

♡ 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

Just four of the many cats waiting for families to love . . .



Chaka



Luna



Prudence



Rue

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

VIVA

*"Helping
the Helpless"*

Return Service Requested

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

MAY 2008

CALENDAR:

5/4-10: National Pet Week

5/11: Veal Ban Action Day

5/25-31: National Dog Bite
Prevention Week

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

SORRY! WRONG NUMBER!

Digits were left out in April's
newsletter. We appreciate the
calls we received from those of you
who tried to get coupons. Here are
two correct numbers: 1-866-380-
MEOOW (6369) & 1-866-894-BARK
(2275). Please try again. Thanks!

DRY CAT FOOD JUGS

We are in need of a few plastic
jugs that contained dry cat food.
Whiskas and Deli Cat used to offer
them. Pro Plan has them now. We
pour kibbles from the large bags
into them for convenient handling.
If you have extras, we'd appreciate
your donation.

MYTH: I want my children to see the
miracle of birth.

FACT: Frequently animals go off by
themselves to give birth. Instead, teach
your children about humaneness and
kindness to all creatures by educating
them about the importance of spaying
and neutering. Besides this, ask
yourself, "Am I willing to explain to my
children the repercussions of the
miracle of birth, which is the miracle of
death?"

UNTIL THERE ARE NONE,
ADOPT ONE!

UPDATE FROM THE FERAL CAT SANCTUARY

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with our clean up/fix up day
at the feral cat sanctuary. We accomplished a lot, but there is still a
lot to do. Since we had a nice rainy season, the thistles, nettles, and
foxtails are growing! These weeds need to be pulled to get out the
roots. The foxtails are a serious problem for the feral cats, especially
the longhair cats. Not only do they get in the cats' coats, but they can
burrow into eyes, ears, even anuses and genitals and cause very serious
medical problems. Anyone who has some time to spare can come out
to work on clearing these weeds. We have an electric and a gasoline
weed whacker for generic weeds.

Other projects that need doing are roofing, rebuilding the
greenhouse, and finishing the main building. If you can help with any
of these projects, please call Shirley at the shelter (735-6741) or at
her home (736-3995).

ANOTHER DESPERATE PLEA FOR FOSTER KITTEN HOMES

There was an article in last month's newsletter about the need for
people to volunteer to be foster families for moms with their babies
and for motherless babies that need to be bottle fed. We didn't get
a single call. What we did get this month were calls from people who
found newborns and weeks' old kittens that needed foster homes.

It boils down to this: without volunteers to take care of these moms
and babies, VIVA is going to have to turn them away. You can imagine
what will happen to them in that case.

Being a foster family is not difficult. It requires a place in your
home that is separate from your other animals and a lot of noise. If
you have a small bathroom or a spare bedroom or even a laundry room
(the only problem there is the babies getting behind washer/dryer),
you can be a foster family.

What a joy it can be to raise a family of cats, especially when you
know that VIVA will take them back when they are socialized and old
enough for adoption. We will give you all their food, medical supplies,
and training you need to do the job. The biggest problem: giving those
babies up when it's time to let go.

We are begging for these mom and babies. PLEASE, think about it.
Talk it over with your families. If you decide you can help, call us at
the shelter: 805-735-6741. Leave a message for Linda.

REMINDERS:

* VIVA does cat boarding. For just \$8.00 a day per cat (Have you
checked out the prices elsewhere?) your cats can have a safe haven
while you are on vacation, "tenting" your house, etc.

* Recycling: do all you are able. Drive-In-Recycling will put your
contributions in VIVA's account if you ask them.

A Letter from Kingston & Kinsey's New Mom

I just wanted to give everyone at VIVA a huge 'thank you' for the services you provide and the kitties you help. It's now been a week since Kingston and Kinsey have been living here, and our lives are much better for them. They adjusted to the new environment extremely quickly, turning to each other when they needed some comfort and a familiar face. They didn't eat much the first two days, but are now eating with gusto. Kinsey also seemed to have a cold when we first brought her home, but that's clearing up very nicely. They are inquisitive, loving, adorable, and perfect. :-) They look like they feel more at home now, but they're still exploring -- Kinsey just discovered the bath tub. Oh boy!

I've attached a picture of the two of them sleeping together, which they often do. Thank you for helping these two kitties out of their tough situation last year, and allowing them to come live with us now. We are loving it. *Caitlin Holman*



Editor's note: We love it when kitties who arrive at the shelter together get adopted together! Thank you so much for giving Kingston & Kinsey a home together!

Kittens and Fleas—a deadly combination

by Linda Hess--VIVA's Kitten Care Coordinator

Are you aware that one of the leading causes of death in kittens is anemia caused by flea infestation? I recently saw another unfortunate and preventable fatality as a result of flea anemia. I was at the vet's office when a young lady came in to purchase a nursing bottle. I asked her what she was bottle feeding and she told me a 4 week old kitten. She was totally unaware of how to care for a kitten and after giving her some instructions, I asked her to call me at home if I could be of further help. Within an hour she called and asked me to come over.

She was waiting for me in the front yard with the kitten in her arms. As soon as she handed me the kitten I could see that it was crawling with fleas. I checked his gums and found that they were white--evidence of anemia. I told her that he would die unless the fleas were removed and he needed experienced care in order to survive. I was not permitted to take the kitten and he died a couple of days later. The kitten had two litter mates who had died the previous day. The mother cat, who freely roams the neighborhood, had quit nursing the litter. I wanted to get the mom checked out and spayed, but people in the neighborhood were unwilling to tell me where the where the cat's owner lives.

Fleas literally suck the life out of young kittens. Any untreated mother will infect her litter. This is kitten season and there are many stray and feral moms having their litters outdoors. The mortality rate for these kittens is very high. If you are feeding a stray nursing mom, we can help. It is important to get these moms and their litters as soon as possible for two reasons. The first is to insure that moms are flea treated and so the kittens can remain flea free. The second is to socialize the kittens so they will be adoptable. The younger the kittens, the more success we have at socializing them. Once kittens reach 8 weeks of age, the chances that they will ever be successfully socialized are dramatically reduced. Please call our cattery now if you need help trapping feral or stray moms and their kittens. Our number is 735-6741.



Napolean Dynamite Sidney Winston 1985(?) - 2008

Thelma King brought a big orange tom cat named Winston to the cattery in 1986. Winston endeared himself to volunteers over the 22 years he lived at VIVA, and, over time, additional names were bestowed upon him. Napolean Dynamite Sidney Winston crossed the rainbow bridge on April 18th, 2008. He was loved and will be missed.