

**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)

*Helping  
the Helpless*

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

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Return Service Requested

A NON-PROFIT HUMANE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL ANIMALS

- No-kill Cage-free Cat Shelter
- Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance
- Pet Adoption Services
- Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for stray and feral cats



- Feral Cat Sanctuary
- Lost and Found Service
- Animal Placement Service
- Pet Owner Education
- Cat Boarding
- Foster Homes



Mr. Thomas Tucker moved into a VIVA volunteer's back yard last winter and took up residence in her junipers. She thought he was a feral cat; he only came out at night and, in spite of her offerings of kibble, he never let her approach him. She got a bit worried about Thomas when she noticed that one of the other neighborhood cats was bullying him. Thomas had an abscess on his cheek and he looked pretty bedraggled. We trapped Thomas, along with the other neighborhood cats, for our February spay/neuter clinic and it quickly became apparent that Thomas is not feral at all. **Mr. Thomas Tucker is a lap cat! In fact, he's the most grateful lap cat we know—nothing makes him happier.** Mr. Thomas Tucker now lives in room 2 of our shelter where he normally curls up on a high shelf so none of the other cats can sneak up on him, probably because of his past experience with bullies. As soon as a visitor comes to room 2 and takes a seat, however, Thomas climbs down from his shelf and hops up on their lap. Mr. Thomas Tucker is available for adoption now. We've got our fingers crossed that this wonderful cat won't have to wait long for a home.

## JUNE 2009

### CALENDAR:

6/7: Pet Appreciation Week

6/21: Animal Rights

Awareness Week

*June is Adopt a  
Shelter Cat Month*

### AT LAST: A NEW BROCHURE

**I'm not sure how many years we** talked about the need for a new brochure for VIVA. Our old one was so out-of-date and, I would venture to say, at least 15 years old. Many changes have taken place during this time so we really needed an updated version. Dianne Howe took on this project and produced a beautiful one which is in color and has photos by Heather Kennedy, Linda Hess, and Barbara Hayes. Many thanks to Dianne for her work on the brochure. ...Shirley Cram

### PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The entire month of July, at the South Side Coffee Company at 105 South H Street in Lompoc, there will be a celebration of the CAT through fine art photography taken by award winning photographer Lynn Andrews and VIVA photographer Heather Kennedy. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to VIVA. All of the photography will be very affordably priced. A reception will be held there on Sunday, July 5th, from 1 to 4 PM.

*The Smallest Feline is a Masterpiece.....Leonardo da Vinci*

### RUMMAGE SALE IN SOLVANG: A BIG SUCCESS ...Day Yeager

**It was a "Win-Win" event! Donations from many sources were turned into cash for VIVA's animals by moving them to a donated 2500 foot space in Neilsen's Center (Thank You, Roger Nielsen and Family!),** cleaning and sorting, making displays, advertising, and selling, selling, selling. When it was all over on Sunday, May 17th, we had exceeded even our most optimistic sales goals. Preview night was very popular, Saturday was steady, and Half Price Sunday was a blowout! Six weeks of hard labor came first, and each phase — the moving of 15-20 truckloads (including two large trucks), the massive job of unpacking and prepping, and the intense work of staffing the sale — was all done by volunteers. Huge thanks for moving everything to Solvang go to Hal Robinson and Ernie Snowdon, Gwen Francis, Carlo Marazita, Mary Ballard and Peter Glatz, John McAfee, Tom Sharp, Andrew Sharp, plus thanks for loaned vehicles go to Julie Simons and Thelma King. Prepping for the sale could not have happened without Judy Howard, Dianne Howe, Mary and Peter, Shelley Stahl, Carlo and Diane Marazita, Sheri MacVeigh, DMV and Tim Wirth, Audrey Sharpe, Lori Youngman, Jayna Wing, and Joyce Petterson. Thanks for working the sale go to Dianne, Judy, Andrew, Valerie Waling, Susan Shillinger, Belinda Burns, Stephanie Lanam, Maria Slizys, Beverly Sharpe and Sarah and Christina Rosenberg, Dolores Woodson, Anne Sterba Morales and Jose Morales. Lots of these people both worked, donated goods, and bought things! Many local businesses and people helped with pricing **advice: Dr. J's Bicycle shop, Solvang Books at the Book Loft, Johnson's Jewel Box, Nordic Knives, plus Shannon Collison, Kira Wilcox,** and George Weir, James Chen, Bob Jensen and Mary Ballard. Thank you to FLIR, People Helping People, Treasured Estates, Oarlie Hayes, and Rite-Aid for loaning supplies. Advance thank you to Jessica Williams for offering to sell on E-Bay certain items for VIVA. Unsold items and fixtures are being donated first to animal rescue non-**profits and then to "2-legged animal" non-profits.** The benefits of all your donations are continuing their good work! It was a deeply satisfying, smooth-running project, with lots of happy customers as well.



**Editor's note: Day is too modest to "toot her horn", but she was the first to volunteer to hold this sale which netted VIVA well over \$12,000! The animals owe her a real round of applause!**

## THE HISTORY OF VIVA

THIS COLUMN IS THE 2ND IN A SERIES OF HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT VIVA

After we established a Pet of the Week Program with the Lompoc Record, the County agreed to hold this animal longer for adoption. We also established a weekly ad in the classified section where we picked out three cats for the ad. Again the County agreed to hold these cats longer to see if they could be adopted. Of course, we all rescued and added additional animals to our own homes. It was impossible not to do this — it was life or death to the animals.

**A local hardware store, Cram's Hardware**, was our first cat shelter. Adoptions were brisk at the store. At one time 26 cats were running around the store. We had a crew of VIVA volunteers who came in daily to feed and clean litter boxes. **The hardware store became VIVA's office.** In 1982-83, we started a shuttle to the Santa Barbara Humane Society for low cost spay/neuter surgeries as a public service. Residents of Lompoc could not afford to pay a low of \$75 to a high of \$115 to spay a cat. SBHS performed this service for \$24.50. Each Thursday we loaded a pick-up truck, which was borrowed from Gwen & Paul Smor, with as many animals as we could fit into it, and two volunteers drove it to Santa Barbara. The next day two more volunteers drove to Santa Barbara and picked up the animals.

**VIVA's history continues in July.**

**A big "MEOW" to Ernie Snowdon and Hal Robinson for donating and installing new ceiling fans in rooms 2, 3, and 4. Thanks so much!**



**ROBBIE NEEDS A SPONSOR TOO** Hollister (left) has one; now Robbie (right) needs one. He and his brother, a blue-point Siamese, were abandoned by their owner when they were 7-8 months old. Both were very shy when they arrived at our shelter. Often people are willing to make the extra effort with a shy cat that is an exotic: Siamese, Persian, etc., but a soft grey, shy tabby is overlooked and left to his timid ways at the shelter. Fortunately Robbie found Hollister and began to cuddle with him; they became very close friends. We know that he will never get a home of his own, so he needs a Sponsor Parent: You?

**PRETTY GIRL — A FERAL CAT SANCTUARY CAT...**Shirley Cram

Pretty Girl was one of the first cats to come to the sanctuary some four years ago. She was abandoned at El Capitan State Park along with her brother (perhaps son). His name was Big Boy, and sadly he died in 2008. We think that Pretty Girl had a home at one time since she is now quite tame. She has her picture on our new VIVA brochure. I think her coloring is unusual. She is a Calico, but instead of the usual colors, she is cream, black, and white and has long hair. She loves to eat and can manage more than one can of food at each meal. Some cats that are abandoned and half starved never get over the fear that each meal may be their last. This is the case with Pretty Girl.



**A CLASSROOM OF STUDENTS CAME TO VISIT THE CATS** On Monday, May 11th, Mrs. Houghton, a sixth grade teacher at La Honda school in Lompoc, visited the VIVA Adoption Center. Two parents and twenty-eight students walked with her more than a mile, bringing with them a collection of \$82.50 for the cats. The walking tour was greeted by four VIVA volunteers who showed the group around our shelter for about an hour and a half and discussed the importance of spaying and neutering all pets to aid in controlling the over-population. Mrs. Houghton plans to make this walking tour an annual event with her class. We will welcome them!