



TAPS Conducting Capital Campaign to Fund New Animal Adoption Center and Shelter

PEKIN, IL—(September 19, 2005) TAPS (Tazewell Animal Protection Society) kicks off its capital campaign to raise money for a proposed new shelter for homeless dogs and cats from 2-4pm on Sunday, September 25, at the new site, which is located on Route 29 and Dora Avenue in Pekin behind Tazewell Machine Works.

More than \$200,000 has been donated so far by private individuals for the estimated \$830,000 project.

The kickoff event will feature an unveiling of the new shelter's design, animals for adoption, treats for pets and humans, "TAPS Grads," and several speakers, who will be able to answer questions and provide details of the project.

Also, participating will be Joan Brem from Illinois Search Dogs and Chief, her search dog, to give a demonstration on retrieving and tracking.

The need for a new facility to replace the current outdated, overcrowded shelter became evident earlier this year when the TAPS Board of Directors sought out members of the community to help get the no-kill shelter back on its feet.

"The construction of this facility is an enormous opportunity for TAPS to enhance its care for the homeless dogs and cats in our community and surrounding areas," says TAPS Board President Henry Cakora, "but it also represents a substantial amount of money that we need to raise."

According to Cakora, TAPS received about \$130,000 in annual donations from individuals and through fundraisers, which just covers the costs of sheltering more than 800 cats and dogs a year. In Tazewell County alone, there is an overwhelming number of cats and dogs in need of a home. Many of these animals will be euthanized at the county dog pound, killed on local streets and roads or die slow, painful deaths from starvation, disease or the elements. The new shelter will help reduce the number of these needless deaths.

"There are many animal lovers in our community," says Sue Kyle, Capital Campaign Chair Person, "and we have so much work to do. We invite the community to help out in any way it can, through donations, by volunteering and through labor and materials."

Building this new facility will fulfill TAPS' mission of offering a shelter of hope for homeless animals. We provide temporary sanctuary and an opportunity for life by bringing companion animals and loving people together.

The new TAPS Adoption Center and Shelter will provide a comfortable and stress-free space for each animal that is fortunate enough to come to us and will provide indoor/outdoor runs for exercise and fresh air. The current facility is 2,400 square feet for approximately 140 animals. The new facility is 7,200 square feet to include ample space for storage of supplies, an adequate reception area along with sterilization room for spay/neuter, large open cat rooms with access to the outdoors, “get acquainted” rooms for families to interact with the animals, retail space and an education room for dog training and community events.

Presently at TAPS, the air exchange and ventilation system is not up to date. A new air handing system will be in place to help prevent the spread of disease.

States Henry Cakora, “We are fortunate to be able to build and expand service and educational opportunities while taking steps toward building this facility. I am pleased about both the immediate and long term impact.”

Donor newsletters will be mailed during the week of August 26 to more than 100 business owners and individuals throughout the surrounding counties.

To date, generous contributors consist of Henry and Alice Cakora; Mary and John Bagley; Mary Chapman; Harriett Harris; Ron and Claire Maquet; Jan Kriegsman; Marian McDaniels-Allen; Preston Hanley Funeral Homes; Herget Bank; Pekin Savings Bank; Florence Gustus; Ken and Diana Luthy; Ralph and Mary Linder; and Doug and Sue Kyle.

Alice Cakora, Capital Campaign committee member said, “I am proud of the commitment and loyalty of every supporter who has been involved with our effort and contributed to TAPS’ future and goal of having no more homeless pets.”

“There are many ways to give,” states Sue Kyle. If you would like more information regarding the Capital Campaign or you would like to volunteer your time, call Sue Kyle, Capital Campaign Chair at (309) 347-8600.
