

♡ If you love your pets, have them spayed or neutered. ♡

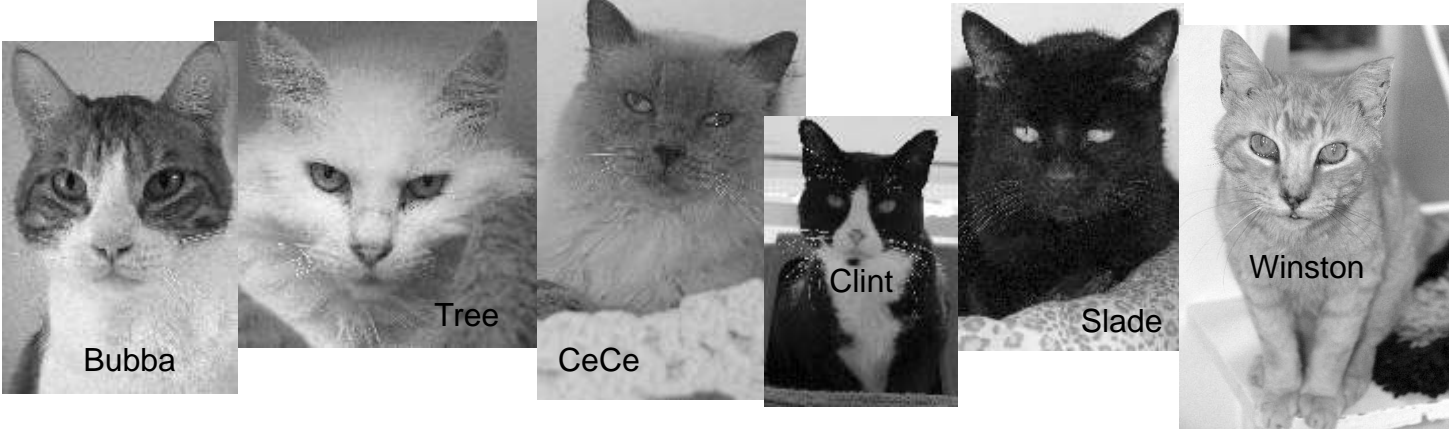
- Cattery
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Adoption Services
- Foster Homes
- TNR Assistance



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

November is Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month

Read about our seniors on the back page.



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"*

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NOVEMBER 2007

Adopt a Senior Pet Month

11/3: Soroptimist Bazaar

11/4: National Animal Shelter
Appreciation Week

11/23: Fur Free Friday

* Adoptions: Saturdays 10AM
thru 4PM or by appointment

VERY SHORT NOTICE...

It's this Saturday, November 3rd, at Lompoc's Boys & Girls Club, 1025 West Ocean, from 9AM 'til 3PM: the Soroptimist Bazaar. VIVA will have six tables full of baked goods, homemade catnip toys, decorative cat plates, VIVA T-shirts and sweatshirts, Christmas ornaments, greeting cards, etc., etc. We're hoping to bring in \$500, but we can't do it without you. Please come. Look for us in the middle!

DESPERATE FOR DOG HOUSES

Actually it's Foster Homes for Dogs. We need homes that will take homeless dogs for, hopefully, a short period of time, while we look for permanent homes. One recent Saturday night, a very small Chihuahua was found wandering, lost in the parking lot in front of the crafts store, Michael's. Another small long-haired dog with big ears was found at Lompoc High School, following the band around as it practiced. If you are able to foster dogs in your home, please call Barb Hayes at 733-3454.

Reminders:

- 1) The holidays are coming. Make your reservations for cat boarding.
- 2) Recycle all that you can.
- 3) Come to the Soroptimist Bazaar.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

It's less than a month and a half away, and it's the fundraiser that we count on as our biggest source of income. Now is the time to ask your favorite restaurant, hairdresser, nail salon, or other business for a gift certificate for goods or services as we need donations for our silent auction and raffle.

We also need a great deal of help to get ready for the open house. We need volunteers who can paint, wash walls, mend doors, tear off the plastic sheets and the plastic trellis work and replace them with new ones. If you can volunteer, you may be able to wire-brush all the security doors and spray paint them a new, clean white. There is something for everyone to do. If you can help, please call: 735-6741.

THANKSGIVING TURKEYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

All of the VIVA cats want to have turkey for Thanksgiving. This means that VIVA volunteers will be busy cooking and chopping the meat into bite-size pieces for the cats. Please call the shelter to sign up to cook a turkey for the cats. They will really appreciate it. We'll need about eight large (20 pounds) turkeys in order to feed the cats at the shelter, at Sylvester House, and at the feral cat sanctuary.

SPEAKING OF SYLVESTER HOUSE...

This is just a reminder. If you love your cat(s), now is the time to make sure it(they) will be cared for when you can no longer do so. Sylvester House is a long term care facility for cats. Financial arrangements need to be made in your Will so your pets are protected. Many times people believe that a relative will care for the pets. Unfortunately for the animals, this is often not the case, and the beloved pet is turned over to a shelter or tossed out in the street. For more information on Sylvester House, go to our website: vivaonline.org and click on Sylvester House.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP FERAL CATS

Catalyst for Cats is in need of two people to feed feral colonies in Solvang. Each colony takes about 20 minutes; one must be done before 9AM. Both colonies need to be fed Monday through Friday. If anyone can help with this, please call Belinda at 688-6359 or e-mail her at belinda@ccsb.org.

STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We still need volunteers for morning shift work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It's not difficult; it's cleaning house, washing dishes, etc.

UNTIL THERE ARE NONE, ADOPT ONE... (OR TWO)

Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month

Heidi & Rick adopted a senior cat, Patsy, earlier this year. Here's an update . . .

Hello!

We call "Patsy" Ella now. She seems to know this a bit more, or maybe it's just because I call her "Ella Baby." She's very happy and gaining weight. Ella and Boo now play a bit of chase and hide 'n seek around the house. Although they have their own set of food dishes, they like to share for some reason. I think she is really liking it here--she purrs and meows. She was having trouble keeping her food down but now I have them on a mixture of Felidae and Royal Canin x3 per day.

Thanks again and hope all the other kitties find great homes as well.

Love, Heidi, Rick, Boo & Ella too!



Ella and Boo share a meal.

We love our senior cats. Many of them have been with us for years and seem to be quite happy here. We know we're providing them with a place where they can live out their lives in relative peace, and that's important to us. We also know that senior cats require special care that not everyone can give. Still, the reasons that may prevent someone from adopting an older kitty are the very reasons that an older kitty benefits from being in a home of his own. While our cage-free cattery offers a pleasant environment for cats, it makes it very difficult for us to know whether a particular kitty is not eating or drinking enough--sure signs of illness. Many medical conditions that are common in older cats are more easily treated or managed when they're caught early. It's much easier for a caring person with one or two cats to notice early signs of illness.

We have so many adorable seniors that it's hard to choose just a few to tell you about. Winston is an orange tabby with too much character for just one name; people around the cattery know him by one of his four names: Napolean, Dynamite, Sidney, or Winston. A couple of us call him by all four names. Handsome tuxedo cat Clint came to us this summer after his owner died. Clint battles Winston for the title of Mr. Congeniality. Sit down in room 4 for a minute and see which of these guys wins the race to your lap. (Remember that they're seniors, though, so it won't be a sprint.) Slade is a handsome black kitty with what can best be described as bedroom eyes who has been with us for years. When he's really happy, he drools a little bit. Tree is a long-haired white kitty who was rescued from a tree. She seems to be scared of most other kitties and would probably love a home of her own. Bubba is an orange and white guy who arrived at our cattery with a "friend," Tinkerbelle, whom he now pretends not to know (she is a bit of a bully). CeCe and Coco came to the cattery when their owner moved into a retirement home that doesn't allow pets. I'm sure their owner would be very happy if the pair was adopted and loved by a new family.

If you're thinking of adopting, ask yourself whether or not you could provide a good home for a senior cat. Are you home a lot? Are you observant? Do you have the emotional and financial resources to care for an older cat? If you decide a senior is not for you, that's okay. There are plenty of kittens and adult cats that need homes. When you come to adopt though, spend a few minutes petting our seniors and make their day. They'll be glad you did.

CAT SANCTUARY PARTY

On a Saturday in early October, there was a work party held at the feral cat sanctuary, and much was accomplished including loads and loads of laundry, new straw put in the cat houses, the cleaning of the houses, etc. Now the houses will be clean and warm for winter.

One roof was finished; another will be finished by the time this newsletter reaches you.

One of the volunteers is going to buy and hire someone to put up the rest of the netting on top of the fences. Another couple will be coming back to haul away the rest of the "junk". They are making a two and a half hour drive up here and expect to haul away several pick-up loads.

We appreciate so very much these volunteers who have given so much to the feral cat sanctuary. There is always work to be done there. If you are interested in helping, call the shelter (735-6741) and leave a message for Shirley. Contributions are greatly accepted. See the list of people who donate to the cause on the previous page.