

**Adoption Center**  
**Street Address:**  
133 North D Street  
Lompoc, CA 93436

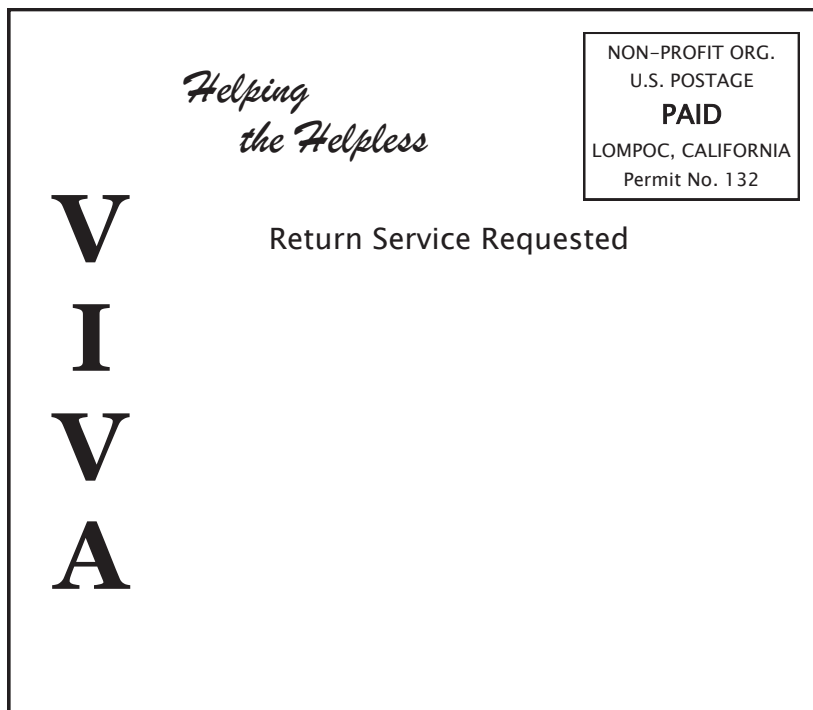
**Hours:**  
Saturdays from  
10 to 4 or  
By appointment

**Phone:**  
(805) 735-6741

**Mailing Address:**  
VIVA  
PO Box 896  
Lompoc, CA 93438

**Website:**  
<http://vivaonline.org>

**Email:**  
[info@vivaonline.org](mailto:info@vivaonline.org)



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**

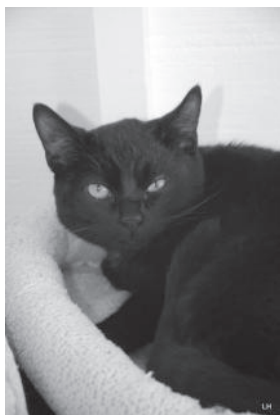


- **Feral Cat Sanctuary**
- **Lost and Found Service**
- **Animal Placement Service**
- **Pet Owner Education**
- **Cat Boarding**
- **Foster Homes**

*These older kittens came from the same litter. They would love to be adopted in pairs to keep each other company!*



**Addie**



**Alex**



**Alice**



**Annie**

## APRIL 2010

### CALENDAR:

4/11: Animal Cruelty/Human Violence Awareness Week

4/24: World Lab Animal Day  
Adoptions are on Saturdays  
10AM to 4PM or by appointment (735-6741)

### *April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month*

#### FOLLOW-UP ON BAXTER

What an outpouring of love and support for Baxter! Thank you so very much! He has gained weight; his backbone no longer protrudes. He's had a partial dental and will have more teeth removed as he gets stronger. He's even throwing his weight around in the Old Folks' room. You see, he wants all the attention. What a guy!

#### MORE SUPPORT THANKS

Plans for the construction of the new building at the feral cat sanctuary are in the works, thanks to the financial support of our wonderful members and friends. By summer it should be finished, and we can move all the "scaredy cats" from Room 7 and make room for kittens.

#### SANCTUARY WORK PARTY

The work parties will continue on the final Sunday of each month despite the fact that Shirley's leg injury prevents her from attending for two months. Bring a sack lunch; water's provided.

#### TIFFANY, ONE OF THE 2/3 WALLFLOWERS, NEEDS YOU...

She's one of those cats that doesn't come up to people who come to adopt. She just sits back (maybe she has given up) and waits for people to notice her. Tiffany is a pink-nosed, sweet tabby with white on her face and feet. She's been with us a long time and needs a sponsor to love her. Could that be you?



#### SWEET KATIE: STILL WAITING FOR HER FOREVER HOME

Katie is a mastiff/boxer mix. She's a two-year-old spayed female with a gentle disposition, weighing approximately 95 pounds. Could she be waiting for you? Please call Barb at 805-733-3454 if you would like to meet Katie. She is a special girl!

#### BEAUTIFUL LIZA IS A FERAL CAT SANCTUARY SUCCESS

Liza was about ten-years-old when she arrived at the sanctuary. She came from a Santa Maria colony where she had been producing kittens all her life. When she was spayed by a rescue group, they did not want to return her to the colony because of her age and the fact that only dry food was given there. Her mouth was very bad so the first thing that happened to her was a trip to the veterinarian for a dental when most of her teeth were pulled. She now has just blossomed into a roly-poly, happy cat.



#### WORKING CATS: A WIN-WIN SITUATION

Free roaming cats that are neutered are a benefit to businesses and neighborhoods. VIVA was recently contacted by People Helping People about a mouse problem in their office building. An employee who is also a VIVA volunteer at our shelter, adopted two cats to take care of the problem. This solution is so much better than using poison. When feral cats are trapped, neutered, and released (TNR) to neighborhood-managed colonies, they do a great job of keeping mice, rats, moles, and gophers under control... a win-win situation.

Thank you to all the many businesses and individuals WHO allow feeding stations on their properties where managed colonies are fed and monitored by caregivers.



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### TICK REMOVAL TECHNIQUE

A pediatrician has given the best way she feels to remove a tick, and it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers. Pass it on!

- Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball.
- Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20).

The tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball. How easy & less traumatic!

*On our wish list this month is 9-Lives tuna. There are three kinds: tuna with egg, tuna with cheese, and just plain tuna.*

**RESERVE BOARDING SPOTS  
WELL IN ADVANCE**

### 'TIS THE SEASON

... LINDA HESS

Kitten season is here, as was illustrated by the fact that half of the females at our February 28th spay clinic were pregnant. While we've achieved our goal of preventing those cats from ever producing another litter, there are still many cats in Lompoc that need to be spayed or neutered. There are still roadblocks to overcome, though, including outdated attitudes. I still occasionally hear, "I want her to have the experience of having at least one litter," or "I don't believe in spaying a pregnant cat." People who allow their cats to have litters often think that there is not a problem as long as they are able to find homes for the kittens. Unfortunately, they usually send the new kittens to homes before they are neutered with assurances from the adoptive families that the kittens will be neutered, but that rarely happens. Then the other nightmare happens, and mom is pregnant again because the owner wasn't aware that a cat can get pregnant while still nursing her kittens. Many times those very same kittens end up on the street once they have outgrown the cuteness of being a kitten. I wish everyone could spend some time doing Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and seeing the endless number of cats trying to tough it out on the streets.

Every kitten born causes other cats' deaths. A shelter cat will lose a potential adopter because an acquaintance needs to find a home for her kittens. A litter of kittens will be brought to a shelter and cause the deaths of older cats due to capacity at the shelter. No-kill shelters will have to turn away litters because of limited foster families and resources. It is a no-win situation every time a litter of kittens is born and especially disheartening when it is intentionally allowed by an owner. Please be a responsible pet owner and have your animals neutered. We offer affordable options for owners who need help in this process.

Our next scheduled spay clinic held at Santa Barbara County Animal Services in Santa Maria will be April 25th. We can help you catch any cats you are feeding. We will set humane traps, take them to the vet where they will be neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and flea treated. Once they have recovered from surgery, they will be returned to you as a caretaker. We are here to help you in helping them. We appreciate all of our feral feeders and the compassion they show for these stray and feral cats.

It is imperative that you contact us for help in spaying/neutering any cat that you are feeding, whether or not you think the cat has an owner — most do not. The only way we can achieve our goal of No More Homeless Pets is to reduce the number of unwanted animals entering our shelters every single day.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead*