

January/February 2007



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Dug Mark

Sanctuary News

Happy New Year and Blessings to all. It is hard to believe another year has gone by. This year we are going to concentrate on upgrading equipment and enclosures. Due to generous holiday donations, we have been able to purchase new wheelbarrows, power wagons and hand trucks to ease the heavy workload of those caring for the animals on a daily basis. Through the year we wish to continue to upgrade old equipment as we are able and also purchase new 10' chain

link replacement panels for enclosures needing work. These wonderful items will greatly

improve the quality of all those in our care and by purchasing panels instead of straight fencing we can easily take them down to transport if we relocate the Sanctuary. It has been wonderful having a mild winter, even though I live for snow. The animals have been soaking up the sun in months they usually stay in insulated houses. Last fall not many of the animals "furred up" for winter. The bears, like the wooly caterpillar, tell a sign of what's in store for winter months by the length and thickness of their fall coats and usually eat non-stop from July to October. The bears did not change eating habits nor even considered growing much of a coat, so I knew it was going to be unusually mild. There will be an earlier than normal spring and we will be able to finish many projects this year as long as we don't get prolonged wet weather. If you are interested

in helping with carpentry or fencing, please contact the Sanctuary at: 262-736-9386.

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

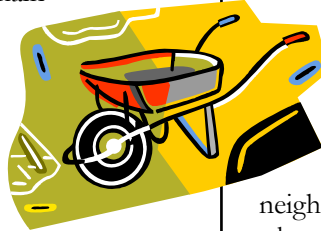
Global Warming!

We are very concerned about global warming and the effect it may have in our area. The warmer the winters are, the warmer the summers will tend to be and the potential for heat stroke in the animals rises ten fold. In the early 90's our area

was hit with temperature extremes never before seen or recorded.

Hundreds of people and animals died in Chicago and Milwaukee, our

neighbors lost a lot of hoofed stock and we lost a couple of our very beloved cougars to heat stroke. When heat stroke happens it is devastating. We were able to save all the other animals over the ten day heat period and worked around the clock in shifts to keep everyone alive, animal and human. The warmer winter brings concern for the summer of 2007 and we are looking for volunteers to help put up plywood and tarps to deflect the sun over each enclosure. We have these in place now but wish to cover larger areas. We are also asking members to save big liter bottles and five to twenty gallon containers (please rinse and air dry). We will refill them with water and freeze. This simple item saves lives and cools animals



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

quickly. Please be sure all containers are of 100% non-toxic materials. The bottles, containers and coolers will give the animals big and small blocks of ice in play areas, pools, water buckets, you name it, we put them wherever the animals will appreciate these life saving toys. The new refrigerated, freezer semi trailer will allow us to freeze many of these items should the elements become unbearable. If you know of anyone who would like to become involved with this necessary project, the animals would greatly appreciate it. We are also in need of extra volunteers during heat

waves to come and hose down enclosures during the hottest part of the day. A few facilities have huge cubes you can fill with cold water, they are insulated and will remain ice cold for days, they are also big enough for a cougar to lay length wise. We are trying to locate a few to purchase for the cougars as they desperately could use this type of cooling system. Cougars have the hardest time during hot weather and are most prone to heat stroke. We know many people who have lost cougars to heat stroke and it is a heavy heartache to lose any animal this way.

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



Did you know?

A little known law will allow the transfer of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity from an IRA, tax-free, if someone is 70 1/2 years of age or older. The transfer will count toward the required minimum distribution from the IRA. The law signed by President Bush on August 17th is called the Pension Protection Act of 2006. You can find a summary on the Web site of Congress's joint Committee on Taxation (www.house.gov/jct). Click on the eagle (where it says: "Click Here To Continue"). Then click on JCT Publica-

tions 2006," and look for Publication JCX-38-06, dated August 3, 2006, in the online version, see the section start-

ing on page 263. This provision applies to transfers of as much as \$100,000 a year only during 2006 and 2007.



Letters From Members

I would just like to say thank you to all the wonderful people at VOTK very much. Andy was an excellent tour guide and we learned a lot from him. The kids couldn't stop talking about all they learned and my nephew is excited to write a report for school. I am so grateful that there are sanctuaries such as yours to take care of these beautiful animals and educate people on why wild animals shouldn't be pets or taken from the wild. I hope to return to VOTK soon to visit again and bring my husband. He was in awe hearing the lions roar on my video clip and wants to ride the Harley there to hear them call out.

Stacy Zacher



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.

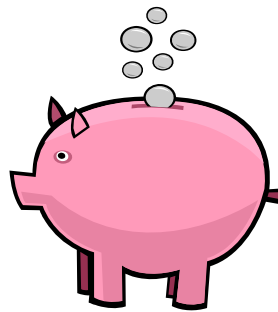
To use PayPal, simply log onto **www.paypal.com**. You will have to set up your own personal PayPal account (it's free), then click on "send money". Enter our email address **info@votk.org** for general contributions to VOTK or to donate to our **special moving and construction fund**. Enter the amount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

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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.

In Memory of Tommy, 1982-2006

Our beloved Tommy was a very large short haired black domestic tabby cat. Tommy came to the Sanctuary in the spring of 1982. He was approximately 2 years old and very loved by his previous owner. Tommy arrived with his owner crying her eyes out and barely able to let him go. The last thing in the world she wanted was to part with her little boy but unfortunately Tommy had a big problem: he never really used the litter box as a youngster and because he was so darn cute, the owner overlooked that little detail as if things would change as he grew older. Unfortunately for the owner, things only got worse and Tommy decided it would be really cool if he blessed the entire house with his scent each day. I suppose that could have been a warning to any other cats his owner may have tried to bring home, letting everyone know Tommy's home was all his. Needless to say, his owner, as tearful as she could possibly be, had to say farewell to her beloved friend and let him live a farm life peeing anywhere, anytime and not getting into trouble.

Tommy immediately made himself at home; he had to explore everything. If a car door was left open he just had to mark it as his territory, he just couldn't help himself. Soon

Tommy became a favorite among everyone who entered the farm. He loved to ride on his human friends' shoulders and follow volunteers all over the place. His meow was deep and loud and he let you know when he wanted something and it had to be right then. Tommy was very demanding but not one person minded as he was now everyone's favorite. He loved it and relished in all the attention. Over the years, many wanted to take Tommy home and many were warned. Each time someone decided to give him a try at city life, Tommy always ended up back at the farm usually within three or four days. I think the record for shortest time was less than three hours. Tommy just couldn't help himself — he lived to pee on everything. Vehicles driving in always left with sprayed tires and wheels. I'm figuring that was a warning to what ever cat might be waiting on the other end of where that vehicle was headed.

Tommy never ceased to amaze us of exactly how much his bladder could hold. This went on for many, many years and then Tommy stopped marking things less and less. It was obvious he enjoyed sleeping far more than putting in the upkeep of his scent around the farm. Days turned to years and soon Tommy was a senior citizen. As he slowed it was obvi-

ous he needed to go somewhere for winters to keep his old bones warm. Due to Tommy's reputation, everyone loved that old cat but were reluctant to take him home knowing once he acclimated to the warmth it wasn't an option to bring him back until spring. However, miracles do happen and our wonderful Dr Chris Pagel stepped up to the plate and took Tommy a couple winters. Each spring Tommy picked up where he left off enjoying the fans who all adored him. The last few years of

Tommy's life he remained with Dr Chris year round and when we visited he was always sleeping inside a favorite shelf on his favorite blanket with his very own personal bowls he didn't have to share with other cats. Tommy always behaved himself at Dr Chris's clinic. That was the other miracle; he used the litter box and gave up spraying. Senility set in and the last time we saw Tommy he made a special effort to get out of his bed and come to get

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

cuddled as soon as he heard our voices. Three volunteers were with us that day and Tommy remembered them all. Dr Chris put Tommy to sleep December 2006, after it was determined that a lump on his forehead was cancerous. Tommy was as old as the seas in cat years and will always be embedded in many of his human friends' hearts, for there will never be another quite like him and all our memories will allow him to live on, a kitten again, free to be the leader of the cat pack wherever he may be right now looking down on so many who loved him so.

Farewell, Tommy, until we meet again. Special thanks to Dr Chris and his staff for loving Tommy and giving him more than he ever could have hoped for in his old age.



PHOTOS, PHOTOS, PHOTOS

We are looking for wonderful photos to use in the Pug Mark and also photos to compile for an end of the yearbook. All must be taken 06 and 07 for the yearbook. Any year for the Pug mark. So if you have a special photo you would like to share with the world, by all means, send it in! The requirements for all photos are ... No humans in pictures and No chain link. All photos will be returned on request.

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.



Come see the VOTK Booth at the Great Lakes Pet Expo!

Milwaukee County Sports Complex
6000 W. Ryan Rd.
Franklin, WI

Date: February 10

Time: 10 to 5

**Tickets at the door \$5.00
Adult \$3.00 for Children under 10**



Lay back and relax,
I can handle
your legal needs

Tel 847.991.1865
Fax 847.991.9962

Joseph Crimmins
Attorney at Law

182 S. Stonington Drive
Palatine, IL 60074



Just Cakes & Pastries

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

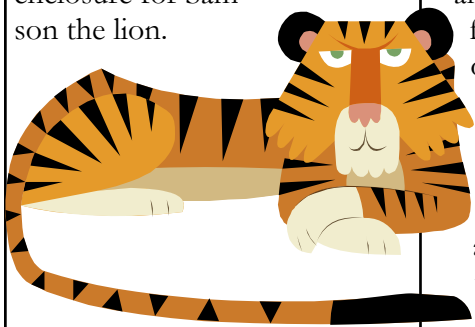
Licensed • Insured • Wholesale • Retail

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

Sanctuary Update

Seva has been moved to Alti's old enclosure and is not very happy about being away from the house. The transition will take some time for her to adjust to all the new sights and sounds. Samantha and Zipper were very happy to have a new next door neighbor and the three tigers interacted better than anticipated. Seva's old area is being dismantled and her panels will go toward a new enclosure for Samson the lion.



Other News

Recently a small Sanctuary in Marengo, Illinois closed its doors and moved to Arizona. They had been in our area for the past eight years and rescued smaller exotics with a few cougars. Development of land, condominiums and just plain urban sprawl forced them to go. Another Sanctuary in California had been in existence for over 25 years, the same thing happened to them and they were forced out by urban take over. In Colorado three Sanctuaries closed doors in 2006 under very similar circumstances. This scenario is headed our way and it will be here

soon. Our area is getting built up overnight and we will eventually be pushed out as others have around the country. We have sent query letters out to different counties in Wisconsin to see where our services and the work we do will be appreciated. It has been amazing to discover many will welcome us with open arms and some close by as well. We want a county that we can work with and along with the Sanctuary put up an Animal Disaster Center

for any and all displaced exotic as well as any domestic or hoofed stock needing assistance from any county or state. Our vision for the future is of a grand scale and if it is meant to be, I truly believe it will happen. We live our lives on faith, for that is always the one and sometimes the only thing we as humans can count on. We are committed to our work no matter what it takes and all the blood, sweat and tears allow us to take one step closer to our dream. In a hundred years or more, with God's grace, we want all to remember our work. Wherever we eventually end up, the property will never be touched by urban sprawl and will forever and always be for animals, be it a Sanctuary or wildlife preserve, protected for all future generations to remember the importance of saving those with no voice in another time. The person who

bought the sanctuary in Marengo, Illinois has graciously donated all the fencing, insulated dens and many items left behind to us. The volunteers have been busy taking things down and getting ready to transport these much needed items on special work days. If you have free time and wish to participate with this unusual project, please contact the Sanctuary at 262-736-9386 and we will link you up with the crew

Fundraising events headed our way

February 14th through 18th the Esquire Lounge and dining at 4009 South Shore Drive in Delavan, Wisconsin will be hosting a dinner event for VOTK. For information and directions, Please call Vera at 262-740-9039.

May 19th
the **Diablo Lobo's**

Motorcycle Club will be hosting a ride and poker run to benefit the animals. If you would like to participate as one or as a group please contact Rick Huwiler for all the details and locations at 262-949-5753. Many fun things are planned for this event and it will be an extraordinarily fun day.

. "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase"
Martin Luther King Jr.

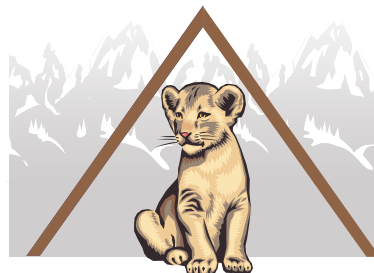


VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY

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.



Gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Gift from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

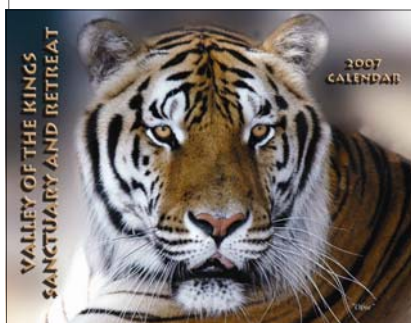
City/State/Zip: _____

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

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

2007 VOTK Calendars Are Here!

The 2007 VOTK calendars are **now available**. Get your orders in soon, while we still have some! 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>

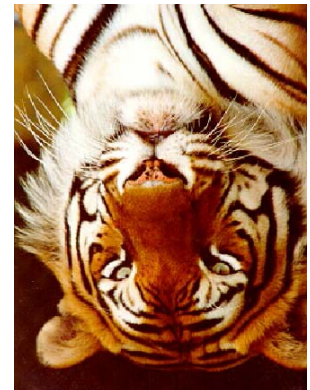
Remember — each calendar you purchase helps the animals.

**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.***

**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**