



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

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

January 2010

E-Greetings Newsletter



T.A.P.S.

Adoptions:

Cats: 30

Dogs: 71

SHELTER NEWS

I have often heard that the things or people that matter most to us are how we spend our time, resources and energy. Despite the economic stress that I am sure all of us feel, one thing is quite clear to me – there is much support and concern that people feel for the animals and TAPS. I am again amazed by the generosity of people in our community. We thank our loyal supporters – those who have stood behind TAPS for many years supporting us... there are many people and businesses in our community who are so very loyal to TAPS. We have also been blessed with the support of several first time supporters, perhaps people new to the area or those who have just found themselves in a position to help. And finally, the children and many youth groups – it is just amazing to see the care and love the kids have for the animals and the support they offer through

neighborhood and local efforts to collect donations – it all helps so much and we are so very thankful!!

Purrs & Wags!

Angela Blackman, Executive Director

ADOPTIONS UPDATE...

This past months adoptions went very well and I again thank Mr. Al Bessler for the generous “Home for the Holidays” sponsorship of half the adoption fee. I think it really helped to send home several pairs of animals who may not have been able to go home together without his help. Congratulations to everyone that adopted... many cats and dogs found wonderful new homes in December ☺

Cold Weather Reminder....

With the temperatures below freezing, it is very important to protect your pet and be aware of the animals in your neighborhood. Please talk to others about the risks their pet faces by being left outside – an article was just in the Pekin Daily Times (1/07/2010) related to cold weather tips and you can check out our website for a complete list of cold weather safety tips. If you have seen stray, feral or wild animals in your neighborhood, placing food out in a sheltered area and an unfrozen water source can really make a difference for them. There are heated water bowls available at many farm and home type stores as well as pet stores.

Please call TAPS or other animal care facilities to arrange to get stray animals in. While we do have a waiting list – each adoption allows us to take in more animals and we work off our waiting list to bring in cats and dogs on a regular basis. Please consider temporary shelter for them – even keeping them in a garage or basement is ideal until we can get them in. We realize there is so much need and the weather is cold - everyone working together really makes a difference!

A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT



HOOCH

What’s ahead for TAPS this year? My hope is that we can.....

- Continue to improve medical care for our animals with the help of our vet tech Tammi and our shelter vet Dr. Jenny Newcomb
- Offer more animal enrichment in the form of dog walking/training and cat socialization, made possible through our ever increasing volunteer base led by Sheila

- Maintain a clean, efficient facility under the leadership of our Ex. Director Angela, our kennel managers, Angie and Tony and our staff
- Give back to the community –
Expand our low cost spay/neuter program

Offer summer classes for basic dog training

Educate the public about TAPS through speaking engagements

- Find ways to improve our facility, making it a more comfortable place to house our animals and facilitate adoptions
- Provide fundraisers that will not only be fun and enjoyable for everyone to attend, but will help raise the money needed for ongoing shelter operations
- Partner with businesses and individuals that have given us support, such as My Dog's Bakery, Al Bessler and so many others who believe in the No Kill philosophy
- Offer the public good customer service. Beth mans the front desk along with Lee, Phyllis and Sharon. They are available and eager to help you
- Increase adoptions. 2009 was a good year, but let's see if we can do even better. Hooch and Sammi are waiting for a family to call their very own!



SAMMI

The TAPS Board of Directors would be interested to hear your ideas on how we can best serve the public and be better stewards to the animals in our care.

You may direct comments to me at brent5@mtco.com

Thanks and have a great 2010!

Sincerely,

Vickie Brent

President, TAPS Board of Directors

OFFSITES, ETC.



-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer Opportunities are FUN! Here are a couple of pictures from our offsites.



**Gia enjoying some love from
a Petco customer**



Scooby at Petsmart



**Yes, Santa is a TAPS
volunteer!**

And all of these dogs have been adopted!!

January 16th & January 17th - Peoria Petsmart. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

January 30th & January 31st - East Peoria Petsmart. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

January 30th - Charlie's Aquarium in Pekin - We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats from 12-3 p.m.

February 6th & 7th Peoria Petco - We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4.

February 12th - East Peoria Festival Center. We will be doing late night raffle night at 10:30. We always need volunteers. Hours are 9:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Just 3 ½ hours and it goes fast.

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



Peoria Petco Manager-January 2010

Even the employees at the offsites get in on the fun. At our offsite in January at the Peoria Petco, the manager got in a cage and it took donations to get her out! Of course, the donations went to TAPS!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Volunteer orientations are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month at 6:30. The next orientations are January 13th and January 27th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-February 12th (and every 2nd Friday of the month from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.) Part of the sales goes to TAPS. Bring a bunch of friends and see if you can win some money!

Dining for TAPS-January 20th at Mickie's Pizza in North Pekin-Tell all your friends and come out and have some great pizza from 5:00-9:00 pm. 20% of the dine-in and carryout proceeds goes to TAPS.

Ways You Can Help TAPS

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."

We Need Foster Families!!

Recently an article was written about one of our foster families and all the wonderful work she has done to change the lives of animals. You can read the story about Jennifer Brackney at <http://www.peoriamagazines.com/ibi/2009/oct/change-lives-foster-pets>.

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!

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

FEATURED PET OF THE MONTH



Spirit is a 3 year old rottweiler mix that was brought to TAPS when her owner could no longer care for her. She is a real gentle girl that loves attention. She is looking for a permanent family that has time to play with her and take her for walks for exercise . She would do best in a home with older children. Stop by and see Spirit today.

Featured Pet Article

With 2010 in full swing, many of us make New Years' resolutions to lose weight. What about your pet? Is your pet overweight?

According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, approximately half of all dogs and cats in the United States are overweight or obese. That's 84 million animals that weigh more than they should for optimal health. Just as with people, obesity in pets is associated with many health risks, including osteoarthritis, Type 2 diabetes, respiratory disorders, hypertension (high blood pressure), heart disease, and many forms of cancer.

The typical domestic cat should weigh about 10 pounds, and needs about 275 calories per day. Unlike cats, the caloric needs of dogs vary greatly depending on breed – a variance expected when dogs can range in weight from under 5 pounds to over 100. A 10-pound dog needs about 300 calories per day, while a 50-pound dog needs 1,200. Feeding guidelines on your pet's food bag will take into account approximate caloric needs, but it's important to realize that food amounts may change if you change the type of food you're feeding your dog or cat. Since pet foods can vary greatly in fat and calorie content, one cup of Type A food will not necessarily equal one cup of Type B food. It is fine to include treats in your pet's diet, but calories from treats should account for 10% or less of your pet's overall caloric intake.

It's important that the entire family realizes the importance of helping their pet maintain a healthy weight. Giving food is a way to show love, but an even better way is to help your pet stay healthy and live a long life as a member of your family. ([Pet Article](http://pet-articles.blogspot.com) courtesy of <http://pet-articles.blogspot.com>).

TAPS Wish List...

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*)
- 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,
 - HP Black: 56, 92,
 - HP XL 940 Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow (copier ink – we use a lot of it)
- 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 or Low's)
- 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@tapshelter.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. 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 and request your name from our email address list.