



Lincoln Animal Ambassadors News to You

Break the Link, d/b/a Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Volume 2, Issue 1
January 2010


Proactive Involved Progressive Compassionate

www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org

(402) 817-1168

**LINCOLN ANIMAL
AMBASSADORS
MISSION STATEMENT**

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors promotes enriching our community through progressive thinking, education, awareness and public support. We are committed to improving the lives of animals and alleviating cruelty in Lincoln and the surrounding area.

 **CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**


2/13/10 Cause for Paws Fundraiser
Holiday Inn Downtown
BE WATCHING FOR MORE DETAILS!

2/27/10 I Love My Dog Expo
9:00 a.m. to Lancaster Event Center
4:00 p.m. 84th and Holdrege

5/22/10 Wine and Howl Event
BE WATCHING FOR MORE DETAILS!

**FIND US ON TWITTER
AND FACEBOOK!**

LAA gets Ink!



11-7-09
Lincoln Journal Star Neighborhood Extra
"Pet Food Bank created to assist owners of pets"
Article introducing the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Food Bank

11-10-09
Lincoln Journal Star
"Pet Food Bank lends a helping hand"
Article promoting the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Food Bank

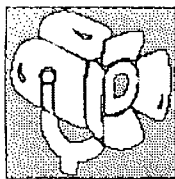
11-16-09
News Net Nebraska - Internet Newspaper
"Local shelters organize to help feed pets"
Article promoting the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Food Bank and other local animal organizations and their collaborative efforts for animals in the Lincoln community

November/December, 2009
Pet Enthusiasts Magazine
Calendar of Events
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors November 5th Meeting Notice
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Fundraiser for Spay/Neuter Program Notice

**DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED!
PET FOOD BANK DONATIONS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Monetary donations can be sent to: P.O. Box
67072, Lincoln, NE 68506. A receipt for your
generous contribution is available as well.





SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: Cause for Paws

It's a story tailor-made for an episode of Oprah.

In 2008, Sue Sturgis woke up one morning and knew she had to do something. She wanted to make a difference in the world and pay it forward. So she developed a plan around her love for animals. The plan was to give big, and that's exactly what she's done.

Last summer, on the morning after Hearts United for Animals (HUA) rescued approximately 100 dogs from a handful of commercial breeders in Nebraska, Sturgis was able to write a check for \$2,000, which was hand-delivered to the no-kill shelter located near Auburn, Neb., to help pay for their medical expenses.

And Cause for Paws made writing that check possible.

That's the name of the store Sturgis opened last December in hopes of being able to give back to animals, like dogs, which have given her so much joy in life.

Cause for Paws accepts donations of new or gently used handbags, shoes, designer clothing and household items from the public and turns them into money which she gives to various animal charities, like HUA, The Cat House, Capital Humane Society and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA). In just more than one year's time, she has already given more than \$24,000, including \$2,500 toward LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program. "I'm so glad that I had that 'a-ha' moment," Sturgis said. "We can change the lives of these animals, who need our help so desperately." So whether folks are volunteering their time in the store, donating items or shopping, they can feel good about what they are doing and where the money is going.

"People can feel the compassion, and they know why I'm doing this," Sturgis said. "(The store) gives everyone involved the opportunity to make a difference right here in Lincoln." To be clear, this is not a typical thrift store, full of garage sale leftovers. After being greeted by Sturgis' dogs, Muggy and Emba, shoppers will notice the soothing music and they may even notice the absence of stale odors that sometime accompany a second-hand shopping spree. Sturgis has some vintage jewelry, but most of the merchandise is newer and upscale.

Located at 57th & Old Cheney, Cause for Paws celebrated its first anniversary in December and has already expanded from its previous 2,400 square feet space to about 3,500 sq. ft. Donations are pouring in, so Sturgis hopes more merchandise on the sales floor will lead to giving those animal charities even bigger checks in the future.

Sturgis, who has a small staff of volunteers, says she needs to find more people like herself who are willing to donate their time, whether it be sifting through the donations, which come in by the box load, laundering the clothes, pricing the items, keeping the store organized or giving customers individual attention. Sales experience is helpful but not required. The giving of a person's time and energy really is its own reward, Sturgis said. "After a good day, I feel like a million bucks!"

With the shop's expansion, Sturgis is excited to offer more fitting rooms and has plans to create a juniors' section, which will be loaded with cute clothes for girls. So people who have already visited this 'boutique for cheap' will want to stop in again and see all the new merchandise, which is constantly changing.

Perhaps even more exciting to Sturgis than the early success her store has experienced is the idea others might follow her lead. Sturgis has been speaking with a woman from Atlanta who visited Cause for Paws and was so impressed that she is considering opening a shop of her own. "We're here for the animals," Sturgis said. "It's really all about them."

Store hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.





THANK YOU to the following businesses and individuals who have helped the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Pet Food Bank Program in some way through donated time, talent, money, manpower, and space.

Kelle Brandt
Pam Lander
Bk pet necessities
Cause for Paws

St. Matthews Episcopal Church
First Plymouth Congregational Church
Infinity Storage
Stephens and Smith Construction
Sue Sturgis

Karl Skinner
Larry Pankoke
Renee and Erik Runge
Mark Beck
Randy and Mary Douglas
Pauline Balta
Molly Hoffmann
Tammie Lang
Linda Gavin



Lincoln Animal Ambassador Board Member – Author of Sadie Dog

Kids love to read Sadie Dog!

Sadie Dog is a children's picture book with a lesson, presented in an entertaining way. While enjoying the antics of Sadie, a sweet little cocker spaniel with special needs, children will learn about proper pet care and the commitment involved in being a pet guardian.

Sadie Dog encourages persistence in finding solutions to help pets lead long and happy lives. Pets with special needs can be "forever pets" too.

Searching for a hidden heart in every beautiful illustration adds to this fun story. The heart depicts Sadie's and Pam's "heart connection".

Intended for children, the book's message is for adults as well:

Don't give up on your pets and don't give your pets up!

From the author – Pam Hoffman

I have always loved animals. Dogs, cats and horses have filled my childhood and adult life with joy and unconditional love. They are the best of teachers. One day, I realized my passion was something I had done all of my life...I love to help animals.

I wrote *Sadie Dog* in hopes that her story will encourage children to "never give up on their pets", even if there is a little something wrong with them. Keep searching for ways to help your pet. Pets are living creatures not something to just throw away. My dream is that every child reads *Sadie Dog* to learn the value of a pet. My hope is to help animals by reducing the number of unwanted pets in our world. This is my way of giving something back to the animal world that has so enriched my life.

Pam Hoffman, a Lincoln, Nebraska native, is available to give *Sadie Dog* presentations in her area. She especially enjoys talking with children about pets with special needs.

Proceeds from the sale of each *Sadie Dog* book are donated to the **Sadie Dog Fund**, which offers funding to pet guardians that need financial assistance.



To purchase *Sadie Dog*, schedule a presentation or donate to the **Sadie Dog Fund** please contact us at: www.sadiedogbook.com, email: moondancer@neb.rr.com or call 402-420-0121.

Open House Raises Funds, Holiday Spirits



Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with the Holiday Open House/Fundraiser on Dec. 12. More than 60 people attended, and many others, who were unable to attend, have made contributions. Five organizations benefited from the event, including: Cause for Paws, Dogs Deserve Better, Hearts United for Animals, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House.

Many attendees chose to designate their free-will offering to one of these groups, but others chose to have their donation split among them all. More than \$3,750 changed hands that night! LAA received \$1,468, which included a \$1,000 check from Cause for Paws to be used for the low-cost spay/neuter program.

But more than funds were raised. Spirits were high and the holidays seemed to inspire an amazing amount of cheer and collaboration among the organizations. It was great to spend an evening celebrating with animal lovers, and we look forward to doing this gain in the future.

And we also want to send a note of thanks to LAA members Pauline Balta and Mary Douglas for their help in making this event so successful.

Best wishes to you all in 2010!
~Karl Skinner & Larry Pankoke

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE! Price: \$10 to \$12, depending on size. Make checks payable to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, and sent to P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506.

If you would like a burnt orange t-shirt with the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors logo, please contact us at (402) 817-1168 with the following information:

Name: _____ Shirt size (we will do our best to accommodate your request) _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



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Pet Food Bank Update

~Submitted by Mary Douglas, Community Outreach Chair

The Pet Food Bank is going strong fielding over 100 calls since the middle of November, 2009. For that reason, we have now obtained a voicemail telephone number. Since the Pet Food Bank's inception we have distributed over 5000 lbs of pet food locally.



The wonderful article that ran in the Lincoln Journal Star on November 10th created a huge outpouring of donations from the public. We are indebted to Sue Sturgis at Cause for Paws for accepting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors ("LAA") donations at her store. Another huge thank you to Cause for Paws and St. Matthews Episcopal Church for allowing us to use their facilities for Pet Food pickups. Thanks to our great LAA volunteers who man those pick up sites for us each week, thanks to those who help deliver pet food to those who cannot pick it up, and to those who help pick up the voicemail calls and coordinate the logistics of the delivery and pick up needs.

Applications can be downloaded off our website at www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org or call the LAA voicemail line at (402) 817-1168. Monetary donations can be mailed to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506. Donated items can be left at Cause for Paws, 5700 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, NE Monday from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.



To help continue to make the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Pet Food Bank successful, we are in need of volunteers to help with the delivery of food, or to man the pick up locations for those needing food. If this is something you can help with, please call the voice mail line (402) 817-1168. We appreciate your support!

Pet Food Bank Wish List

Store front location (at least 20' x 20') to store pet food AND provide a pickup sight all at one site
Canned cat and dog food
Cat litter - small 10 lb bags are best
Dry cat and dog food
Flea collars for medium to large dogs
Flea collars for cats
Unopened dog and cat shampoo
Dog and cat brushes
Frontline for cats and dogs



Donated items can be left at Cause for Paws, 5700 Old Cheney Road, Lincoln, NE. Please call (402) 817-1168 if you have additional questions.





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Pet Food Bank Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you employed? Yes No Temporary lay off

If Employed, where: _____

What type of pet or pets do you have? _____

Please list pet or pets name, breed, weight and age below:

Do you have a veterinarian that your pet or pets normally see? Yes No

If so, who is your veterinarian? _____

Is your pet or pets spayed or neutered? Yes No

Is your pet or pets current on its vaccinations? Yes No

Is your pet licensed with Lincoln Animal Control? Yes No

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

When application is completed please call (402) 817-1168 and reference the Pet Food Bank.