

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**

These beautiful cats, residents of Room 2-3, are available for adoption. If you're looking for love, look no further!



Betsy



Ingrid Ivy



Justin



Tiffany

MARCH 2010

CALENDAR:

3/1: National Pig Day

3/20: Great Am. Meat Out

3/22: International Day of
the Seal

Adoptions are on Saturdays
10AM to 4PM or by appoint-
ment (735-6741)

March is Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month

MONEY & CARPENTERS ARE NEEDED AT FC SANCTUARY

We need another building with an enclosure at the Feral Cat Sanctuary. Can you help? We need donations plus some manpower to build this, and we need it ASAP.

The situation is: our Room 7 (kitten room) at the adoption center has approximately 20 cats that are semi-feral and will not get homes. These cats are kittens that were trapped or rescued and then we were unable to socialize them. So, we find ourselves without a kitten room with kittens. Room 7 has about 40 cats at this time. Some can be moved to other rooms; some will calm down and will be adoptable, but 20 or so need a home at the sanctuary.

The project estimate is \$5,000. If you can help with building or financing, call Gwen at 735-1200 or 588-6334.

*Monthly work party is the 28th.
Call Shirley if you plan to attend.*

GIVE A DAY — GET A DISNEY DAY

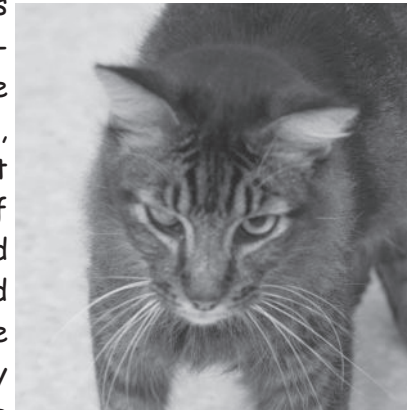
... Caitlin Holman

Celebrating the Spirit of Volunteerism with Disney

In January, Disney launched their Give a Day, Get a Disney Day program with the goal of inspiring one million people to give back to their communities. Their idea was simple: volunteer a day of service at a local non-profit and get a free ticket to one of the Disney theme parks in return. Recognizing the potentially large number of volunteers we could gain from this program, VIVA signed up to be one of the participating organizations. It has been a big success so far! We had the five volunteers that we wanted for the Feral Cat Sanctuary work parties in January and February, and have five more lined up for the March work party. We also have six volunteers scheduled to do some much needed weeding around the shelter and Sylvester House in March. The program is so popular, Disney says it has already given out 600,000 free tickets, just in the first six weeks of 2010. Anything that brings in some extra help makes us happy, so a big thank you to everyone who volunteered through this program, and thank you to Disney for making it possible. Editor's note: VIVA needs more people like Caitlin to take on projects!

BAXTER NEEDS BOTH A SPONSOR AND A DENTAL

Baxter lived with us in Rooms 2/3 for a long time before he was adopted a few years ago. He was (and still is) one of the most even tempered, loving cats we have ever had. He was slow in getting adopted because many people would look at his right eye, imperfectly cloudy, and reject him. It was their loss! He came back to us recently; his family moved out of state and didn't take him. He had fleas, thinning hair, and a backbone that needed some meat on it. Freed of fleas, he was put directly into the "old folks" room; he fit in as if he'd lived there all along. Baxter doesn't have many teeth, but what he has are badly in need of a cleaning or worse. We



have a soft spot for this wonderful cat who purrs if we just look at him. What a sweetheart! He needs a sponsor and a dental.

PS: January's cat, Silkie, now has a Sponsor Parent!

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

... Gwen Francis

January through the middle of February have been good months for adoptions: 20 so far. After months of cats being abandoned, dumped, and returned (both because of our economic situation and because people are irresponsible), we are thrilled about the great homes for our fantastic cats. Let's hope it keeps getting better!



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Our Boarding Room is small: please make reservations early. Boarders must come and leave in carriers!

In an effort to increase adoptions, VIVA is partnering with Best Friends Pets in Buellton to hold Cat Adoption days once a month. Day Yeager and Dianne Howe are participating on March 6th between 10AM and 4PM on McMurray across from Carl's Jr.



Mamma Kitty

SANTA BARBARA CO ANIMAL SERVICES SPAY CLINICS

We are grateful to SBCAS for allowing us to attend spay clinics for our feral cats. Several clinics are held throughout the year on the last Sunday of specified months. This year we attended the January clinic and took 13 cats. The February 28th clinic will be past by the time this newsletter goes out. Lynn Andrews and I will be attending. Getting ready for the clinic is not an easy task. In addition to the obvious trapping of the feral cats, we must house them until clinic which means feeding and changing papers twice a day and then holding them another day to make sure they have recuperated and are ready to be released back to their caretakers. We do our paperwork prior to clinic and photograph all the cats for our records.

On the day of surgery we are up very early, cleaning traps and loading up my van for the trip to Santa Maria. We usually arrive by 7:45 am and unload the traps to the intake room. During the day, Lynn works in the operating room, doing whatever is necessary, including taking cats from the operating table, giving flea treatment, and monitoring recovery. I prefer to work in the intake room, making sure paperwork is in order, sexing cats when possible, and sending them to be monitored for any uncommon bleeding or delays in coming out from under anesthetic. Our day ends when the last cat is ready for the trapper to pick-up which is sometime around 1:30.

This is a wonderful opportunity for VIVA & Catalyst for Cats, in addition to other trappers, to get colonies spayed at one time. The average number of cats being altered by volunteer vets is 100. We can't thank the vets and their staffs enough for volunteering their time to help us with our TNR efforts.

If you are feeding stray or feral cats that have not been altered, please call VIVA and leave your information so we can help keep down the population of unwanted cats. We will be having another clinic in April, so there is plenty of time to prepare. Linda Hess

FERAL CAT SANCTUARY NEWS: MAMMA KITTY Shirley Cram

Mamma Kitty lived at a medical center in Santa Maria and was fed by a caregiver for nine years. As the years went by, the rest of the feral colony dwindled down and only Mamma Kitty was left at this site. Another feral colony was being fed at a bank on the other side of Broadway. Mamma Kitty recognized the voice of the feeder and crossed six lanes of traffic to reach her at the bank. This is when the caregiver called VIVA and asked that we give Mamma Kitty a home here at the sanctuary. She is a cream and white small cat with an old injury to one of her eyes. She has settled in at the sanctuary and is now in a safe place she can call home for the rest of her life.