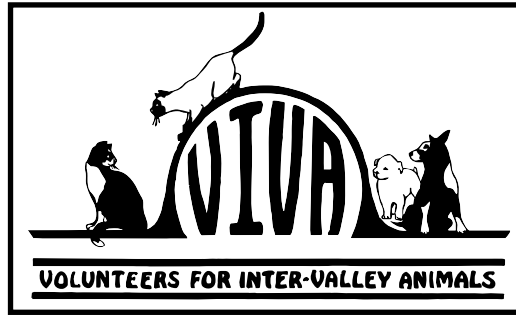


♥ If you love your pets, have them spayed or neutered. ♥

- Cattery
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Adoption Services
- Foster Homes
- TNR Assistance



- Feral Sanctuary
- Lost and Found Service
- Animal Placement Service
- Pet Owner Education
- Cat Boarding



King—
Full of entertaining antics



Marco—
Handsome and loves everyone



Jenny—
A beautiful torti rumpy manx



Hot Shot--
Terrified when he first arrived, now he's the boss

Adoption Center
Street Address:
133 North D Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

Hours:
Saturdays from
10 to 4 or
by appointment

Phone:
(805)735-6741

Mailing Address:
VIVA
PO Box 896
Lompoc, CA 93438

Website:
<http://vivaonline.org>

Email:
info@vivaonline.org



APRIL 2007

Adoptions: Saturdays 10AM
thru 4PM or by appointment
4/8-14: Animal Cruelty/Human
Violence Awareness Week
4/22: Earth Day
4/22-28: World Day & Week
for Animals in Laboratories
Prevention of Animal Cruelty
Month

THE KITTENS ARE COMING

It has already started. Last week we received a call from a woman who said a stray cat had borne two kittens in her back yard. As it turned out, we think it was really her cat as when Linda went over to get them, the cat was in the living room, paying no attention to the little dog sniffing her. Most mom cats have a fit when a strange animal gets close to her babies. The mom gave birth to five, but three were smothered by her, the story goes.

It will be six or eight weeks before the two babies are ready for neutering and adoption, so they are being fostered.

Meanwhile, our kitten room has about 25 older kittens that need homes now! Three of our newest, probably about six months old, were found on our doorstep about the second week in March. Both the females were pregnant (they were spayed immediately), and the male wasn't neutered (he is now!).

Do you have room in your family for one (or two) more? Please visit these kittens (Cat Fancy says they're still kittens at 8 months).

LET'S TALK ABOUT DECLAWING AGAIN

On our application-to-adopt form, we have two questions about declawing: Have you ever and Would you ever. When people say they have or would, we ask them if they really understand that declawing means cutting off the cat's toes beyond the point that nails would be able to grow. Most say they had no idea; they thought it just meant cutting the nails. Those who truly understand the mutilation and don't think anything about it don't get to adopt from VI VA. In fact, on our adoption form is a statement that says the people agree never to declaw. Their signatures make that a legal contract.

A few years ago, we were able to get a bill to our legislators which would have made it illegal to declaw cats. This bill was killed in committee so the voters in California did not have a chance to pass it. At an HSUS conference, the HSUS said they supported the bill but would not campaign for passage since they did not believe that many veterinarians were still doing this procedure. The veterinarians who were in the group discussion on the bill said they did not feel that many veterinarians were still declawing cats and the law was not necessary. Where did they get that idea?

We don't know where these veterinarians practice, but we do know that at VIVA we are still finding many cats that have been declawed and many vets who think there is nothing wrong with declawing. On St. Patrick's Day, we had three declawed cats come to us because they were biters. Who is going to adopt them? We already had two other declawed cats turned in that wouldn't use the litter box in their homes. Will you take one of them into your house? Declawing is inhumane and wrong. We DO need to make it illegal to declaw cats!

GARDENING HELP NEEDED AT THE FERAL CATS SANCTUARY

The thistles and nettles are growing like mad; they need to be pulled (or dug up) before they go to seed. We also need to use a weed trimmer on the plants that produce foxtails before they get dry and cause a medical problem for the cats. One of our cats lost an eye last winter because a foxtail got in her eye and worked its way into her head. Foxtails are extremely dangerous to dogs and cats.

The horses do a good job of eating what they like and keeping a large part of the sanctuary neat, but they do not like thistle, nettles, and foxtails. If you like gardening and can help, call us: 735-6741.

ARE YOU AN E-BAYER? WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

VI VA has many paintings to sell; we would like to list some of these and other collectible items on e-bay. We're looking for someone to help with this project. We also have a large record collection: 78's and 45's, some valuable; some not. We need a collector to help catalog them and help us determine value. Is that you? Call us: 735-6741.

VIVA'S DOG NEWS

Barb says, "Hurray for Oakley!" His family was moving due to a divorce. We found him a perfect home with a 13-year-old Shitzu for a companion. His new daddy walks him twice a day AND he gets to sleep inside!

Now, how about homes for these:



Lucky is an 11 month old border collie who loves to snuggle. She's in need of a loving family who has time to train.



Sparky is a sweet adult neutered male Chihuahua that need a quiet, retired home, willing to work on house training with the little fellow. His mommy had colon surgery and had to give him up!

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare, and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR ABOUT OUR ADOPTIONS

From Janis Dressler:

I thought you may like to hear about the results of our adoption of Yoda from VIVA. She seemed such a content little cat at VIVA, having been there for awhile with one of her kittens. She must have been there long enough to have read the adoption guidelines herself, because she followed the outline you provided very accurately!

Our new cat was absolutely silent for the hour-plus that it took to transport her to our home in Goleta. She was let out of the transport box and immediately made a nest for herself under my daughter's bed, curled up in a folded up doll stroller. We could hear her purring, and she came out once in awhile to check on us. We tried to leave her alone, but I spent much of the weekend lying on the floor next to the bed. Our previous cat, Max, was a neighborhood favorite and had a well-attended memorial ceremony when he left us at the age of 15, so naturally all of the neighborhood wanted to see Yoda who we renamed "Pixie". She was completely uninterested in coming out unless I shook a bag of hairball treats and begged and cajoled her. After a few days, I left the bedroom door open, and she left the bedroom for a hiding place under the living room couch. Gradually, day by day, she came out to meet everyone and explore her surroundings. She climbed on top of things, went behind things, and tried to fit into cupboards. One time I heard her going bump in the night and found her under the bathroom sink in a cabinet. A friend suggested she was searching for the male cat she knew must be hiding somewhere in the house!

By the time a month had passed, she had made herself entirely comfortable with the house, us people, and our various friends. She rests on dining room chairs, folded up blankets, across the foot of our bed, and everywhere but the cat bed I got her. She plays with all of her cat toys and also loves necklaces, dangling window shade cords, and stray pieces of paper. Flies that have gotten into the house by accident rarely have a chance with her around. She has attacked the sticker labels on the insides of our new windows and then danced around with them stuck to her feet.

So, the adoption has been a success. Pixie has become very affectionate and playful, seeks out our company, and provides us with many contented lap-hours as well as enjoyment with her hilarious antics. We are really glad we adopted her. We'll never forget our Max, but Pixie has become someone very special in our home. Thanks for the wonderful service that you are providing to the cats and to families like ours.



We'd love to hear about more of our success stories!