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

September 2009

E-Greetings Newsletter



T.A.P.S.

Adoptions:

Cats: 24

Dogs: 38

Adoptions & Related Commentary...

It is always exciting to bring a new little kitten or puppy into the home but remember that our older pets need loving homes as well. Please understand, that I am not discouraging the adoptions of our darling little kittens and puppies... just giving a reminder that the older group tends to get overlooked this time of the year and they make wonderful pets as well. It is unfortunate that the economy has such an effect on the lives of the little creatures in our care, but sadly, there have been many older pets displaced as a result of this difficult economy. Yesterday we had a delightful family that came in to adopt both a kitten and an adult cat – it was nice to see that they considered both age groups.

There are a few special senior cats and dogs that I would like to call your attention to --- perhaps you or a friend may be able to give one of these special pets a home. More information is available about these special seniors on our website under the adoptable pets section and their pictures are featured later in this Egreeting newsletter.. I will only mention a few in hopes that next month I can share some adoption stories for each of them.

Cats: 1) Annie; Female, Domestic Short Hair (DSH) 8 years White and Calico, 2) Belle; Female DSH, 10 years, Siamese, 3) Stewie; male, DSH, 10.7 years, Gray & White, 4) Lucky; Female, DSH, 11 years, Tortie, 5) Flash; male, DSH, 9.5 years, Orange Tabby.

Dogs: 1) Kodiak; male, 10 years, SamoyedX, 2-3) George & Grace – male/female poodles, 11 years old, white – must adopt together, 4) Lady, female, 14 years, Chow, 5) Mariah, female, 8.6 years, ShepardX,

SHELTER NEWS

There are many building and grounds improvement projects currently in place and I invite you to come out to see the progress. It is so nice to see continued improvements and necessary updates. These projects would not be possible without the efforts of our volunteers who work very hard to make our fundraising events successful... and from the donations given by individuals who designate specifically for projects. ☺

Please mark your calendars and come out to our annual Tailwagger's Classic to be held on Sept 27th at the Pekin Mineral Springs park. This year will offer more demonstrations to enjoy, several interesting dog related booths and services, dog contests, games and raffles and a St. Louis trip with event tickets to give away to the adult who brings in the most in pledges over \$500! Kids will enjoy this as well with activities and games, making a paw print with their pet and will have a chance to win an iPod. This is one of our big fundraisers for the year, and we are trying to make each year bigger and more fun to take part in. Please check out our website for the pledge form and come out to enjoy an afternoon of fun with the whole family!

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

I would like to make you aware of two things- a special program our volunteers participate in called “Best Friends” and our senior animal population. To be a “Best Friend” a volunteer chooses a TAPS dog, committing to spending at least 20 minutes twice a week with them. Whether it’s a walk, playing fetch, manners training, grooming or sitting quietly enjoying each other’s company, it offers the dog one on one socialization time. Our cats need best friends, too!

A dog named Lady is so popular that she has multiple best friends including me. 14 is a long life in dog years. She does not see or hear as well as she used to and she prefers a slow peaceful walk about the grounds. No matter her age, she continues to have a zest for life and enjoys all the extra attention that staff and volunteers give her.



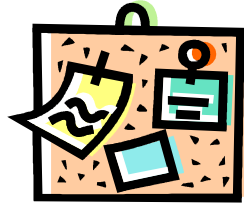
Here at TAPS we take in animals of all ages and with various health concerns. We are just as determined to find our senior dogs and cats loving homes as we are the younger ones.

- Older animals are well past the wild and energetic puppy and kitten phase.
- They know a thing or two. There are very few dogs in their senior years that don’t at least respond to a couple of basic training cues like Sit and Come.
- They can be especially loving and grateful for our attention

If you are in a position to adopt an older dog or cat, please come out and take a look at those in our care. I hope you will see what we at the shelter do; animals that still have so much to give. Ones like Lady, who will say hello enthusiastically with a senior type jump and wagging tail. Please partner with us to give these seniors the respect, compassion and dignity that they so richly deserve!

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.



**Peg & Ebony at Petsmart
East Peoria**



**Deb & Bonnie at Bethany
Methodist Pet Fair -E. Peoria**



**Scott & Buddy, Jenny & Maggie
at Family Video-Pekin**

September 11-Bingo At Creve Coeur Festival Center 9 p.m.-1 a.m.-Must be 18 years of age.

September 12-13-Pekin Marigold Festival-We will have a booth with TAPS items available for sale.

September 12-Pekin Marigold Parade 10 a.m. Come and walk a dog in the parade. All ages are welcome.

September 12-13-Peoria Petsmart Adoption Day 12-5 pm-We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats to Peoria Petsmart. Shifts are 12-2:30 and 2:30-5:00 p.m. Any age can help.

September 19-Morton Pumpkin Festival Parade 9:00 a.m.- -Come and walk a dog in the parade. All ages are welcome.

September 19-20 East Peoria Petsmart 11-4. We will be taking adoptable dogs and cats. Shifts will be 11-1:30 and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Any age can help.

September 19 & 20 Morton Walmart 11-3. We will be taking cash and food donations. Any age can help.

September 27 Tailwaggers Pekin Park 1-5 p.m. Volunteers will be need to help with games, TAPS booth, bring a TAPS dog, etc.

October 3-Applebee's-Pekin-Flapjack Fundraiser. 8-10 a.m. Volunteers will be needed to take money, seat customers, and serve food (no previous experience needed).

October 24 at TAPS Shelter-Halloween and Christmas photos with pets will be taken.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creve Coeur Raffle Center (formerly the Bingo Center)-September 11th (and every 2nd Friday of the month from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.) **A laptop is being given away that night!!** TAPS is now assisting at the Creve Coeur Raffle Center. Part of the sales goes to TAPS. If you love to play raffles, come out and bring your friends. There is supposed to be a big prize given away that night. If you are interested in volunteering to help, contact Sheila, our Volunteer Coordinator.

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:

Sept: 20-27

Oct 17 - Nov 7

Dec 12-24

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.

Garage Sale to benefit TAPS October 3-Do you have lots of items around the house you would like to sell? **Come and set up a table(s) at the first annual Garage Sale for TAPS being held October 3 from 8-3.** We will set up in the Tazewell Machine Works parking lot so there is plenty of room for lots of tables and parking. It costs you nothing. We just ask that part (or all if you are feeling generous) of the proceeds go to TAPS. You are responsible for bringing tables, chairs, money, help, etc. and taking home anything you do not sell. Please email Pam Scott at lttload@comcast.net if you are interested in participating.

October 3-Applebee's-Pekin-Flapjack Fundraiser. 8-10 a.m. \$5 per person buys you pancakes, sausage and a drink. Proceeds to benefit TAPS.

FEATURED PETS OF THE MONTH



Sadee



Maddox

Sadee is 4 1/2 years old and came to TAPS with her friend Maddox when their owners could not care for them anymore. She seems very sad here. She would love to find a new home soon. Sadee and Maddox need to be adopted together. Are you looking for a great dog? Here she is!

Maddox is a 4 year old tri-color hound mix who is always glad to see you and greets you with a wag and a smile. He is very playful and will need a large fenced in yard to play. He is looking for a permanent home with older children and would love for you to come out and visit him.

Senior Pets at the Shelter



Scooby Doo

Jinx

Mariah

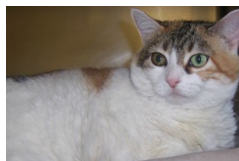
Patsy

Kodiak

Lady



Belle



Annie



Buttons



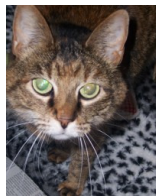
Pussycat



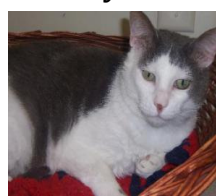
Flash



Baby



Lucky



Stewie

All these animals at the shelter are at least 8 years old and the oldest is 14 years old. Senior animals are sometimes overlooked when visitors come to the shelter looking for a pet. However, adopting a senior pet is a great idea!

They are usually calmer and more laid-back. They seek little attention but appreciate all the attention they can get. They are predictable, reliable, and loyal. They are already potty or litter box trained. Stop by and see these great pets at TAPS.

OLDER PET CARE

As people get older, they can develop health problems. Older dogs and cats can suffer from similar health problems.

Animals can develop skin problems, dental problems, kidney disease (especially in cats) and arthritis. They can develop dry eye, glaucoma, or cataracts.

We have (or have had) animals at the shelter with all of these issues. It is very important that you help your pet stay healthy. Frequent short walks are better for arthritic dogs. Your pet may need arthritis medication and/or anti-inflammatory drugs. Shampooing your pets' coat with a special prescribed shampoo can help with many skin issues. Good dental care is essential to prevent loss of teeth and to prevent heart disease.

Proper vaccinations and regular flea/tick and heartworm treatments are also important to insure your older pet stays happy and healthy for many years to come.

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...

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@tapsshelter.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.