

TAPS supporters rock for animal shelter

By Nick Vogel

Times correspondent

PEKIN - People from all over met at the Pekin Boat club on Saturday to help the Tazewell Animal Protection Society raise money for the operating expenses of the current animal shelter and adoption center.

Candy Locascio, the event's coordinator said, "People are giving so much money to the new shelter (currently under construction) that they forget the current shelter is still struggling."

Sitting in the shade were five dogs brought to Saturday's event waiting to be taken home by a new family. Unfortunately though, good looks and personality were not enough for the dogs: Briggs, Lacey, Geronimo, Lorreta and Scooter were not adopted. Faye Hobbs and her granddaughter Miranda read about the event in the newspaper and came out to see the dogs and make a donation. "I think (the event) is wonderful, everybody loves pets. I'd take them all home if I could," Hobbs said before explaining that she already has a very spoiled and territorial cat that would not welcome a new dog at home.

Locascio says that even though the five dogs at Saturday's event were not adopted, the afternoon was still a success. "I hope it does get some people interested, get some volunteers, let people see who we are," Locascio said. Donna Racine of Creve Coeur came to the event because she heard about it on television. She brought her dog, Chester Good, a Yorkie crippled at birth. Racine already has adopted two dogs from TAPS and came to the event to show her support for TAPS.

Janet Brown, winner of a 50/50 raffle prize sponsored by TAPS, gave all of her winnings back to TAPS. "We came here to support TAPS - that's why I gave it all back," Brown said.

The Indy-rock band Shade Tree played an awesome 45 minute show, early in the hot afternoon. The band's refreshingly original songs even pulled Pekin Boat Club members from the comfortable, air conditioned boat club lounge to listen.

Those at the TAPS event were treated to a well-polished rock show, put on by a band from Pekin with heaps of talent.

Tyler Lowe, the bassist for Shade Tree, admitted that Saturday's event was not the biggest audience the band has ever played for, and that the band was willing to play for free, just to support TAPS.

"We knew a lot of people support TAPS, so we were like, cool - let's do it."

The five dogs at Saturday's event aren't the only dogs looking for a new home. Back at the shelter, there are 50 or 60 dogs waiting to be adopted. There are also 80 to 100 cats and kittens.

Locascio estimates that roughly 100 dogs are adopted per year. Space at the shelter is limited and there is a waiting list to abandoned animals to get in. Locascio says that big dogs usually have to wait six months to get into the shelter and cats have to wait even longer - almost a year.

The list is so long because TAPS is a no-kill shelter, meaning that, even if a dog is not adopted, it will not be euthanized.