

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



Spunky Little Devon Needs a Home

Devon was our first bottle baby this year, and as she got older, it became apparent that her eyes were a little different from most cats' eyes. Then we found out that Devon had a very rare congenital eye problem--she was born without eyelids. Her condition was probably painful because it allowed fur to rub against her eyes all the time. Ouch! It also caused her to lose a bit of her vision. Dr. Schmidt, the veterinary ophthalmologist in Arroyo Grande, operated on Devon in June to remove the hair follicles near her eyes thereby eliminating the problem and saving her vision. Devon has recovered from surgery and now she's ready for adoption. If you are interested in adopting Devon, please email her foster mom: linda@vivaonline.org.

AUGUST 2009

CALENDAR:

8/15: National Homeless

Animals' Day

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

August is "Donate Cat Food Month"

CAT LICENSING...BAD IDEA

The Spay/Neuter Task Force has suggested licensing cats, and the County of Santa Barbara is considering a three-year pilot program. If you believe, as I do, that this is a bad idea, it is very important to contact your County Supervisor now. It is the Supervisors who will vote on this proposal. What will happen to all the feral cat colonies that VIVA and other groups have worked so hard to neuter? Does the County intend to kill them, to move away from our no-kill goal? If you do not act now to oppose this plan, it will happen and it will hurt cats. ...Shirley Cram

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

COUPONS, MORE COUPONS

We DO use them, especially the cat food coupons: Friskies cans and Iams, Science Diet, and all kinds of Purina dry food.

JACK NEEDS A SPONSOR PARENT TO CARE ABOUT HIM



For nine years, ever since he was a kitten, Jack lived, indoor only, with a family. The military family took Jack with them wherever they were stationed. Now, all of a sudden, their two-year-old is allergic to him, and Jack is in the top cage of **VIVA's room five**.

Jack is a very beautiful, dark orange, short-haired, sixteen-pound male who was traumatized by his abandonment. His first few days he acted like a feral cat, growling and hissing at anything (human or feline) that happened near his cage. Three days later, with leather, cat-proof gloves, he was moved (hissing, hitting, and trying to bite all the way) from the bottom to the top cage where he had a better view of things. After much sweet talk and understanding from the volunteers, Jack has regained his true personality. He loves to be petted and scratched under his chin. Because of his **age, he will soon move into the "old folks" room where he'll have to get used to "playing well with others"**. What a great cat to sponsor!

PET ABANDONMENT: ANOTHER ECONOMY CASUALTY

On Tuesday, July 21st, we received another call from a woman whose neighbors had moved away and left their cats outside to fend for themselves. More and more people are losing their homes and leaving their animals, mostly cats.

One lucky cat was left in the neighborhood of a VIVA volunteer who was instrumental in having her trapped and spayed some time ago and who had continued to provide food and water on her porch **and patio where "Molly" visited several times a day and always ate and drank. When another neighbor realized that Molly's people had left, putting the house up for sale, she called Animal Services to get her. Because Molly had a "tipped" ear which meant she'd been trapped, neutered, and released, Animal Services contacted VIVA as we do so much of TNR. The volunteer recognized the block where Molly was found and contacted the volunteer who lived near-by. Not wanting her to go into our shelter of at least 150 cats, our volunteer took Molly into her home, already full of cats. It's been quite an adjustment to this little Manx who was used to being an only cat, outside and running free. Now she's one of many, inside but with an indoor/outdoor cat run. She'll have a long, happy life!**



VIVA BOARDING: Our boarding room is small and fills up fast during vacation times. Reserve early: \$8 per cat per day.

NEW RULE: ALL CATS MUST ARRIVE AND LEAVE IN CARRIERS!

THE HISTORY OF VIVA

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

The two projects mentioned in the July newsletter were Bonnie Blu Kennel and Sylvester House.

We leased Bonnie Blu Kennels so we could help more dogs. Unfortunately, our members who were involved with dogs found the work at the kennel too hard and would not volunteer. We were forced to hire kennel workers. The plus side of our experience at the kennel was that we met wonderful animal people who loved their pets. We were able to place many rescued dogs in homes through these people. When the kennel property was placed on the market, we were not able to raise the funds to buy it and had to close.

The second project was to open Sylvester House in 1990. This is a retirement home for cats whose owners can no longer care for them. Over the years we found that when an owner dies or enters a nursing home, relatives and friends do not or cannot care for the cat(s). Because we take over this responsibility for the life of the cat, there is a fee involved, and the owners must care enough for their pets to make these arrangements in their wills. Sylvester House has a caretaker who lives with the **cats. It is the cats' house, so they can walk on counters, sleep on the sofas, spend time on either of the two enclosed patios, or do anything they please.** Continued in our September news.

DeNIRO AND PESCI GET TO THE FERAL CAT SANCTUARY



DeNiro and Pesci are two very lucky cats. They were born at a fish packing plant some nine and a half years ago and lived with a colony of some twenty-seven other cats. A very kind-hearted woman saw the start of this feral colony. She saw it increase over the years and did not really know what to do about all the cats. Back then the cost to

neuter was approximately \$100 per cat. She didn't have \$2,700 to fix 27 cats that she did not own. A few weeks later, she saw an ad in a newspaper that said, "\$5 Spay Day in Simi Valley." She called them and made an appointment for one feral cat. Then she did another and another. About that time, the Maddie Fund came into being, and she was able to get the rest of the colony neutered. She fed this colony for nine and a half years, and the colony finally decreased to two remaining cats: DeNiro and Pesci. One day last June, Pesci disappeared for several days. When he came back, he had a gash on his throat. That was the day she decided to relocate them to a safe place where they could live out the rest of their lives. She contacted VIVA and made arrangements for these cats to come to our feral sanctuary.

The day the boys arrived, they were placed in an introduction cage, and I fed and cared for them. After two and a half weeks, I released them; they were now free to explore the entire sanctuary and meet the other residents. DeNiro has settled in nicely and seems quite content. Pesci has found a way out of the sanctuary which is enclosed with eight feet of chainlink and cat-fence-in-netting. He does come in to eat, and we **hope he will soon decide it's too much trouble to keep leaving the sanctuary.** ...Shirley Cram



FERAL CAT SANCTUARY WORK PARTY: SUNDAY, 8/30/09

As you can imagine, with about seventy-five cats in our sanctuary, there is always much work to be done: cleaning of the introduction cages and feeding areas, washing of bedding and feeding/watering containers, and a lot of weeding of foxtail areas. Building is also going on. If you are able to help, please call Shirley @ 736-3995 so she knows how much food and drink to purchase for your lunch!

BABY'S OWNER DIED AND HE NEEDS A NEW HOME



When Baby's owner died several months ago, the family moved her belongings but left her four cats behind, putting them outside to fend for themselves. They were lucky enough to be in a place where nice people watched over them until we could bring them to our shelter. Baby is a little bit timid as a result of his experiences but he's still very sweet. He and his three friends—Mister, Oreo, and Gracie—are ready to go to loving new homes.