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

November 2009

E-Greetings Newsletter



T.A.P.S.

Adoptions:

Cats: 40

Dogs: 54

SHELTER NEWS

Thanksgiving is a time of reflection, to think of those that have impacted us in a positive way... Many people come to mind, ranging from friends in our community, area businesses, volunteers, and staff members. There are even supporters' whom I have never met, but we share a common dream to provide for animals in need believing in our philosophy that every pet deserves a chance for a loving home. I only wish we had more space at our facility to accommodate the number of animals in need - sadly we are always full and must work with a waiting list to bring in animals after adoptions take place.

Several indoor projects continue and we invite you out to check on the progress, or to volunteer your skills and talents. While our volunteer program has grown tremendously through the leadership of our volunteer coordinator, Sheila Borton – we are always in need of more volunteers!

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...

An update from our August e-greeting - I am happy to report that another senior dog was adopted in October... Mariah, now has a wonderful new home as well as Gracie & George. The remaining two senior dogs, Kodiak and Lady continue to await their own homes – both are gentle large dogs that would love a soft bed and a quiet home to enjoy their senior years at. I am hopefully that the remaining dogs, each of the senior cats mentioned or our other senior pets will all find homes very soon.

Spay & Neuter Reminder....

Please spread the news that TAPS has the following programs available to assist with getting pets spayed and neutered.

- 1) A low cost spay / neuter program for both cats and dogs... vaccinations and micro-chipping can also be done at the time of alteration. Income guidelines do pertain and you can obtain details from either checking our website or calling TAPS.
- 2) A stray / feral alteration program for felines only. There are no income guidelines with this program, but it is designed for stray or feral cats... please call TAPS for details.

There are so many cats that need to be spayed and neutered – each year TAPS receives more and more calls to bring in stray cats, and sadly our adoptions do not nearly balance the requests. This overpopulation is a direct result of unplanned breeding, and not getting strays spayed/neutered. If each person sponsored one stray/feral alteration fee of \$30.00, or brought in a stray or feral cat to TAPS to alter and release, the years following would yield fewer kittens being born, which ultimately would decrease the overpopulation.



A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT

As we continue to race through 09, November begs us to slow down at least for one day and reflect on people who are important to us.

One of the benefits I have as president is the opportunity to say “thank you” on a regular basis to these people. Whether it’s to an office manager giving kind words to someone at the front desk or a volunteer taking extra time to cuddle a cat, or kennel staff addressing animal needs in a gentle way, all are investing their time and talents to care for those in need. I would like to offer you a heartfelt

Thank You!

To the various community groups I have had the privilege to speak with this year, who support us by generously providing donations and much needed daily supplies,

Thank You!

To the public who participate in our many fundraisers,

Thank You!

To an active and growing volunteer base,

Thank You!

To all of you that give and work every day to make this shelter a success,

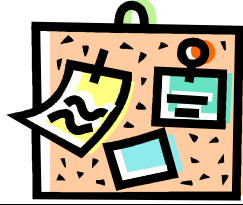
Thank You!

Without a doubt, extraordinary things are happening here at TAPS. With your continued help we can fulfill our mission to- “be a shelter of hope for homeless animals, providing temporary sanctuary and an opportunity for life by bringing companion animals and loving people together”

Here’s wishing you, your families and your special pets a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Vickie Brent, President-TAPS Board of Directors



OFFSITES, ETC.

-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



**Lamia and Tina at
Women's Lifestyle Booth**



**Volunteers and TAPS Dogs
in Style Show at Women's Lifestyle Show**

November 14th & 15th Peoria Petsmart 11-4- We will be taking adoptable dogs. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Any age can help.

November 21st & 22nd Peoria Petsmart 11-4- We will be taking adoptable dogs. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4. Any age can help.

November 29th- We will be walking TAPS dogs in the Pekin Winter Wonderland Parade at 3:30.

December 5th & 6th Peoria Petco 10-4. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4. Must be 18 years old.

December 5th- We will be taking Santa Photos at Peoria Petco from 11-4.

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

December 12th & 13th- We will be taking Santa Photos at the East Peoria Petsmart from 11-4.

December 19th & 20th- We will be taking Santa Photos at the East Peoria Petsmart from 11-4.

We are in need of Santas to pose with dogs at these offsites. Santa suit is provided. Also need a person to take the pictures and a person to print them out.

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

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS

Volunteer orientations are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month at 6:30. The next orientations are November 25th and December 9th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-November 13 (and every 2nd 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)-December 11 (and every 2nd 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



Scooby Doo at Petco Offsite

Scooby Doo is a 8 year old collie/shepherd mix that was brought to TAPS when his owner moved out and didn't take him with him. He can sit, walks nice on a leash and is well-behaved. He gets along with kids and some dogs but would need to be adopted by a family with no cats. He is looking for a new permanent home and a loving family.

Featured Pet Article

Pet Safety at Thanksgiving (from doghobbyist.com)

No table scraps-Do not feed table scraps to your dog at Thanksgiving. Foods high in fat can cause acute pancreatitis attacks. It can quickly become fatal or just be a mild attack of pain that is over in a few hours or a day or so. It can cause serious side effects including shock, blood clotting disorders, heart arrhythmias, and liver or kidney damage. So if your pet exhibits ANY of these signs, even if mild at first, get him to your vet immediately! Of course with it being a holiday, many animal clinics may be closed - another VERY valid reason to not be so sharing with your pets this Thanksgiving. And just in case, make sure you have an emergency number for your vet or the emergency vet clinic number handy for when your vet's office is closed.

No access to garbage-Make sure your pet has no access to any food left on the counters or tables when no one is around. After you're done cleaning up the kitchen, make sure you take the garbage out, and dispose of it in a secure place where no pets can get into it. Even the best behaved, well trained pets may be too tempted with turkey bones, the string that tied the turkey legs together, and what little of what was left of Mom's stuffing in the trash.

No bones-Cooked turkey, duck, geese and other bird bones are dangerous to your pet. They are hollow and break and splinter easily. Also, because they are so easily breakable, dogs usually won't chew them thoroughly. The results are sharp pieces that can choke the dog or block, tear the intestines. A pet that has a bone or fragment of one lodged in his intestine may not even show symptoms for a few days. When they do occur they may include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting, or diarrhea. Sometimes the bone will pass by itself; other times it may need to be surgically removed. So make sure all left overs and throw away and out of your pets' reach.

No chocolate- Yet another danger to dogs is chocolate. It contains a xanthine compound called theobromine. Theobromine is highest in dark chocolate, but even milk chocolate contains theobromine. Chocolate can be fatal to your dog! Bowls of candy, or pieces dropped by guests or children, may go unnoticed by you for hours, but pose a real risk to your pets.

One last word of caution on holiday meals and your pet is "bloat." Bloat is a gastric condition that can be deadly and is an EMERGENCY for you and your dog. While the causes of bloat are varied, gulping of food and water, a common behavior at excitable times when yummy treats are given and then exercise, such as the excitability and playfulness a lot of pets experience during busy times like holidays and family gatherings, may be a serious threat to a lot of pets.

Bloat is a deadly condition that gives you a very limited amount of time to act. Symptoms include abdominal distention, salivating, retching, restlessness, depression, lethargy, anorexia, weakness, or a rapid heart rate. Any of these symptoms, even if mild at first, should IMMEDIATELY be attended to by your vet. The stages and manifestations of this condition can happen rapidly once started, so no time should be wasted in seeking advice and care, even if there is a little doubt. Things to avoid are not allowing your pet to overeat, even his own food. Instead of 1 or 2 large meals a day, try 3 or 4 smaller ones. Do not feed your pet at high excitability times, or when he's nervous, such as when you have a house full of company. Many dogs will gulp down their food as a "defense" to keep these "strange intruders" out of it. Calm

your dog and feed him at quiet times of the day. Do not allow vigorous exercise before or after your pet has eaten.

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@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 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.