

Oct/Nov/Dec 2009



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

# The Pug Mark

## Sanctuary Update

*F*all in Wisconsin is magnificent! The natural canvas is incredibly beautiful and we hope when you visit the Sanctuary you take the time to breath in the beauty. Our favorite time of the year is when the first snows come. Fresh fallen snow glistens on the cats' backs and makes for awesome photos. We do not have many visitors in the winter months which is a shame because it is the best time to see the animals. They play and frolic with the cooler weather and are so much more active. They love fall and winter and bring much joy and laughter to all who come. The big cats all get thick full winter coats and look like wooly caterpillars, especially the Tigers, Canadian Lynx and Bobcats. We wish everyone a great Holiday season full of blessings, good cheer and send out prayers to each and everyone of you for the New Year to come.

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

Special **Thank You** to all of our supporters this year of 2009. We could not continue our work without your monthly pledges, sponsorships and yearly donations to help our cause. The animals depend on your generosity and our budget each year always grows larger with each passing month. Our supporters make the Sanctuary what it is and we thank you from the bottom of all our

hearts! Our New Year wish for the animals is to give them what they all so richly deserve: more land, bigger and better everything and to be able to save more lives. If it is meant to be, it will happen, if not, we will manage with what we have. We leave it to the Universe and all that is of the highest good, what is best for all those in our care. We take pride in the treatment all the animals receive each and every day and that would not be possible without our wonderful supporters and volunteers. Thank You all! For this is truly your Sanctuary!

**Please check your membership card and renew today.** We do not send out renewal notices and rely on members to keep track of expirations. Renewals are important to keep the pulse of the Sanctuary and animals well fed.

### Sanctuary needs

Our small wish list:

We are in constant need of small cat and dog carriers, blankets, towels, bleach, paper towels and postage stamps, canned cat and food and also dry dog and cat food.

Our large wish list:

We are in need of a Bob Cat loader (in very good condition) with a bucket, forks and 12" post-hole digger attachment, 10'x10' nine gauge chain link panels, 2" metal poles and a one ton rescue van with low miles and a 3/4 ton pick up truck with low miles.

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## Letters from Members

Dear Jim And Jill,

It was interesting to read about your Sanctuary again in the Beacon. I've always intended to drop in and see your operation over the years but still haven't had a chance. Best wishes for the future.

**Neal J. Kedzie**

**State Senator 11th Senate District**

Madison, Wisconsin

There are many who inspire us to hope for magic...But only special people like you can make me believe in it. I know this past year has been hard, but I know things will get better! Thank you for your accomplishments.

Love,

**Angel Matthews**

Delavan, Wisconsin

Thank You for all you do for animals and human awareness!

Best Wishes,

**Mike Benjamin**

Rockford, Illinois

Please accept this small check to help feed the animals you care for. I know it isn't much but I'm a senior citizen who loves animals and I just hope maybe this will feed or care for an animal a day. I saw the segment on the news about your place and I thanked God for people like yourselves. Hope you can keep it up!

God Bless,

Betty Kolberg,

New Berlin, Wisconsin

Dear Jill, Jim and Volunteers,  
Thank you for all that you do!

**Sherry Fox**

Appleton, Wisconsin

Dear Ms Carnegie,

I heard about your Sanctuary on channel 6 news the other night, although I had heard about it previously, I believe from our city newspaper. I just love animals, more than all of people I can think of and I hope this small donation will in some way help you, your husband and staff to continue your care of these poor, wonderful animals who never had a voice in the life they were given. Thank you and may God Bless you for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

**Ellen Chilson**

Burlington, Wisconsin

Dear Jim and Jill,

My husband and I want to thank you, the animals and volunteers for a wonderful visit last Sunday the 20th. Angel was our guide and we had a nice tour and visit with the animals. I thoroughly enjoyed ALL the animals even the bunnies and ducks! I especially fell in love at the end with RC and the donkeys. I don't know why I have a soft spot in my heart for donkeys. Not sure where that came from. When we left I told Angel I felt really melted out and relaxed. As I relayed the story to some of my animal friends, I realized that I was more relaxed when I left Valley of The Kings than I have ever been in my WHOLE LIFE! Not kidding and I am going to be 46 next week. This might sound strange too, but I felt I was taught or educated by the animals of which the meaning probably isn't clear to me yet. It was on a different level which I can't explain. Thank you and the animals and

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Tel 847.691.1665  
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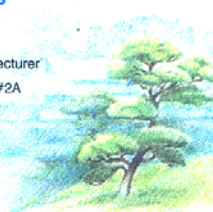
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volunteers for blessing us!

**Tom and Jeanne Swartz**  
Gurnee, Illinois

Hi there Jill and Jim,  
I just wanted to thank you so much for allowing my daughter's youth group to visit and making us all feel so welcome. I also appreciate so much that you share this fantastic place with me. I absolutely LOVE coming up here. It truly is a "mystical and magical place," and you both are a huge part of that. THANK YOU!

Love,  
**Darylann O'Donnell**  
Wheeling, Illinois

Jill, Jim and Animal Friends,  
I so love reading your newsletter and also visiting VOTK. You make me feel I'm there with you and the beloved animals by the stories you write. Through good times and bad times thank you for sharing your life and love with me and your animal friends.

**Joanne Forys**

Poplar Grove, Illinois  
Sponsor of Oakie the little fox.

### Obie's Birthday

On September 3rd Obie, the tiger, turned eight years old. We had his 8th Annual Birthday Party and 18 people arrived on this special day to celebrate. His birthday will always be celebrated in Obie's honor as well as the beautiful Sherry Castro who sponsored him before she died a few years ago. Sherry was such a blessing in Obie's and our lives and there is not a day goes by we don't miss and think about this precious lady.

*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.

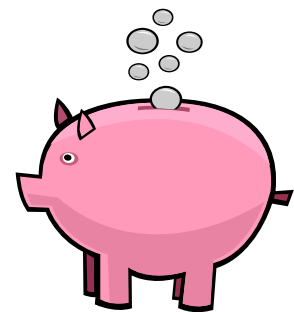
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK. If you send us a donation, please indicate whether it is for our general fund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

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## *The Afterlife and Our Companions*

Anyone who has loved and lost a beloved and cherished four legged companion will relate to this story and my goal is to bring healing energy into your home and into your hearts.

Our beloved companions who cross over to the Rainbow Bridge are still with us. They do move on with work from the other side but they are always a breath away and can hear

our every word. A thin veil divides this world from the next and loved ones who have crossed over always guide us, whether they be human or animal.

I have been blessed to be able to communicate with animals in living form as well as with those on the other side. Many times they will come to me in dreams and I will share a vision with you that shall always remain with me.

Sammy was a purebred Sumatran Tiger who lived in the house with Jim and me the last few years of his life. He had a big wooden "Sam" box Jim made that was his bed in our dining room. Never a mean bone to be found, he was a kind and gentle soul and lived for love. Sammy was also house broken and always asked to go out-

side regardless of the weather. He lived to be cuddled and brushed and hundreds of people enjoyed Sammy as we did; he loved everyone he met and never had a bad day.



Sammy came to us when he was 18 years old from a private collector. He was originally a Ringling Brothers cat, then sold to a private collector and then another who hack-sawed off his fangs. He had to be hand fed after that as it caused fractures and weakness in his lower jaw. Sammy had a hard life and came in broken down and very thin with his beloved mate "Farah" who also had her fangs hack-sawed off. She lived with precious Sammy before we had to put her to sleep in 1991, from an aggressive form of cancer.

Sammy lived to be 35 years old and was the oldest living Felid in the world. He still was in good health if not for arthritis in his hips and knees. We tried acupuncture, homeopathics and every supplement known to human and animal to help him but his hips got to the point where our efforts were futile. A very painful and heart-filled decision was made to

let this beloved tiger go in peace. We summoned volunteers to dig his grave and I prayed for a sign to know it was his time. After his grave was dug a beautiful tan and white dove came out from nowhere and sat on that old tiger's grave and in the tree just above it all day. It was as if it were waiting for an old friend and was the sign I asked for. I found instant peace throughout my being with that little dove's presence and felt its angelic energy. It was the right time for our beloved Sammy.

Dr Rudawski came after work on All Saints Day, November 1st, 2000. Nary a dry eye could be found; we were all heartbroken. Sammy was the only strong one among us and he knew he was going to a better place. We had a

candle-lit ceremony for him afterward and more than thirty people who loved and knew this magnificent tiger came for his service. Each

person talked about how Sammy had touched and transformed their lives. To know Sammy was to love him and to love Sammy was to cherish him. Even to this day I still receive cards and letters about how he touched peoples' lives and hearts of all ages. Jim's aunt was a Nun and I placed her huge rosary necklace around Sammy's neck as I gave him one last final hug at graveside before

*(Continued on page 7)*



## 2010 VOTK Calendar



**NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR**

### **Valley of the Kings 2010 calendar**

only \$20.00 per copy (includes shipping/handling)

***WOW! Get a **quantity discount** — order 10 or more calendars and pay only \$15/per calendar (includes s/h)***

This year's calendar features the beautiful photography of VOTK member and volunteer, **Chris Block**. There are 13 full color photos to remind you all year of your favorite exotics who need your help and support! Each photo is suitable for framing.

You can purchase your calendar at the Sanctuary Gift Shop or send a check with your name and address to:

**Valley of the Kings Sanctuary  
W7595 Townhall Rd  
Sharon, WI 53585**

Remember: ***every calendar sold benefits the VOTK animals!***

Wrap up your Holiday Shopping early!  
Give VOTK memberships for that gift that  
keeps on giving...



## 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.



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

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

**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**

☐

Please check here if you require a receipt

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burial. We buried Sammy with Farah, his mate of 27 years, side by side, his arm over her as they often slept while alive. On their headstone we had a bird of peace etched at the top in remembrance of that special dove waiting for an old tiger that day. We never saw that dove again and I envisioned that beautiful tan and white angelic spirit accompanied by angels escorting our beloved Sammy home over Rainbow Bridge. Our grief continued long beyond that day. Hearts longed to hug Sammy one last time, candles, notes and flowers adorned his grave constantly for many months afterward. Many would visit and light candles for Sammy and Farah and if ever an animal could be classified as a Saint, Sammy would be at the top of the list.

Time passed, seasons came and went and in the Spring of 2002 I had a very vivid vision during my sleep. I walked across the street into the tree nursery and followed a path. The trees gave way to a beautiful, hilly meadow and animals of all kinds filed in alongside to greet me with each step of the



way. As I peered over the small hills, thousands of animals watched me grow nearer; all were in their prime, no sickness, no suffering and the love I felt from them was overwhelming as tears streamed down my face. Then from behind a hill I saw a set of ears and two eyes intently focused on me. I knew instantly I was going to get pounced on and it was Sammy. As I passed that thought in his direction, he

bounded over the hill and leaped in my arms knocking me down and smothering me in chuffs, licks and love. I hugged him and cried and never wanted to leave his side again. But.... after awhile, the time came for me to go back. As I slowly walked the path from which I came, not wanting to go, Sammy walked by my side. I felt such a heaviness within my heart because I knew this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to reconnect as one once more. I told Sammy he would have to return and he said "I'm coming with you!" He kept saying that each time I told him he had to go back. When we reached the road I said "this is where we have to say goodbye Sammy" and hugged him tighter than ever before, never wanting to let that precious moment go. He adamantly said one last time "But I TOLD YOU, I'M COMING WITH YOU!"



In that instant, Sammy changed into a little white kitten and rubbed affectionately against my leg then leaped in my arms. He told me he was coming back and I would know it was him by two signs. I crossed the street with Sammy, now a kitten in my arms and then woke with tears still streaming down my cheeks. I told Jim Sammy was coming back as a domestic in the next few months and there would be signs so that

we would know it was him. Jim and I were so excited because whenever I have a vision they always come to pass.

A few months later Dr Rudawski called to see if we would take a large breed, three month old puppy that was relinquished by the owner because of

bad knees. He had fixed one knee and the other would be done in two weeks. We agreed to take her sight unseen, as we had recently lost our farm dog to old age. When we went to pick her up I was completely blown away. As we locked eyes it was instant recognition for all of us! "Its you Sammy", I exclaimed! The puppy was all white, the first sign as Sammy presented himself as a white kitten. Her eyes were painted like wearing mascara just as Sammy's and she had his soft sweet eyes too. The puppy had an extra long tail with the same kink

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Sammy had and when I picked her up she wrapped it around my waist like Sammy used to do. But the final sign was the big tan splotches on her body the same color shade of the dove that sat on his grave that day. When Sammy crossed over I told him not to come back as an exotic. I didn't mention domestic. Sammy always had a sense of humor and found a way to honor my wish yet still return to us; it was so like him.

We named the puppy Emily and she is much like Sammy in so many ways. She lives for people, has that soft quiet energy and nuzzles for treats and attention like Sammy always did. Sammy wanted to come back as a domestic so he could be with all the people who loved him. To visit and be hugged by each and every one, everyday. Brenda, who is now deceased, was one of our friends who did acupuncture and came three times a week toward the end of Sammy's life to help him. The first time Emily saw Brenda, she very quietly and gently jumped up and put her paws on Brenda's shoulders. Looking deep within her eyes and thanking Brenda for helping ease the pain in her last life. She did this each and every time she saw Brenda and never with anyone else to this day. Emily exhibits many large cat traits and has Sammy's personality. Always happy go lucky and has the sweetest energy. We are so grateful to have our Sammy

back and our sadness in losing him has been replaced by that beautiful tiger being Emily in this life.

I have had many visions, premonitions, paranormal and psychic encounters from the time I have been a very small child. I don't question these gifts and neither has anyone who truly knows me. Animals heal us from this side and the afterlife. They don't question, betray, judge or lie to us; if they don't like you they let you know, they don't stab us in our backs and their love is always unconditional. They don't care if you're rich or poor and if you're having a bad day they're always the first to make you smile. Humans could never achieve that status no matter how hard they tried. Animals are pure in spirit and it has been an honor to know, love and walk with them throughout my life.

When a cherished loved one crosses over, know they are still with us. It is all about love and us wanting them near. Your beloved and cherished animal friend will come back to you, sometimes in the same form and many as a completely different species. You will know them when they return to you because your spirit and theirs are intertwined for all eternity. You will see similar traits and patterns and know your beloved friend has returned. Many choose not to come back but will guide us from the other side sending precious lives to us that need our assistance. There are no coinci-

dences in our lives, everything is connected and everything happens for a reason. I have been blessed a million times over and am so very grateful for animals big and small.

## Recycle your old cell phones ... to help the VOTK animals.

Use the link on our home page  
**[www.votk.org/index.html](http://www.votk.org/index.html)**  
or send an email to  
**[zoocru@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zoocru@sbcglobal.net)** for more info

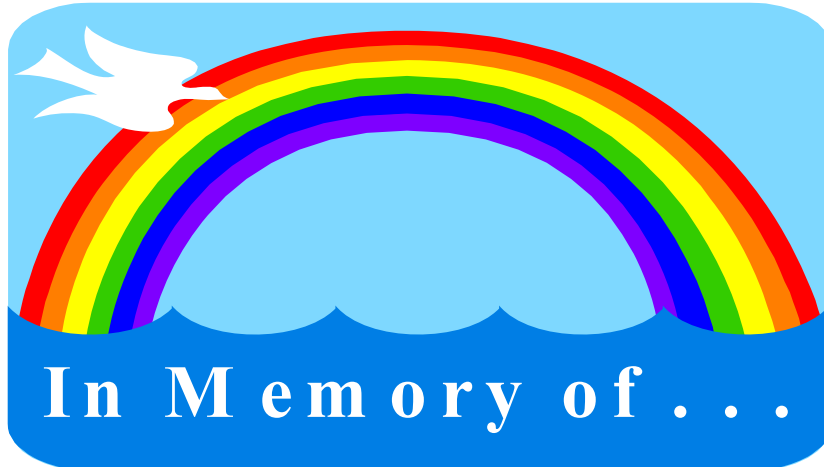


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Helping hands wish list:

We are in need of carpenters, roofers, electricians, painters, grounds keepers and graveyard upkeep.





In Memory of 9 year old **Ashley Mosely**  
**Mary Ann Seckinger**  
 Savannah, Ga.

In memory of our beloved cat  
**Lacey.**  
**Victoria Gleicher** Family

In memory of our beloved grandson, **Christopher Canning** and his dog and very best buddy, **Max.** Together again.  
**oe and Marla Powers**  
 Maroa, Illinois

In beloved memory of **Orrie**, our beautiful ragdoll cat. He had succumbed to a very aggressive, fast growing cancer. It was a heart wrenching ordeal for him and us. Now he has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge with **Sabash**, our Mane Coon, to greet him; he is not alone. We miss our precious Orrie and his soft sweet nature. **All his friends at the Sanctuary**



## September Fundraisers

- ♦ Sept 13th, Chicago H.O.G. (Harley Owners Group) VOTK benefit ride: \$418.00 (thanks to Jim McHugh)
- ♦ Sept 20th, Lakeshore Harley-Davidson (H.O.G.) VOTK benefit ride: \$629.00 (thanks to Carl Marcyan)
- ♦ Sept 20th, Woodstock Harley-Davidson VOTK benefit ride: \$599.00
- ♦ Sept 27th, Randy Lounds Motorcycle group VOTK benefit ride: \$257.00

- ♦ Sept 27th, Glenn Knoblock bicycle ride to benefit VOTK: \$241.00

Total for September \$2,144.00

October 3rd, Dr Tom Pusateri's "First Exclusive Big Cat Tour and Campfire" fund raiser: \$2,320.00 was raised as a \$50.00 per plate dinner. Those who came had a blast and we want to thank Dr Tom and Jo Jo Giovannoni who went above and beyond to help the animals at VOTK. They are hoping to turn this into an annual event.

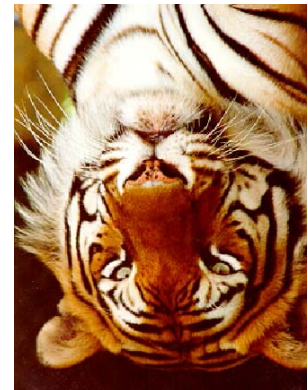
**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:  
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**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](http://www.votk.org)**



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

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