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

June 2009

E-Greetings Newsletter



T.A.P.S.

Adoptions:

Cats: 24

Dogs: 56

SHELTER NEWS...

There are a couple key things that I would like to highlight in this E-greeting. First, I would like to welcome Sheila Borton to our staff as our official Volunteer & Development Coordinator. Sheila has been acting on a volunteer basis as our volunteer coordinator for approximately a year and a half and has just recently joined TAPS full time as a staff member – Welcome Aboard Sheila!! One important aspect is that she will not only be here to grow and develop our volunteer group, but will also assist in cultivating new opportunities for fundraising and offsite adoption locations which will help to increase pet adoptions!

The second thing I would like to highlight, is another generous gift from Mr. Bessler in the way of sponsoring ½ off all adoptions for the entire month of June if you **mention at the time of adoption**

that, “Mr. Al Bessler sent me”. Historically June is our slowest adoption month and we are hoping that this generous sponsorship will allow many people to adopt and make room for new pets to come in to TAPS. This is a very difficult season for a no-kill shelter, as there is so much need on taking in dogs and cats. With so many pregnant and nursing cats and dogs, as well as abandoned puppies and kittens... this season places such a strain on our facility in terms of space. It is heart-wrenching to tell people that we are full, with a lengthy waiting list and cannot take in a stray that needs a safe place to nurse her young. Besides space, another shortage faced by TAPS is foster homes --- we are always looking to add new foster parents, as this allows us to react to desperate situations when the shelter is full. Please contact TAPS if this is something that you are interested in; I would be happy to fill you in on the details.

We are making progress with our stray/feral alteration program - each cat that is spayed or neutered reduces the exponential effect of overpopulation and animals born next year. Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up to help the cats within our community and I hope that this program continues to grow!

Finally, I will ask that you mark your calendars for a few upcoming events. First, the annual John Deere Birdies for Charity golf event will take place July 9-13th, second is our Rockin’ for TAPS event on August 1st from 5-?... for all you bikers – we are having a Poker run before the Rocking event beginning at McDuffs in Pekin at 10 am and will end at the Pekin Boat Club in time for the event to start. Looking into autumn we will have our Tailwaggers’s Classic on September 27th. There are some great events to come out and enjoy, so check out our website for more information - we hope that with plenty of notice you are able to join us for all of them.

As always, I would like to thank the many people who support TAPS through your time and resources – we would not be here without the dedication of and hard work of staff and volunteers and the financial support of local and area residents and businesses who generously remember TAPS on an ongoing basis.

Purrs & Wags!

Angela Blackman

Executive Director

A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT

VOLUNTEERS! They are the “heart and soul” of TAPS. You will find them giving their time and talents on a daily basis, whether that’s walking dogs, cleaning, answering phones or assisting the public. We could not function without them.

I began 8 years ago as a twice a week dog walker. What I found was that there was no greater satisfaction than to help a homeless animal who was literally at the mercy of its caregiver. If I could provide even one animal a better day by giving them a walk, some grooming, a game of fetch, or basic manners training, it was time well spent. Even though I have a new position within the organization, my heart remains with the animals and my best time is still spent taking a walk.

Since we place a high value on our volunteers, we have formed a new staff position. Who better to fill this spot, than our number one volunteer, Sheila Borton. She is officially our "Volunteer/Development Coordinator". Her full time presence at TAPS will insure that there is someone ready and able to work with people as they come to help out. She will also continue to set up and oversee the off site adoption weekends that have been so successful, as well as work closely with those that are interested in fundraising.

We welcome Sheila, who in turn is eager to welcome you. Please consider greeting the public at the front desk, cuddling the cats, or helping with adoption counseling. If you have a special gift for working with animals, or are good with people skills, we would love to talk to you. Give Sheila a call and come see how you can make a difference!

Vickie Brent

President, TAPS Board of Directors



OFFSITES, ETC. -VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a lot of events scheduled for the next few months. Volunteers are really going to be needed to make these events a success for TAPS!

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



Sprint-E. Peoria



Advance America Bark/Purr



Peoria Pirates Animal Day

June 13 & 14 Pekin WalMart 11-4. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Shifts are 11:00-1:30 and 1:30-4:00. No age limit.

June 13 & 14 Big Lots Pekin 12:00-5:00. We will be taking dogs for adoption. Shifts are 12:00-2:30 and 2:30-5:00. No age limit.

June 14 Tremont Turkey Festival Parade 4:00 p.m. We will be taking dogs to walk in the Tremont Turkey Festival parade. Any age can help.

June 20 Washington Walmart 10-2. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

June 21 Morton Walmart 11-4. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

June 20 & 21 Peoria Petsmart 10-5. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 10:00-1:30 and 1:30-5:00. Any age can help.

June 27 & 28 E. Peoria Walmart 11-4. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

July 4 & 5 Peoria Petco 11-4. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 10:00-1:30 and 1:30-5:00. Any age can help.

July 4 Washington Walmart 11-4. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

July 5 Morton Walmart 11-4. We will be selling candy bars and taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

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

Ways You Can Help TAPS !!

1) **Sponsor an animal.** Your sponsorship of a particular dog or cat is a donation to TAPS Shelter to help cover the costs of rescuing and caring for the animal until he or she finds a home through adoption. Although a single sponsorship does not cover all of our expenses to care for a particular animal, your donation will help with spay/neuter, vaccinations, blood tests, worming, food, medicine, and boarding expenses. Multiple people can sponsor the same animal.

TAPS rescues many special needs dogs and cats each year. Some of these animals may never find a home because of their special circumstances. Caring for one of these animals averages hundreds of dollars per year. Sponsoring one of these animals shows your support and concern, even though you may not be able to take one of these animals into your own home.

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."

[TAPS Dogs Available for Sponsorship](#)

[TAPS Cats Available for Sponsorship](#)

When you have found an animal that you are interested in sponsoring, please contact us. We accept check or credit card as payment for the sponsorship. If you would like to pay by check, please include your email address and the name of the animal you would like to sponsor. This can be sent to:

TAPS
100 TAPS Lane
Pekin, IL 61554

We also accept credit cards. You can call us at 309 353 8277, or email us at tapsshelter2@yahoo.com, and let us know the name that appears on your credit card, your credit card number, date of expiration, email address, and the name of the animal you would like to sponsor. We also accept credit card donations on-line through our link [here](#). Please email us and indicate which animal you would like to sponsor if you donate on-line.

The animals at TAPS thank you for your support!

Please send inquiries about adoption, sponsorship, or surrendering a pet to tapsshelter2@yahoo.com.

3) 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!

4) **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

John Deere Birdies for Charity golf event July 9-13th. If you would like to participate or donate, pick up a pledge form at TAPS.

Poker Run August 1st. Starting at McDuffs in Pekin at 10 am and will end at the Pekin Boat Club in time for the Rockin for TAPS event to start.

Rockin for TAPS at the Pekin Boat Club-Saturday, August 1st. There will be a dog costume contest, two bands and lots of food . It is a great way to have fun and help the animals at TAPS too.

Tailwaggers at Mineral Springs Park Pekin-September 27th. There will lots of games and activities for you and your dog to enjoy. We will have raffle items, talent contests, and lots of vendors. Mark your calendar now and plan on attending.

FEATURED PET OF THE MONTH



Pablo

Pablo is a 2 1/2 year old brindle pit bull terrier that is a great dog. He is full of energy and gets along with kids and adults. He likes to play out in the fenced yard and chase toys that you throw for him. Because of all his energy, he would probably do better in a home with children over 13 years old.

FEATURE STORY

We recently had a letter sent to TAPS by a family whose father had passed away from cancer. He wanted us to know what a difference an animal made in his dad's remaining years. I have condensed the story for space purposes.

My father, Bill S. Hutchison, underwent surgery for advanced pancreatic cancer in December 1997. The prognosis was if my dad lived six months, it would be a miracle. My dad passed away March 31, 2009.

I believe three factors contributed to my dad living 12 more years. First, dad's belief in God. Second, he was physically strong. Third, the love of a black cat named Beckett.

Dad had been an animal lover his entire life. My wife Linda had obtained Beckett as a kitten. While dad was going through chemotherapy, we felt he needed something to help his spirits. Linda gave Beckett to dad.

Dad and Beckett took to each other like long lost brothers. Beckett would lie on the sofa with dad, sit on his lap, sleep in the bed with him and follow him around like his guardian angel. Even when dad would sit outside watching nature unfold, Beckett never left his side.

One day Beckett was diagnosed with diabetes and would require insulin shots, just like dad himself. Now, dad would become the caregiver and Beckett the patient. Dad delivered quality care and it was a true labor of love between best friends.

Sadly, only a couple of years ago, Beckett himself contracted cancer and died. I saw my dad cry that day, something I had only seen once before. Dad took Beckett's death incredibly hard and never fully recovered. In spite of this, dad enjoyed coming to our house to visit our own cats. Dad loved them all and they loved him.

Medical science served dad well, but it was truly a small black cat who gave dad the joy and fulfillment he needed to fight and thrive against insurmountable odds. Thank you, Beckett! You guys have a lot to catch up on. Rest in peace. –Submitted by his son Kevin Hutchinson

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 (New items added)...

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)
- Clumping or Clay cat litter (we never have too much!!)

Animal Supplies

- KMR Kitten formula
- KMR Puppy formula

- Prescription pet food for dogs (I/D or E/N, Z/D or DRM)
- Prescription pet food for cats (A/D or C/V, I/D or E/N, W/D or O/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 with 22gauge needles
- Revolution, Frontline or Advantix (*feline or canine flea and tick products*)
- Heartguard, Iverheart, or other name brand heartworm pills
- Canned cat and kitten food
- Paper plates (*used to serve soft food on for animals receiving medications*)
- Pet brushes and combs
- Dog toys (*Kongs, Plush squeek, tennis balls, raw hides, etc.*)
- Gentle Leaders, Harnesses
- Old towels

Office Supplies

- Printer ink cartridges
 - HP 940XL black & color
 - HP 57 color
 - HP 56 black
 - HP 92 black
 - HP 97 color
- 4" X 6" Index cards (cage information cards)
- Black Sharpies
- Ink Pens
- Computer Printer Paper 8.5" X 11"
- Yarn (for warm blankets & afghans)

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 (7 gallon, 13 gallon and 33 gallon size)
- Glass cleaner
- Oust
- Dish washer Soap (liquid or dry)
- Dish soap (liquid)

People Needs

- Volunteers
 - Dog walkers
 - Kitty Cuddlers
 - Evening Volunteers
 - Adoption Counselors / Front Desk Assistants
- Foster families
- Off-site adoption assistants

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.