

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*

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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LOMPOC, CALIFORNIA
Permit No. 132

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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**

If you can't adopt one of these wonderful cats right now, please come visit anyway. They love the attention.



Asia



Betty Boop



Sheba



Piper

OCTOBER 2009

CALENDAR:

10/2: World Farm Animals

10/4: World Animals Week

10/16: National Feral Cats

10/25: Feral Cat Sanctuary

Monthly Work Party

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

*October is Adopt
A Shelter Dog Month*

CAT LICENSING

Please continue to contact your supervisors with your opposition to this proposed policy. Thanks!

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Salud Carbajal:

scarbajal@sbcbos1.org

Janet Wolf: jwolf@sbcbos2.org

Doreen Farr: dfarr@countyofsb.org

Joni Gray: jgray@co.santa-

barbara.ca.us

Joe Centeno: jcenteno@co.santa-

barbara.ca.us

SANCTUARY WORK PARTY

The monthly work party is set for Sunday, October 25th, out at the Feral Cat Sanctuary. So many things need to be done now before bad weather sets in. The old straw needs to be replaced, weeds need to be cut down or dug up, introduction cages need to be cleaned, etc.

Please call Shirley (736-3995) if you are able to help. Food and drink will be provided.

We still need someone to recover cat trees with carpet and sisal!

FOR THE BIRDS....

We were sorry to receive an anonymous letter from someone, berating us for feeding the birds. On a happier note, we received a concrete birdbath almost immediately from members who no longer used it. It's perfect for the little ones; they drink and bathe all day. In our drought, water is not always available to wildlife. Thank you to those who support our efforts.

ABOUT THE DOGS...

Barb tell us that both Buster Brown and Bruiser went to very loving homes. Wedo (the tan one-year-old Chihuahua mix) is still available and waiting for a forever home. We need foster homes so we can save more dogs. Anyone who has room to temporarily foster a dog while we neuter and find a permanent home, please call Barb: 805-733-3454. She'll add you to our list of loving foster families.

OUR SPONSOR PARENT PROGRAM IS SUCCEEDING

Last month we showcased Wendy and she got a parent. We also said that Jack, from the previous month, hadn't been chosen; then HE got a parent. This month our cat in need is Torby, a tabby/torti



who was left overnight on our front porch. She had spilled water in her carrier and was very wet, very cold, very hungry, very flea-ridden, and very sad. Her fleas were so bad that they had to be combed out before Advantage could be applied. Looking at her mouth, full of grey, plaque-encrusted teeth, we estimated her age at 15+ years. Poor, old girl! She went to the vet for a dental, spent a week on Clavamox, and now lives in our "old folks" room with Jack, Wendy, and Santee,

etc. She's looking for a caring Sponsor Parent.

SO MANY CATS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION!

We have kittens, very young adults, young adults, middle-aged adults, and older ones. We have cats that are new arrivals, some of them abandoned by people who have lost jobs, homes, etc. We have cats that were adopted from us months ago and returned because of relocations caused by the economy. What we don't have is very many adoptions. Are YOU able to take another into your home?

One piece of good adoption news: of the family of four cats that was highlighted on the cover of last month's newsletter, two have been adopted: Baby and Mister. Gracie and Oreo are in Room One and hope to be able to go to a new forever home together. Yours?

11/7 SOROPTIMIST BAZAAR/GIRLS & BOYS CLUB/9AM-3PM

THE HISTORY OF VIVA

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

Our present project is a feral cat sanctuary. Our goal is to make Santa Barbara County a no-kill county. We cannot accomplish this unless we control the feral cat population. The sad thing about feral cats is that they are often misunderstood and do not have a chance to live if they are taken to a shelter. The most humane way to deal with feral cats is to have a Trap, Neuter, and Return program. Most feral cats tend to live in colonies which come about because some irresponsible person abandons an unsprayed female cat. That cat has kittens and the surviving kittens end up as feral cats. They in turn have kittens and the whole cycle is repeated and a colony is formed. Many times other cats that have been abandoned will join this colony. We knew that we could not build a sanctuary that would house all the feral cats in our area, but it does provide a safe place for the ferals we deal with that cannot be returned to the trap sites. Many times we trap feral cats that are living in dangerous conditions such as a busy commercial area or a building that is to be torn down. These cats are ones that will come to our sanctuary. We probably have some 20 semi-feral cats at our adoption center, and if we relocate these cats to the sanctuary, it will give us more room to help people with tame cats.

To be continued in November's newsletter

SABRINA, HOTSHOT, HATTIE, AND HANNAH

...Shirley Cram

We have a new cat family at the feral sanctuary. Sabrina and her three kittens are now enjoying the good life here at the sanctuary. They are not feral, but because our shelter in Lompoc is so full and adoptions are so slow, I decided to bring them to the sanctuary. One reason is that Sabrina, Hattie, and Hannah are all black which means that they



Hannah



Hotshot

would not have a good chance of being adopted. This cat family was abandoned once in Santa Maria, and I think they deserve a forever home which they now have. It is a joy to see them play in the trees and then all retreat and cuddle up together to take naps. Sabrina is such a good mom; she still lets the kittens nurse, and they are almost as big as she is now.

LIVING ALONE: CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PETS?

One of our VIVA supporters told a story about what happened to her when she was taken ill. Her experience was a wake-up call to people who live alone and have pets. It is important to have information available on these pets. She designed a form which could be placed on one's refrigerator; it gives information as to how many pets are in the home, where to take them if one cannot talk about them, what medications they are on, who is their veterinarian, etc. We have the form at VIVA and will be happy to give a copy to anyone who wishes to stop by our shelter for one. It will be printed on lime or neon green paper so emergency people can readily see it and follow instructions.

This brings up the idea of an even more serious situation that occurs when you can no longer care for your cats. We are constantly receiving phone calls from family members who tell us their mother, father, sister, aunt, etc. died and left cats which no one in the family wants or will take. No arrangements were made for the cats, and no money was left for their care. We have been having to turn them down as our shelter is more than full, and we've been having very few adoptions.

A small, inexpensive life insurance policy is one answer. It can leave VIVA at least \$5,000 per cat and instructions to contact us so we can take the cats into our retirement home for cats, Sylvester House. For more information, contact us.

OUR BOARDING ROOM FILLS UP FAST

In September, we were more than full. We have very limited room, so if you're planning a trip, make your reservations as soon as possible. \$8 per day per cat. **They must come and leave in carriers!**