

January 2008



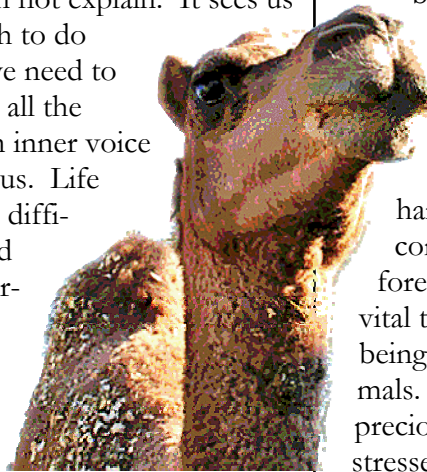
VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Dug Mark

Sanctuary News

Happy New year to every-

one! We wish a healthy, wonderful year full of joy and special memories for each and every person reading this. The last few years have truly been a test of wills for many and we really have paid our dues. It is a blessing Jim survived and we are grateful for each and every day. When we as humans are at some of the lowest points of our lives, we find an inner strength that one can not explain. It sees us through to do what we need to do and all the time an inner voice guides us. Life itself is difficult and the journey a challenge but we



have faith in knowing the universe will shine through. May the Angels always surround those reading this, ourselves and the animals we love dearly in our care each and every day. Enjoy each moment, enjoy all of your loved ones be it 2 or 4 legged and especially, enjoy the New Year!

Love and Xtra big hugs,
Jill, Jim and Animal Friends

Sanctuary Update

Many changes have taken place at the Sanctuary this past fall and early winter. Most of the big cat dens have been re-roofed, Chewie has a beautiful new wind break in front of his barn, Togar has a second house by his lockout so he doesn't have to walk in the snow and ice, a new portable barn to defrost meat and loads of small fence fixing projects done. The volunteers went way above and beyond to really put in extra time and energy to complete these projects before January. The cold winter months are the hardest to deal with and completing projects before the snow comes is vital to the health and well being of all the animals. Cold weather will zap precious energy from a stressed or elderly animal

and it is imperative they be kept comfortable and warm during long winters months. The New Year with unpredictable weather patterns will continue to bring many Earth changes and we pray all will remain safe. We will be installing a new perimeter, pastures and enclosures starting this Spring. Some enclosures will be updated with new areas for the cats as a few are in need of lar-

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ger areas. Samson the lion will be the first to receive a new enclosure. It will take considerable funding to be able to complete these necessary projects and we will be dedicating plaques to finished projects in honor of members who made them possible. If enough funds are available the main compound will be expanded to the rear of the Sanctuary and things rearranged. Our need for volunteers and a precious construction crew goes without saying. We need your help. Please consider making a difference in the lives of the animals any Saturday after 10:30 a.m.

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



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!

VOTK will have a booth at The Great Lakes Pet Expo, to be held at Wisconsin State Fair Park Expo Center on February 22, 2008 from 10 am to 7 pm.



Creative Pathways

Spiritual Consulting

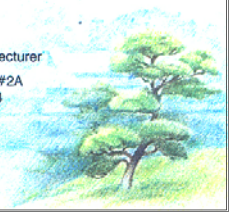
Bill Delaney

Intuitive, Spiritual Teacher, Lecturer

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M-F 8-5PM
SAT 8-12PM

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Email: mikehyla@sbcglobal.net

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

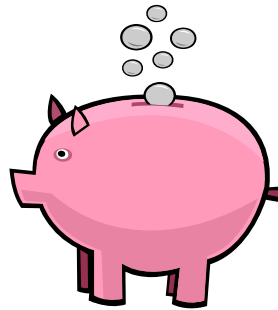
PayPal is a **secure** internet-based way to send and receive money. All you need is an email address and a credit card. Anyone can use PayPal to buy gift shop items, buy or renew memberships, or donate money to the sanctuary.

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 and MasterCard. We take major credit cards at the gift shop, or over the phone for donations or memberships, 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



Sonoma



Marley Horse



Martin



Marley Horse



Abby & Wendell



Bruno

Fall, Winter Wish List

- ◆ Heavy duty, outdoor extension cords.
- ◆ 3/4" and 1/2" treated plywood 8x10 sheets of plywood.
- ◆ Brown, heavy duty Canvas tarps, all sizes up to 24 ft wide x 60 ft long semi-trailer tarps
- ◆ Heated buckets all sizes and heated small bowls.
- ◆ Blankets and towels.
- ◆ Gravel and sand.
- ◆ Insulation, Pink thick board kind.
- ◆ 2x4's and 4x4's treated and untreated.
- ◆ Used vehicles to sell and raise funds.
- ◆ cars, trucks, boats, trailers etc..
- ◆ Dry dog and cat food, any brand.
- ◆ Paper towels, bleach, dish washing liquid.
- ◆ Any brand Canned and dry cat food.
- ◆ Dog, cat treats and toys.
- ◆ Pet crates and carriers.
- ◆ Aluminum cans and cell phones (for recycling)
- ◆ Funds to pay bills and purchase food for the animals.

Letters from Members

I am thankful that people such as yourselves exist in this life and give their time, hearts and hope to make the world a better place for animals. Your tireless efforts are very much appreciated. Keep up the wonderful work!

Sincerely,
Stacy Zacher

Hi Jill,
Love your news bulletin and the stories.
Dorothy Kozeluh

Dear Jill and Jim
We were so very sorry to hear about Nook. We got to see him up close on one of our trips to VOTK. He was absolutely amazing!! All the best to you, the volunteers and the "kitties".
Tom Demke and Marilyn Dreger

Jill and Jim,
It must be difficult choosing the life you have to see if everything is going to "work out" for the animals. I actually got a "natural high" off the positive energy of your place. Thanks for being the wonderful spiritual people you are for the animals. Keep up the good work.
Love, **Mary Fornek and Dan Gonzalez**

Jill and Jim

Hope this holiday season brings great joy to everyone and all the wonderful animals at the Sanctuary. Jim I pray for your health and I know God listens. Jill you are truly blessed to have the strength and know how to do what you do. Weve been lucky to have you and the animals in our great state.

Merry Christmas,
Stan Tappa

Happy Holidays to all! Wishing you, the volunteers and all the animals Peace and thank you for your dedication to these beautiful animals. I would like to make a donation in memory of all the animals who did not find the love and refuge that you have made possible at Valley Of The Kings. I hope the New Year brings good things to you and the animals.

Joann Kwiecinski
Temecula, California



Questions From Our Members

In your newsletter please elaborate on **Costner**, the Wolf Hybrid. You wrote that the chain had grown partially into his neck. How does that happen and how was it treated—by surgery? How did this chain happen to be on his neck in the first place? Thank-You for taking care of these beautiful animals.

Joan R. Zagorski
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Joan,

In answer to your questions, we do not have a lot of information on

Costner. Some owners who are uneducated about animal care will put a collar around their pet's neck and not remove it to resize as the animal grows. The collar will actually grow into the animal's neck and in many cases will need to be

surgically removed. In Costner's case, they affixed a heavy chain around his neck which had rusted and was embedded for quite some time. He was found during a heavy thunderstorm, laying on the side of the road. A good samaritan stopped, picked him up and took him to the Washington County Humane Society. The Humane Society surgically removed the rusted heavy chain and cleaned his wound. He was put on antibiotics and the wound scrubbed daily to allow healing to occur. Washington County Humane Society neutered Costner



Costner

for us before he arrived at the Sanctuary. He was suffering from malnutrition and was extremely thin. Unfortunately, Costner was a throw-away animal in our disposable society. Once the novelty wears off, the animal is no longer wanted. Neglect and starvation take its toll, which is usually met with a horrible death if intervention is not found. The owners pick up and move on to another animal doing the same thing leaving the starving animal to fend for itself and die a very slow painful death. If Costner had not been

found, he would not have made it. His condition was considered grave and he had been neglected for a very long time. We are grateful for all the Washington County Humane Society did for Costner and we are grateful we

had the room to allow him to live out the remainder of his life in peace and harmony without fear of ever being abused again! Costner is sponsored by Steve and Mary Baten of Lake Barrington, Illinois

Where do blind horses go???

Did you know that the Sanctuary has three blind horses? Our newest resident is **Marley**. He is a 15 year old Percheron draft horse. The previous owner donated him to be fed to the big cats. His sadness turned to gladness when he learned Marley would be living

out his days at VOTK with the other blind horses instead of being given a death sentence. Blind animals, regardless of what kind, can have a full wonderful life. The most important key to blind animals' well being is you *don't rearrange the furniture*. Everything must remain the same. Horses are very quick to adapt and will use other senses to make up for vision loss. Marley knows the new pasture area and had it down pat within two days of arriving at VOTK. He is making new friends and getting along well with the other horses. He is a big kind hearted soul and does not have a mean bone in his entire body. Marley was used on a two horse hitch at a riding stable in Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin. At his old home he had to deal with a very hilly terrain and had problems with his step. There are no surprises for him at the Sanctuary and he loves the flat ground.

Equines like Marley who are disabled and others who are unsound or a misfit in some way usually end up at sale barns and then trucked to slaughter plants. We are such a disposable society and if these animals cannot be ridden or used, they are discarded. We can only save a handful of these animals as we do not have the space or funds to house many equines. Right now the Sanctuary has fourteen rescued equines. We place in forever homes. Those who can be pasture pals and live out their days. We find homes for more than 20 horses and ponies each year and

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any with a health problem or disability remain with us.

Throughout the U.S., hundreds of thousands of horses and ponies in excellent health and soundness, along with the disabled and misfits, are now being transported through Minnesota to Canada for slaughter and overseas shipment for meat. A huge slaughter plant was recently shut down that processed thousands of horses each week in Dekalb, Illinois. Horses are in the pet category and we as animal lovers are horrified at this process. When any of our horses die they are never fed to the cats. We could not bear the thought of seeing them that way. They are honored with the rest of our permanent residents who cross over with an eternal resting place. Marley is grateful he's been given a second chance at life and when you visit VOTK, please bring carrots and apples to feed our wonderful misfits.

Marley reminds me of my favorite story about the starfish and the sea. There was a man seen picking things up from the beach and throwing them back into the sea one by one. As the beach walker drew nearer he saw he was throwing starfish into the sea. He stopped and asked "With so many starfish on the beach why bother throwing any back into the sea?" The man smiled and replied "It matters to this one" as he threw another into the sea.

And so it is with us. Be it a lion, tiger, duck, bunny or a horse, it matters to them all. We can't save them all, it's not humanly possible, but we can save the few we can, like the starfish. With each one saved we breathe more life into the work we do and another life saved means the world is a better place for those who truly care. Animals are an extension of ourselves, all connected, all one. We give thanks for each and everyone! Welcome Marley!



In Memory of my beloved **Champ**, 1991-2002

Janice Zera

In Memory of **Oliver R. Aspergren Jr.**

In memory of our beloved Sadie. She was our grand old lady and Beta cat. She could flush out a mouse before the mouse knew it was in trouble. She will certainly enjoy seeing her old cronies.

Mary Kay and Tom Miekina

In beloved memory of **Charlie Anderson**. Charlie was a special member and is dearly missed. Failing health in his last few senior years prevented Charlie from visiting the Sanctuary. He would usually visit Nook and Ieshia first and loved everything about all the animals. Charlie loved to entertain anyone with his magic shows. He always wore exotic Hawaiian shirts and loved Hawaiian music. Charlie truly was a very special light in this world. His eyes sparkled when he told you stories and we miss this quiet peaceful man. He now stands beside Nook and the others we lost along the way, watching over them for us from the other side. We love and miss you Charlie!

All your friends at VOTK

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

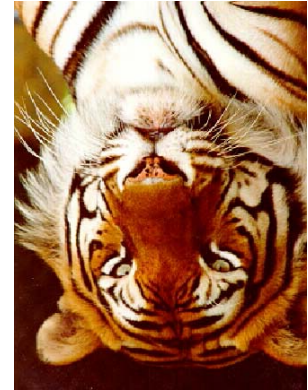


**Sanctuary Visiting Hours:
Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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



**VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY
& RETREAT**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
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