

July/August 2008



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

# The Pug Mark

## Sanctuary News

The animals and ourselves are grateful we have had a cool summer so far. Local rehabs report biological clocks of all wildlife were off six weeks or more due to the wet, cold spring. The first part of June most of our animals were still in winter coat and nights dipped into the 40's. It has been an unbelievable year so far and makes us nervous as to what may be ahead for winter months. We were blessed with no flooding but all the counties that surround us were devastated and declared disaster areas. Thousands of acres of crops were lost to floods and fuel costs are going to drive prices up on everything this winter for both animals and humans. We have already been feeling a huge impact and a serious financial crunch due to the depressed economy. We are cutting corners where we can and struggling to make ends meet. Lately we find ourselves praying a lot for the planet, those affected by the elements and all the animals in our care and elsewhere. The future worries us but we will keep doing what we do, no matter what is headed our way, because we are survivors and have had many hard times before us throughout the years. Please pray

for us each day. God Bless each and everyone.

**Love and xtra big Hugs,  
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends**

### Sanctuary Update

We wanted to start construction projects several months ago but have been unable to, due to lack of volunteers and funds. Our construction base now consists of two volunteers each Saturday,

which is the only day we can do construction projects. We have very few volunteers during the week-days and have to depend on paid service contract people to feed and water. Future projects will

have to be done by fencing professionals. We will have to hire them as the Sanctuary can afford and small projects will be for those volunteers we have available on Saturdays. These are different times we live in, price of gas, cost of living and economic conditions are preventing people from volunteer efforts. We have many things that need to be done and all of us have to be patient. Please help us, if you are able, with upcoming construction costs. All donations

*(Continued on page 2)*



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**Photographs in this issue by Chris Block, except where otherwise noted.**

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(Continued from page 1)

are tax deductible; we receive no State or Federal funding. Steadily rising prices are killing us; the last fill on the diesel tank for the reefer and tractor was over \$2,000.00, which will last less than a month! The electricity each month averages \$1,500.00 or more and costs for grain, hay and shavings are expected to triple this winter. We have had large animal Veterinary costs in the thousands over the past several months for unexpected procedures and dental work on our hoofed stock. Our local animal veterinary clinic does not give us a break on services which are very expensive. The Sanctuary has been blessed with a steady meat supply and that should continue to keep our reefer and freezers stocked for the summer. Many facilities have closed doors over the past few years putting the burden on others like us to pick up the the pieces. We do what we can to help all species of animals, not just a select few, and we can't do it without wonderful members who truly are the reason we are able to do the work we do. It is hard to imagine


where the future will take any of us, but we pray things will turn around soon. We are receiving calls daily with people who have fallen on hard times, seeking homes for their animals. We have networked with many small rescue groups for dogs, cats and birds. We have been fortunate to find rescues that have room for a few horses and small hoofed stock we cannot take for later placement. We are all working together as one to help animals everywhere and it is overwhelming at times, but at the same time rewarding to find help for many displaced precious creatures.

### Special Thanks ...

Special Thanks to the **Milwaukee Hog Chapter** for raising \$908 on their motorcycle run in May..

Special Thanks to the **Diablos Motorcycle run** for raising \$444 to also help the animals.


These two groups have motorcycle runs for the Sanctuary each year to benefit the animals. **We Thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts.**



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**Joseph Crimmins**  
Attorney at Law

182 S. Stonington Drive  
Palatine, IL 60074



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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



**Huggie**  
(photo courtesy of Allison Miller)



**Tubbie**  
(photo courtesy of Allison Miller)

THE PUG MARK

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.

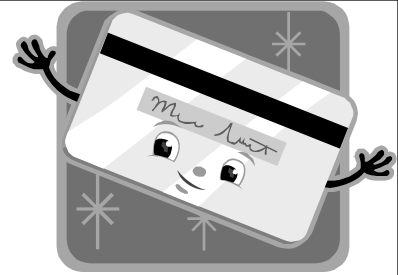
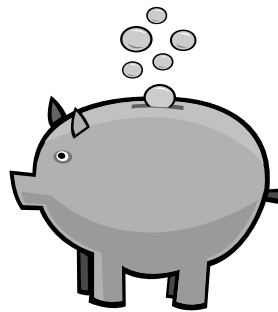
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK or to donate to our **special moving and construction fund**. Enter the amount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

**PayPal**®



**The Sanctuary can now accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. 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**

☐ **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, RV's, all-terrain vehicles, farm and lawn tractors any size to be donated to the Sanctuary to use or raise funds to help the animals.



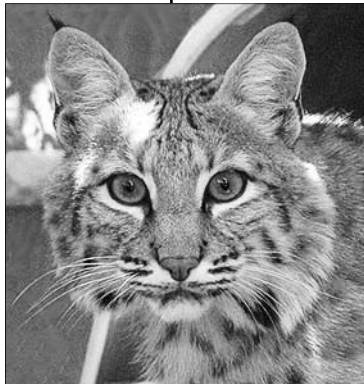
If we receive enough vehicles, we will have an auction day. All vehicles donated are tax deductible to the fullest extent. We ask that they be in good shape and road worthy. Any make, model or year. We have volunteers that can pick

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.

## New Arrivals

**Adobby** is a young Bobcat who came from Madison, Wisconsin. His owner could no longer care for him and used him in educational programs. Adobby is very sweet and approx. 3 years old. He is living alongside the other Bobcats and Kiku, our Canadian Lynx. Once they are acquainted through the fence and the atmosphere appears friendly they will all be housed together. Adobby is very handsome and red in color. He is also far smaller and



considerably lighter than bobcats Woogie and Kali. His favorite treats are turkey and red meat chunks. Adobby is a joy to be around once you gain his trust and is always happy to see his human friends.

### **Wednesday**

A little goat was found wandering alone in East Troy, Wisconsin. She proved to be extremely difficult

cult to capture and had to be tranquilized by the local humane society, then caught by several people.

She came to us from Lake Land Animal Shelter in June and was somewhat wild. She also has horns and likes to use them, so we have to be careful around her. When we let her go with the other goats and sheep she frantically ran to look for an escape route. The others followed her and wondered what all the fuss was about. After a short time she settled in with her new friends and has since calmed down. Wednesday has been very distressed, there is no doubt about that. We think she probably escaped from a trailer headed for slaughter. Our new wild goat turned into a very lucky, happy goat and will now enjoy a peaceful life never to be unwanted again.

**saturday, september 6th**

**obie gifts:**  
turkey legs  
large stuffed animals  
( fiber stuffing only -no beads )  
boomer ball toys

**obie's cake and singing of  
"happy birthday" at 3pm sharp**

**OBIE'S 7<sup>th</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
PARTY!**

**campfire afterwards:**  
bring a dish to pass  
blankets, lawn chairs  
( children must be accompanied at all times )  
( no pets, please )

## Farewell to a Special Friend

On July 16th we had to put our beloved Rotweiler **Heidi** to sleep. She had a very fast growing cancer and therapy was not an option. Her type of cancer was not responsive to chemotherapy and advanced in a very short period of time. Heidi came to us when she was almost two years old and we were blessed to have had her in our lives for twelve years. She was the best behaved and trained dog we have ever had and she lived for love and people. She watched over the Sanctuary for many years, always protective and yet so very gentle toward our little Schnauzers. Heidi was truly a beloved family member and the void is devastating. Staying strong for her on the day we had to let her go was one of the hardest things to do but we had to for her. I knew tears would flow into non stop rivers and would have to

wait until alone in private. Heidi touched so many at the Sanctuary through the years and was a favorite among all the volunteers. She was a rescue from Chicago and such a joy in so many ways. Dog spelled backward is God and even though we all have the God spark within us, dogs are given an extra dose. They are always loyal, al-

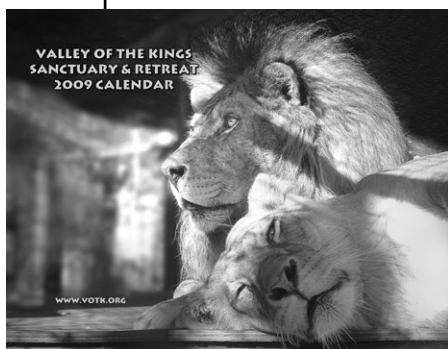
one who has experienced the loss of a beloved pet knows well the depth of love and devotion that is forever and always irreplaceable. Etched deep within our hearts, Heidi is now at peace, no more pain and free of her earthly life. Now she watches over all the two and four legged friends she knew and loved that have crossed before



her. Heidi will be one of the first to greet others as new arrivals meet at Rainbow Bridge. The Universe could not have a better ambassador as she stands along side

ways eager to please and intertwine their soul within ours for all eternity. The grief process in losing a beloved domestic four legged family member is unexplainable. Any-

an army just like her at heavens door. Love you, miss you so very much precious girl..  
**Everyone at VOTK**



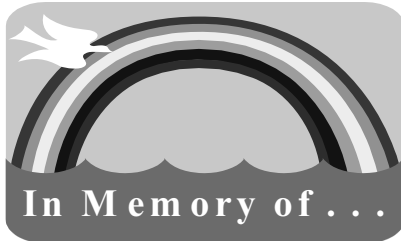
**Coming Soon to a VOTK Gift Shop Near YOU!**

**2009 VOTK Calendar**

check out

**[www.spokalendargirls.com/projects.html](http://www.spokalendargirls.com/projects.html)**

**for a sneak preview!!**



In memory of our beloved **Banjo**. He was 14 years and 14 days old. He has gone to wait for us at the Rainbow Bridge. We, Gypsy and Spooky miss him so very much. He will forever and always be with us in our hearts.

Love and miss you so very much,

**Fern and Tom Ramirez  
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**

In Memory of our beloved **Loki**. Loki came in from Lake Land Animal Humane Society quite a few years ago and was a very sweet wolf hybrid. She loved the visitors on weekends and was extremely outgoing. She is missed by her pen mates, Alpha and Rusty, who also are also in their senior years. We hope in the near future to construct a new enclosure for the remaining two and put Bullet with them. He is also sad after losing his mate, Jet. The buddy system is very important, especially to an older animal. They eat better and have something to do when they can be paired with a friend. It makes for a better adjusted and happier individual and anyway we can please them, we do. Loki is missed and that empty space can never be filled by another. It was an honor to know and love her and the precious years everyone had with her will never be forgotten.

**All her friends at VOTK**

## *Letters from our Members*

Dear Valley of the Kings,  
My name is Kristi Bachmann. I am a teacher and proud sponsor of the Animal Protection Club at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois. Over last spring break, some of the club members visited your website and had learned of your sanctuary. The students decided upon returning to school that they would raise some money to support your cause. They also were excited to learn how close you are to us! They wanted to thank you for letting us visit over Memorial weekend. We were sad that we did not get to meet Jim and Jill, but knew that they were off on a mission to pick up a cougar. Our tour guide, Ann, was amazing. She was so informative and helpful. The students had a wonderful time and hope to visit again. We admire your dedication to help all your magnificent creatures.

Your facility is amazing and we were very impressed with the care you give your animals.

Sincerely,

**Kristi Bachmann  
Special Education Teacher  
New Trier High School  
Winnetka, Illinois**

Dear Jill, Jim and VOTK Family,  
I just read your recent newsletter and found the news of the passing of Kokie Joe very sad. I am a teacher at Edgerton Middle School and I have done several blanket drives with my students. Part of the reward of doing the drives is that I bring my students to see the great animals at VOTK. Every time we've come Kokie Joe and Socrates became "fan Favorites" of my students. I will share this sad news with my students and I know he will be greatly missed by them.

Sincerely,

**Greg Vossekuil  
6th grade science teacher  
Edgerton Middle School**



# 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.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY AND RETREAT  
WWW.VOTK.ORG

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

**Gift to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift from:**

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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**

☐

**Please check here if you require a receipt**

**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!

## EVENTS COMING UP!

Don't Forget! VOTK Campfires for members are the last Saturday of each month. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs and blankets. No pets allowed and all children must have an adult attendant at all times.

We have the following **motorcycle rides** scheduled for this year:

**August 24th**, Smiles Motorcycle Group

**Sept. 20th**, Woodstock H-D & Top Cats

**Sept. 21st**, Lakeshore H-D Group.

If your group would like to schedule a ride to benefit Valley of the Kings, please send an e-mail to [info@votk.org](mailto:info@votk.org) for info. Thanks for supporting VOTK.

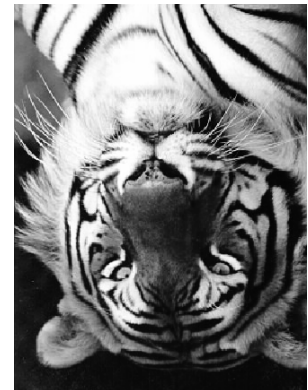


**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:  
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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  
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Fax: 262-736-2020  
Email: info@votk.org

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