

May/June 2009



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Pug Mark

Sanctuary Update

We are grateful
Spring/
Summer has

arrived and projects are underway. We are finishing our portable meat barn and also another portable barn for smaller cats with an outdoor enclosure. There is always something going on at the Sanctuary and building projects are high on the priority list. It is very important we get things done before winter each year as they seem to be longer and harder as each year passes. Our workdays are Saturdays and the construction crew is but a few. Building projects are a slow process and usually interrupted by tours but eventually things do get done. We upgrade as much as we can each year electrical, new housing, planting trees, flowers and repairing barns.

We have not been able to complete big projects due to lack of funds with the present economy. We have placed a few of our farm animals in forever homes and are not taking in live horses or cattle for retirement due to hay costs. We are cutting corners where we can but with so many mouths to feed that is sometimes hard to do. We wait for the economy to improve and everyone in our position is doing the same. It is a different world we live in

but we all shall preserve. Our best wishes to everyone for a great summer!

Love and Extra big hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal friends

Funds Desperately Needed

We have been short on funds for the past few months and are in need of help from our members to get through the summer and fall. Our expenses to keep the Sanctuary operating are astronomical and costs keep rising while donations are dwindling. We do not have as many supporters due to the economy and other rescues are in the same boat we are. Many have closed their doors and displaced animals have gone to all ready maxed out Shelters and Sanctuaries. Our needs are great at this time and the animals need your help. All donations are tax deductible and we receive absolutely NO State or Federal funding! Please Help.

Updates

Tia has been moved up to the high compound and is living along side of Assam. They soon will be together and we are in high hopes of them being happy together. Seava would not accept Tia and was too aggressive toward her. The Raccoons have a wonderful new enclosure in a nice

(Continued on page 2)

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shady area. Chester the Wal-laby has not been able to go in his outdoor enclosure because of the cold Spring. Most of the animals are still in full winter coat and today is June 1st!

We are in need of gardeners

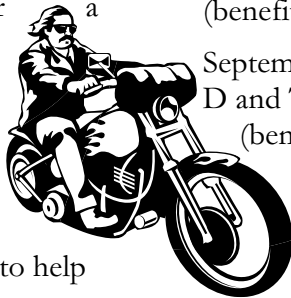
for our cemetery areas this summer. Many new flowers and plants have been added to the lower cemetery thanks to Sue, Karen and other "green-thumbed" volunteers. It is beautiful. We will be adding memorial benches with the engraved names of your loved ones for a \$350.00 per bench donation. We will be making many new changes to beautify the Sanctuary surroundings and also once again planting memorial trees for a \$350.00 donation.

Thanks to many bikers!

We have had a couple of motorcycle runs in May to help the animals.

The Diablo Lobos of Delavan Wisc. raised \$530.00. Special thanks to **Breeze**.

Wildfire Harley and City Limits Harley Davidson raised \$1,367.00! Special thanks to **Jo Jo Giovannoni**, City Limits H-D, for all her wonderful efforts to promote, put together and do all the leg work for these rides and tell all who will listen about our mission.



Motorcycle Rides 2009:

Many charity rides to benefit Valley of the Kings are scheduled for 2009:

April 4: "Ride With The Troops" (special treat to our soldiers)

May 16: Diablo Lobos, Delavan, WI (benefit for VOTK)

May 30: City Limits H-D, Palatine, IL & Wildfire H-D, Villa Park, IL (benefit for VOTK)

June 7: House of Harley H-D, Milwaukee (benefit for VOTK)

July 11: Harley Owners Group (HOG) of Chicago (benefit for VOTK)

August 15, Loyal Order of Moose, Downers Grove, IL (benefit for VOTK)

September 19: Woodstock H-D and Top Cats of Chicago (benefit for VOTK)





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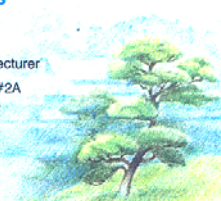
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Are you looking for a way to help the sanctuary financially, but don't know how? VOTK now accepts PayPal!

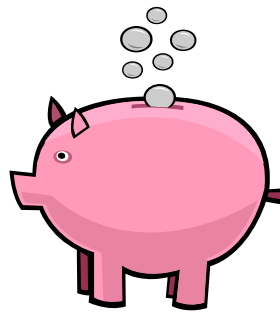
PayPal is a **secure** internet-based way to send and receive money. All you need is an email address and a credit card. Anyone can use PayPal to buy gift shop items, buy or renew memberships, or donate money to the sanctuary.

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.

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 Jill or Jim at 262-736-9386 here at the Sanctuary.



VALLEY OF THE KINGS BECOMES A VICTIM OF FRAUD

Since February of this year, someone has been fraudulently using our Valley of the Kings bank account for their own benefit. Our debit/checking account has been methodically robbed of over \$3000.00 during a period of five months.

We are working with our bank and the authorities to find the source of the fraudulent use, but the likelihood of the thieves being caught is minimal, at best. Normally, we use checks to make large purchases, the debit card for smaller daily purchases. We can only hope our bank will reimburse all of our funds as we have fraud protection for this account. Please say a prayer that this problem will end soon.

Also, the Sanctuary will cease to take credit cards for purchase of items from our gift shop. The equipment was costing us more per month than we were taking in. Only cash or checks will be allowed for purchases at the Sanctuary. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Tiger, Tiger, burning bright

There are many tiger colors in the world and each and everyone of them is exquisite in there own right. Four separate colors of the tiger dominate today. 1) The standard orange and white (black and striped). 2) The Royal White (white with black stripes). 3) The Golden Tabby (Red to pale orange cream stripes and saddle). and 4) the Snow tiger (all white or with ghost stripes).

Assam and **Jasmine** are Golden Tabbies and **Oxanna** is a Snow Tiger. They are very rare and all colors have occurred in the wild. There have also been reported colors of chocolate, gray, marbled, and black. One of the most recent sightings of a rare black tiger occurred in 1993 when a young female black tiger was killed just west of the Similipa Tiger Reserve near the village of Podagad, India. Another was killed near Kerala, India in the 1700's.

It is a sad testament to the human race when we have to kill something so very special and rare! Most scholars hold the theory that all tigers originated from Siberia and during the last Ice Age were forced to migrate south to warmer climates. Tiger territories went as far south as the island of Bali and as far west as the Caspian Sea.

Through the centuries, tigers be-

came smaller in size, the Balinese tiger was only 200 pounds! That's a tiny tiger! Tigers in the wild are severely endangered, but not those in captivity.

There are thousands of tigers in captivity and less than 1% of the original population still exists in the wild. The majority in captivity are inbred causing a multitude of problems from health issues to dangerous mental capacities.

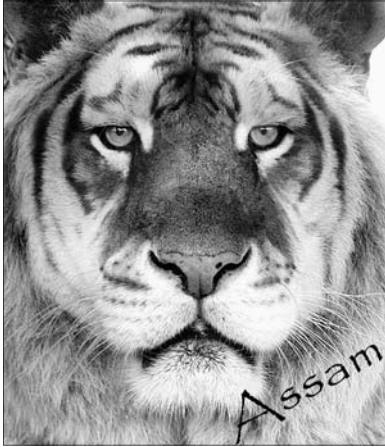
We have seen some of it in our tigers as well as in many others throughout the country. Two of our very close friends were killed by their white tiger in Alachua, Florida in 1998, Joy Holiday and Chuck Lizza. The tiger that killed them was severely inbred and had obvious mental issues. Jupiter was a magnificent Royal White but had a screw loose since the time he was little. He lost his life to the Alachua Police Dept. Swat Team. He never should have been allowed contact, beyond weaning, with anyone because of his mental issues. Our two friends would be alive today had they heeded my warning so many years ago. It is heartbreaking and we miss them dearly. You can't change the past but you can learn from it and educate to "try" and prevent someone from making the same mistake. Tigers, by far, are some of the

most beautiful cats in the world. I have devoted my life to them over the past 36 years and they have taught me a great deal by allowing me to be apart of there lives.

Many of the cats that have lived in the house with us, and many others, have never been allowed to have hands-on contact. Each and every cat shares "cat" traits, but each also has his/her own personality as we humans do. They all have there own set of rules, level of awareness and safety zone. If you are not blessed with common sense, a bad cat can cost you your life. Many new Federal laws have been passed and are being implemented affecting people who have

big cats, including sanctuaries, and they are being enforced to protect people as well as the animals.

We will always have tigers, not as many as we have had through the years but there will always be tigers at Valley of The Kings to educate and bring awareness to the plight of these beautiful cats world wide.



VOTK RECEIVES THANK YOU



In the photo are (l to r): Jayne (a volunteer), Jill, Jim and JoJo Giovannoni
(City Limits H-D)

photo courtesy of Georgia Bouziotis

Valley of the Kings was presented a framed certificate of thanks from Lt. Colonel Roger and a group of troops that was being deployed, within days, to Iraq. The certificate reads as follows: "16th Psychological Operations Battalion, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Valley of the Kings in recognition of your passion for the humane treatment of the magnificent animals in your care and the selfless service you provided to the Soldiers of the 16th Psychological Operations Battalion during the "Ride

With The Troops" event and our personal tour of "Valley of the Kings" sanctuary on 4 April 2009. Your support and appreciation of our military service goes above and beyond the norm and greatly contributes to our unit's morale and welfare and ultimately makes us stronger. Your actions bring great credit upon yourself, your organization, the United States Army, and the United States of America. Given this 6th day of April 2009."

Signed: Roger L. Lintz, LTC,
PO, Commanding

Letters from Members

Dear Jill and Jim,
Sorry to hear your winter was so difficult for you this year. Spring is here so new cats and other lovable will come your way. Quite frankly your cats that you lost could not have been more loved and cared for outside your care so they died being loved and cared for.... we can only hope this for every creature on Earth.

Love,

Chris Murphy

San Jose, California

Dear Jill and friends,
This has been a tough year for you -- the hard winter and the loss of so many cats. I know you mourn each day. Please remember, however, what a safe life you gave so many animals. I'm sure Rainbow Bridge was crowded welcoming each of your losses into a whole and happy "ever-after". Thank you all for what you do—keep on keeping on!

Sonja Pluess

Edgerton, Wisconsin



In Memory of Kumah January 26, 1989 - May 20, 2009

In May 20th our littlest bear, Kumah, died suddenly and was found in her feeding area. Her heart gave out like Yummie and it was a sad day at the Sanctuary. She was a special bear and her favorite treat to eat was fresh blueberries. She would sit and sift through her mountain of fresh fruit and veggies to get to the tiny berry's be-



low first. Her nose was jet black throughout her lifetime but changed to bright pink

over this past year. We have never seen this before in any of the other animals.

Kumah loved to scare people and charge the fence when she knew you didn't have treats for her. She was extremely intelligent but over the last 3 years had suffered with senility. She refused to use the big den with Vinnie and wanted to sleep outdoors in the elements year round. Volunteers built a house just for her, which she enjoyed destroying; but she did sleep in it. I can not tell you how many times the inside of her house was rebuilt!

Kumah was a purebred black bear and came from an exotic animal sale in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. When Kumah was born she was pulled from her mother, bottle raised and then sent to the children's petting zoo in Madison, Wisconsin. She stayed there all summer and was then sent back to

the breeder in the fall. The breeder then put her through the sale we attended that fall. At that time there was a man on probation in Wisconsin for taking 200 black bear from the wild, killing them for gall bladders and body parts, then selling the parts on the black market. He resorted to purchasing bears at auctions and harvesting them legally on his farm by the hundreds. I saw him bidding on Kumah and jumped in on the bidding war. We paid \$300.00 to save a little bear that day and it was a decision I will always be grateful for. Kumah had a great life with us and lived a long happy, healthy life with her bear friends.

Vinnie remains old and alone but doesn't seem to mind. He understood immediately Kumah had crossed Rainbow Bridge and was okay with it. His days are coming to and end as he also is very old. Once Vinnie dies it will be the end of bears for VOTK. We will miss the bears when Vinnie is gone but as Jim and I grow older we have come to the realization we can't save them all.

Bears are also an enormous amount of work. For all the food that goes into a bear, it seems that ten times that amount comes out. The enclosure will eventually be torn down and a smaller cat housing will be put up for cougars, bobcat and lynx.

We hope Vinnie will be with us a few more years, but his heart like Yummie and Kumah's, could give out sooner instead of later. We will miss our little Kumah but find peace within our hearts to know she is with Yummie and both are

in a well deserved place. I can envision Kumah eating her beloved blueberries and Yummie munching on delicious artichokes she loved. Both bears loved grapes and would put one at a time on the back of their paw, then eat them one at a time. The bears also would take the tiny labels off fruit before they ate and put the stickers in a little pile. As often as we could, we would sit, amazed, and watch them delicately eat. We will all miss those moments. They were both great bears and we have thoroughly enjoyed them throughout the years.



"In honor of my beloved black lab, **Shadow**, my faithful companion for 10 years who showed me true unconditional love and brought much joy to my life. I miss you dearly, but you are forever in my heart".

Susan Helfrich
Chicago, Illinois

In memory of our beloved pets, Charlie and Jackson
Sally Cycholl
Schaumburg, IL

In memory of **Bernard Disnukes**
Mary Ann Seckinger
Savannah, Georgia

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 _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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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

Special Thank-You's

Special Thank You to **Lake Louise School in Palatine, Illinois** for raising over \$400.00 for Satchel and Jasper. The students have an annual gummy bear sale and all profits benefit VOTK. These students and teachers have been sponsors of the three brother Lions and supporters of the Sanctuary for over 20 years!

To **Chris Block** for building the raccoons a new enclosure and for

everything he does to make a difference in the animals lives at VOTK. Chris comes each week-end, rain or shine and works all day Saturday and Sundays. He builds enclosures, gives tours and helps in any way he can. We are grateful we have Chris— on so many weekends he has been our one and only construction crew!

Special Thank You to **Bob Black** for making his delicious macaroni

for all the volunteers to enjoy!

Special Thank You to **Dr Hashim**, family and friends for giving Kubwa a huge birthday party. Everyone had a great time and Kubwa enjoyed sharing his presents with Trio.

Special Thanks to **House of Harley H-D**, for their benefit ride June 7th for Valley of the Kings. They raised a total of \$713.00 for the Sanctuary.

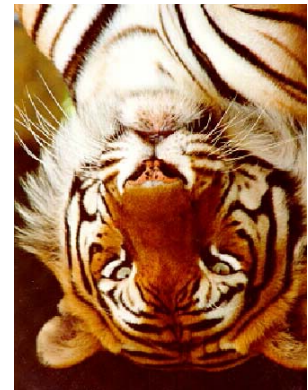
**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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.)**

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

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



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

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