



100 TAPS Lane Pekin, IL 61554 Phone 353-8277 Fax 353-0072

To View our Website, click on <http://tapsshelter.org>

March 2009

E-Greetings Newsletter



T.A.P.S.

Last Month's adoptions:

Cats: 28

Dogs: 31

Adoptions & Related Commentary...

I will again highlight the importance of getting your pet in to be spayed or neutered – please talk to your veterinarian about this or call about our low cost spay neuter program. If you have noticed a neighborhood stray or feral cat, we have a stray/feral alteration program... together we can help the animals in our community and decrease overpopulation.

SHELTER NEWS...

As Spring approaches, it is a good time to schedule your pet's annual veterinary check up. Each pet adopted from TAPS must go in to see a veterinarian within 7 days after adoption. We feel this is an extremely important first step in assuring your pet's health. An annual checkup, complete with the

necessary vaccinations, medical tests, etc., will ensure your pet has a long healthy life. Even if you consistently use heartworm and flea / tick prevention, it is still important to have regular heartworm tests and have your pet de-wormed as recommended by your veterinarian. Remember, your pet depends on you to make sound decisions about his/her health and well-being.

When you adopt a pet, generally, it is recommended that animals receive the following vaccinations:

Puppies

Kittens

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Combination distemper - a series of 3 | 1) Combination distemper - a series of 2 |
| 2) Bordatella – a series of 2 | 2) Feline Leukemia – a series of 2 |
| 3) Lymes (<i>depending on your risk</i>), - a series of 2 | 3) Rabies |
| 4) Rabies | |

Adult pets receive their vaccinations annually except rabies, which switches to a three-year rotation after the first year vaccine has been given. Talk to your veterinarian about which vaccinations are important for your pet to receive and make sure to stock up on the necessary heartworm and flea / tick preventions.

Keeping in mind the above costs and responsibilities of pet ownership, we hope that this is a good time to add another pet to your household, as there are currently many adorable pets available for adoption at TAPS. If this may not be the perfect time for you to adopt a pet, please consider sponsoring one of the TAPS pets or becoming a volunteer or a foster family (*contact TAPS or visit our website for more information*). Some businesses or individuals have even sent in special donations indicating that they would like to pay for a portion of the adoption fee for someone else to adopt, who otherwise could not afford to.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who supports TAPS through your time, donations, and taking part in our annual and offsite events; we would not be here without your help and support!

Purrs & Wags!

Angela Blackman

Executive Director



OFFSITES, ETC.

-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer Opportunities are FUN! Here are a couple of pictures from recent events.



East Peoria Petsmart Adopt-a-thon February 2007

We started an early dog walking program in September .We still need volunteers to walk dogs at the shelter at 7 a.m. so they can get a potty break before breakfast. If you have time available (an hour is all we need) this early, please contact Sheila.

3/14/09 & 3/15/09- Petsmart 10-5. We will be taking adoptable cats and dogs. Shifts are 10:00 - 1:30 & 1:30 - 5 No age limit.

3/21/09 8am-10am-Pekin Applebee's-Help greet, seat, serve and clean up at the Flapjack Fundraiser.

3/28/09-1st Annual Bowl-a-thon at Sunset Lanes-Pekin. Volunteers will be needed to help sell 50/50 raffle tickets, etc from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

3/28/09 & 3/29/09-East Peoria Petsmart 11-4 We will be taking adoptable dogs. Shifts are 11:00-1:30 and 1:30-4:00. No age limit

04/04/09 & 04/05/09 Peoria Petco 11 - 4. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts are 11 - 1:30 & 1:30 - 4. Must be 18 years old.

If you would like to help with any of these events, please contact Sheila at tapsvol@yahoo.com.

Ways You Can Help TAPS !!

1) Use **GoodSearch.com** as your search engine any time you search or shop online (instead of google, etc.) and you can benefit TAPS. To do this, go to the TAPS website at www.tapsshelter.org, scroll to the bottom, and click on the Good Search icon. It will take you to their website and fill in TAPS name. They will donate money to TAPS!!

2) When you shop at **Schnuck's**, you can be raising money for TAPS. You just need to stop by Schnuck's or TAPS and pick up an Escript card, register the number on their website, choose TAPS as

the organization you want to support, and a percentage of the money you spend at Schnuck's goes to TAPS. It costs you nothing and TAPS benefits!

3) TAPS is offering engraved brick pavers to the public which will be installed in our new "Memory Walk" located at the entrance to the walking trails. We all can relate stories about how animals have touched our lives. The loss we experience at their passing is very real. Commemorating them will insure that they will not be forgotten. If you would be interested in memorializing that special pet, we would be honored to include them on our Memory Walk. Pavers are \$50 each. Contact TAPS at 353-8277 or Vicki Brent at 444-4874 for more information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

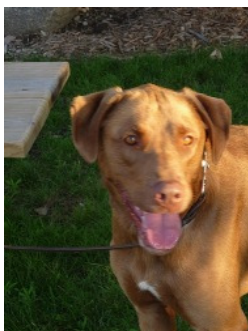
TAPS is having a 9-Pin Bowl-a-thon on Saturday, March 28th from 6-9 p.m. at Sunset Lanes in Pekin. Teams of four can sign up now at Sunset Lanes in Pekin. Cost is \$20 a person. It will be a fun night. There will be a 50/50 drawing, raffles and you can win prizes! Call your friends, sign up, and come out to support TAPS' first annual bowl-a-thon!

Applebee's is having a Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support TAPS on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 8 a.m. at the Pekin Applebee's (3540 Court Street). Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased in advance at TAPS. The breakfast consists of 3 pancakes, 2 slices of bacon and unlimited beverages. **80%** of the proceeds is donated to TAPS. Stop by TAPS and pick up some tickets to sell to your classmates, neighbors, and family and come out and have breakfast and help TAPS. We need to sell 300 tickets!

Ann Goyen and Vickie Brent, the instructors of TOP (Training Our Pooches) will be offering a free 3 week training course for shelter volunteers. Some of the topics covered will be reading dog body language, proper use of equipment for walking dogs, safety in the kennel area and teaching basic behaviors. Time will be allotted for "hands on" instruction with the dogs. Classes will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday March 14th and run through Saturday the 28th. Volunteers 14 years and older are welcome.

Please contact Sheila Borton if you are interested in attending.

FEATURED PET OF THE MONTH



Hooch

Hooch is a beautiful reddish-fawn colored male approximately 2 years old. He was adopted as a puppy but his family did not provide the environment needed for humans and dogs to develop a trusting bond. Hooch was returned to TAPS as a very scared and confused adolescent. Since his arrival, he has received socialization and training; the scary feelings and reactions are fading. He is eager to learn and willingly works for rewards. He loves to play ball. He has several volunteer friends and a Best Friend named Nancy. They all mention that when he sits, retrieves or performs any of the other exercises he has learned, his eyes sparkle with pride and pleasure. Because Hooch needs time to replace the memories of past unpleasant experiences with confident behaviors, he would do best in a home with knowledgeable dog parents and kids over age 12. He also would need proper introduction to other dogs and supervised dog-dog interactions. The trainers at TAPS will provide ongoing assistance to assure a smooth and happy transition to life with a loving family. Call for an appointment today and come and meet Hooch!

FEATURE STORY

What is a Volunteer? According to Webster it is “one who renders a service or takes part in a transaction while having no obligation to do so”. But to TAPS, a volunteer is so much more...

TAPS is a non-profit organization. It gets no loans, grants, or bailout money from the state or federal government. The money that is collected through donations, adoption fees, memorials, etc. goes to pay bills (utilities, phone), maintain the building, veterinary care and to pay the small staff at TAPS.

Volunteers are vital to TAPS in many ways. The paid staff takes care of the basic day-to-day duties of making sure the cages are clean, the dogs are fed, and the cats have clean litter. But the animals need much more than that. They need human interaction (socialization) and exercise. Animals who are socialized are more adoptable and their chances for finding permanent homes will increase.

Volunteers who are available early morning hours can help walk dogs in the morning before feeding time (7 a.m.). They can also come during the day and walk the dogs or spend time in the cat rooms brushing or playing with the cats. They can serve as adoption counselors (after training), help in the office putting adoption packets together, doing filing or other office duties.

They can also help take animals to the vet, pick up food donations, or pick up animals from other shelters when we have openings at our shelter.

If you are available at nights or on the weekends, we need dog walkers then too. Now that the weather is nicer, we hope to have enough volunteers come at night that each dog gets a long walk out in the meadow area every night. This is good exercise for the dog (and you) and adds to the dog's socialization skills.

If you like to work outdoors, you might be interested in helping the Building and Grounds Committee install pavers for our Memory Walk, help clean brush on the trails, or help with yard work.

On the weekends, we also take animals to offsite locations like Petco and Petsmart in hopes that we can find them a permanent home. Volunteers are always needed for these offsites. Also, we will soon be selling candy bars and asking for food donations at area WalMarts, all which helps the shelter animals.

We have little red doghouse donation banks in many area businesses. If you would like to help picking some of these banks up on a monthly basis or know of some businesses where we can place a donation bank, please let us know.

We always need help with fundraisers. We are currently having a bowl-a-thon on March 21st at Sunset Lanes and a Flapjack Fundraiser on March 21st at the Pekin Applebee's. We need volunteers to sell tickets for the Flapjack Fundraiser and help serve and clean up. The bowl-a-thon will need volunteers to help out with the 50/50 raffle tickets, etc.

We also have Rockin for TAPS at the Pekin Boat Club this summer and Tailwaggers at Mineral Springs Park in the fall. We need lots of volunteers for these larger fundraising events to make them successful. Are you a member of a band that would be willing to donate your time to play at an event? Do you know a DJ or a sound guy that would donate time? Do you work for a company that has a donation matching program?

We volunteer because we love animals and want them to have a loving, permanent families. All these activities take time and commitment but to see an animal go home with a new family is so rewarding, it melts your heart. If you have not witnessed it, please spend some time at the shelter. It is something that you won't forget and it will remind you why volunteering your time is so important.

If you can help in any way let us know. There are so many ways we can make a difference as a volunteer for TAPS.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY (by Heather Cortez)

To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.



Wish List:

Every month we will include an updated wish list. TAPS is a non-profit organization supported by the generous donations from the Community. If you can help by donating any of these items, please bring your donations to the shelter. TAPS is open Tuesday-Sunday.

TAPS Wish List...

Priority Needs

- Dry cat & kitten food (*Natural Balance, Nutro, Purina One, Science Diet*)
- Canned Cat & Kitten food
- Pre-paid gas cards
- Postage stamps (books or rolls)
- Clay cat litter (*We use between 50-75# / day*)

Animal Supplies

- KMR Kitten formula
- KMR Puppy formula
- Prescription pet food for dogs (I/D, J/D)
- Prescription pet food for cats (A/D, I/D, W/D, D/M)
- Dry dog & puppy food (*Nutro, Purina One, Pedigree, Science Diet*)
- Gift Cards to Petco, Petsmart, Tractor Supply Co, Menards, Big Lots
- 1cc or 3cc luer lock syringes
- Revolution, Frontline or Advantix (*feline or canine flea and tick products*)
- Heartguard, Iverheart, or other name brand heartworm pills
- Canned cat and kitten food
- Heavy, round, flat bottomed ceramic or glass bowls 4-6" in size for felines (*no metal ones – too light & get tipped over*)
- Paper plates (*used to serve soft food on for animals receiving medications*)
- Pet brushes and combs
- Dog toys (***Kongs-Black Med & Large sizes, Plush squeek, tennis balls, raw hides, etc.***)
- Leashes and collars, Gentle Leaders, Harnesses
- Old towels

Office Supplies

- Printer ink cartridges
 - HP Color: 57, 95, 97
 - HP Black: 56, 92, 96
- 4" X 6" Index cards (cage information cards)
- Black Sharpies
- Ink Pens
- Computer Printer Paper 8.5" X 11"
- Yarn (for warm blankets)

Cleaning Supplies

- Antibacterial soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Sponges with scratcher on one side
- Larger Sponges about 8" X 4" X 2"
- Bleach (*we use ~ 1 gallon per day*)
- Scrubbing Bubbles aerosol cleaner
- Laundry detergent (*on average we wash 15 loads a day*)
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Kleenex
- Odo-Ban (from Sam's Club)
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Garbage bags (*13 gallon and 33 gallon size*)
- Glass cleaner
- Oust
- Dish washer Soap (liquid or dry)
- Dish soap (liquid)

People Needs

- Volunteers
 - Dog walkers
 - Evening Volunteers
 - Adoption Counselors
 - Front Desk Assistants
- Foster families

Miscellaneous Needs

- Cash donations (We are always in need of money to keep operations going)
- Used ink jet and laser printer cartridges for recycling
- Old cell phones for recycling
- Aluminum cans for recycling

Note: Please contact the Executive Director to discuss specific large ticket needs.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and fellow animal lovers. If you know of others who would like to be included in our email list, contact us at hcakora@grics.net. If you do not wish to receive our E-Greetings in the future, please do not reply to this email. Instead, click on hcakora@grics.net and request your name from our email address list.