

Autumn 2011



VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY & RETREAT

The Pug Mark

Sanctuary Update

*W*e want to thank everyone who came to our aid this Spring. Rescues are really struggling to keep their heads above water and in this economy it is really hard to do. Day to day expenses eat up what little is set aside for emergency and unexpected bills. Without our wonderful members who donate regularly we would cease to exist and the animals in our care would not have a home. We give Thanks and our heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful people who enable us to carry on with our work. God Bless each and every one of you, for you are making a huge difference in the lives of the animals.

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

The cold spring coupled with the violent storms and then the awful heat wave kept volunteers busy making the animals comfortable. It was impossible to do construction projects during the Spring and most of the Summer months because of the elements. We desperately need to make up for lost time.

I had written the newsletter in almost its entirety last month and with the last sentence my word processor crashed and went blank. The written material is lost forever as I tried everything I could do to retrieve it. Sooooo, this newsletter is coming to you

very late and I do apologize. Sometimes it takes me weeks to write the newsletter, then Jim edits and downloads it into the computer and off to the printer it goes. Seems like trying to get things done this summer has taken forever.

In the Spring of 2012, we will once again be planting Memorial trees in the new compound and putting up security panels. Our elderly animals had a hard time this Spring and Summer and our spare time was devoted to their every need. **Zipper** is still hanging in there and loves his kiddie



pool on hot days. He actually destroyed a few playing with them. It sure is fun watching that old tiger play. **Nadia**, our wolf hybrid

is also as old as the sea but holding her own. **Rouge** and **Katchina** are arthritic and are now living next to **Nadia**. **Boo** and **Chicar**, two older male cougars, suffered heat



stroke in the triple digit weather. Fortunately, we were able to get them crated and safely put into our meat barn where they were greeted with air conditioning.

(Continued on page 2)

Sanctuary Update continued

(Continued from page 1)

They both survived but had to remain in the air-conditioned barn for a couple weeks while we waited for the heat wave to end. A few days after we moved Boo and Chicar, on July 22nd, **Thena**, our young lioness, attacked **Chaucer**, our old male lion, for no apparent reason and inflicted serious injuries on his back and hip. Thena has since been removed and

is now living in Samson's enclosure next to Kali the Lioness. Chaucer has been receiving special care

since the injury. He is in the main barn and cannot have access to his outdoor area until his wounds are healed. Chaucer's injury has gone from critical to a guarded condition and he continues to improve each day. Wednesday August 17th was the first day he roared: it had almost been a month since his injury and when he started roaring, it went on all day long with all his family of brother Lions. What a welcome relief to the other Lions to hear that old Lion come to life again and ours as well. The following day on August 18th Chaucer got up on all fours for the first time, took a few steps and laid back down. We are so grateful Chaucer has survived this horrible event in his life. Jim and I go in with him two times a day to administer antibiotics and other medica-



tions. I hand feed him while Jim puts medication on his back, then he gives him fresh water. Chaucer loves to drink from the bucket while Jim pours it into his water pan. He also likes the massages Jim gives him daily. In all the years Chaucer has been with us he has never been handle-able. He would always take treats but that was the extent of the attention he wanted. When he was

injured, all I kept hearing from him was "help me", as I frantically gathered my equipment to knock him out, so we could tend to his injuries. The anesthesia kept him quiet for a

couple days giving us time to really debrief and clean his wounds and give him antibiotic and fluid support. We were not sure what the future would hold for him but we wanted to give him the opportunity for a full recovery, which we knew would be a long time and we were in it for the long haul. Chaucer had a slim chance for a full recovery because he is so old. Elderly individuals don't heal as well or as quickly as the young and for every step you take forward, you end up taking two steps back. Chaucer allows us to do what we need to do everyday. He gazes into my eyes as I feed him and I feel gratefulness coming from deep within his being. He allows me to gently scratch his head and even scratch and brush his back. Chaucer raises his head and closes his eyes and emits very low purrs while he

is being massaged. He is truly amazing and we have been humbled as he continues to allow us in his space to do what we need to do.

We had business to attend to in Michigan the end of August and we were not sure what to do with Chaucer. The Volunteers all have a healthy fear of him and have always given him a wide berth. We decided to make arrangements to bring him with us which would have solved our dilemma as all the volunteers declined our request to care for him while we were gone. Then a miracle happened: **Vicki**, one of our Big Cat volunteers, stepped up to the plate. Vicki is a quiet, patient individual and we felt she was a great candidate. For three weeks Vicki and her daughter **Tammy** came to work with Chaucer under our protection and guidance. He immediately took to Vicki and the transition went beautifully. Long before Chaucer was injured, Vicki would bring him treats and pay special attention to that old Lion. Chaucer remembered her kindness and knew who she was. We believe that is why he immediately accepted her. We kept in touch while we were gone and things could not have gone better. I said a lot of prayers that week as we absolutely had to go and could not wait. Vicki and Tammy are our heroes and they are both dedicated, incredible individuals. We truly are blessed to have such amazing volunteers with us.

Chaucer is still in his indoor area. As of September 1st, he has two rooms but prefers to be in the

(Continued on page 6)



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182 S. Stonington Drive
Palatine, IL 60074

*Lay back and relax.
I can handle
your legal needs*

Words About Our Volunteers

Special people touch the animals' lives and ours at the Sanctuary on a daily basis. We have been blessed to know and love so many people. The Sanctuary could not exist without these wonderful souls who love the animals as much as we do. Their hearts fill with joy and goodness as they care for the animals. The work is hard and the days are long, yet they do not complain. They look out for one another and drop everything to help someone if needed. Volunteering is not a 9 to 5 experience it's a 9 till your done experience, which sometimes isn't until 8 or 9 at night. Our dedicated staff always go above and beyond our expectations. Laughter fills the Sanctuary grounds on any given day and that happiness spreads to the health and well being of our beloved animals. We give "Thanks" to each and every volunteer the animals have to rely on and the Sanctuary is blessed in more ways than one can imagine. God Bless you and Thank You!



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In Memory of ...

Samson

Samson passed away July 26th during the triple digit, forty day long heat wave we experienced here in Wisconsin. His heart condition, coupled with the excessive heat, contributed to his demise.

Samson was a kind old Lion. He acted tough but was a marshmallow inside. His eyes told his sad story and he always seemed like he was searching for his family with each person who passed by. He cherished memories of his beautiful full acre enclosure attached to the Younkin's home in Arkansas. Samson was a regular visitor in the house and on the bed with Bobby, his owner. Bobby loved Samson and we know he watched over his beloved Lion each and everyday he was in our care.

Samson came to us a few years ago. His owner, Bobby Younkin, was a stunt pilot and was killed in a dual airplane crash at an air show. Family members contacted us to see if we could take Samson, as they could not handle him like Bobby. They had called other Sanctuaries, but they all required a minimum donation of \$5,000.00 or more. We do not require a donation, as many of the animals would be euthanized if we did not take them. It is far cheaper for someone to either go that route, or to put them in the hands of the wrong people, simply because they cannot afford a substantial donation to place their animal.

We drove to Fayetteville, Arkansas and picked Samson up. We lightly sedated him and before we

placed him in our transport crate, the entire family petted and loved on that old lion for a long time. It was as if they were parting with Bobby, their beloved husband and father, all over again. They loved Samson and parting with him was an extremely emotional day for the entire family.

We wanted Samson to have a friend so he would not pine for his beloved Bobby. Kali seemed like a good fit and we tried placing Samson with her, as she is a spayed female lioness. That arrangement did not go as planned, as Kali has a tail fetish and Samson did not appreciate her behavior, especially since he did not have much of a tuft on the end of his tail to begin with.

Samson's family had yet another recent tragedy with the untimely death of Amanda, Jeanie and Bobbys daughter. Amanda was severely burned in a 2010 airplane accident and was taken off life support this Spring.

Samson is now with Bobby and beautiful Amanda in the heavens above and was greeted with open arms by those who once cherished him on this planet. We had Samson cremated and returned his cremains to the family. Samson longed for his former family. He did not bond with anyone here and we felt

very strongly that Samson's cremains belonged with the Younkins to help bring closure to the horrible events this wonderful family has suffered through.



There will always be a special place in our hearts for Samson and his incredible family. It was an honor to have known and loved Samson; his memory will live on in the lives of those who took the time to get to know him. Now

in the arms of Bobby and Amanda, Samson's spirit lives on and our thoughts and prayers go out to Jeanie, Bobby's beautiful wife and Matt, their son. God Bless Samson and the Younkin family.

If you wish to send a card or photos to the family:

Jeanie Younkin
18401 Harmon Road
Fayetteville, AR 72704

or you can see their website at www.younkinairshows.com

Kali

Kali, our Bobcat, died in her sleep August 24th. She had been suffering from renal disease for years and the last few weeks she had not been well. Every day she would greet us with her soft voice and lived to be cuddled. We will miss this Granny cat for a long, long time. "Special" does not describe her beautiful little soul as she was *beyond awesome* and a fa-

(Continued on page 5)

In Memory of ...

(Continued from page 4)

favorite among many who knew and loved her.

Kali came to us many years ago from Chicago Animal control. She was found in a tree and

Mayor Daley was worried she would hurt someone. When Kali came to the Sanctuary, we discovered that whoever owned her had

her defanged and declawed. She was approximately two years old. Kali lived in the house with us for a few weeks while a bobcat habitat was constructed. She used the litter box and got along well with our house cats. Sometimes we would find her in a buddy pile with the house cats. Kali was allowed to sleep with us on occasion but that was short lived. She would dive bomb our heads off the headboard, then grab our hair, twist it and pull and on occasion we would be awakened from a deep sleep with a Bobcat attacking our toes.

Kali lived to play and when KiKu, our Canadian Lynx, came along she was in seventh heaven. They had an incredible bond and KiKu is now missing his best friend. Kiku calls for her every evening and doesn't understand why we can't bring his beloved Kali back. Our hearts ache for him. Our precious Kali is now in the hands of loved ones on the other side. There must be a special section of VOTK animals and wonderful friends, members, and family who loved them in



life, now watching over each and every one of them. The years pass so quickly, we don't see them growing old until one day, a slight limp or gray hair appears. We have lost so many awesome animals through the years and it

is very painful to say goodbye. We take care of them as best we can and when they cross over Rainbow Bridge we take great comfort in knowing our work continues in the arms of the Angels. Good-bye sweet Kali forever and always in our hearts she will be.

Blyndee

Blyndee the blind Raccoon died suddenly in June. He was fine one day and then the next he was gone. We attribute his demise to his handicap. Born without eyes, there had to be other genetic defects that were sure to manifest sooner or later. We have seen it with many animals and to make things harder they are always sweet. We thank Teri for sending him to us even though his time was brief. He was a wonderful little guy with a gentle



nature and such a joy to our small animal caregiver Carolyn. He made Carolyn smile on Sun-

days and Blyndee was a highlight in her life. Blyndee is missed.



Help Wanted

Our Federal License now requires open enclosures to be 16 feet in height or 12 foot high with a 3 foot overhang. We were able to receive a variance on Satchel and Chaucer's enclosure. We have until November 1st of this year to complete the necessary requirements and we need help on weekends to finish it on time. Please help us if you can.

We ordered three very large new wolf enclosures and a big new beautiful Raccoon enclosure as well. We will be installing them in our new compound area and will need extra help to complete these projects and move animals before winter arrives.

Our workdays are every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. until sundown.

Please call the Sanctuary to schedule weekends you can volunteer. Telephone (262)736-9386 and please leave a message. Thank-you!!!

Sanctuary Update, continued

main area so he can look out his window. We have him deeply bedded in moving blankets and we have to say "Thank you!" to whoever donated them, they have been a Godsend!!! They are thick and absorbent, which is what we need to keep Chaucer dry. He cannot have his regular bedding of shavings and hay for a longtime until his wounds completely heal. His back is slowly healing and he is on an autoimmune stimulant, two kinds of antibiotics and two kinds of pain medications. We expect his full recovery to take months, but are optimistic and hopeful we will have a few more years with our beautiful Lion.

Many years ago Chaucer came to the Sanctuary to be a friend for a Lion named **Ajja**. Ajja had many medical problems and was never well. On his bad days, Chaucer would bring Ajja's dinner to him and clean him all over. He would watch us care for Ajja and keep his distance when we were in with them. Chaucer would pay attention to what we were doing and understood Ajja needed extra help. Chaucer pampered Ajja and watched over him until he crossed over to Rainbow Bridge. We believe Chaucer is allowing us to care for his every need because he has remembered the attention given to his friend Ajja and truly understands what we are doing for him. Animals truly are amazing. Please keep Chaucer in your prayers.

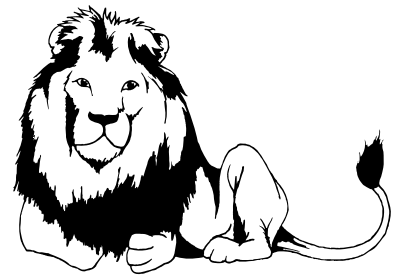
Assam, our beautiful Golden Tabby Tiger, went to Dr Rudawski's September 10th for a

tumor to be removed from his jaw. We were devastated to learn Assam has Cancer. He does not have much time left and the quality of his life is very important to us. If it is at all possible, we will try oral chemotherapy **but would need a pharmaceutical company to hopefully donate the product**. We do not have the funds available to purchase this expensive medication for him. Assam at this time is in excellent weight; if anything, he is over-



weight and has a very hearty appetite. He doesn't know he is dying. Our hearts are broken. Assam is a very gentle Tiger and loves everyone. He has a special sweetness and an unusual peace in his walk. Please say prayers for this much loved Tiger.

In early October we will be traveling to the furthest point in Iowa by the South Dakota border to pick up a Lion and a Tiger. The Tiger will go in Zipper's enclosure. Zipper will be moved by then into our Senior Center and in a warmer place. The Lion will go next to Satchel and with luck the two will go together in time. More about these two cats in the next newsletter.



Senior Center

We are in the process of building a senior center in our main barn. We are insulating areas for individual cats and would like to put in heating and air conditioning at one end of the barn to better protect the old cats from the elements. This winter, Zipper, Chaucer, Chicar and Boo Boo are our Seniors in need. Winter may come early this year with the cooler temperatures we are already experiencing. Please help with this important project. Summer and Winter elements are completely unpredictable as we witnessed this summer and past winters. Zipper will be moved to his new area in the next few weeks and will have a warm winter area waiting for him. We are also in need of Generators that can run parts of the Sanctuary in power outages. Northern Illinois and the Chicago area were hit hard by storms this summer and had outages in areas for over a week. 850,000 people were affected! We would have lost a great deal of meat if it had hit our area. Generators need not be new; we would greatly appreciate any size and any models. **Any donations appreciated.**

Letters from Members

Dear Jill & Jim,

I was out to the Sanctuary a couple of weeks ago. You and your helpers do a wonderful job. I wish I could do more to help. You and your helpers are "angels". I pray every day more help will come your way.

Yours Truly,

Yvonne Liebl

West Allis, Wisconsin

Dear Jill & Jim,

I was indeed moved by your newsletter today. So much so, that I want to share with you my Federal Income tax refund. My donation is the most generous ever, because the need is so great at your end, and my wish is that I wish it could be more. I have never requested a membership with you. I now am! I have always been reluctant when charities requested that, I just do not care to enter. It would be an honorable exception with you folks and your mission. My compliments to Jill on her God given talent in writing your message in your paper. May our good Lord continue to Bless you both, with good healthy, limitless stamina required to continue his work here on Earth. Bless you and your staff and your rewarding endeavors.

Irving J. Blaesing

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

P.S. And may the green stuff come in too.

Dear Jill,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$100.00. I spend some of my time picking up aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Here in California we pay a deposit. I decided that I would collect them and make some money for organ-

izations that save animals through recycling. I have friends and neighbors that save them for me as well, and to date I have donated over \$14,000. I met two of your volunteers at Best Friends in May, and learned about Valley of the Kings.

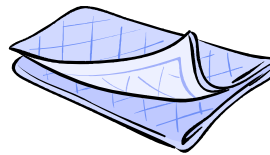
Thank you for caring about these wonderful animals. **Judy Hnilo**

Hnilo

South San Francisco, California

Need Blankets & Towels!

Blankets, Towels and Comforters desperately needed for the animals. We use a variety of blankets each day and have gone through a huge amount with Chaucer's illness. He has to be bedded in blankets to protect his wounds and keep them



dry. Whoever donated the shipping/moving blankets, **those were the absolute best** and if you have any more we would be forever grateful for them.

We have many bunnies available for adoption. They are all neutered and spayed and we have a variety of colors and breeds.



A CHANCE TO DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!!!

Thanks to a very generous person, any donation (up to \$500.00) given by the end of the year will be matched. This means that for every dollar given to VOTK, the donor will give a dollar. This is a great chance to help the animals, and just in time for Christmas and year end giving. God Bless this wonderful individual!



Entertainment Books Available

Entertainment books have \$5,000.00 worth of coupons on dining attractions, shopping and services. Plus, each book features Bonus Cards with \$5.00 off or greater discounts. Discover savings with your mobile device. Mobile coupons, use your phone and save. Additional online savings and access to 1000s more Entertainment offers. To purchase please visit www.entertainment.com/support and enter **VOTK ID 1071162**. Hurry and start saving today. Only \$35.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. Thank You for supporting Valley of the Kings!

2012 Calendars are here! Limited supplies available. Please hurry and order yours today. \$20.00 each. All Photos are of VOTK animals.

All photos in this issue courtesy of Chris Block

VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY

- Yes** I want to give a VOTK membership to a very special friend. I am enclosing \$ ____ for:
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Valley of the Kings Sanctuary & Retreat



2012 Calendar

2012 VOTK Calendars

The 2012 VOTK calendars are here! Get your orders in now, before they're gone! You can purchase them from the VOTK gift shop for \$20. Or send a check for \$20 for each calendar (including shipping) to the Sanctuary.

Send checks to
Valley of the Kings Sanctuary
W7593 Townhall Rd Sharon, WI 53585

Remember — each calendar you purchase helps the animals.



In Memory of my buddy "**Thor**", a beautiful white Shepherd.
Mike Karp
 Arlington Heights, Illinois

In Memory of **Casey**, Beloved Yellow Labrador. He spent thirteen years of happiness with the Jensen family of Crystal Lake Illinois, before crossing over the Rainbow bridge.
Joe Crimmins
 Palatine, Illinois

In Memory of **Marvin Haymes Laurie and Lance Winter**
 Highland Park, Illinois

In Memory of **Marvin Allen Haymes**. He had a lifelong passion for animals and animal rescue.
Heather Martley Basehor, Kansas

Not An Angel

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the bridge together. The young pup playfully snipped at the older one. "Look! Something wonderful is happening!" The older dog stood up and barked. "Quickly, get over to the path." "But that's not my owner," whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the



path toward the bridge. As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head

in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared. The young pup was still in awe. "Was that an angel?" he whispered. "No son," the older dog replied. "That was more than an angel. That was a rescuer."

Thank You!

Special Thank You's to all our wonderful volunteers who are the life force of the Sanctuary. In these hard times and struggles in daily lives they all find time to come and help the animals. Many commit to multiple days and have done so for many years. **God Bless our volunteers!**

Benefits Held for Valley of the Kings have generated needed funds in 2011

- May 1: St. Matthew's Church Ride, Oak Creek - \$285.00
- May 14: Kubwa's Birthday Party, Dr. Firdaus Hashim - \$1,406.00
- June 8: Culver's, Beloit, WI, Pat Scott - \$344.66
- June 12: House of Harley, Milwaukee, WI, Jayne Rohleder - \$655.00
- June 25: Biker-or-Not Ride, Susan Pankow - \$475.00
- July 10: Lakeshore Harley-Davidson, Libertyville, IL, Stefan Levy - \$1,672.00
- August 27: Woodstock Harley-Davidson, Woodstock, IL, Sandy Sherman - \$1,860.00
- September 18: City Limits Harley-Davidson, Palatine, IL, Jojo Giovannoni - (TBD)
- September 24: Heralds of the Cross Motorcycle Ministries Riders, Tim Spath - \$416
- October 1: Dr. Tom Pusateri Ride & Picnic - (TBD)

Many thanks to all the dealers, riders, groups and visitors above, who have supported Valley of the Kings, as well as the many volunteers who have contributed to make these benefits so successful.

Motorcycles / Bicycles

Got two wheels? If your group would like to make plans for a ride next year...do it now! Set a date for your ride so it can be published in a schedule in our newsletter, the Pug Mark, up to four months before your event. PLUS, it will allow us to send notification of your ride to selected nationally distributed magazines. We're trying to make these events a super success for your group, your dealer, and Valley of the Kings and put all of us on the map! Please e-mail Jim at info@votk.org. Thanks!



**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!*

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www.votk.org



**VALLEY OF THE KINGS SANCTUARY
& RETREAT**

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