

## Fund raising pays off for TAPS

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PEKIN - The Tazewell Animal Protective Society has funding in place for a new animal shelter in Pekin and is moving forward with construction.

The group is close to its \$500,000 goal after six months of fund-raising efforts brought in \$339,000 from individuals and businesses, said Sue Kyle, the organization's fund-raising campaign chairwoman. The rest of the money is expected to come from the sale of the current building and land, she said.

"It's so admirable that the community has been able to come together and provide this opportunity for the little cats and dogs," said Kyle.

Construction crews last week began clearing the land and put in the footings. The site, donated by Henry and Alice Cakora and now known as TAPS Lane, is behind the Tazewell Machine Works on Illinois 29 on the southwest edge of Pekin.

The elements for the steel building will be brought by semitrailer truck on May 1. Kyle said they hope to have everything in place at the end of summer with the help of workers in local building trades who will donate their time on the weekends.

"I just can't wait. I want a decent place for these animals to live until they are adopted," said Kyle. "Rather than seeing healthy animals in cages, they'll be in big rooms, a more homey atmosphere."

The group says a new shelter is needed because the current 2,400-square-foot shelter is always at its capacity of about 140 animals.

The new, 72,00-square-foot adoption center and shelter will provide comfortable and less stressful space for each animal and will provide indoor/outdoor runs for exercise and fresh air, Kyle said. It will feature: storage space; a reception area; a room for spaying and neutering; large open cat rooms with access to the outdoors; get-acquainted rooms for families adopting pets; retail space; and education room for dog training and community events.

A new air-handling system also will help prevent the spread of allergens and diseases.

While most of the money for the building has been raised, the group still will need a steady income to pay for running the place.

Susan Farrell, who is in charge of operational fund-raising for the organization, said she hopes to start having monthly Dine for TAPS events in which restaurants will donate a portion of a day's sales to the shelter. Other types of fund-raisers also are being scheduled.

"We hope by having these fund-raisers people will begin to better know they are continuous, which will

then help bring more money for the new larger building," said Farrell.

## **How to help**

### Events

The Tazewell Animal Protective Society has upcoming fund-raisers for its new shelter. They include

- Dine for TAPS, 4 to 9 p.m. April 25 at Kouri's Pub, Pekin. The organization will receive 10 percent of the sales.

- Dine for TAPS, May 10, McDonalds, Court Street, Pekin. No coupon is necessary. A portion of sales will benefit the shelter.

- Rockin' for TAPS, 3 to 11 p.m. June 17, Pekin Boat Club, Pekin. Admission: \$5. Several bands will play and food and drinks will be available for sale.

To donate or volunteer, call (309) 353-8277.

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