

♥ 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

Marmalade tabbies--black and white photos don't do them justice ...



Toby--
This declawed kitty needs to stay indoors



Bubba--
His best friend is a tabby named Tinkerbelle



Rickie--
Survived being hit by a car (see back page)



Buddy--
Always up to mischief

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

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*"Helping
the Helpless"*

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

Return Service Requested

MAY 2007

- *Adoptions: Saturdays 10AM thru 4PM or by appointment
- *5/6-12: Be Kind to Animals Week & National Pet Week
- *5/13: Veal Ban Action Day
- *5/20-26: National Dog Bite Prevention Week

SANCTUARY THANKS

Thanks to all who donated to our Feral Cat Sanctuary. Feeding an extra 75 cats each month has added to our VIVA food budget. Many of the cats who came to the sanctuary as "ferals" are now tame and friendly. Some still won't be touched.

The ferals are fed canned food once a day; there is always a supply of dry food and water, so the cats are never hungry.

Tours are available to anyone who would like to see the place. If you'd like to make an appointment, call our cattery (735-6741) and leave a message for Shirley.

WE STILL HAVE NEEDS

As related last month, we have a need for a couple of Saturday night volunteers to feed, scoop, wash dishes, and medicate. It only takes a couple of hours, and we will train you. Help!

We always need foster homes for dogs and cats. We keep dogs alive by fostering them until we can find permanent homes.

Cat foster homes are needed for kittens, moms with kittens, and bottle-babies. Again, we will train you. Please call us: 735-6741.

THE CALI FORNI A HEALTHY PET ACT (AB - 1634)

This bill, introduced by California Assembly member Lloyd Levine, would require the spaying or neutering of most cats and dogs by the age of four months. Pet owners who did not comply would be cited and given time to spay/neuter their pets before being fined. Local animal control agencies would be responsible for enforcing the new law, and portions of the fines would be used for free or low cost spay/neuter programs.

Animals exempt from this new law would be: 1) purebred dogs and cats whose owners obtain permits; 2) guide dogs, service dogs, and signal dogs; 3) dogs used by law enforcement or rescue agencies; or 4) dogs and cats that a veterinarian says it would be unsafe to operate on due to age, poor health, or illness.

Benefits of the law are many, including healthier animals, safer communities, and taxpayer savings. Neutered animals live longer, younger animals recover faster with less pain, and early neutering reduces or eliminates health problems that are expensive or difficult to treat such as cancers, tumors, hernias, infections, etc.

Communities would be safer as this bill would help reduce the danger of roaming strays, rabies, and injuries from dog bites. Unaltered dogs are three times more likely to attack humans and other pets. According to Centers for Disease Control, California currently has the nation's highest occurrences of dog bites, animal attacks, and attack related fatalities in the nation. Kids are the most common victims.

Taxpayer savings would be enormous. Over one million unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs are born in California yearly. AB-1634 would reduce the cost of caring for and killing these animals. In a ten-year period, the cost for all cats and dogs taken into CA shelters amounts to \$2,750,000,000. Every dollar spent on spay/neuter saves \$18.72 in future costs.

CA Healthy Pets Act was developed by a diverse coalition of veterinarians, animal control officers, government officials, and animal advocates and is supported by over 225 animal groups, including VI VA.

Mail letters or call:

Tom McClintock, 223 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite 400,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 805-494-8808

Pedro Nava, 101 W. Anapamu Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara,
CA 93101 805-564-1649

Sam Blakeslee, 1104 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-549-3381

Lloyd Levine, State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA
94249-0040 Tel: 916-319-2040 Fax: 916-319-2140

Lompoc City Council adopted a similar ordinance
last October—Ordinance 1534(06).

Rafter is a special little character. Unfortunately, it's difficult for potential adopters to see her charms. First of all, this is Rafter's happy face:



Even though the petite beauty only weighs 7 pounds, she still looks quite fearsome. Rafter is more fearful than fearsome, though. She got her name because when she first came to the cattery, we couldn't get her out of the rafters. Rafter is still inclined to play hard-to-get, so if you want to meet her, you'll have to look past the more gregarious kitties. Once you find her, she'll reward you with a purr, and then she'll let you rub her belly. Rafter needs the type of person who likes treasure-hunting; she's a hidden gem.

Cats Who Need People Without Cats

Some cats just prefer to be an "only cat." This particular personality type finds it difficult to adjust to our cage-free environment; these kitties really need homes of their own to be happy. VIVA volunteer Carol Echeverria is always especially concerned for these kitties, who tend to become somewhat reclusive in the cattery. Carol makes sure none of them escape our notice.

One of Carol's favorites is Ruby (below on left). Ruby is a long-haired blue-cream calico who was left on our doorstep last year with one of her kittens. The kitten got adopted, but Ruby is still quietly waiting for a home. She would love to have someone to brush her long, soft fur.

Another of Carol's favorites is Bailey (below, center). Bailey is a rather large medium-haired torti. Instead of hiding from the other kitties, Bailey becomes a bit combative. She's a beautiful cat who loves people, but she just can't be nice to other kitties.

Lastly, we have Tootsie (right). We used to think Tootsie didn't like people because she would sometimes hiss and swat. We finally realized that because she has poor vision, Tootsie gets startled easily and becomes defensive. She's very friendly as long as she knows she doesn't have to prepare for battle. Tootsie would definitely do best as an only pet.



It seems like many cats instinctively find just the right person when they're in need of help. Rickie found her guardian angel a couple of years ago--a VIVA member who found the broken kitty on his front lawn and brought her to us. Rickie had been hit by a car. Now Rickie is all better and looking for another guardian angel--a person to give her a home. In spite of the rough life Rickie must have had before she came to VIVA, she is in good health and spirits. The only evidence of past trauma is an odd-looking shoulder; the muscle around the shoulder atrophied from lack of use, so her shoulder looks boney. The vet says that Rickie will never be a race cat, but other than that, her shoulder won't cause her any problems. She is about six years old, she's friendly, beautiful, and she just had her teeth cleaned!