

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

*Helping
the Helpless*

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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**

November is 'Adopt a Senior' month. All our residents deserve a forever home, especially these seniors. Can you help?



POPPY



JACK



DAISY



CHER

NOVEMBER 2009

CALENDAR:

11/1: National Animal Shelter Appreciation Wk.

11/7: Soroptimist Bazaar

11/27: Fur-Free Friday

11/29: Feral Cat Sanctuary

Monthly Work Party

Adoptions at the shelter on Saturdays 10AM to 4PM or by appointment (735-6741)

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month

ANNUAL MONEY RAISER

VIVA has been participating in the Soroptimist bazaar for many years. At first we just had one table with a few craft items. Now we have six tables full of so many things: crafts, jam, baked goods, candy, note cards, catnip toys, holiday gift items, VIVA t-shirts and sweatshirts, jewelry, ceramics, etc.

Saturday, November 7th, is the big day at the Lompoc Boys & Girls Club: 1025 West Ocean Avenue from 9AM until 3PM.

Last year we made more money than ever before; it was the 2nd largest fund raiser of the year. We know it's going to be harder this year with the economy in such bad shape. We need your support. Please come!

SANCTUARY WORK PARTY

Sunday, November 29th, is this month's party. Call Shirley @ 736-3995 so she can buy food!

CAT LICENSING

...Shirley Cram

If you have read your last three VIVA newsletters, you will already know that there is a plan afoot to require cats be licensed. The Spay/Neuter Task Force has completed their work and have come up with the following recommendations which are included in an ordinance that will come before the Board of Supervisors. The date set for the first reading of the ordinance will be on November 3, 2009, in Santa Barbara, and the next week it will be continued in Santa Maria on November 10, 2009.

The Gist of the recommendations are:

1. Pass an ordinance requiring pet owners to get a veterinary certificate if they want to keep their dog or cat intact. The certificate would be tied to licensing, which is required for dogs in California. The owner would simply get a vet certificate at the same time that he gets his dog's required rabies vaccination, so there would be no additional cost or burden. Some cats may also be licensed (we're lobbying for unfixed ones only, since they are the problem!).
2. Revoke that permission if the owner breaks certain animal related laws.
3. Imitate some aspects of Calgary, Alberta's program to increase licensing and teach more responsible pet ownership.

The problem is trying to license cats. Cat owners who have neutered their cats have acted responsibly and should not have to license the cats. **It is very important that we all contact all of the Supervisors and tell them we will not support a cat license for altered cats.** If the ordinance passes as it is now written, it will be very harmful to cats. If the ordinance only calls for a license for intact cats, our TNR colonies will be protected, and since we neuter feral cats for individuals when they call us, those cats too will not be at risk. The ordinance will help us when we find people who refuse to neuter their cats and allow them to breed and populate neighborhoods and form more feral colonies. Our shelters are crowded, and we need to require pet owners to act responsibly. You can e-mail (addresses below) or call (phone numbers below), but most important, plan to attend the meeting on November 3rd or 10th, and let the supervisors know how you feel about this.

Salud Carbajal: scarbajal@sbcbas1.org Phone: 568-1286

Fax: 805-568-2534

Janet Wolf: jwolf@sbcbos2.org Phone: 568-2191

Fax: 805-568-2283

Doreen Farr: dfarr@countyofsb.org Phone: 568-2192

Fax: 805-568-2883

Joni Gray: jgray@co.santabarbara.ca.us Phone: 346-8407

Fax: 805-346-8498

Joe Centeno: jcenteno@co.santabarbara.ca.us Phone 346-8400

Fax: 805-346-8404

THE HISTORY OF VIVA

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

More about our feral cat sanctuary: We work with other organizations that have a TNR program and also with Animal Services. Our sanctuary consists of approximately six acres which is fenced with 8' high chain link and cat netting on the top, many igloo houses filled with straw bedding so the cats will be warm, and plenty of food. The building at the sanctuary is an ongoing project, so we're not sure it will ever be complete.

We have come a long way from the four people who started VIVA with \$30.00. Our adoption center shelter is paid for, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the generous donations from our members and friends. Our feral cat sanctuary has been paid for through grants and donations and is being built on donated land. Our outreach dog program is able to help many dogs and keep them from being taken to Animal Services county shelter. We would like to have a dog kennel again and are sure we will have one someday. We still want that large acreage where we can help all animals and perhaps have our own spay/neuter clinic where we can perform spay/neuter surgery at low cost or free. Because we are a volunteer organization, we always need people who love animals to join us in our work.

Reminder: support our fund raising at the bazaar on 11/7.

ZIPPER NEEDS A SPONSOR PARENT

We got Zipper when she was five weeks old. She was adopted as a kitten, along with another. When the woman who adopted her became pregnant, she turned in both cats. Zipper was so depressed, she almost died as she wouldn't eat. Linda took her into her own home where she gained weight before returning to Room One. Zipper's a beautiful Siamese mix who is still shy at times and doesn't "play well with others". She is up for adoption but doesn't make an effort to win over people. So for now, she needs a Sponsor Parent.

THE STORY OF FOUR LITTLE KITTENS

...Shirley Cram

A few weeks ago, a woman brought in a humane trap with a small black kitten calmly sitting in the trap. She stated that there were more kittens in her alley. The kitten looked to be about 8 weeks old but did not appear to be very feral. We told the woman we would keep the kitten but that we could not take in more if they were feral and that she would need to take them to Animal Services. I can't bring small feral kittens to the sanctuary since hawks or owls can kill them. A kitten this small must stay in an introduction cage for several months. As it turned out this kitten was feral, and after we had her spayed, she was named BeBe and came to the sanctuary. I felt sorry for her and wished she had a friend to cuddle with since she would be caged for so long. I mentioned this at VIVA, and one evening about ten days ago, I had a call from our TNR volunteer who said she had trapped three more kittens from the same litter and did I want to take one of these kittens as a companion for the one I had here at the sanctuary. She would then release the other two kittens that had been neutered. I hated to think of the others going back to a rather hostile situation, so I took all three kittens. So now we have a black, a torti, and two orange tabbies together in a cage. The photo is one of the orange tabbies, and if you look carefully, you will see two ears sticking up behind the cat in front. The two orange boys are much larger than the others, so I will probably release them next week.



Our Holiday Open House is Sunday, December 6th. We are looking for items, suitable for gift-giving, to use in our raffle and in our silent auction. Please call if you have things to donate, and mark your calendars now. Spend that Sunday afternoon with VIVA!