

TAPS' dog house collection to continue

By Times staff

PEKIN - The Tazewell Animal Protective Society relied on the generosity of the community to raise the money for the new shelter and adoption center.

TAPS also relies on donations to keep the animals fed, housed and cared for.

One way to raise that money is through the colorful dog house collection boxes that are distributed at businesses throughout the community.

Collecting that money is a group of volunteers called the Gimme Shelter Support Team.

"We have collected about \$16,500 in 2006 with a yearly goal of \$47,000," said Debbie Fischer, chairwoman of the Gimme Shelter team.

The money raised goes toward food, shelter and other operating costs associated with providing for the animals on a day-to-day basis, such as building expenses, veterinary needs and transportation.

The money goes straight to the care of the animals.

Fischer commented on the high level of support the community provides for the organization. She says that they have collected \$25,000 since January. "It's great," she says. "It's wonderful. really It reflects the support we have in this community."

None of the money collected by the Gimme Shelter team goes the new building - but all of it goes to the animals that will populate it.

Another big fundraiser for TAPS is "Party at the Dome, which takes place Saturday, Oct. 7, and includes a performance by Jimmy Buffet tribute band, The Boat Drunks.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said TAPS representative Alice Cakora.

"It's a family-oriented event. We're raising money for operating expenses for the TAPS dog and cat shelter and adoption center."

"Party at the Dome" will be held from 4 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Dragon's Dome, 3401 Griffin Ave., on Pekin's east side.

The event is being held in honor of longtime TAPS supporter and board member Sue Farrell, who died this summer in a tragic traffic accident. Farrell was organizing the concert at the time of her death.

Besides The Boat Drunks, music will be provided by Gypsy Road and local deejay Chuck McCoy. Cakora said there will be a limbo contest for young people - and later for adults. Food (including "cheeseburgers in Paradise," barbecue pork, brats, hot dogs and desserts) and drinks (soft drinks, beer, wine and margaritas) will be available for purchase.

The Bud Light Mechanical Bull will be at the event, with rides for \$5. All profits from the bull rides go to TAPS. There also will be drawings 50/50.

Partygoers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating, which will add to the tropical atmosphere of the event.

Tickets are available at TAPS, 353-8277, Dragon's Dome, Herget Banks, Community Banks in Pekin, Morton and Manito, Broadway Liquor, Ace Liquor on Derby and from TAPS board members and volunteers. Admission is \$10 in advance for adults and \$12 day of the show; children 12 and under is \$5. Toddlers are admitted free.