

♥ 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



Titus—
Teresa's lynx point
brother
(see back)



Roxy—
read her story
(back page)



Cece--
she and her brother, Coco,
need a home together



Fluffy B.--
Her kittens were adopted;
now she needs a home



Annabelle—
young and beautiful

**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



Priscilla & Patrick

*"Helping
the Helpless"*

**V
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Return Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA
Permit No. 132

JULY 2007

*Adoptions: Saturdays 10AM thru 4PM or by appointment

*July is Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month

*4th of July: Make sure your animals are safe inside.

*7/21: Cow Appreciation Day

*7/28-29: National Greyhound Memorial Weekend

VI VA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Sorry to keep harping on the issue, but VI VA means Volunteers for Inter-Valley Animals. When we don't have enough volunteers, we can't do the job to the best of our abilities. Our volunteers are spread too thin with many of us getting too old to keep doing the work. Some are developing physical ills as well. In order for the organization to survive, we need to bring in new volunteers.

The areas of need are several:

1. Sylvester House needs people to help with the cleaning and grooming of the old cats.

2. The Dog Program needs foster homes that can keep dogs alive while we find permanent ones.

3. The kittens need foster homes that can raise and socialize them before they're ready to be neutered and placed.

4. The cat shelter needs AM and PM shift workers. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings are losing a main worker; Saturday evening needs one or two more volunteers. Almost any shift can use people.

We need volunteers who make a commitment and actually keep it!

NEWS FROM THE FERAL CAT SANCTUARY ... Shirley Cram

I wish everyone could see the cats that live here at the sanctuary. It is heartwarming to see them now and remember how frightened they were when they first came to the sanctuary. Many of them were never feral. They were abandoned by their owners, left to have litter after litter of kittens or, in the case of males, fight and suffer abscesses and other wounds. So many of these cats have never known any kindness. Now they follow me to one of the feeding areas in the morning, and each one wants to get the first plate of food. I must admit that they are also quite fussy about what they are fed. They have me trained so I know who likes beef, chicken, or seafood, and if it should be ground or chopped with gravy. Then it is off to the next feeding area, and many of the cats follow me just to be sure something better is not being served at the next location. After all the kibble bowls are filled and all the canned food has been eaten, the cats settle down and groom their coats and then take naps in the sun. They make friends with other cats and often play together, racing up and down trees or settling down together to sleep.

Feral cats are the forgotten cats. Even though some of the cats that come to the sanctuary are not really feral, they have suffered and do not trust people. They learn that I will not hurt them, but they are not adoptable so it is better that they live out their lives here where they are safe.

One of the last new arrivals is a sealpoint Siamese. Of course, he was not neutered and had been fighting. He was so beat up when we trapped him. He had old and new wounds, he had scars from fighting all over his head, and he was covered with fleas. After neutering, vaccination, and fleas treatment, he came to the sanctuary and spent the next two weeks in one of our introduction cages. He is really a feral cat, and I wondered if he would ever settle in at the sanctuary. At first he would run away if he caught sight of me. Now I see him every morning, waiting for his canned food. He no longer runs away and will sit about twenty feet away. He is looking better, and someday he will probably be a very handsome cat.

A LETTER FROM ORCUTT

Dear VI VA!

We just received the June newsletter & read about the needs for the cuddle sacks. Our parents are partners in the Orcutt fish aquarium & we meowed and woofed our concerns to them for our fellow furry friends @ VI VA. Please accept this donation from our parents for new cuddle sacks.

Sincerely,

Sii-ya Kitty Young (I was fostered by Val Woods)

In memory of my brother Prince Samuel Kitty Young
& Lady Canine Richards & Rylee Dog Wilson-Mann 6/9/2007

GEICO HAD HIS OPERATION ON JUNE FIFTEENTH

Geico arrived back at the cattery on Monday, the 18th. He is in great spirits, even though he looks like a giant flower in the soft collar that



will keep him from removing his stitches. He'll have to wear that for about six weeks, and we'll still have

to be careful about what he eats.

He's such a wonderful cat that one of the veterinary assistants fell in love with him and is trying to talk her parents into letting him join the other three cats in their home. In case that doesn't work out, we do need to find a special home for Geico; a home where his diet and health will continue to be monitored. If you already have a kitty with FLUTD, please consider adopting Geico.

Thank you to all who contributed toward his operation. It was well worth it, and Geico thanks you! Special thanks to Dr. Dean!

A LETTER FROM ELI ZABETH LI NNEMAN

Last fall we adopted Sniffer, an orange female tabby, from the kitten room. She was renamed Cassie, although we quickly learned why the staff at VIVA had called her Sniffer. Cassie's nose is into everything (must have been a dog in a former life). Cassie was quickly accepted by our dog and our three other cats, all adopted from VIVA at one time or another.



Cassie is a great girl. She's gotten so big since we adopted her from the kitten room. She is always happy and spunky. Cassie races joyfully around the house with her tail held over her back with the tip toward the shoulders. At night, we've learned that she can be a stealthy jewel thief. Cassie will sit on our chests, shower us with kitty kisses on our faces while slowly nuzzling her way over to our earrings. Suddenly, she will seize the earring and wrestle it loose if we don't stop her in time. She's a sneaky one, but we're onto her now. Cassie takes great interest in our aquarium, too, and can be rather pesky when I'm changing the water. We're very glad that she came to live with us and are grateful for VIVA's good work.



Roxy Needs a Home

We recently got a call to trap a mother cat and several kittens that had taken up residence under a house without obtaining permission. As we began to trap, we realized that the momma cat must be tame; she was wearing a "safety" collar. At some point in the past she had tried to remove the collar and in the process had gotten one front leg through it. The collar had worn away the fur around her neck and shoulder. We then learned that Roxy had been left behind by the neighbors when they moved a year ago. We trapped Roxy's kittens, who were already wild, and they are now being socialized. Roxy is a very sweet blue-cream calico siamese mix with extra front toes. She's adorable!



Teresa used to be wild. Now she's ready for adoption.

How Do You Catch a Wild Kitten?

You'd think that with our relatively larger brains, it would be easy. It's not. We often feel like Elmer Fudd, only instead of hunting "wascally wabbits," we're trying to catch equally wascally kittens. Linda and Heather use humane traps to catch the feral kittens we get called about on a regular basis. Heather is leaving for the summer so Linda could use some help. We like to target trap which involves propping open a trap with an object attached to a rope, waiting for the kitties we want to catch to go into the trap, and then yanking on the rope to close the trap. Target trapping has several advantages: it allows us to determine which kitties are in the colony; it allows us to trap more than one kitty at once; and it allows us to trap specific kitties that we consider to be priorities first. It also means that someone has to monitor the trap. It's more rewarding than it sounds--outsmarting wily cats is pretty gratifying. If you'd like to test your wits against feral cats and help with the cat overpopulation problem, please call us at 735-6741.