

# Pet Talk

WINTER 2026



LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

## Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding area. LAA assists pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, an income-based temporary assistance pet food bank and teaching people about being responsible pet guardians at community events.

## Donate

### Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

### Pet Food Bank

### General Funds

**Mail to:** PO Box 67072,  
Lincoln, NE 68506

### Or donate through our website

[LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)

### Donation drop off locations:

Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2  
(barrel at exit door)

Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy  
(barrel at Customer Service)

Super Saver 27th & Pine Lake  
(barrel at exit door)

St. Matthews Episcopal Church  
2325 S. 24th St. (leave near office)

Arnie's Pet Food 56th & Hwy 2

Pet Central Station  
5591 S. 48th St.

Long Dog Fat Cat  
8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110

*Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization.  
All donations are tax-deductible.*

## Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Project Giving Tree celebrates a season of compassion

This holiday season, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Project Giving Tree proved the power of community compassion, generosity, and shared commitment to helping pets and the people who love them.

Project Giving Tree was created to meet a simple but critical need: ensuring families facing financial hardship can continue to care for their animals during the most challenging time of year. Through the program, community members were invited to "adopt" an ornament from the Giving Tree, each representing a specific need such as pet food, litter, beds, collars, leashes, and other essential items.

This year's success was made possible through meaningful community partnerships, including collaborations with Urban Hound and Off Leash Dog Bar, which proudly hosted Giving Trees and helped amplify the program's reach. Their support made it easier for patrons and pet lovers throughout the community to participate and give back in a tangible way.

Additional support came from Southridge Veterinary Center and First Plymouth Church, who generously hosted pet food drives for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Their efforts helped collect much-needed food and supplies, ensuring even more families and pets received support during the holiday season.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors and community partners, Project Giving Tree met—and exceeded—its goals. Dozens of pets received essential food and basic necessities, relieving

families of difficult choices and keeping beloved animals safe, healthy, and at home where they belong. For many recipients, the support arrived at exactly the right moment, providing both practical relief and emotional reassurance during the holiday season.

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*Continued on page 5*

# Calendar of events

## Furry Fiesta: Nacho Average Trivia Party

**March 7**

Food: 5:00-6:30 pm  
Trivia: 6:30-8:00 pm  
Off Leash Dog Bar  
1975 M Street

## I Love My Dog Expo

**March 21 & 22**

Sandhills Event Center

## Give to Lincoln Day

**May 28**

[givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com)

## Wine & Howl

**June 14**

11 am-5 pm  
Deer Springs Winery  
Live Music by "No Motive"  
Food trucks & vendors



## Rescue Spotlight: Wag N Train Terrier Rescue

For many of us who adore animals, there's nothing more inspiring than seeing a dog go from frightened and uncertain, to confident, loved, and thriving. At Wag N Train Terrier Rescue, that transformation isn't an exception—it's the very heart of their mission. This all-volunteer, foster-based nonprofit dedicates itself to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming terriers and other small breeds—especially those who have come from commercial breeding operations or who face complex medical challenges.

Located in Omaha, Nebraska, Wag N Train operates entirely through the compassion of its volunteers and support from generous donors. They are a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, and every dog in their care lives temporarily with a foster family until a forever home is found. But for some dogs—seniors, chronically ill pups, or those with deep-seated behavioral fears—“forever home” may look different. These dogs become cherished sanctuary residents, lovingly cared for by Wag N Train and their dedicated fosters.

Perhaps the most profound work this rescue does is with dogs who have been freed from “puppy mills” or commercial breeding facilities where animals are kept in crowded, barren conditions with little human interaction, inadequate veterinary care, and few opportunities for physical or emotional stimulation. Dogs from these environments often arrive with more than just physical wounds: they can be fearful of people, unfamiliar sights, or everyday routines.

Their rehabilitation can take weeks, months, or even years of gentle socialization, trust-building, and patience. Veterinary and behavioral rehabilitation for mill survivors is laborious and resource intensive. In many cases, dogs have never worn a collar, walked on a leash, or felt the comfort of a soft bed. The Wag N Train team works with veterinary professionals and foster homes to help these dogs learn,

sometimes from scratch, how to be dogs. While the process is slow and sometimes unpredictable, progress, even in tiny increments, is a victory worth celebrating.

Another cornerstone of Wag N Train's work is caring for dogs with complicated medical issues. One recent rescue, Kirk Douglas, a senior dog who endured years of neglect before coming to rescue. Diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, Kirk didn't have long to live, but he spent his final months embraced by comfort, love, and dignity far



removed from his lonely past. Stories like these remind us that every dog deserves compassion, regardless of age or health condition. Wag N Train relies entirely on donations, fosters, and volunteers to continue this life-saving work.

From covering veterinary bills to providing food, medication, and daily care, every contribution directly supports dogs in need. For animal lovers and potential adopters, fostering offers a powerful way to make a tangible difference in a dog's recovery journey. In a world where too many dogs are overlooked, Wag N Train Terrier Rescue shines a hopeful light; proving that even the most vulnerable dogs can find joy, belonging, and a second chance at life.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Jessica Gonzalez

## Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I first learned about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) last year while exploring volunteer opportunities on the VolunteerLNK website. When the organization appeared in my search results, I went to the LAA website, and the mission statement really stood out to me.

## Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and moved to Lincoln in 2020 to pursue my bachelor's degree in veterinary science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After graduating in 2024, I began working at South Ridge Animal Clinic, where I have continued gaining hands-on experience in the field. I share my home with my cat, Billy. He occasionally tags along with me to work. I plan to continue on this path and apply to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. I have always been passionate about animal welfare, and I hope to keep supporting the wellbeing of animals in any way I can, including through LAA!

## What areas do you primarily volunteer for us at this time?

Currently, I am on the events team, working alongside others to work on the fundraising events for the organization.

**What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?** I find it incredibly rewarding to help coordinate the details of each event and then volunteer alongside others to make it a success. I really enjoy meeting the people who support LAA and getting the chance to work with them. It is inspiring to see how many individuals support us!

## Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

Besides my work with LAA, I also volunteer with Linked 2 Literacy and The Cat House. Linked 2 Literacy is a nonprofit dedicated to providing inclusive books and literacy education through local programs, events, and outreach efforts. I have been working with them since last year. My work includes working booths at various events in the community and communicating with families of all the resources that are available to them.

I have also been volunteering at The Cat House for three years, a no-kill shelter with a strong commitment to feline welfare. Along with supporting

their TrapNeuterReturn program and adoption efforts. At this time, I help care for cats across multiple suites by maintaining meticulous sanitation routines and providing nutrition-tailored feeding plans based on each cat's age or specific needs. I have recently taken on responsibilities in the quarantine unit when needed, where I follow strict isolation procedures for new arrivals and cats with upper respiratory infections. I have also worked on fundraising events for them on occasion.



## What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

Volunteering with LAA is incredibly rewarding. Always being willing to jump in wherever help is needed. The team is welcoming, the mission is meaningful, and there are so many ways to make a real impact. I would encourage anyone interested to explore different roles, ask questions, and find the area that feels like the best fit.

**If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be?** I have a couple of ideas that we could think of adding to the wish list. One would be petsafe cleaning wipes, which are perfect for pets who cannot get regular baths and still need a little freshening up. Another idea is microchips or microchip vouchers for pet owners. It is a simple way to help keep pets safe and with their families.

”

Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticism.

George Eliot

Except maybe this guy?

# Thank YOU to our donors!

Audrey Schneider  
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Susan Griffin  
Tom Bassett



## Mark Your Calendar: **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Furry Fiesta: Nacho Average Trivia Party**

**March 7**

**Food: 5:00-6:30 pm**

**Trivia: 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Off Leash Dog Bar**

**1975 M Street**

March 7, 2026, is set for the 2nd Annual "Furry Fiesta - Nacho Average Trivia Party" LAA fundraiser at the Off Leash Dog Bar, 1975 M Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Last year's event was a fun dog-friendly event that allowed guests and dog rescues to bring their dogs and enjoy other people's dogs at the same time. We are set to have just as much fun this year!

A nacho and taco bar is planned followed by guests playing numerous games of trivia. Prize baskets will be awarded to the top trivia teams. LAA has also invited several



vendors and dog rescue groups to set up booths for you to view their wares and check out dogs up for adoption.

Vendors and rescue groups will also have raffle baskets for everyone to try to win. A doggie-referenced drink special will be offered again this year with a portion of the drink proceeds being donated to LAA by Off Leash Dog Bar.

We hope to do this event every year and hope you can all join us again this year!

Advance tickets are available online for \$20 at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org or tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25. Or call our voicemail line for more information at 402.817.1168 or request advance tickets via mail by mailing a check with "Furry Fiesta" in the memo line at P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506.

# Thank you

— to our annual sponsors! —

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**URBAN  
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**ROCKET  
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**BH**  
Black Hills Energy

# Thank You: Fluff & Tuff brought the holiday cheer

LAA would like to acknowledge and thank Fluff & Tuff Dog Toys for their amazing holiday donation of 320 plush squeaky dog toys to be distributed at our pet food bank. Their Holiday Charity Toy this year produced enough for them to send us a nice monetary donation also to help with necessary pet food.

LAA was suggested by one of their customers for this wonderful donation and Fluff & Tuff chose LAA, along with nine other pet food banks across the country for their charitable donation in 2025. We know that so many pups will get so much enjoyment from these fabulous durable dog toys. THANK YOU, FLUFF & TUFF!

When Fluff & Tuff started, they had a few guiding principles in mind: durable yet attractive toys, exceptional customer service, and philanthropy wherever possible. Fifteen years later, they are still dedicated to making safe, beautiful toys.



They bring fun to dogs in need across the country through their Fluff & Tuff charitable initiatives, including #IGiveaFluff and their annual Holiday Charity Toy. Fluff & Tuff is a family-owned and operated business based in Michigan, where they do tough really well. For more information about Fluff & Tuff Dog Toys go to [www.fluffandtuff.com](http://www.fluffandtuff.com)

## Continued: Project Giving Tree celebrates a season of compassion

Beyond the tangible donations, Project Giving Tree also strengthened connections across the community. Local businesses and organizations opened their doors to host Giving Trees and food drives, and supporters rallied around a shared belief: that no family should have to choose

between basic necessities and caring for their pets. Project Giving Tree is a powerful reminder that small acts of kindness add up to life-changing impact. Every ornament taken from the tree represented hope—for an animal, a family, and a stronger community.

As the program wraps up a successful year, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated—especially Urban Hound, Off Leash Dog Bar, Southridge Veterinary Center, and First Plymouth Church—for helping make the season brighter for pets and families in need. We are also deeply grateful to the generous donors who contribute to our public donation barrels year-round; your ongoing support makes this work possible well beyond the holiday season. The response was nothing short of extraordinary.

With continued support, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors looks forward to growing Project Giving Tree in the years ahead, reaching even more families, helping more animals, and ensuring the season of giving truly lasts all year long.



# WE NEED YOU!

## Volunteer Opportunities

LAA is an all-volunteer organization. We are always looking for committed, skilled people to help our programs thrive. LAA is not a hands-on animal group. We help pets and their people, but we do not rescue or re-home animals. If you are interested, please complete our volunteer application at [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org).

### Grant Writing

The truth is that LAA is donation-driven, and we sustain our programs with donations, fundraising events, and private grants. Big grants or small grants...they all add up to one more pet altered or one more can of pet food purchased. A mindset incorporating LAA values is important as is a desire to help your community.

### Newsletter Delivery

Two to four times a year, join our newsletter delivery team. Deliver LAA newsletters and sometimes event flyers to 15-20 pre-determined local veterinarian offices or pet related businesses.

### Newsletter & Media Preparation

Two to four times a year help to fold, address and prepare LAA newsletters for mailing.



Like our  
newsletter?  
**Become a  
sponsor!**

Contact us at  
[info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](mailto:info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)



## **Mark Your Calendar: 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Animal Ambassador's Wine & Howl**

**June 14, 2026  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Deer Springs Winery**

Join Lincoln Animal Ambassadors in celebrating their 18th annual Wine & Howl event this year. Wine & Howl is LAA's largest yearly fundraiser that supports their income-based pet food bank and spay/neuter program. And its dog friendly—must be on a leash!

Live music by No-Motive, an award-winning cover band playing your favorite country and rock tunes across five decades! No-Motive starts at noon! So come out for a blast from the past! Relive those golden years!

Food trucks will be there, Deer Springs will have their wine tent set up and easily accessible, and raffles, as usual. Plenty

of fresh air, shade, vendors, dogs up for adoption, fabulous music, and did we mention it is DOG FRIENDLY?

A suggested \$10 per person donation (dogs get in free!). Provided seating is limited, so bring a blanket or lawn chair, your dog (dogs are not required to attend) and LAA will supply the fabulous day of fun!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors addresses the root causes of animal homelessness in the Lancaster area by helping pets and their people through income-based spay/neuter program and pet food bank. LAA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization funded entirely by donations and fundraisers.

For information on being a vendor online applications or advanced ticket sales available at [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)

**5,375  
SPAYS/NEUTERS**

- 2,697 total dogs
- 2,664 total cats
- 14 total bunnies and a rat

**Spay Neuter Assistance Program**

# Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and Stransky Veterinary Center collaborate for Spay/Neuter Days

With the fact in mind that frequently Capital Humane Society's cat and/or dog shelter is full to over full and all the other local rescue organizations and shelters are also full, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors collaborated with Stransky Veterinary Center to sponsor spay/neuter days for 11 dogs and 24 cats.

On October 29, 2025, Stransky Veterinary Center spayed and neutered eleven dogs of various breeds and sizes. The cost of the spay or neuter, vaccinations and microchips was covered by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Dog breeds included several pitbulls, a Terrier, a Maltese, a Yorkie, a Golden Retriever mix, an Akita, and a Newfoundland with weights ranging from

75 pounds to 4 pounds.

Cats had their turn on November 5, 2025, when Stransky Veterinary Center spayed and neutered 24 cats. As with the dogs, the cost of the cats' spays and neuters, vaccinations and microchips were paid for by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Nine of the cats were females and fifteen were males, and ten of the cats being adults with fourteen being kittens.

The total cost to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors to spay and neuter, vaccinate and microchip the 35 animals was about

\$5,000. Considering the number of puppies and kittens prevented by these surgeries, \$5,000 is a small amount.

Want to help prevent more kittens and puppies from arriving in an all-ready dog and cat saturated community? Your donation to our spay neuter assistance program will make a big difference.

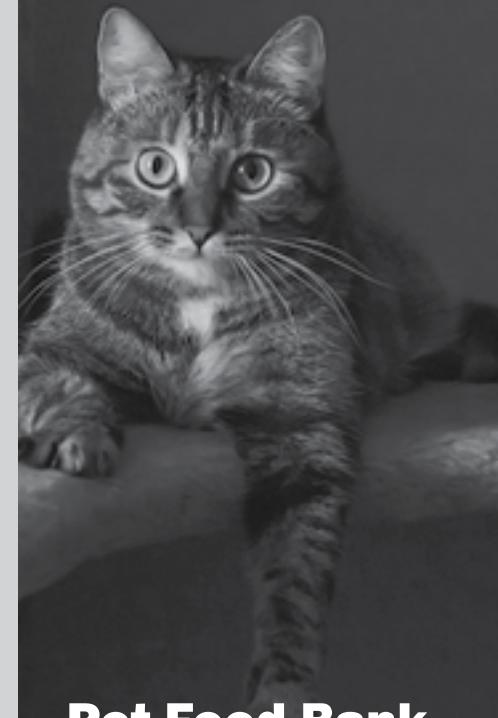


# 5,109 FAMILIES ASSISTED

561,601 total pounds of dry food distributed

129,716 total cans of food distributed

## Pet Food Bank



## Pet Food Bank is running LOW...

**Current Needs:**  
**Dry Dog Food**  
**Clumping Litter**  
**Flea & Tick Meds**

The LAA Pet Food Bank has a distribution once a week for qualified families to help feed their pets. We appreciate our communities' support! You can help by donating these items at any of the donation sites.

### Donation drop off locations:

Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2 (barrel at exit door)

Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy (barrel at Customer Service)

Super Saver 27th & Pine Lake (barrel at exit door)

St. Matthews Episcopal Church 2325 S. 24th St. (leave near office)

Arnie's Pet Food 56th & Hwy 2

Pet Central Station 5591 S. 48th St.

Long Dog Fat Cat 8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110



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## We need your **support!**

Did you know that you can name Lincoln Animal Ambassadors on your United Way donation? Your donation helps provide services to pets and their people in and around the Lincoln area. We couldn't do it without the support of people like you!

**Donate through our website, [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org) using PayPal or mail this form to LAA. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at various locations throughout Lincoln (see list elsewhere in newsletter).**

**Mail to:** PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506

**Make checks payable to:** Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (City, State, Zip)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your contribution amount:**

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$250  \$500  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program**

**Pet Food Bank**

**General Funds**

**Thank you!**

