

November 2006



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Dug Mark

Sanctuary Update

Difficult months and overwhelming emotions fill my soul at times. Writer's block has prevented me from collecting my thoughts and I feel myself in an all-consuming full-blown depressed state of mind. Another beautiful Fall day gone, and as days pass they all blur together into one. The quiet country home with the roar of lions is missed so very much. They comfort and lull one to sleep in the stillness of each night.

Enchanted roars have been exchanged for the concrete city of Milwaukee. Traffic accidents, shootings, muggings, city homeless and the list goes on of all that surrounds me, I find myself praying most of the time each and every day for all those who are suffering.

We miss all the animals with all our heart and every breath and the suffering from homesickness is beyond any words I could possibly describe. As the days and weeks blur, I sit at six-lane stop lights in heavy traffic congestion and constantly ask myself why anyone would chose to live in any city of concrete. Emergency vehicles wake my restless sleep each night and constantly remind me of our journey since early August to hospitals, tests, clinics, doctors, and more doctors. I find

myself asking the Universe what is the lesson in all this for either Jim or me as neither one of us has escaped life-threatening issues these past few months and years. It is almost as if the Universe were asking "Do you really want to be here?" and tests first my Spirit and then Jim's by opening a window for our hearts to be unleashed and returned to heaven's home.

We both have closed that window a few times and asked the Universe to remain here to continue our work. Each time prayers have



been answered and yet my heart continues to break for I fear our journey is far from over; my strength dwindles with each day's passing and on my weekly visit home it is restored by the love of all the four

legged friends that are truly family.

Another day, another week, another month and so it will continue on and on for the time being. Life is so fragile and in our youth we take so very much for granted. I am disliking this chapter in our lives and find myself thinking of people in the same situation with the hopeless feeling of not knowing what the outcome will be. It is always in the hands of the Universe, always, and our prayers are answered if it is in the

(Continued on page 2)

Sanctuary Update, continued

(Continued from page 1)

highest good. In my heart I know prayers will be answered for Jim and our work will continue as we walk through the rest of our lives, side by side, serving those we love the most, all the beloved four legged animals we presently have and those yet to come.

Please continue your prayers for Jim; he has been through a lot and continues to be tested by the universe in ways we never thought imaginable. He is scheduled for surgery November 16th to remove the brain tumor and then six to eight weeks later for another surgery. Bless each and every one who has sent cards and letters; Jim enjoys reading them as do I. God bless you all!

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

Special Thanks!

It is with tremendous gratitude we thank **Vince, Randy** and all the others for stripping off the old farmhouse roof and putting on new plywood and shingles. The old house has needed a new roof for many, many years and the past few years it has sprung new leaks in places we never thought a house could. This truly has been a blessing and we have much to give thanks for this Thanksgiving. **These wonderful volunteers really went above and beyond with this monumental project and we thank everyone involved from the bottom of our hearts.**



Special Thanks also to **Kolnik Trucking** in Darien, Wisconsin.

These wonderful people donated a 48 ft. 1994 Wabash refrigerated semi trailer in perfect working condition for our meat storage. This unit is such a blessing and was desperately needed for our fall supply of deer and packaged meat from local suppliers. Our other reefer has been nothing but a headache with very expensive repairs. It came in at the perfect time of the year as we can receive as many as 45 deer each day from deer vendors and deer hunters.

More Updates

The volunteers have been working hard on winterizing enclosures and houses for the animals. Many have new leak-proof roofs and dens redone to prevent drafts. This was especially important to do for our senior residents; cold and old bones make winters twice as harsh for those that have problems regulating body heat due to old age. Large pool tarps have been put up for wind breaks and a lot of banking hay has been placed along houses and fronts to keep animals warm and protected. These projects have been ongoing all fall and should be completed by December 1st, just in time for the winter snows. **If you have a free Saturday or Sunday and would like to volunteer a few hours or a day, we are always in need of help the whole year round.**



Have you ever wished you could take home the lions' roar?

Now you can!

Recently re-issued in limited quantity by popular demand ...

Togar's Dream

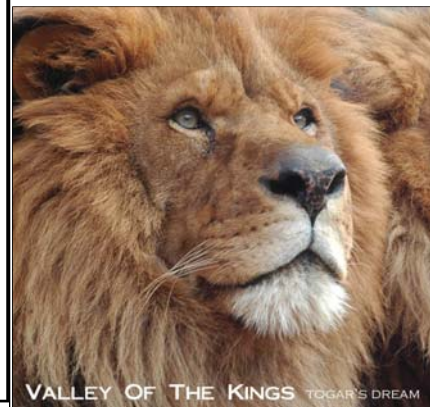
an ambient soundscape featuring live field recordings of the sanctuary combined with keyboard washes and samples recorded, composed and compiled by long-time volunteer Chris Block and featuring brand new cover art!

Get 'em while they last!

To get yours, send \$12 (includes \$2 S/H) to:

**VOTK Togar's Dream CD
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WI 53585-9728**

*(please make check payable to
Valley of the Kings Sanctuary)*



VALLEY OF THE KINGS TOGAR'S DREAM

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

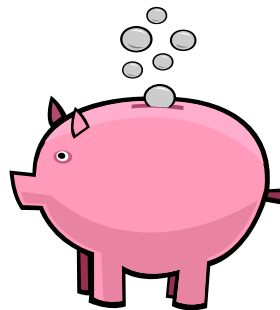
PayPal is a **secure** internet-based way to send and receive money. All you need is an email address and a credit card. Anyone can use PayPal to buy gift shop items, buy or renew memberships, or donate money to the sanctuary.

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.

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.



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:

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Expiration Date

Signature

Name (printed)

Address

City/State/Zip

Letters from Members

Dear Jill, Jim and devoted animal volunteers,

We finally had the chance to come visit the Sanctuary last August 19th. I came with my brother, Chris and my friend Charyl who along with me looked forward to it and were touched by all the animal residents we visited. Our volunteer guide was Michael that afternoon who gave us a thorough, fun, and highly educational tour. We appreciated very much the time he spent talking with us and answer-

ing our questions about the animals and the Sanctuary's mission. We were very moved by the animals' resilience and the dedication of all the volunteers. It will be nice when the day comes when all the animals will be able to move to their new planned home. You do wonderful work. Thanks again for the opportunity too see it first hand that afternoon. Sorry that I missed you when we came. Hopefully next time.

God Bless!
Pamela Butrym

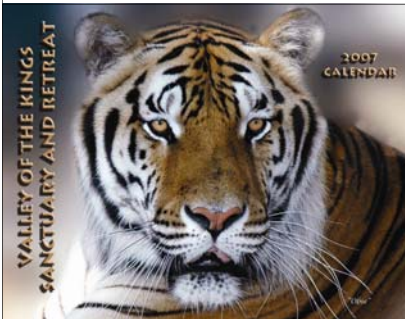
In Memory

In memory of **Ruth Kranz** who cared about animals. She was the beloved mother of **Bobbie Kaplan** and grandmother of **Robyn Kaplan**.



2007 VOTK Calendars Are Here!

The 2007 VOTK calendars are **now available**. They make great holiday gifts, so get your orders in now! (And don't forget to order one for yourself!) You can purchase them from the VOTK gift shop for \$20. Or send a check for \$20 for each calendar (plus \$4 for shipping/handling for the 1st calendar + \$1 for each additional calendar) to the Sanctuary.



Preview available at
<http://www.spokalendargirls.com/projects.html>

Remember — each calendar you purchase helps the animals.

Tel 847.691.1665
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 1861 West Puerto Road Fax: 761-3499
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 Closed Sunday, Monday & Major Holidays

Wanted:

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



Dominick's

Benefit Days Slip

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 12/04/06 --- 12/06/06

Are Dominick's Benefit Days For:

Date:

Valley of the Kings Sanctuary

Ben# 200727

Ven#

Enter SubTotal
Amount of Purchase

Operator Number

Store Number

Dollars

Cents

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Thank you for Shopping At Dominick's

** Food Purchases Only **

Customer's Signature

Dominick's

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Thank you for Shopping At Dominick's

** Food Purchases Only **

Customer's Signature

Christmas Shopping done? This year, give a gift that will last the whole year through — a VOTK membership

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



Gift to:

Gift from:

Name: _____

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

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

**Vance Printing
Beloit, Wisconsin**

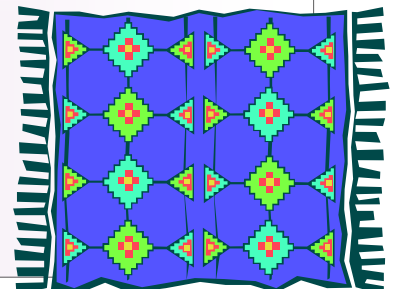


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Items Needed for Winter

We are once again in need of blankets, blankets and more blankets. Many of the animals are very appreciative of fresh fluffy blankets for their dens and houses. They insulate and keep them warm and snuggly. It would be impossible for us to get through the winter without donations of these much needed blankets. We don't need any more towels, sheets or washcloths, just blankets. Thanks!



Animal Stories

Shaman, Kachina and Rogue are three wolf hybrids. They are housed next to Jet and Bullet. These three are not people friendly but will take treats at feeding time most days. Kachina is the favorite among members as she looks like she has a splash of



Shaman

coyote in her with a very pretty profile. We received a call from a humane society in Northern Wisconsin approximately ten years ago about animals that had been starved and abandoned. We immediately headed north with the truck and trailer loaded with crates and tranquilizing equipment, not knowing what was awaiting us at the other end. When we arrived, the property was



Rogue

surrounded by the local Sheriff's department. There had been a shooting by the owner's brother in the woods adjacent to the property and the Sheriff was concerned for our safety as animals were being removed. The wolf hybrids

lived in horrific conditions and it was impossible to even tell what color they were. Their kennels were six by six feet and had not been cleaned in months, possibly years. They were sliding in feces in the tiny enclosures and it was beyond disgusting. Jim tranquilized each one and a team then bathed them five or six times and still could not tell what color they were because their coats were so heavily stained and soiled. They were then checked over with a fine tooth comb, blood drawn, claws that had not been trimmed in years, trimmed and filed, vaccinated and wormed by a local veterinarian. They were then loaded in our crates for the trip home. The three were very happy to be rescued from their brutal environment and settled in right away at the Sanctuary. The owner was prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law but received a reduced sentence which didn't amount to much. She was operating a puppy mill and the conditions in her house were the same that the wolf hybrids endured outside. This was an adventure of emotional magnitude and every day we give many thanks for having room at the Sanctuary to be able to rescue these beautiful creatures.

Sadly, we turn away many wolf hybrids and other exotics because we have no room. One

day we hope to relocate to a bigger and better facility with an animal disaster center in the center of it for animals that have no place to go in times of crisis in Wisconsin as well as other states. Had one been in place for the hurricane victims last year, exotics would not have had to remain in their destroyed element with unsafe make-shift repairs and at the mercy of people not knowing nutritional requirements or emotional needs. It breaks our hearts when we are unable to save a life due to lack of space and we pray our dream for a new Sanctuary is but a breath away.

Nadia

Nadia was found running loose and very thin in the northernmost part of our county. She had a rope tied around her neck and was dumped by her previous owner in the forest preserve. It took several days for local humane officers to capture her. Cindy Wrobel, our local Animal Control Officer from Lake Land Animal Humane Society,



Kachina

brought her to us. If we did not have room for her, she more than likely would have been euthanized, as there are few safe havens where any of these animals can go. Good sanctuaries are full to bursting and many others are closing doors due to lack of funding and not enough volunteers. Nadia was paired with Balta about a year go and the two are very bonded. Nadia is an exquisite black and silver color and a high percentage hybrid. She is very shy around strangers and loves and trusts only a handful of volunteers. Her favorite pasttime is digging big holes and more big holes. As soon as one is filled and graveled she's starting on another den hole. Wolf and wolf hybrids have to have a heavy chain link floor system around the bottom of their enclosure at least three feet in because of constant digging. We leave the middle open so they can try to dig to China if they choose. It is an important behavior pattern just like the big cats needing to pluck fur or feathers off their food. It is all about meeting the emotional needs of each and every animal in our care.

Balta

Balta is from the suburbs of Chicago. He was raised by a family in a busy subdivision,

hidden most of his life and raised with a family dog. Balta escaped one day through an open gate when he was about a year old. One of the neighbors tried to catch him but was bit and the would-be rescuer then called animal control and reported the incident. Balta soon ended up behind bars after being confiscated by Animal Welfare League of Chicago. In the State of Illinois, Wolf Hybrids are illegal and unfortunately many are euthanized by Humane Societies who are ill equipped to handle or house them. They can not be put up for adoption or be near the general public who have little knowledge of their behavior. It would not be safe for animal or human. Sadly, in most cases, euthanasia is the only option available. The Animal Welfare



Nadia

League of Chicago donated a big beautiful enclosure for Balta which is now shared with Nadia and opens into Nadia's old area so they have twice the space. Both hybrids are extremely well bonded and are always busy rough-housing with Nadia winning the games they play most of the time. Baltia pampers Nadia by bringing her food, lying side by side with lots of licks and cuddles. Their connection is that of a once in a lifetime love for each other.

(photos courtesy of Chris Block)

Tribute and Special Thanks to a very special friend

Ron Sorenson is one of our closest neighbors who always goes above and beyond for the Sanctuary and for Jim and me. We give special thanks to Ron for bringing in and setting up the new reefer, doing all of Jim's everyday duties, including running all the heavy equipment, hauling bones and debris to the dump, haying the cows and horses with 1500 pound bales of hay, putting in many hours on the tractor and running between things going on at the Sanctuary and with his own home and family and helping other neighbors in need, all along trying to keep his sanity. Ron has been a saint throughout our turmoil these past four months and we would have been completely lost without all his endless help. Ron drives a truck for a living and is very well versed in all our heavy equipment. He fixes and cares for our aged dump trucks to keep them road worthy, welds guillotine gates for the animals and is an extraordinary friend. They say you can count your true friends on one hand and that is for a lifetime. It is an honor to have Ron at the top of our category and definition of a true friend who we love dearly. With any tragedy or life changing event, true friends stand beside you through thick and thin; those you thought were friends, but really were not, show true colors and fall away. So it has been with Jim and me these past months. We know we can count on Ron 24-7 and words cannot come close to expressing our gratitude for everything. Thank-You, Ron! You're the best!

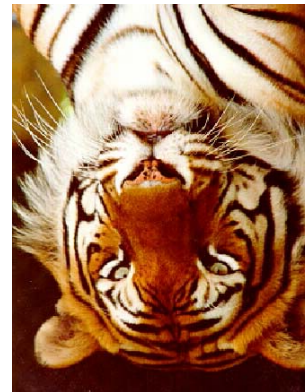


**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to sunset**

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

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