

♥ 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



Joan--see story on back page



Mr. Thomas Tucker--a REAL lap cat



Tippy--a barn cat no more



Julie--a favorite VIVA house cat

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

VIVA

*"Helping
the Helpless"*

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA
Permit No. 132

APRIL 2009

CALENDAR:

4/12-18: Animal Cruelty/
Human Violence Awareness

4/22: Earth Day

Adoptions are held every
Saturday 10AM - 4PM

Or by appointment

April is Prevention of
Animal Cruelty Month

A GIANT RUMMAGE SALE

VIVA is planning a giant rummage sale (probably early to mid-May) to liquidate its many bequeathed and donated goods in storage (art, furniture, household goods, etc.). We are close to finalizing a donated commercial location in the Solvang area. After that, it's time to mobilize people with trucks and decent backs to move everything to the new location. Then there will be lots of sorting and pricing to do, followed by three days of the sale itself. These events are work but also fun and energizing. Plus, volunteers will get to see the goodies early! Contact Day Yeager at 686-9554 or 705-8197. If you like estate sales, you'll love this!

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Remember that we always need volunteers for the Adoption Center, yard workers for Sylvester House and the Adoption Center, and, of course, the feral sanctuary which needs help on a daily basis plus the work parties & tours on the last Sunday of every month: call Shirley @ 736-3995.

THE MARCH REPORT ON OUR 1,000 CASES FOOD DRIVE

The following people donated Friskies canned food: Martha Hicks, B.J. Barber, Peg Beebe, Diane & Doug Rodgers, Susan Shillinger, Nicole (?), Marsha East, and Gerlinde Jantz. Thank you all!

Here's the update:

Goal:		1,000 Cases	
Donations: \$7,601	=	691 Cases	
Food:		<u>216 Cases</u>	
Total:		907 Cases	93 Cases to Go

FERAL CAT SANCTUARY CATS: ZESTY GIRL ...Shirley Cram



I'm not sure where Zesty came from, but when I first saw her, she was in a cage at VIVA with her newborn kittens. She was a rescue and seemed very wild. I know that when I entered her cage to clean, I was very nervous since she spit and growled at me. Like so many mom cats that are protective of their kittens, it is hard to know if they are feral or just afraid someone will hurt their babies. When her kittens were

old enough, they were spayed/neutered and adopted. What to do with Zesty ... was she feral or simply frightened? Since our shelter is always crowded, it was decided that she come to the feral sanctuary. Now, some months later, Zesty purrs when I fix her plate of food and purrs when I touch her. She is a beautiful, fluffy, brown tabby with white. This is another cat that was abandoned by her owner and left to fend for herself. How lucky she was that the VIVA TNR crew found her and her kittens.

DEVON, VIVA'S FIRST BOTTLE BABY 2009 ...Linda Hess

We are entering another kitten season, and we already have our first bottle baby. Devon was found in someone's backyard: alone, cold, and screaming. Many times females will move their kittens from one spot to another if they feel they are in danger. Sometimes during the move, a mom becomes frightened and may drop the kitten, but most often she will return for it. If you find a kitten, do not immediately remove it from the site. You could put it in a box with a towel and monitor any activity from a distance. The mother may be watching nearby and waiting for a quiet time to rescue her kitten. If the mother hasn't returned by nightfall, the kitten will need to be kept warm and bottle fed. They need to be bottled fed every 2-3 hours, depending on their age. Please call VIVA immediately to inform us of the situation. The important thing to remember is we need to trap the mom and locate any other kittens.

VIVA does cat boarding: \$8 per day per cat

CALLIE & KITTENS ...Shirley Cram

A few years ago, we received a call from a woman in Santa Maria who worked next door to a building that the fire department planned to burn. She knew there was a mom cat and kittens under the house. She was frantic and had called everyone she knew in Santa Maria for help. She finally reached VIVA who did not turn her down. Mom cat was a lovely Calico; her two kittens were about four months old and very wild. It took three trips to Santa Maria to pick up this cat family and bring them to Lompoc. Of course, they all needed neutering, shots, and flea treatment. Since mom cat was a Calico, she was named Callie. It turned out that she was tame. I was concerned about bringing kittens so young to the sanctuary, but there was no other place for them to go. One of the kittens is a tabby/torti that I call Sissy; the other is black and named Velvet or VV for short. Once the new cat family was released from the introduction cage, Callie spent most of the time in my house, and her two kittens joined some of the ferals that live near a feeding area. One day while I was petting Callie, I noticed she had a mammary tumor, so she went to the vet for surgery. Unfortunately, more tumors showed up and we lost her to cancer. Sissy and Velvet are now happy, healthy cats and have become tame. Callie had a home at one time, and like so many cats, was abandoned by her owner. Her kittens, both females, would have been the start of just another one of Santa Maria's feral cat colonies.

APRIL'S SWEETHEART: JOAN NEEDS A SPONSOR

A few months ago, this extremely shy, domestic short-haired, black female was left on our porch with her companion (brother?), Bubba, who is a domestic long-haired, black cat with a bit of white under his chin. There was a note with them that said the owner was very sorry, but she was no longer able to care for them. At least she told us their names. First we put them in separate cages in the hall so we could find out if they were spayed/neutered and flealess. Joan



did nothing but hide under bedding. We knew she wanted to be with Bubba. Next we moved them into a two-story cage in Room Two where they could be together. From the first, Bubba let us pet him and he ate wet food; Joan would cringe but let us pet her. She didn't and still does not seem to want wet food. We know she's eating dry because she is in very good condition. In a couple of weeks, we opened the cage to let them out if they wanted. Bubba came right out and made his way around Rooms Two and Three and their patio. He took his naps on the shelf next to Joan's cage. When she came out, all she wanted to do was hide under tables or up on rafters. We decided to move Joan into Room Four with the old folks. We found that Bubba's teeth were very bad, so he got a dental and joined her in Room 4. She may need one as well; we haven't yet checked. He may find a home, but Joan would need a very special person to take her, hopefully with Bubba. Right now she needs a Sponsor Parent! Last month Helen got a sponsor. That's three for three!

MORE GOOD NEWS...

Remember the story of Tiger, the blind cat that needed a very special home? Well, he got one! Shannon, who lives about an hour north of Lompoc, found him on our Petfinder listing and, long story cut extremely short, fell in love with him and decided to adopt him.

WE'LL SAY IT AGAIN: PLEASE CONSIDER FOSTERING

We are still looking for foster families that are willing to bottle feed, socialize, care for a mother and her litter, or care for kittens that are eating on their own. If you have the desire to help with any of these situations, please call our cattery and leave a message. You may pick up a foster application or one will be mailed to you.

HOW ABOUT HELPING WITH DOGS?

Since we don't have a facility to house dogs, our dog program depends on foster homes to keep the canines alive while we search for people to adopt them. If you are interested, call Barb at 733-3454.