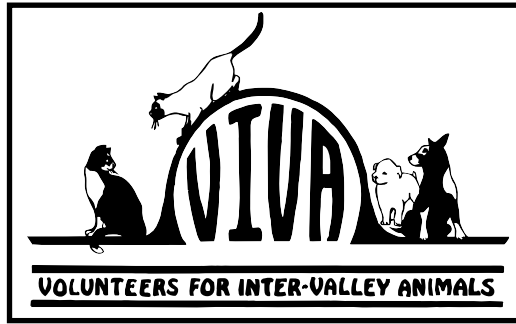


♡ If you love your pets, have them spayed or neutered. ♡

- 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



Giordi Gem



Natalie Neko



Nathan Neko



Pekoe Paws

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"*

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Permit No. 132

JANUARY 2009

CALENDAR:

1/5: National Bird Day

Adoptions are held every
Saturday 10AM - 4PM

Or by appointment

January is Adopt a Rescued
Bird Month

OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

It went very well, with a steady stream of visitors and many of us volunteers manning the various stations: raffle, silent auction, inside store, outside store, snack stations, donation table, room visitations, etc. It was a long day, with some of us not leaving until 8:30PM after Room One was re-set for the cats and all the "winners" called to come get their prizes. The "die hards" ate pizza and counted our fundraising results, down about 33% from last year.

We know how bad the economy is and appreciate very much those who came, brought much-needed supplies, and spent money on our goods. Let's hope the financial world gets back to normal and we increase our donations in 2009.

A NEW MONTHLY COLUMN

We plan to start a series of "old cat" stories, highlighting the VI VA cats who hardly ever get adopted except by some very exceptional people and those who become Sponsor Parents. See page three.

Reminder to those who would sponsor these cats: it's still only \$25 monthly or \$300 yearly.

THE DECEMBER REPORT ON OUR 1,000 CASES FOOD DRIVE

We continue to make progress toward our goal. Some members are both donating money AND bringing in cans/cases of Friskies. See the update:

Goal:	1,000 Cases	
Donations: \$6,054	=	556 Cases
Food:		<u>179 Cases</u>
		735 Cases
		265 Cases to Go

The following people have recently donated food for our cats: Dorothy Ellerton, Maria Slizys, Martha Hicks, Marsh East, Thelma King, Julie Simons, Gerry O'Neil plus many others who brought food to our open house. Unfortunately, we didn't get their names written on our list. With money as tight as it is right now, we are so thankful to those who help us feed the cats. The cold weather has increased their appetites. An example is Room Seven, which has between 50 and 60 cats right now. They are eating almost a case per feeding; that's two cases a day!

NEW ARRIVALS AT OUR FERAL CAT SANCTUARY... Shirley Cram

Our new guy is named Ventura. I guess you know where he came from. When he was brought to our shelter by one of our members who found him starving on the street, he was the saddest looking cat I had seen in a long time. He was almost skin and bones, ragged ears from many battles, and was covered in pee and poop. The next day he went to the vet to be neutered; the vet found a bad tooth which was removed. It turned out that he was not feral... just scared and down on his luck. He is an older cat that probably had a home at one time. The reason I think he had a home once is that it did not take him long to move into my house and start sleeping in bed with me. He is gaining weight now; his coat is getting glossy. Like so many sanctuary cats, he is black.

The new gals are named Birdie, Bogie, and Boggy -- as you can see, all golfers! They are three muted torti sisters, the result of someone who would not spay her cat because it was pregnant. She then abandoned the kittens in her neighborhood, and they became skittish and unadoptable. This is how feral cat colonies start -- from an irresponsible pet owner. The kittens had to be trapped and spayed, and since there was no other place for them, they came to our sanctuary. Because they were only about five months old, they stayed in one of our introduction cages for four weeks. They are now out and about, enjoying regular meals and making friends.

Editor's note: our sanctuary is growing and growing every month. We are not going to be able to keep adding new arrivals without some volunteer help for Shirley who is virtually keeping the cats fed and sheltered all by herself on a daily basis. Monetary donations are wonderful, but someone has to go the store to buy food and other supplies, do the laundry for the cats' bedding, clean the introduction cages, feed the several areas, and make sure there is a good supply of water at each station. HELP!! Call Shirley: 805-736-3995!

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area
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blank.

MOUSE, THE FIRST IN OUR SERIES OF UNADOPTABLES

We don't know how old Mouse is, but we do know he's been with us a long time and isn't crazy about being handled. He could be called semi-feral. If he has curled up in a cuddle sack and the room is quiet, Mouse will allow a couple of caresses from an understanding volunteer. Soon to be moved into Room Four where the old folks live, he has been living in 2/3 where his medium-hair grey coat became matted and he developed a hematoma (blood bubble) on his right ear. Certain that he needed a dental as well, we sent Mouse to the doctor where he received a dental, a shave, and a steroid shot in his "bubble" which eliminated the blood but gave him an extreme "cauliflower ear." It doesn't seem to bother him; he actually looks kind of cute that way.

Mouse is in need of a Sponsor Parent. What an ideal way for you to have a cat if you can't have one in your home or you have too many in your home or you're not sure you could deal with a semi-feral cat that doesn't want to cuddle. Just \$25 a month and you could call Mouse your cat. He'll live with the other old guys in Room Four; you can visit him every Saturday. Such a deal! Give us a call or come see us and Mouse when we're open for adoptions on Saturdays between 10AM and 4PM.



Mouse

SYLVESTER HOUSE...

It's our retirement home for cats whose owners can no longer care for them. We established a fee of \$5,000 in 1990 to cover the cost of caring for a cat, based on our having the cat for ten years. Prices of food, medications, utilities, and veterinary care have increased. We have found that older cats require more medical care, and if they should become diabetic, the cost of care becomes great. When cat lovers make arrangements in their wills for the continuing care of their cats, they need to consider the health of their pets since we may need to adjust our fee in the future.

The cats at Sylvester House live in a home-like setting with a caregiver. They have sofas and chairs to sit on, baskets to snooze in, and warm beds as well as sunny patios. While they do not have their owners to love them, we try to make their lives happy. Many people rely on friends or relatives to care for their cats. What we have found is that these people either cannot or do not want to take on the responsibility of a pet. The cats are then dumped on the street or taken to a shelter. We cannot stress enough: If you love your cats, it is up to you to make arrangements for their care while you are able to do so. Want a tour? Call our shelter: 805-735-6741.