

♥ 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



Billy Bastet asked us to remind you that basic black never goes out of style.



Billy Boy is a recent rescue. He's still a bit timid but he loves to be petted.



Ellie is a beautiful little torbie who loves people. She'd love to sit on your lap.



Muffin
Volunteer Julie Simons has a weakness for Siamese kitties. Muffin is her favorite blue point.

**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

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

OCTOBER 2007

Adopt a Shelter Dog Month

10/1: World Vegetarian Day

10/2: World Farm Day

10/4: St. Francis Feast Day

10/16: Feral Cat Day

10/21: National Veterinary
Technician Week

10/31: Halloween: Protect
your animals!

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

SANCTUARY WORK PARTY

We are having a work party on Saturday, October 13th, at the feral cat sanctuary. Please come to help get the cat houses ready for winter. We still have need of people who can do construction work. Several buildings need roofs and finish-work on the insides. There is also painting to be done as well as general cleaning. If you can help, please call Shirley: 735-6741.

ELECTRIC POWER WASHER

Sylvester House needs a new electric power washer on wheels, the more powerful, the better. There are two indoor/outdoor patios that get a lot of use and abuse from the old cats. A new one will cost \$225; however, if anyone has a "pre-owned" one not being used, we'd gladly accept it. Thanks.

NOTES & REMINDERS:

CAT BOARDING: \$8 a day per cat.
Very limited space. Reserve now.

RECYCLING: Take your aluminum to Drive-In Recycle. Ask them to credit VIVA's account.

VOLUNTEER: We need you!

ADAM, THE BURNED KITTEN FROM COTATI Martin Espinoza at The Press Democrat

After undergoing two skin graft surgeries in recent weeks, Adam, the kitten torched alive inside a cage six weeks ago, continues to improve and shows no sign of giving up. Veterinary experts caring for Adam said the kitten's body "has taken to the first skin graft, which was performed July 23rd. A large area of burned and dead skin had to be removed from Adam's back as a result of his injuries. Local vet surgeon Lisa Alexander has covered the exposed area with skin harvested from other parts of Adam's body.

Adam, who is now 14 weeks old, was brought to the Cotati facility about six weeks ago, after he was found on the banks of Paulin Creek in Santa Rosa with third degree burns over 45% of his body. Two teenage girls who were seen standing near a trapping cage, with Adam inside, have been charged with felony animal cruelty, which carries a maximum penalty of three years' incarceration.

Sonoma County District Attorney Stephan Passalacque said he would aggressively prosecute the case. He would not release any information about the case which is being handled in Juvenile Court. The father of one of the accused girls said that his daughter and the other teen remain in custody. Meanwhile a sociology student at Sonoma State University has spearheaded an on-line campaign calling on California legislators to double the maximum penalty for animal cruelty. The internet petition, dubbed "Adam's Amendment," has drawn 4,300 supporters from all over the United States but also from such places as France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Finland, Peru, and Mexico.

"The public response I've gotten for my small part in this has been unbelievable. It's restored my faith in humanity," said Casey Wilmore, who started the online petition. "After I first heard about what happened to Adam, I was completely destroyed," she said. "I'll never understand how anyone can do this." Wilmore said she wants to meet with local state lawmakers to discuss the possibility of introducing legislation that would increase animal cruelty penalties.

At the Cotati animal hospital, Adam reacts to his recent operations with his usual indifference, chasing his toy mice around and throwing them up in the air. Hospital staff recently moved the kitten into a larger cage because he's so active. "He's not just sleeping in his bed like a sick kitty anymore," Hinkle said. "He's running around like a crazy boy."

The story about Adam's recovery has drawn thousands of donation to both the Cotati animal hospital and Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County, exceeding \$40,000, more than enough to cover Adam's expenses unless something unforeseen occurs.

The suggestion has been made for people to donate to their local shelter in Adam's name. See that John and Linda Sackrison have done just that to VIVA.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

I recently attended my first meeting of SB CARES which stands for Santa Barbara County Animal Response Emergency System. I was very impressed with the work that has been done and the thought that has gone into helping animals in disaster situations. It made me realize that VIVA does not have a plan and that there are things we can do to save our shelter animals and the feral cats that live at our sanctuary.

The most likely danger to our shelter in Lompoc will be caused by an earthquake. The worse danger from an earthquake would be if the dam should break and flood Lompoc. If this should happen, we could not count on help from Animal Services since they too would have an emergency situation. Fire is the greatest danger to the feral cats at the sanctuary. I believe the first thing we need is a Phone Tree. If we establish a phone tree, the volunteers will only need to call one person to get help started. At this point, I am asking for a volunteer to set up a phone tree. If you can be part of it, please sign up at our shelter.

Most VIVA volunteers have animals of their own and each and every one of us needs to have a disaster plan. A tri-fold brochure was passed out at the meeting with information that is helpful to pet owners when they need to establish a plan. The first paragraph said, "the first 72 hours are yours." This means that all individuals must take responsibility for their own animals because it takes time for organizations and the county to help. Have food and water for your pets, leash and collar with identification, cat carriers and any pet medications that are essential organized and ready so you know where they are and can quickly find them should a disaster strike.

Shirley Cram

Until there are none, adopt one!

WHISKERS & WELL-WISHERS RIDE THIS RAILROAD

Robbie Brown, Globe Correspondent 8/10/2007

Facing a death sentence in West Virginia, Jillian and Jasper traveled 1,245 miles by car, truck, and van over 21 hours, finally crossing the border and arriving safely in New Brunswick, Canada.

Jillian, age one, and her kitten Jasper are petite yellow-eyed Manx. For their getaway, the cats received help from 14 pet lovers from seven states, each of whom drove the cats one leg of the trip and passed them on to the next driver. The pet enthusiasts coordinated the journey through the website Catster Railroad.

"It's a miracle," said Sally Holland, a 53-year-old motivational counselor who made arrangements to adopt Jasper and Jillian online from a shelter but could not afford to pick them up. "On these websites, if you ask people, they will help.

Pet railroads have existed for decades, but online they have become more numerous and better organized. Many pets are transported from shelters where they face euthanasia to adopters who cannot afford the travel costs. By the hundreds, homeless dogs, cats, ferrets, rats, rabbits, hedgehogs, and guinea pigs are being ferried to adopters by members of Catster, Dogster, and similar Yahoo groups. Details are negotiated on message boards, routes charted with MapQuest, and photographs exchanged via-email.

The railroads usually run from the South and Midwest, where pet overpopulation is most prevalent, to the Northeast, Northwest, and Canada, where spaying and neutering are more common. Massachusetts is a popular whistle stop for pets traveling north.

For Holland's cats, Point A was Parkersburg, where they were found in an abandoned house and taken to a crowded local shelter that euthanized 49% of animals. Holland stumbled onto their photographs on the adoption website Petfinder during a search for her favorite breed on cats, Manx. She called the shelter for adoption information and learned from an attendant that 100 cats had recently come into the shelter. She said, "For every cat that comes in, one has to go out, either through adoption or..." "She didn't finish the sentence," Holland recalls. "That's when I realized how serious it was."

A fellow animal lover told Holland about the Catster Railroad, and she posted a desperate plea on the forum. Within weeks and without ever meeting Holland, Catster members volunteered for legs of the journey. A longtime animal transporter named Carolyn Fitzgerald from the Maine Coon Cat Rescue coordinated the effort by dividing the journey into manageable legs, assigning routes to volunteers, and posting updates on the Catster Railroad forum. For more than a month, the operation's outcome remained uncertain as they failed twice to find enough drivers.

But July 20th brought good news. Drivers had volunteered. In carriers stuffed with toys and cat treats, the two Manx arrived in Holton, Maine on July 22nd. Holland drove there to meet the last leg's drivers.

These days the cats spend most of their time lounging around their new Canadian apartment. But because they are cats in a digital era, Holland also keeps a blog in Jasper's name. On one recent post, she recounted their entire journey. "Everything went great and we were at last in New Brunswick. Mom says Jillian and I are now 'duel-citizens'.