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

December 2009

**E-Greetings Newsletter**



**T.A.P.S.**

**Adoptions:**

Cats: 27

Dogs: 41

**SHELTER NEWS**

Holiday Letter / Updates:

I would like to thank everyone who supports TAPS through your time, donations, and taking part in our annual fundraisers and offsite events - we would not be here without you! How blessed TAPS is to be a part of an extended community that is so unwavering in your support. At the holidays we take time to remember those near and dear to us and while I do not know each individual reading this e-mail personally, I know that we share common values and

concerns. We all long for the day when all the animals have forever homes of their own. It is crucial we all invest in learning the importance of spaying and neutering our pets. To take the time to learn about and educate our neighbors, friends and co-workers about the overpopulation issue. Preventing overpopulation, i.e. unwanted pets being born, means more animals will get a chance for a forever home of their own. Please share with those in your sphere of influence, that TAPS and other organizations like us have low cost spay neuter programs, as well as a stray feral feline alteration program – we are here to help.

In conclusion, I came across a holiday poem that is a good reminder to enjoy the essence of this wonderful season, so I thought I would share it with you.

### **THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

**'Tis the day before Christmas, and all through the house**

**The puppies are squeaking an old rubber mouse.**

**The wreath which had merrily hung on the door**

**Is scattered in pieces all over the floor.**

**The stockings that hung in a neat little row**

**Now boast a hole in each one of the toes.**

**The tree was subjected to bright-eyed whims,**

**And now, although splendid, it's missing some limbs.**

**I catch them and hold them; be good I insist.**

**They lick me, then run off to see what they've missed.**

**And now as I watch them, the thought comes to me,**

**That theirs is the spirit that Christmas should be.**

**Should Children and Puppies yet show us the way,**

**And teach us the joy that should come with this day?**

**Could they bring the message that's written above,**

And tell us that, most of all, Christmas is love!

-Author Unknown

### **Fundraisers / Announcements:**

We have two special events coming up that I would like to call to your attention.

First, is an adoption special... Mr. Bessler would like to send all of our pets "Home in time for the Holidays" by sponsoring 50% off the regular adoption fee!! We have so many gentle, loving, playful and cuddly pets at TAPS that will make a wonderful companion for your family. If you are not in the position to adopt at this time, please consider sponsoring a pet or giving a gift certificate so a friend or family member can adopt. Remember pets cannot be given as a "surprise" gift, but rather we invite the family to come out for a visit – to make sure the pet you bring home is the perfect match.

Our second announcement is another "Dining for TAPS" event brought to you by Chili's East Peoria. If you stop out for lunch, dinner or a takeout meal, simply give a copy of the coupon that is on our website to your friendly server and 10% of the total order will be donated to TAPS! The Peppers Program dining event takes place 12/12/09 – 12/12/24.

Purrs & Wags!

Angela Blackman, Executive Director

## ADOPTIONS UPDATE...

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### A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT



The season is upon us!

No doubt everyone is busy shopping, decorating and preparing for the big day. Here at the shelter amid lights and garland we are in full Christmas spirit, working hard to give our animals the gift of a forever home. If a new companion is on your wish list, we welcome you to come by for a visit. We'll help you find the cat or dog that's right for you.

Happy Holidays and a Very Merry Christmas to you all!

Sincerely,

Vickie Brent

President, TAPS Board of Directors

## Great News!

As you may know, we acquired a new van several months ago. Well, thanks to a generous donation, we were able to get it detailed with the TAPS logo. Check out the pictures:



**OFFSITES, ETC.**

**-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Volunteer Opportunities are FUN! Here are a couple of pictures of volunteers helping TAPS.**

**Volunteers at East Peoria Petsmart**



**Jo & Pablo**

**Beth & Gia**

**John & Kain**

**Sheila & Kain**

**Ann & Bear**

**December 12th & 13th East Peoria Petsmart.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**-We will be taking Santa Photos at East Peoria Petsmart from 11-4. We will need photo takers and helpers to print and help with the pictures.

**December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**-We will be taking Santa Photos at East Peoria Petsmart from 11-4. We will need photo takers and helpers to print and help with the pictures.

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**-We will be selling 50/50 tickets during the Bradley Basketball at the Peoria Civic Center.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>**- We will be selling 50/50 tickets during the Bradley Basketball at the Peoria Civic Center.

If you would like to help with any of these events, please contact Sheila at [tapsvol@yahoo.com](mailto:tapsvol@yahoo.com).

## Christmas Parade Pictures

We had a great time walking with the TAPS dogs in the Pekin Winter Wonderland Parade on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Here are a few pictures:



## VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Volunteer orientations are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of every month at 6:30. The next orientations are December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-December 11** (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.) Part of the sales goes to TAPS.

**Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-January 8th** (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.) Part of the sales goes to TAPS.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, contact Sheila, our Volunteer Coordinator.

## FEATURED PET OF THE MONTH



Buttons

Meow from Buttons! I am a very sweet and loving gal that bonds instantly to my human friends. I would love to be the queen of my castle. I don't care much for other cats or dogs. I would also do well with children over the age of 10, as the younger ones tend to scare me. I would love a nice warm couch to take naps on and maybe a window seat to watch the world go by. I will certainly tell you about my day when you get home. I love to talk! I am a senior and really just want a forever place to spend my golden years. Could that be with you???!!!

**Featured Pet Article**

## Winter Pet Safety

There has been a lot of publicity lately about H1N1 flu. Did you know there is a new year-round dog flu that has been seen in 30 states? It is highly contagious but there is a vaccine to protect our beloved canine friends. Please check with your vet to see if he/she thinks your dog(s) should be vaccinated.

Have a safe and happy holiday with your pets!!

### TAPS 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.

### **Priority Needs**

- Dry kitten food (*Natural Balance, Nutro, Purina One, Science Diet*)
- Dry puppy food (*Nutro, Purina One, Pedigree, 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*)
- Dry cat & kitten food (*Natural Balance, Nutro, Purina One, 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 dog or puppy food
- 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.*)
- 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 (*hours: 7-8:30 or any time 11-8*)
  - Evening Volunteers (*hours: 6-8PM*)
  - Adoption Counselors (*hours: 11-6*)
  - Front Desk Assistants (*hours: 10-6*)
- Foster families

- Any carpenters with some free time?
  - *We have an indoor project needing work, but will need some help... please call TAPS and ask for Angela, or e-mail me at [admin@tapsshelter.org](mailto:admin@tapsshelter.org) to find out the details!*

### **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 [ltltoad@comcast.net](mailto:ltltoad@comcast.net) . If you do not wish to receive our E-Greetings in the future, please do not reply to this email. Instead, click on [ltltoad@comcast.net](mailto:ltltoad@comcast.net) and request your name from our email address list.