

- 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

Every cat has a story . . .



**Cecilia**  
needs a home with a comfortable chair



**GiGi**  
left under the house when her family moved



**Jasmine**  
tossed out by her family when they got a dog



**Maybelle**  
a silver tabby who loves to give kisses



**Teddy Bear**  
loves to be loved—used to live in a parking lot

**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](mailto:info@vivaonline.org)

VIVA

*"Helping  
the Helpless"*

Return Service Requested

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

## JUNE 2008

### CALENDAR:

6/1-7: Pet Appreciation Week

6/8: World Pet Memorial Day

6/20: Take Your Dog to Work

6/22-28: Animal Rights

Awareness Week

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

### JUNE : ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH

#### VI VA'S 1<sup>ST</sup> FISH ADOPTION

On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at a sale, one of our volunteers saw a small aquarium, one-fourth full of green algae water. When he looked, he saw two small fish swimming in it. He bought the tank because he felt sorry for the fish and didn't want them to die. After adding distilled water to the tank, some people who had come to the Adoption Center to adopt a cat also adopted the two fish. Another VI VA success story!

#### FOSTERING MOMS/KITTENS

First, thank you to those who answered our plea for more foster homes. Without you, we would have to turn many cats away.

Now, we have kittens ready for adoption and more kittens getting ready. Most of our kittens are not at the shelter but in homes, staying well and growing to the required size for spay/neuter. Many of these kittens can be seen on our web site (see front of newsletter). E-mail or call us at the shelter.

### PROPOSED MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER ORDINANCE

On May 6, 2008, the Board of Supervisors was asked to vote on whether to hold public forums to consider a proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for Santa Barbara County. More than 79 people showed up in support, all from our county. Fewer than 50 people were there who were against the ordinance, many of them from out of the county. In spite of such a strong expression of support from county residents, Supervisors Gray, Firestone, and Centeno all voted against allowing public forums to explore the issue. Instead, on a motion by Supervisors Centeno and Gray, the Board voted 4 to 1 to set up a "task force" to consider the problem. Supervisor Firestone voted against any kind of work on the issue.

The task force will be composed of people appointed by each supervisor; however, it was not given any specific "charge", so it is not clear what it will consider or recommend or over what period of time. Those opposed to the ordinance were clear that they would not support anything of any kind that was mandatory, making it unlikely that the task force will be able to reach a consensus regarding an ordinance that would hold pet owners accountable for indiscriminate breeding.

VI VA members were very disappointed with the outcome, especially since Supervisor Gray had initially acted as a co-sponsor and since Lompoc (which is in her district) has an ordinance for dogs which both Mayor De Wees and the City Administrator report to be doing well.

#### FERAL CAT SANCTUARY NEWS

... Shirley Cram

Our numbers are growing! What a pleasure it is to see new arrivals settle in and find a friend in one of the four colonies. Thank you to the people who bring food and donate funds and their time to help the ferals. Feral cats are usually the last ones that are helped, and most people do not see how they suffer while trying to survive. The sad fact is that there would never be feral cats if everyone spayed and neutered. Feral colonies start when someone abandons a tame cat that has not been neutered. The kittens from this tame cat continue to breed; then we have a problem.

We are very much in need of help to weed wack the foxtails and pull nettles and thistles. Foxtails are causing the biggest problem now. They are dry and stick in the cats' coats. Because they are feral, I cannot help pull foxtails out before they cause abscesses. We have equipment to help with this. I'd also like to teach some VI VA people how to feed and care for the feral cats in the events I am unable. It would be a great help since I'd like to take a few days off now and then. I am always happy to give tours of the sanctuary. Call me at 736-3995 or e-mail me at [shirleycram@juno.com](mailto:shirleycram@juno.com).

June is the month! Come adopt a cat from OUR shelter!

## WE'RE ON THE BALLOT

Because of the many thousands of signatures on petitions, AB1634 qualified for the November ballot. This is the much needed Humane Farming initiative to protect calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens, and breeding pigs.

In a demonstration of how strong support for AB1634 is, and how the opposition comes primarily from noisy animal exploiters who feel any protection for animals is a threat to their profits, all of the ballot initiatives meant to stifle AB1634 and progress for California pets have failed to qualify for the ballot. This is wonderful news for the animals and those of us dedicated to protecting them. The anti-pet forces working in California simply could not find enough people to collect signatures or donors who would enable them to further their self interests.

Thank you to the VIVA volunteers who helped collect those signatures that were sent to the state.



Teddy Bear used to live in a parking lot but when we trapped him to have him neutered we found out he was just a big teddy bear disguised as a feral cat. Teddy Bear loves people but his size makes him a bit intimidating to other cats. He probably should be an only cat.

## CARING FOR A DIABETIC CAT

by Sue Greene



Willie used to live in the senior room at VIVA. One day he was diagnosed with diabetes. VIVA is mainly staffed by volunteers with varying schedules, so it was impossible to make sure that Willie would receive his morning and evening insulin injections at a regular time. Since my favorite room at VIVA is the senior room and since I already knew Willie, I was asked if I would take him home and take care of him. I was initially reluctant not because I would have to give him injections but because he was a skittish

cat who seemed to be afraid of people. Willie has lived with me for about 4 years and has completely won my heart. Now, when it is time for his twice a day injections, I call his name, and pat the back of the livingroom la-z-boy. Wherever he is in the house, he comes running, hops up on the back of the chair and lies down, waiting for his injection. He is so patient because he knows that after I inject his insulin, I will whisper sweet nothings in his ear, massage his shoulders and lovingly kiss his head. If your cat receives a diabetes diagnosis, don't be afraid to learn to give insulin injections. Cats often deal with adversity better than people do. Your cat will learn to take the injections in stride and accept the new routine. If your cat can do it, you can do it!

Jasmine was kicked out of her house when her family got a new dog. Covered with fleas, she developed a condition called an eosinophilic ulcer as a result of a flea allergy. Linda took her home and treated her for a couple of months and now Jasmine is ready for a new home. She needs a family who will give her flea treatment every month. You will be rewarded with unconditional love.



Maybelle has a gorgeous silky coat with a beautiful color combination--silver tabby with white. She loves to stand with her little paws against your chest and give you kitty kisses. We think this friendly little beauty will find a home quickly.

