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

October 2009

E-Greetings Newsletter



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

**Adoptions:**

Cats: 34

Dogs: 40

**Adoptions & Related Commentary... **BIG NEWS!!****

Last Month I highlighted several senior cats and dogs who are all looking for loving homes of their own. Of the 10, I am happy to report that not only were Gracie & George adopted together, their new family has called to tell us that they are simply perfect and are already such a part of the family. I am hopeful that the remaining 8 that I mentioned will also find their perfect homes very soon – could that be with you?

**TWO WEEKS ONLY.... Since TAPS and many other shelters have so many cats at the moment... until October 20<sup>th</sup>, we are offering a temporary reduction on our adoption fees. All adult cats 3 years & up will have a reduced adoption fee of \$100. Further, our senior cats (over 8 years) will have an adoption fee of \$75. With the difficult economic times we are all facing,**

**we hope that this reduction in fees will allow for some of our wonderful cats to be adopted. Please stop by to visit... we guarantee you will find a heart waiting to love you and a true companion.**

## **SHELTER NEWS**

Our annual Tailwagger's Classic dog walk held September 27<sup>th</sup> was a lot of fun, if you missed the front page articles in the Pekin Daily Times or the Peoria Journal Star, you can check them out on our media page of the TAPS website. The dogs were able to enjoy themselves and take part in dog-centered activities and it appeared that the people in attendance also enjoyed the day's activities. Thank you everyone who came out, supported TAPS, and took part in the day 😊

We continue this busy year by working on some facility projects. The canine acquaintance rooms are nearly completed and we are beginning the FRP project. FRP will allow for easy cleaning and preserve the open environment rooms that the animals live in. At the end of September I attended a conference titled "Feline Forum" which had seminars given by experts on shelter management, animal care, adoptions, and several other feline related issues. I am excited to have already begun some projects that are recommended, and look forward to changes, implementation of new ideas, and improvements that can be made to make our shelter a better place for the felines in our care. I will have more to come on this exciting topic in time.

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

## **A WORD FROM TAPS BOARD PRESIDENT**



**With fall holidays fast approaching, let's take time to consider what this means to our pets. Halloween can be a fun-filled evening as long as we keep these tips from the ASPCA in mind:**

**Candy is for “Trick or Treaters” not your dog or cat-**

- **Chocolate if ingested can cause vomiting, hyperactivity, diarrhea and even seizures. This is especially true with dark or baking chocolate.**
- **Artificial sweeteners such as xylitol in candies can be poisonous to dogs. Even small amounts can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, leading to depression, lack of coordination and seizures. In cases of significantly low blood sugar, liver failure has been known to occur.**
- **Ingesting tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can pose a choking hazard or cause intestinal blockage.**
- **Want pet safe treats for the “special” evening? Many pet stores offer custom baked items decorated for just such occasions.**

**Pumpkins and decorative corn are considered to be nontoxic-**

- **Yet they can produce gastrointestinal upset or blockage if large pieces are swallowed.**

**A lighted candle poses a fire hazard if an animal brushes against it or knocks it over**

**If you are including your pet in the trick or treating evening-**

- **Don't place your dog or cat in a costume unless you know they love it!**
- **If they do, make sure the costume does not restrict movement, sight, hearing or breathing.**
- **Check costuming for parts and remove small buttons, etc. that could be chewed and cause choking.**
- **An ill fitting outfit can get twisted and caught on external objects, leading to injury.**
- **Some dogs are most comfortable going “au natural” with a festive bandana around their neck.**

**Avoid stress and upset by placing your pet in a quiet, secure area of the home if you are going to be answering the door frequently-**

- **Only the most social dogs and cats should be allowed to greet trick or treaters to insure everyone's safety.**
- **In all the commotion, your pet may have an opportunity to dart out the door and into danger.**
- **Seeing strangers dressed in costumes can be frightening to them.**

**Keep all animals indoors for the evening-**

- **Cats, especially black ones can become part of someone's Halloween prank.**

Here is a fun idea for the night-

- **Play Bobbing for Biscuits with your dog- fill a small pail with water and float some favorite treats on top. The dogs will get the idea. For all you Lab owners out there, this one's for you!**

Wishing you a happy and safe Halloween!

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.



**Jill & Kain  
Ann & Kodiak  
at Marigold Festival Parade**



**Lamia & Shep  
Angela & Sadie  
at Marigold Festival Parade**

**October 17 & 18-East Peoria Krogers-** We will be taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

**October 17 & 18-Pekin Walmart-**We will be accepting food and cash donations. Any age can help.

**October 24 Pekin Halloween Parade 4:00 pm-**Volunteers needed to help walk dogs.

**October 24<sup>th</sup> Women's Lifestyle Show-2:00 pm-**Volunteers needed to walk dogs down the runway at the Womens Lifestyle Show at the Peoria Civic Center.

**October 24& 25-Morton Walmart**-We will be accepting food and cash donations. Any age can help.

**October 24<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 at TAPS Shelter**-Halloween and Christmas photos with pets will be taken.

**October 25-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.

**October 31 & Nov 1-East Peoria Petsmart 11-4**-We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4. Any age can help.

**October 31 & Nov 1-East Peoria Walmart**- We will be accepting food and cash donations. Any age can help.

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



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Dining for TAPS at East Peoria Chili's**-If you take a coupon (check the website in the next few days for the coupon) to the East Peoria Chili's and give to the waitress/waiter when you order, TAPS will receive 10% of the purchase! The dates for these events are:

Oct 17 - Nov 7

Dec 12-24

**Halloween Party for Pets-October 24<sup>th</sup> 12:00-3:00pm at TAPS.** Pooches, cats, and their people will be able to pose for photos. We will have Halloween costumes and a Halloween theme. We will also have a Christmas theme so you can get a picture of you and your pet to be used on Christmas cards, etc. Pictures will cost \$5. Come out and have a good time with your pet!

**Bowlathon Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00pm-Sunset Lanes** 9-Pin \$20 per person, teams of 4. Cash prizes to top male and female bowler. Lots of fun! Get a team together and come out and support TAPS!

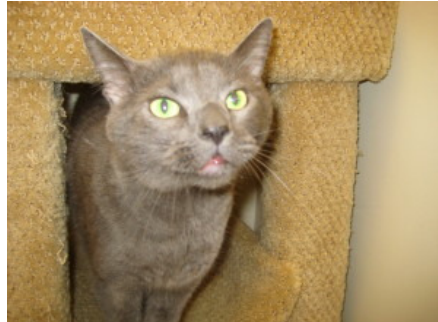
**Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-November 13** (and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.) Part of the sales goes to TAPS. If you are interested in volunteering to help, contact Sheila, our Volunteer Coordinator.

## **SPECIAL EVENT**

The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Pekin is encouraging their members to bring in something off our wish list. We have provided them with a barrel and we

are helping spread the word. If you are a member, or know a member, pass the word and help TAPS.

### FEATURED PET OF THE MONTH



My name is Mr. Magoo. I will admit that when I first came to TAPS, I was quite a grumpy guy. Some people even said my breath smelled terrible. How embarrassing!!! Well, it turns out that I just had a tooth problem. After some much needed dental surgery, I have blossomed into quite the wonderful kitty. I love to snuggle and get petted. I can purrrrr!! I have even been spotted playing with toys when I get comfortable with my human. I am just looking for that family who wants a cuddly buddy. I think that if you would just visit, you wouldn't be able to leave me behind!

## Featured Pet Article

Did you know that sudden changes in your pet's behavior could mean your pet has a medical problem?

According to Pets MD, an increase or decrease in appetite or drinking, an increased frequency or amount of urination, loss of urine control (dribbling urine, bedwetting), changes in stool consistency or frequency, skin and hair coat changes, lumps and bumps, mouth odor or bleeding gums, stiffness or soreness, excessive panting, coughing, changes in weight (increase or decrease), and tremors or shaking are some of the more common signs that should be reported, should they develop in your pet.

Mr. Magoo, our featured pet of the month, is a great example. He had started urinating in strange places in the house and was hissy and mean. His previous owners took him to McLean County Humane Society because they could not deal with the behavior.

Mr. Magoo was so upset that they almost could not get him out of the cage so we could take him back to TAPS. However, because of his behavior, if we had left him there, he would have been considered non-adoptable and would have been euthanized.

Turns out he had several bad teeth that were bothering him and once those were pulled, well you know the rest... He is a great cat and very adoptable.

## **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](mailto: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, cell phones, and 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](mailto: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](mailto:hcakora@grics.net) and request your name from our email address list.