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

**February 2010**

**E-Greetings Newsletter**



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

**Adoptions:**

Cats: 24

Dogs: 48

**SHELTER NEWS**

February is National Spay/Neuter awareness month – with that in mind, I will focus on the overpopulation issue that we face and how TAPS is helping the animals in our area. While TAPS is a no-kill shelter, there are many facilities that are not and each year millions of cute, healthy, loving animals are euthanized due to overpopulation. Overpopulation is the direct result of unplanned breeding or intentional backyard breeding that results in too many animals being born and not enough homes for them. Sadly, the number of animals born each year compared to the number of available homes is significantly higher, resulting in overpopulation. Until the issue of

overpopulation is addressed, and measures taken to counteract it... the sad reality of euthanasia will continue.

Now that the problem has been stated, there are a few questions we need to ask ourselves. First, does this upset me and do I agree with that solution of population control? If your answer is no, what would you like done about it? There are many health benefits to altering your pet and I would imagine many of you have talked about these benefits with your veterinarian and taken action. Some pets, however, do not have the privileges of good veterinary care. Perhaps their families cannot afford to alter their pets, they do not understand or care about the effects of overpopulation or maybe they are not aware of resources available to help their pet get altered (spayed/neutered).

In researching this issue, I found the following data written January 9, 2009, by: Timothy Kirn For The VIN News Service: "... in Santa Cruz County, Calif., a law passed 11 years ago that has since reduced the number of animals taken in by shelters from 14,000 annually to about 5,500 in 2007. According to an article in the San Francisco Chronicle, that reduced canine euthanasias in shelters from 30 percent to 16 percent and feline euthanasias from 60 percent to 50 percent." With those statistics in mind, imagine the progress that has been made since, and the difference that could be made in this area if the same steps were taken – food for thought!

Since this subject requires significantly more time and discussion than I have today... I would now like to again highlight a couple ways TAPS is working to help. We have two programs available --- our Low/Cost Spay & Neuter program and the feline Stray/Feral Spay / Neuter program. Both programs combat the overpopulation problem facing our communities. If your pets are already altered, but you would like to make a difference for another pet, please consider sponsoring the alteration cost for a low-income family, or for a stray (feral) cat to be altered.

Details about these programs are listed on our website in more detail and we encourage you to call our office with questions. Our first program is the low cost spay neuter program. If you or someone you know has a pet that needs alteration, and qualifies for other low income programs, or are on a fixed or limited income, you may qualify for the spay and neuter program we offer. At this time, vaccinations can also be done for an additional fee. The second program is our stray/feral alteration program. If there is a stray or feral cat that you have been caring for, we can help by getting them altered. The cat must come to TAPS either kenneled or is a live trap and we work with an organization that alters these cats at the low cost of \$30.00. This cost includes the spay/neuter, 3-year rabies vaccination, flea and tick prevention and ear mite medications administered, a small tattoo placed on the belly and the ear being tipped (the top portion of the ear removed) to visually show that the animal has been altered – a national standard.

If you have recently adopted a pet, please make an appointment to get them altered if they are not already – pediatric spays and neuters can safely be done as early as 8 weeks and when the pet has reached two pounds – talk to your veterinarian for more details. Cats and dogs will continue to cycle through the spring, summer and fall and can have multiple litters per year. Altering your pet decreases the chances of many life-threatening health issues, prevents unwanted breeding which contributes to overpopulation, and gives you a well-adjusted pet that is less likely to run at large in search of a mate or to fight to defend its "territory". Thank you for the careful consideration of these issues and contemplating ways that you can help!

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

## ADOPTIONS UPDATE...

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### A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT



We love animals here at TAPS! We spend time grooming, walking and caring for them every single day. The best of times are when they show their gratitude and affection toward us with wagging tails, nose nuzzles, friendly meows and purrs. Having a dog like you enough to give you a nice doggy type kiss is very special. But for some, this show of affection does not come easily. Perhaps they have had a rough life before coming into the shelter. They are shy and not trusting of people. If a dog is frightened as well, they can sometimes react in less than acceptable ways such as hand nipping. That's why I try to spend time with such dogs, showing them a better way to interact with us.

I teach them to give "kisses" to an outstretched hand. This is by far a better approach to meeting and greeting potential adopters.

Here's how it works-

- Place something really interesting on the back of your hand like peanut butter, cheese spread, etc. and offer it to the dog.
- Engaging them with a new smell will usually elicit a sniff and then a lick, to investigate further.
- As soon as they lick, I mark the behavior with praise, by giving a verbal "yes!"
- I do more repetitions, as many as it takes to get the licking behavior going.
- As soon as they are comfortable with the process and I am getting consistent licks, I add a word cue such as "Kisses!" to the behavior.
- Training continues day by day until the dog's first response to my outstretched hand is to "kiss"!

It looks like a great trick, but it's so much more. We have found that this gives a shy fearful dog more confidence to approach a stranger because they have been positively reinforced for licking

instead of nipping. When training a puppy, it gives them a more acceptable behavior than mouthing or chewing on us.

We get doggy kisses and they get praise and treats. Everyone wins!

Helping our animals in big and small ways. That's what we are all about at TAPS.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,

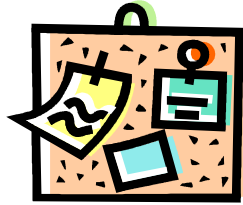
Vickie Brent

President, TAPS Board of Directors

## MEDICAL INFORMATION FROM OUR VET-DR NEWCOMB

The American Veterinary Medical Society has named February as National Pet Dental month. Dental or periodontal disease is often not a concern of many pet owners. Many just dismiss this as bad "pet" breath. However, this can be the sign of much more severe problems such as decaying teeth, gingivitis, and discomfort. The bacteria found in the mouth around gum lines could eventually travel through the bloodstream leading to more severe infections in other organs of the body. There are several things you can do to fix and/or prevent dental disease. Make an appointment with your veterinarian to see if your pet needs a dental (teeth cleaning). Many clinics offer a discount for this procedure during the month of February. Brushing your pet's teeth, hard treats/bones, and several other "tooth" healthy treats are offered at most pet stores.

Spring is right around the corner, unfortunately, so are mosquitoes. These insects can carry a harmful disease known as Heartworm Disease. This is transmitted through a bite with an infected mosquito. The disease can have many symptoms such as coughing, labored breathing, exercise intolerance, and can eventually lead to death. This is an easy disease to prevent by just giving a preventive tablet to your pet once a month. If you haven't had your pet tested for heartworm disease (a simple blood test), this should be done prior to starting the preventative program.



## **OFFSITES, ETC.**

## **-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Volunteer Opportunities are FUN! Here are a couple of pictures from our off-sites.**



Paul at Schnucks-Pekin



John & Chance at Petsmart



Volunteers and Dogs at Petsmart

**February 12<sup>th</sup>- E. Peoria Petsmart Adopt-a-thon 11:00-4:00p.m.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>- Peoria Petsmart Adopt-a-thon 11:00-4:00p.m.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>-Washington Krogers February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 10-3p.m.-** We will have adoptable dogs for their “Puppy Love” promotion.

**February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>th</sup> – Peoria Petsmart 11:00-4:00p.m.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> – Peoria Petsmart 11:00-4:00p.m.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>- Charlie’s Aquarium Pekin 12:00-3:00p.m.** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>- Peoria Petco 11:00-4:00p.m.-** We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>-East Peoria Festival Center.** We are going to be there weekly now on the earlier shift. We need volunteers between 3:30-9:00p.m. Even if you can’t be there the whole time, we can use your help. If we can get enough volunteers, this could be a big fundraiser for TAPS!!

**March 31<sup>st</sup>-East Peoria Festival Center.** We are going to be there weekly now on the earlier shift. We need volunteers between 3:30-9:00p.m. Even if you can’t be there the whole time, we can use your help.

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

### **MEET ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS**



Scott & Paul (one of his rescues)

**Scott Ray** is one of volunteers that helps walk dogs in the evening and helps at our off-sites. In March 2009, he took on the role as Rescue Coordinator. He contacts families on the waiting list and lets them know we have an opening for their animal. If there is no one on the waiting list, he contacts animal control and humane societies in the surrounding areas and makes arrangements to rescue animals from their facilities and gets them into TAPS. Scott has rescued over 60 animals so far from local facilities.

Why does he do this? Scott says: "I have really enjoyed meeting all the new people and visiting all the animal controls. I have been working with many animal controls such as Fulton, Warren, and Logan County among others. I have developed great relationships throughout the year. It's very rewarding to help some animals get out of a bad situation and find great homes where they get all the love they deserve. It can be very bittersweet at times because I know I can't save them all. I see first-hand how over-populated the animal controls are. Educating people on spay and neutering and having a low cost program is a must to help this problem".

Volunteers can help in so many ways. They can clean cages, walk dogs, work in the office, help transport animals to the vet, make signs, help with fundraising, etc. If you would like to help, come to a volunteer orientation and GET INVOLVED!!

### **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 February 10<sup>th</sup> -& February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Volunteer of the Month**

**January**

**Terry Lulay**



**Terry became a Volunteer on January 13, 2010. In the remainder of January Terry volunteered 89.75 hours. Terry spends many hours walking dogs, playing with cats, running errands, and many other things that arise.**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**BIG EVENT!! Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> is our first weekly Wednesday at the Creve Coeur Raffle Center. They are having a special promotion. It is called Warm-Ups Must Go, meaning a Jackpot will be won that night for \$1600.00. This is a big chance for TAPS to earn some money for the shelter so spread the word, come out and bring your friends!!**

**Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)- 31<sup>st</sup> (and every Wednesday) from 5:00-9:00 p.m.** Part of the proceeds goes to TAPS. Bring a bunch of friends and see if you can win some money!

**Dining for TAPS-March 3<sup>rd</sup> -Papa Murphy's Pekin**-Mention TAPS and part of the proceeds goes to TAPS.

**Chili's-East Peoria March 14<sup>th</sup>-March 21<sup>st</sup>**-Take a copy of the Chili's coupon for on TAPS website or in the Pekin Times Tuesday TAPS Ad to Chili's any time during this week and Chili's will donate 10% of the proceeds to TAPS. **But You Must Have the Coupon!!**

**Bob Evans-Pekin March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:00-7:00 p.m.**-Come out for supper and part of the proceeds goes to benefit TAPS.

**Avanti's Pekin March 30<sup>th</sup> Carry Out Only**- Stop by and pick up some great Avanti's food to take home and part of the proceeds benefits TAPS.

**TAPS Wine & Dine-Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Pekin Country Club**-This is our big annual fundraiser. Watch for more information on silent auction items, entertainment, and ticket prices.

## **Ways You Can Help TAPS**



The Animal Rescue site is giving away money to animal shelters. Eighty-five grants will be awarded for a total of \$100,000 to eligible Petfinder.com members.

### **Click on this link daily:**

[http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3&ThirdPartyClicks=ERA\\_020410\\_ARS\\_Html](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3&ThirdPartyClicks=ERA_020410_ARS_Html)

There are tabs down the right side of the website. Click the Shelter Challenge tab, put in TAPS, or Pekin, Illinois and bring up TAPS and cast your vote. Do this daily and send the link to pet lovers you know and ask them to do the same!

Final prizes will go to the eligible Petfinder.com organization with the highest accumulative votes for the duration of the Challenge as specified in the rules.

**Voting begins on January 18th, 2010, and ends at midnight (PST) on April 18th, 2010.** The more friends you can rally to vote for your favorite rescue organization, the better its chances of winning. Every vote, every day counts - shelters can pull ahead even during the last few days with enough support. Get people involved! Your favorite rescue organization is counting on you!

Eligible organizations with the most votes could receive a weekly prize and/or one of the other grants below:

**Grand Prize:** One \$10,000 grant!

**Honorable Mention:** Three \$3,000 grants!

**State Winners\*:** Fifty-one \$1,000 state grants (50 U.S. states and Washington D.C.)

**Weekly Winners\*\*** We're doubling your chances for a weekly prize! Twenty-Six \$1,000 grants will be awarded, two for each week of the Shelter+ Challenge.

**EBAY-**We now have items for sale on ebay. You can go the website at <http://www.stores.ebay.com/felz-own-pet-supplies?refid=store> and proceeds benefit TAPS.



Sign up for a Schnucks eScript customer card and a percentage of your grocery bills will go to TAPS. Click [here](#) to learn more.

You can donate food to TAPS through The Pet Pantry food donation program. For more information, visit their [website](#) and select the Donate link on the home page.

**Sponsor an animal-** We have two levels of sponsorship available.

For \$35, your name will appear online by the description of the animal you are sponsoring. You will receive an acknowledgement email or letter thanking you for your sponsorship and an email or letter letting you know when the animal that you have sponsored has been adopted, as well as a color photo of your sponsored animal, a short bio of him or her, and a sponsorship certificate.

For a one-year continuing monthly sponsorship of \$20 per month, you will receive everything from the \$35 sponsorship level plus a TAPS t-shirt at the end of the one-year period. If your sponsored animal is adopted before the twelve-month period is up, the sponsorship is transferable to a different animal of your choosing.

An animal sponsorship can be given as a gift, and we will send email or letter confirmation to the recipient of the gift. If you would like to sponsor an animal but do not want your name published, we will acknowledge that the particular animal has a "silent sponsor."

### **Some of our Sweethearts waiting for homes**



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ROSCOE

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Roscoe is a 3 year old male lab mix. He is well-behaved, walks well on leash and seems to like other dogs. Who could resist such a happy face!



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VEGA

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**VEGA IS A SENIOR GIRL, SOMEWHAT SHY AT FIRST, BUT WILL BE PURRING IN YOUR LAP ONCE SHE GETS TO KNOW YOU. SHE IS A SPECIAL NEEDS CAT BECAUSE SHE REQUIRES DAILY EYE DROPS AND AN EAR CLEANING. SHE IS HOPING TO FIND A**

**QUIET HOME WHERE SHE CAN BE CARED FOR AND LAVISHED WITH LOVE AND ATTENTION.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MEETING EITHER ROSCOE OR VEGA, PLEASE CALL US OR COME OUT FOR A VISIT.**

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## **We Need Foster Families!!**

We are always in need of foster families. We place pregnant cats and dogs with their offspring in foster homes until the “kids” are old enough to be adopted. We also have older animals or special needs animals that do better in a home environment. It is a very rewarding experience and the animals love it! Here are some puppies that were born in one of our foster homes.



Tina Jacob's Foster Puppies

If you would like to become a foster home for TAPS, please call Angela, our director, and let her know!

### **TAPS Wish List...**

#### **Priority Needs**

Dry cat & kitten food (*Natural Balance, Nutro, Purina One, Science Diet*)

- Dry Senior Dog, Puppy and Small Breed foods (*Nutro, Purina One, Science Diet*)
- Canned Dog & Puppy food
- 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, O/M, 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, 940XL-C, M, Y
  - HP Black: 56, 92, 940XL
- 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 [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.