

- 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

Everyone needs a home for the holidays . . .



Betsy



Mario



99



Patches



Riley

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

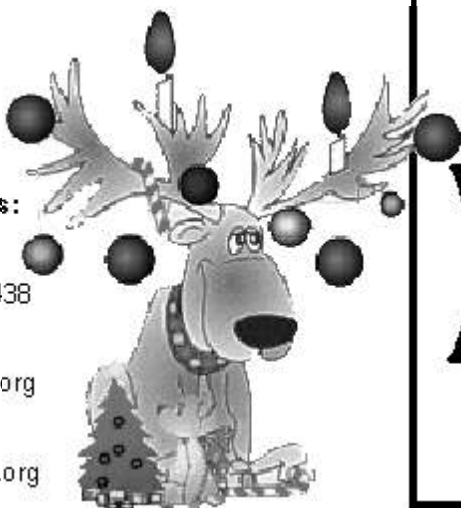
Hours:
 Saturdays from
 10 to 4 or
 by appointment

Phone:
 (805)735-6741

Mailing Address:
 VIVA
 PO Box 896
 Lompoc, CA 93438

Website:
<http://vivaonline.org>

Email:
info@vivaonline.org



*"Helping
 the Helpless"*

Return Service Requested

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

DECEMBER 2007

Adoptions are held every Saturday 10AM - 4PM or by appointment on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs mornings.

OPEN HOUSE ON THE NINTH

Last year we weren't able to hold our annual Open House due to some illnesses among our members.

This year we are really looking forward to seeing you on December 9th from 1PM to 5PM. We'll have a country store, a silent auction, a raffle, and light refreshments. You will be able to tour most of the facility and see many, many cats.

Since this is our biggest fund raiser of the year, please join us to show your support of what we do. Remember that all charitable donations are fully tax deductible if you can itemize.

WISH LIST

These are items we use on a daily basis. You may bring these gifts to the cats when you come 12/9/2007

2 ply paper towels

fabric softener dryer sheets

liquid bleach

liquid dishwashing soap

liquid laundry soap

13 gallon plastic bags

Friskies Buffet canned food

large bags of Purina Cat Chow

Science Diet Adult Maintenance

We spend a lot of your donation money buying these items.

Remember that we have limited cat boarding. Reserve your space now before we're booked.

THANK YOU FOR A YEAR OF GIVING TO VIVA

Whether you send us money or work in the shelter or stay up nights trapping or helping with the newsletter or giving up your weekends at the feral cat sanctuary or helping with fund raising or mowing our lawns or working at our retirement home for cats or doing maintenance work or weeding and clipping or sponsoring an unadoptable cat, or fostering or working with the dog program or hauling litter, you are needed and very much appreciated! All that you do is for the animals. Volunteers for Inter-Valley Animals survives because of you.

SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH YOUR DONATIONS?

In addition to the wish list items that we use every day, we spend a lot of money keeping VIVA alive. The utilities costs at the shelter and at Sylvester House seems to go up and up. We buy between 1,500 and 2,000 pounds of litter every week. We spay and neuter as many cats as we can get our hands on, and beyond that, we have medical expenses that have reached as high as \$2,500 a month. We buy supplies for the feral cat sanctuary and the retirement home for cats. We have a small pick-up for light loads and a very large pick-up for heavy loads such as litter. We have general maintenance costs. We figure it takes at least \$400 a day just to keep the shelter open, and that doesn't take into account the sanctuary or retirement home. So you can see why we appreciate your monetary donations. Please keep them coming!

SOME STATISTICS ON ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

To the date of this writing, as close to accuracy as I was able to count, we took in 295 cats this year and adopted out 210. And those figures do not take into account many of the RTOs (return to owners) and especially the TNRs (trap/neuter/release back to the area they were found if someone will continue to feed). The heaviest months of arrivals were March, May, and June which were peak kitten months. The best month of adoptions was June.

We still have wonderful kittens waiting to be adopted, preferably in pairs. There are kittens being fostered until they're ready for neutering; there are kittens at the shelter, ready to go. There are even older kittens in the kitten room that have grown-up there and beg for a home of their own. Don't you have room for one or two more?

PLEASE LIVE FUR FREE

If you have an old or inherited fur or fur-trimmed garment in your closet, donate your fur or shearling coats, hats, gloves, muffs, and fur-trimmed apparel to Coats for Cubs program for use as surrogate "mothers" to comfort orphaned wild animals. Pack in box or padded envelope and mail to Coats for Cubs, 2100 L St, NW, Washington DC 20037. For added information: humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.

Yasmin, Yale, & Yancey York: A Rescue Story by Heather Kennedy

In October, Connie at Animal Care Hospital told me she and some clients had seen an adult black manx and two kittens living in the brush of the median between the ACH and Sansum parking lots. Linda and I made plans to trap.

Our first night out we sat with a baited trap to see who would show up to eat. A little black kitten arrived first with her mother close behind. We could see the mother cat was not really a manx--she had lost most of her tail as a result of trauma. We decided we should trap her as quickly as possible so we could get her medical attention. The little black kitten feasted in the trap over and over again. Mom finally lowered her guard and decided to enter the trap as well, and we got both mom and baby at once--now named Yasmin and Yancey York respectively. We waited for a couple more hours but no more cats or kittens showed up. We feared the worst had happened and the other kitten had been hit by a car, but we resolved to show up again the next night to see if he was still around. In the mean time, Dr. Shaw spayed the mom cat--Yasmin--and amputated the rest of her tail.

When we showed up the next night, the missing kitten was in a median in the middle of the parking lot meowing at the top of his lungs. We were upset that he seemed so distressed, but we knew he would be easy to catch. After all, he had to be hungry. We finally left, defeated, at 3 in the morning.

We were very concerned about the kitten being in the parking lot on his own. Mortality rates for feral kittens are very high and, as a result of our decision to remove Yasmin and get her medical treatment, this little guy no longer had mom to watch over him. We rearranged our schedules to monitor his activity and trap him; I missed class, Linda missed work, and we lived on candy and sodas purchased at the 99cent store. We set traps and food all over the parking lot, and we even tried covering an entire median with a net. That might have worked had the sprinklers underneath not come on. Oops! The security guard patrolling Lompoc Ford at the time watched our activities with great interest. Five nights later, we had finally figured out the kitten's routine--he hid during the day, wailed in a center median at dusk, and finally returned to one spot, and one spot only, to eat and sleep at about 10pm after the last store closed. Once we figured that out, it took us less than an hour to trap him. In light of his obvious genius, we named him Yale.

Yale and Yancey (*right*) are now getting braver and more social every day--they're watching me as I write this. They're ready to go to a home together with an understanding family that will let them adjust at their own speed. Like most feral or formerly feral kittens, they feel safer when there's a big cat around. They'll be fine in a home of their own, but if you have an adult cat who wouldn't mind some company, Yale and Yancey would make a great addition to your family. Email or call us if you're interested in adopting them. And in case you're wondering, Yasmin York recovered nicely after surgery and now lives at our feral cat sanctuary.



Holiday Open House

Bring things . . .

Christmas Wish List:

- Lots of volunteers
- 2 ply paper towels
- 13 gallon garbage bags
- bleach
- fabric softener sheets
- dry cat food:
 - Purina Indoor
 - Purina Cat Chow
 - Purina One & Pro Plan
 - Science Diet Adult
 - Science Diet Kitten
 - Natural Choice
 - Max Cat
- canned food: Friskies

Have some fun . . .

Sunday
December 9th
1pm-5pm

*This is our biggest fundraiser
of the year,
so help us make it our
best ever!*

Buy things . . .

- general store
- silent auction
- raffle

*Do your holiday shopping
and support the cats!*

Bring things, buy things, have some fun!