### United States Securities and Exchange Commission

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 8-A

For registration of certain classes of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) or 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

# TARGACEPT, INC.

(Exact name of the Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State of incorporation or organization) 56-2020050 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

200 East First Street, Suite 300 Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101 (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this Form relates (if applicable): File No. 333-131050

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act: None

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Common Stock, \$0.001 par value (Title of class) Item 1. Description of The Registrant's Securities to be Registered

The description of the Common Stock of the Registrant set forth under the caption "Description of Capital Stock" in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-131050) as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 17, 2006, as amended (the "Registration Statement"), and in the prospectus included in the Registration Statement, is hereby incorporated by reference in response to this item.

Item 2. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed herewith or are incorporated by reference as indicated below.

| Exhibit<br>Number | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| 3.1(a)*           | Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.   |
| 3.1(a)(1)*        | Certificate of Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company filed February 3, 2005.                               |
| 3.1(a)(2)*        | Certificate of Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company filed April 3, 2006.                                  |
| 3.1(b)*           | Form of Fourth Amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation, to be effective upon the completion of the offering made under the Registration Statement. |
| 3.2(a)*           | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, as amended.   |
| 3.2(b)*           | Form of Bylaws of the Registrant, to be effective upon the completion of the offering made under the Registration Statement.                             |
| 4.1*              | Specimen common stock certificate.   |
| 4.2(a)*           | Third Amended and Restated Investor Rights Agreement, dated May 12, 2004, by and among the Registrant and certain stockholders of the Registrant.        |
| 4.2(b)*           | Amendment No. 1, dated December 6, 2004, to Third Amended and Restated Investor Rights Agreement, dated May 12, 2004.                                    |
| 4.2(c)*           | Amendment No. 2, dated March 16, 2006, to Third Amended and Restated Investor Rights Agreement, dated May 12, 2004.                                      |

\* Incorporated by reference to the identically numbered exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed January 17, 2006, as amended (File No. 333-131050).

### SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

#### TARGACEPT, INC.

By: /s/ J. Donald deBethizy

J. Donald deBethizy President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: April 6, 2006

Exhibit Index

| Number Description             |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
|                                | ended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.   |
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