

For Immediate Release: June 14, 2007
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Animal Control Volunteer Group Adopts Name

Next meeting June 26

Macoupin County-Puppy dog tails are wagging in approval as the new animal control volunteer group Macoupin T.A.I.L.S. (To Adopt is Life Saving) moves forward.

At the June 12 meeting, the group adopted bylaws, chose its name and discussed several fundraising ideas to help support the group's education, adoption and building plans. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Macoupin County Board Room, second floor of the Macoupin County Jail in Carlinville.

One of the group's objectives is to raise funds for a new shelter, to be located on the southwest corner of the Macoupin County Fairgrounds. Included in the plans is kennel space, reception area, an office, adoption areas and outdoor runs.

Macoupin County Animal Control Administrator Buzie Bertagnolli updated the group on the benefit golf outing for the shelter on July 13 at the Timber Lakes Golf Course in Staunton. She continues to seek hole sponsors, teams, volunteers to work the tournament and prize donations. Tournament hole sponsorships start at \$100. The tournament is open to the public and participants do not have to live in Macoupin County.

Other fundraising ideas discussed included creating a calendar of police officers and pets, the Purina "Weight Circle" program and a "Walk for Paws" event.

The Purina program can be used to lower the cost of shelter food through the collection of "weight circle" coupons from Purina pet food bags. Anyone wanting to donate the coupons to Macoupin Animal Control can contact Bertagnolli.

The "Walk for Paws" event would consist of owners and their pets walking a course to raise funds for the new shelter. The group discussed that participants could either pay a registration fee or solicit pledges for walking, and that this could be a good event for the fall.

Bertagnolli also told the group that the shelter will have a booth at the Macoupin County Fair and volunteers are needed to staff the booth 6-8 p.m. nightly during the fair.

Anyone interested in joining the volunteer group or participating in the upcoming golf tournament should contact Bertagnolli at 217-854-2833.

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