

♥ 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



Sally--
A sweet kitten that no one wanted
(Read "Leftover Kittens" on back page)



Amos--
This cute little guy has a sister he protects



Reyna--
You have to come see her brilliant calico coat



Gretchen--
A new arrival who would prefer to be an only cat

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

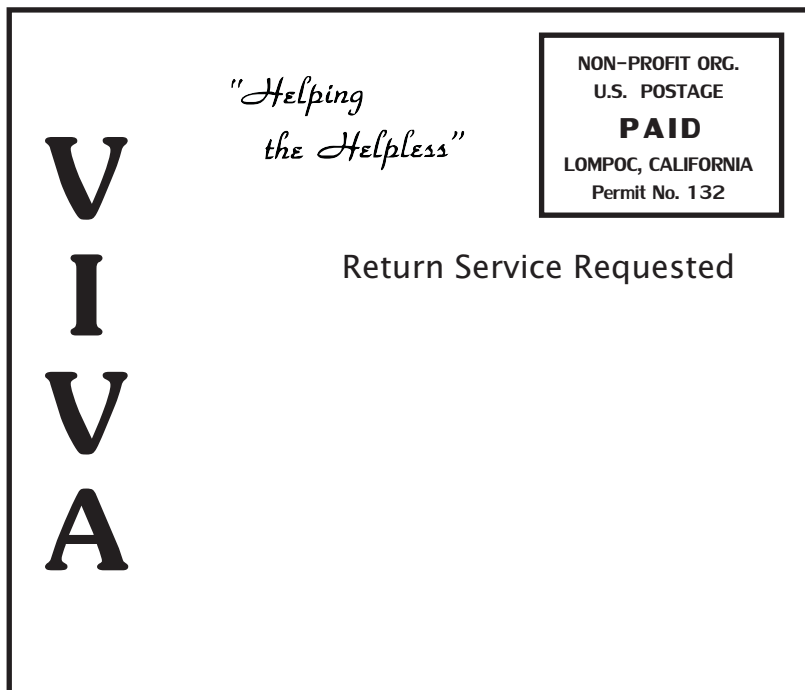
Hours:
Saturdays from
10 to 4 or
by appointment

Phone:
(805)735-6741

Mailing Address:
VIVA
PO Box 896
Lompoc, CA 93438

Website:
<http://vivaonline.org>

Email:
info@vivaonline.org



MARCH 2007

Adoptions: Saturdays 10AM
thru 4PM or by appointment

CAT SHOW SUCCESS

We had a very successful weekend at the cat show put on by the Central Valley Cats. We netted close to \$400 with the items we had for sale and the raffle tickets we sold. But the best news is that we adopted two of the three cats we took: Brian, a black and grey striped tabby with a wonderful personality and Penny, a friendly white cat with unusual black marks. Thanks go to Candy Jacobsen for inviting us and offering us free cages, table space, and the chance to hold the raffle.

WANT TO FOSTER KITTENS?

Kitten season will be here before we know it, and we need to have a list of foster homes ready before the moms and babies arrive.

If you're interested, here's what you need: a separate room, away from your other animals, where the mother and litter will feel safe. You need to be able to keep them and socialize them until they are 8 weeks old and ready for neutering. Interested and able? If so, call us: 735-6741.

ITEMS WE ALWAYS NEED

Heavyweight paper towels
Liquid bleach
Fabric softener sheets
Purina Cat Chow (blue bag)
Purina Indoor (green bag)
Liquid dish soap
13 gallon handle-tie bags

COOPERATION AMONG ANIMAL RESCUE GROUPS

Recently, Shirley received a call from a Santa Maria shelter volunteer who was concerned about a feral young mom cat that had come into their shelter with a litter of newborn kittens. The plan was to keep them until the kittens were eating on their own; then they would kill the feral mom. Shirley agreed to take her at our feral cat sanctuary.

Santa Maria Animal Services agreed to spay Mandy and give her all necessary shot before transporting her to VIVA. From our shelter, she went for two weeks into an introduction cage at the sanctuary. Now Shirley sees this little gray and white Manx racing up and down trees, playing in the sun, etc. and thinks there may come a time when she'll be able to touch Mandy. It took the cooperation of a caring volunteer, Animal Services to go the extra mile, and VIVA's offer of a safe haven at our sanctuary to save this little cat.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

There are **three** volunteer opportunities in the offing:

1) Very soon we're going to need two-thirds of our Saturday night shift. One volunteer is moving away and another is unable to continue most Saturdays. This is a two to two and a half hour shift that includes feeding wet and dry food, filling waters, medicating (we will teach you... it's not difficult), washing cans and dishes, and loving the cats.

2) The end of June, the wonderful home-schooled teenager, who has been cleaning Room One on Tuesday mornings for the past couple of years, is going to have to stop. The demands of her senior year and upcoming college days aren't going to leave her time to come in on Tuesday mornings. You could start anytime; Savannah could train you to do the job and work with you until the end of June.

3) This job is for someone who doesn't have the time or inclination to work at the shelter. It only requires part of one morning a month: the third Thursday. That's the day we transport two of our cats to Santa Ynez for dentals. You would pick up the cats in carriers at our shelter and drive to Santa Ynez, to be there before 9AM. A young woman who works there but lives in Lompoc usually brings them back that evening. If she can't, you can drive back to pick them up.

Please call us if you are willing to volunteer.

NOTES AND REMINDERS:

- * Take your recycling to Drive-InRecycle; ask them to credit us.
- * VIVA does cat boarding for \$8 a day per cat. Reserve ahead.
- * You may send dues and donations in the enclosed envelope.
- * Spread the word about spay/neuter. We can help.

Leftover Kittens

Every year, litters of newborn kittens begin arriving in our shelter in February or March, and many are adopted as soon as they're old enough. Unfortunately, kittens continue to come in even after the supply of adoptive families has been exhausted, creating "leftover kittens" like Kayla, Henri', and Peanut. (shown below)



Right now we have about 30 of these older kittens and young adult cats who are waiting for homes.

These kitties are great for homes with kids; they are playful and fun, but they are savvy enough to escape when they get too much unwanted attention.



They are also good company if you have an only cat or kitten who seems to want a friend. While there are some kitties out there who want to be only cats, many prefer the company of other cats, while others don't mind sharing their home.



If you can give one of our older kittens a home, please call or visit.

DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY

carla.hall@latimes.com

On any given day in LA's 6 city-run shelters, there are roughly 1,000 dogs, cats, and rabbits, most available for adoption. On average, 56 are adopted and 50 are euthanized...or killed, as private animal welfare groups bluntly put it.

A "no-kill" policy is the holy grail for municipal shelters nationwide, but it's something that few big cities have been able to accomplish, despite increasing pressure from animal welfare groups to stop the euthanasia of healthy animals and, ultimately, many animals with health or behavior problems.

So, with much promotional fanfare, the city of Los Angeles took a small experimental step toward that elusive goal. The city proclaimed a recent weekend, "No-Kill Weekend."

"This is our declaration that death is taking a holiday," said Ed Boks, general manager of the city's Department of Animal Services. But can a brief holiday from euthanasia get the city closer to its goal? Maybe, said Boks, suggesting that the moratorium could continue. "Our hope is that there will be such an overwhelming response from the public that this moratorium will continue into 4 weeks or months," Boks said, adding that he hoped the moratorium could at least extend through the week.

The weekend's event is "awareness-raising more than anything," said Cheri Shankar, founder & vice president of Shelter Animals of Los Angeles. "A lot of people don't know that the shelters are there. And they don't know that the shelters euthanize animals. They think the shelters keep the animals forever."

There are precedents for the "No-Kill Weekend." Animal Services declared a weekend moratorium at the North Central LA shelter last fall. And Boks instigated a "Cat-tastrophe" event to halt the euthanasia of cats for several days last spring during the traditional birthing season. (The city shelter system euthanizes a little more than half the cats it receives.) And when he ran the New York City Department of Animal Care and Control, Boks instituted a brief moratorium.

San Francisco's shelter system is often considered a model, but its director said the city does not have a no-kill policy. "We are a very low-kill city," said Carl Friedman, director of the Department of Animal Care and Control since 1988. "We are working to become a no-kill city, but we think our live release rate is one of the best if not the best."

San Francisco "releases" (adopts out or returns to owners) 82% of its impounded animals and does not euthanize animals considered "adoptable" - an increasingly debated term among animal welfare advocates.

"I can put 10 people in a room and get you 15 different answers to that," Friedman said. He applauded LA's weekend event. "I don't want to diminish it by saying it's marketing, but in a sense we have a product we need to get out to people. We need to show how great that product is... Anything that you can do to bring up awareness of the problem of animals being euthanized or killed because there are not enough homes or enough space is great."

Of the 5 ways to help your body heal itself, holding a purring cat is #1, according to Woman's World.