yellowstone National Park. This precious gift was given by two very special people, Tom and Linda Jens. We thank them from the bottom of all our hearts, Nook's grace, beauty and spirit will continue to live on.

wonderful kind, gentle souls and will appreciate regaining their gift of sight. We estimate the cost for each horse to be between \$2,500.00 and \$3,000.00. Their surgery will be performed at The University of Wisconsin, Madison, at the College of Veterinary Medicine. They have an excellent Equine clinic and will be in the best of hands.

Y d o o h | # r i # w k h # N l q j v # d q f w x d u | #

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.



I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ for _____

Gift to:

Name: _____

Gift from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

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

☐ Please check here if you require a receipt

EVENTS COMING UP!

May 17th, the Diablos Lobos Motorcycle Club, Delavan, WI, will hold their annual fund raiser for VOTK. Contact Rick Hewiler at breeze_11200@yahoo.com for more information.

May 18th the House of Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee, WI H.O.G. Chapter, will be hosting the 2nd Annual Arlan Strehlow ("*The Guy with the Horns*") Ride to benefit the animals at VOTK. For information contact Jayne at 414-426-8685.

Starting in June there will be a campfire for members the last Saturday of each month through October. Dress for the elements, bring lawn chairs, blankets and a dish to pass. We hope there will be a great turn out this year! Remember, all children must have adult supervision at all times.

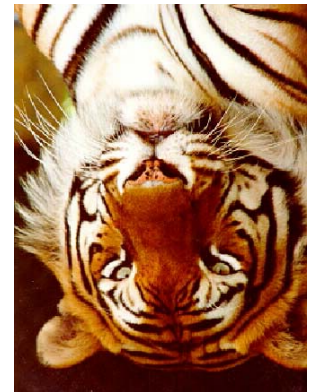
Kathleen Bilskey, an Avon representative, is donating 25% of her sales for the Campaign 6 Brochure (available on her web site on Feb. 25) to VOTK. Orders must be in by March 12. Check it out at <http://shop.avon.com/shop/default.asp?newdept=&s=FindRep&c=repPWP&otc=&bnd=&>

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

Tours only at 2:00 and 4:00 Saturdays and Sundays. Workdays are every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. If you want to help make a difference in the lives of the animals, please consider joining our Construction Crew. For information regarding construction projects or general volunteering opportunities, please contact the Sanctuary at 262-736-9386

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

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



***Dedicated to the rescue and refuge of abused,
abandoned, injured and retired exotic animals.***

**W7593 Townhall Road
Sharon, Wisconsin 53585-9728
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
Phone: 262-736-9386
Fax: 262-736-2020
Email: info@votk.org**

**VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY
& RETREAT**

**Nonprofit Org
US Postage
Paid
Sharon, WI
Permit #50**