

SPRING 2017

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of Animal Homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding communities.

Donate

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program Pet Food Bank General Funds

Mail to: PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506 As a 501(c)(3), all donations to LAA are tax deductible.

Or donate through our website LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org







Deer Springs Winery



10% off at SitStay.com

SitStay is proud to support LAA's mission to prevent animal homelessness. Mention Lincoln Animal Ambassadors when you shop at SitStay for a 10% discount.

PIVE To Lincoln Day May 18, 2017

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is looking forward to the annual city-wide event; Give to Lincoln Day. This day-long interactive fundraiser is a quick and easy way to support amazing local causes like LAA's pet food bank and low-cost spay/neuter program. Your donation has a direct impact on the number of homeless animals in our area and beyond!

From 12am to 11:59pm on Thursday, May 18th, make your tax deductible donation to LAA online at givetolincoln.com or in-person during regular business hours at the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South. All funds raised for LAA on Give to Lincoln Day are eligible for a proportional share of a \$350,000 match pool from the Lincoln Community Foundation.

With all the press around Give to Lincoln day, we know that it will be hard to miss the event; but if you are worried - just follow LAA on Facebook! We'll keep you in the know on Give to Lincoln Day and all our upcoming fundraisers.

This May 18th, we hope you will join us in addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in our area. Whether it's to provide food and supplies for companion animals in need, or to combat overpopulation through spaying and neutering, even the smallest donation makes a difference in the life of animals.

LAA Shoe Drive

LAA has undertaken a shoe drive to collect used and new shoes between April 1 and June 1, 2017. We are working on this through Funds2orgs, who takes the shoes that we collect and delivers them to microenterprises in developing countries like Haiti, Honduras, Bolivia and several others.

How does this help animals you ask? LAA gets paid for the shoes that we collect. Our goal is to collect 2,500 pair of shoes. If we do, LAA will get a check for \$1000 from Funds2orgs. If we collect more than 2,500, we get an even larger donation! That will pay for a lot of spay and neuter procedures, or buy a lot of cat or dog food!

We are looking for shoes that you are no longer using or you won't ever wear again. Kid's shoes, women's shoes, men's shoes, boots, slippers, sandals and flip flops. Our only limitation is that they cannot have holes in the toes and the soles must still be attached.

Another benefit... it keeps millions of shoes out of landfills!

How can you get your shoes to LAA? You can drop them in our pet food bank drop sites, or if you have several pairs, contact us and we will arrange to pick them up. Our phone number is 402.817.1168 or e-mail us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org

One more thing... Ask your friends and relatives if they have shoes to donate. It will take us all working together to collect 2500 pair of shoes, but we believe we can do it together!

Drop off sites:

Super Savers - N. 27th and 56th & Hwy 2 Barrels near the exit doors

Both Petco Stores - 48th & 0 Streets and 56th & Hwy 2
Bins in entryway of store

St. Matthews Episcopal Church 2325 S. 24th Street, Lincoln, NE

by the numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

2641 total spay/neuters

509 total for 2016 242 dogs 258 cats 9 rabbits

Food Bank Numbers

Dry food

12,032 lbs. Jan. - April 15, 2017 Approx. 3,000 lbs. per month 342,963 lbs. since inception

Canned food

6,065 cans Jan. - April 15, 2017 1,516 cans per month 86,177 cans since inception

2,185 lbs. Jan. - April 15, 2017 546 lbs. per month 53,474 lbs. since inception

Number of families helped so far in 2017: 228

Don't just take your dog for a walk... take your walk for a dog!

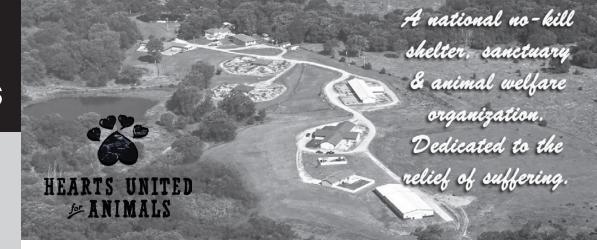
You walk your dog anyway, now you can support Lincoln Animal Ambassadors every time you walk your dog! Go to WoofTrax.com,



Take your walk for a dog"

download the app on your phone, and get walking! This is a completely FREE way to make a

donation, just by doing something you already do.



Featured Rescue: Hearts United for Animals

On March 4, 2017, Boo was adopted. Staff and volunteers rejoiced at Boo's good fortune. She is an 11-year- old puppy mill dog who had been at the HUA shelter for three years. There are numerous

elderly puppy mill dogs like Boo that call the HUA shelter home because HUA leaves no dog behind in a puppy mill. Old, ill, terrified—they all come here. Special diets and medicine check-off sheets are the order of the day for caregivers, and dozens of volunteers arrive faithfully to give loving attention.

Every day begins early at the HUA shelter, a 65-acre campus located between Nebraska City and Auburn. Caregivers arrive to tend the needs of 350 to 400 dogs and cats who all want human attention and reassurance of how important they are. Six animal resident buildings, a spay/neuter clinic, and two on-site foster homes provide the setting for giving comfort, safety, and freedom for all sizes and ages of animals.

HUA began twenty-eight years ago with the mission of saving homeless animals. The county of the shelter's location and many surrounding counties have no accommodations for animals. For an abandoned dog, a litter of puppies or kittens set out to die, there can be no turning away. The numbers are monumental.

HUA is a no-kill rescue and adoption charity devoted to giving the best possible outcome for each individual animal. Ninety percent of income is spent on veterinary care, caregiver payroll, animal food and supplies, utilities, and property

maintenance. Administrators are dedicated volunteers.

In 1996 two HUA volunteers attended a puppy mill auction in Kansas and purchased the freedom of seventeen breeder dogs. That was the horrible eyewitness introduction to the mass producing commercial dog breeding business. Since that time thousands of puppy mill dogs have come to the HUA shelter. Many of these precious little animals are so damaged that they never recover. Reaching the puppy-buying public and government agencies with information is a non-stop mission.

Over the years other programs of mercy have developed—giving refuge to pets of families leaving their homes to escape domestic violence, providing assistance to families unable to pay veterinary costs for their suffering pets, maintaining a food bank for needy pets. A major program that began in October, 2003, is the HUA Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. Our mentor and benefactor was the late Dorothy E. Bush of Lincoln. Fourteen years later, clinic patients total 15,973 preventing untold numbers of suffering puppies and kittens. The clinic is operated according to the high professional standards of our animal welfare veterinarian, Dr. James Gigstad of Nebraska City.

In the year 1989, HUA began with a handful of devoted volunteers. Thousands of people across the continent have joined our mission of mercy. The growth of HUA speaks volumes about the dedication of people who care about the suffering of animals.

Volunteer Spotlight: Paula Einemann

Over time, I have owned five dogs: a golden retriever, a black lab, two Bichons , and a small poodle mix. Currently we have Jasmine (Bichon) and Simon (small poodle mix). Pictured in the photo with me is Truman, who joined all the angel dogs on September 30, 2016.



I am retired, and enjoy not having to stick with a rigid schedule, especially in the morning hours and after dinner. My new mantras are "Don't Rush Me" and "I'm on Break!" I am one of these people who doesn't like serving on a committee or any planning/organizing. I just like to show up! This leaves me plenty of time to read, which I never had time for when employed, and to walk my dogs, see girlfriends, family and of course movies on Tuesdays.

In addition to giving a few hours to LAA, when I help distribute the newsletters and represent LAA once monthly at the north Petco, I have also helped out somewhat with Sadie Dog Fund, the public school backpack program, Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue, and the American Red Cross blood Drives. I like donating to Cause for Paws, St. Louise Gift & Thrift, and to the People's City Mission Homeless Prevention Center. I do a little bit of volunteering for a few charities that I have learned about just by talking to friends and even strangers, or seeing something mentioned on social media.

I am proud of the annual Animal Blessing Service at my church.

My very favorite events to work at are the Spayghetti and No Balls fundraising dinner and sitting at the LAA information table at the Project Homeless Coalition event. I did not have a dog when I was growing up, and so now I feel especially lucky to have a great family, friends, and dogs in my life. It comforts me to know that our two daughters were raised with a companion animal in the house, which began when our youngest was in the 5th grade.

LAA is always looking for volunteers who can help to return voice message left on their phone lines , and I recommend this charity for people like me, who want to help out in the community, and you never even have to leave your favorite chair! Every little bit helps.

LAA needs volunteers like you!

LAA needs volunteers like you! If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or calling 402.817.1168.



Calendar of **EVENTS**

Give to Lincoln Day May 18

givetolincoln.com

LAA Shoe Drive Now thru June 1

Wine & Howl June 3

Deer Springs Winery

Meow & Chow October 8

Scottish Rite Temple

Pet Food Bank drop-off sites

- Petco 56th & Hwy 2 (bin near registers)
- Petco 48th & O Street (bin in front entry)
- Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2 (barrel at exit door)
- Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy (barrel at Customer Service)
- St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street (leave near office)

note from a recipient

"Your Pet Food Bank has been tremendously helpful. Don't know how I could have gotten by without it. Someday, I hope to repay as best I can. Thank you all so very much!

A very BIG thank you to our recent donors!

Carol Siefkes

Catherine Corbet

Charles & Lela Sayward

Christine Neukirch

Connie Beckman

Diane Huseman

Dux Sinda

Eric Drumheller

Geanine Bordogna

Heather Beed

Larry Rivers

Lisa Erickson

Mary Douglas

Norma Nichelson

Patricia Anderson

Peggy Barner

Trina Cherovsky

Trishia Peterson

Capital Humane Society

Cause for Paws

Cornhusker Kennel Club of

Lincoln

Food Bank of Lincoln

Healthy Paws Foundation

Nature's Logic

Nichelson Family Foundation

Petco

Petco - South

SitStay

South Ridge Animal Clinic

Target

Wachal Pet Health Center

Walmart

West "O" True Value

Memorial Donation

In Memory of Zoey Moore
In honor of Sammie Cole
In Memory of Bell and Queenie
Alberg



WINE TASTING • GIFT RAFFLE • FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • VENDOR EXHIBITS



Deer Springs Winery

162nd & East Adams Street deerspringswinery.com

Join us for Wine & Howl

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is gearing up for Wine & Howl; which will once again happen at Deer Springs Winery. Now in its ninth year, Wine & Howl brings together all the best parts of summer for a fantastic afternoon event! Bring your dog, a blanket or lawn chair and join us on June 3rd for an afternoon of food, wine and music. If you are looking for a new companion, many of the area's rescue organizations will be bringing pets looking for their forever homes.

You won't want to miss the raffle prizes, featuring pet, wine, and decor gift baskets from all around the area. With just a suggested donation of \$8 to attend; there are just too many reasons you have got to be there! The wine will start pouring at 11 a.m. and the bands will play until 5 p.m. Check us out on Facebook to learn more about the event and let everyone know you will be there!



Look us up at our custom URL: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037



Rescue Starts With Just One Animal

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

At the age of twenty, Megan Yank rescued one cat. Now eleven years later, she has rescued or rehomed more than 200 cats. That's a lot of lives saved! I recently sat down with her to find out how she got her start, what challenges and successes she's had, and how others can follow her lead.

I wouldn't say I really had a reason for "starting" in rescue. It seems that the cats in need have always found their way to me. My friends joke that I can go just about anywhere and find a homeless cat and my heart breaks for them every time.

When Megan started in animal rescue, she was a college student working a few jobs. One of those jobs was a restaurant and it's where, while taking out the trash, she spotted a little cream-colored kitten standing by the dumpster. "When I saw this little guy, I knew I had to help him. I ran back in the restaurant to find him something to eat, but almost everything was closed and put away for the night so the only thing I could find was some milk. I offered him some and ended up taking him home with me." Because Megan couldn't keep cats where she lived at the time, she found a home for him. She's stayed in contact with his new owner and occasionally pet-sits him.

Megan's love of animals inspired her as a child to dream of becoming a veterinarian. Ironically, that same love for animals also led her to eventually give up that dream, because she couldn't face the daunting task of having to euthanize them. Instead, she decided to pursue a marketing degree. As part of her studies, she had to complete a thesis, and Megan chose the topic of affordable cat health care. This led to volunteer at The Cat House, Lincoln's only no-kill shelter, to pursue what she intended as only a two-to-three-month project. Megan still helps at The Cat House, along with her husband.

Volunteering has become a normal part of my life just the same as when it started as a requirement for school.

As a cat-rescuer, Megan appreciates the support of The Cat House. "While they can't take every cat, they do help a lot." Many of the cats that have come in to Megan's life have ended up going to The Cat House. In addition, Megan has learned the policies and procedures of The Cat House, and follows them when she and her husband personally rehome cat.

Megan also feels grateful for the support of her husband, Matt, who shares a huge part of the rescue responsibilities. She shared that, "The Cat House will call upon him for some very interesting 'rescue adventures,' and told of one time when a mother cat had her litter hidden in a pillar of an old house. No one knew how to get them out. Megan and Matt reached a few, but couldn't get to the rest. Matt came up with the creative idea of using tongs to scruff the rest of the kittens and pull them out to safety. "Another odd rescue Matt did on his own was when the Cat House called him and told him one of the cats got loose in the studio of a local TV station when interviewing some volunteers. They had been there for hours trying to catch that cat but Matt wrangled the cat up within 30 minutes."

Like Megan and her husband, I feel a special tug at my heart for homeless animals, and so this is where I particularly wanted to pick Megan's brain. If I were to continue in the world of cat rescue, what might lay ahead for me?

My fosters are considered my pets until they have a new home and we don't cut any corners when it comes to my cats or my foster cats.

Cat rescue is not for the faint-of-heart. There's a lot of responsibility involved. When Megan and her husband take in a cat, they accept that it's now their duty to feed, pay for veterinarian care, and find a home for the cat.

One of the major challenges, Megan acknowledges, is rehoming. "Because I'm not a registered rescue organization, I must utilize my own resources for finding a home. Sometimes we have had foster cats for up to a year or more. Obviously, veterinarian costs are a challenge too. We've spent thousands and thousands of dollars on vet bills for foster cats."

How does Megan find homes for all the cats who come her way? Through networking. She's used her contacts through Facebook, friends, family, and work. "I've some great friends in my life that are likeminded when it comes to animals." As for bills, Megan draws on her marketing skills to do fundraisers for some of the cost.

One last challenge is letting them go. It's wonderful when a once homeless cat finds a forever home, but I'll be the first to say it isn't easy to watch them leave. Just because they're a foster, doesn't mean we don't fall in love.

Megan has grown since her earliest days of rescue. She's learned a lot about cat behavior and health, and she's passed that knowledge onto other cat owners.

Continued on page 7

Thank you!



Spring Tour de Brew Ride Supports Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

Tour de Brew LNK is a fun leisure bike ride and charity pub crawl wrapped into one awesome time - and on April 20th, this amazing organization supported LAA's programs, raising over \$1,500! We owe Moran's Liquor Works Cycle Works and all of the Tour De Brew LNK Sponsors a huge Thank You for organizing a fantastic event and supporting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Tour de Brew LNK has raised \$24,000 for some amazing local causes!

For more information about Tour de Brew LNK or its sponsors: or to participate in their monthly summer events - check out Tour de Brew LNK on Facebook. They select a different organization to support each month and ask participants to make a \$5 donation in order to participate. It's a super fun way to make a donation to a great local organization. Participants also receive a raffle ticket at each stop on the tour - so the donation comes with a chance of winning some really cool stuff!

For more information visit www.tourdebrewlnk.com



Thank you to our Spay-Ghetti donors & sponsors!

Belmont Veterinary Center
Butterfly Bakery
Capital Humane Society
Conroy's Family Bakery
Cupcakes & More
Darryl & Sarah Rivers
David Clark Framing
Deer Springs Winery
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The Dish
Domesti-PUPS
DQ Grill & Chill
Ehlers Animal Care
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Fazoli's

Hearts United for Animals High Society Cheesecake Hy-vee James's Arthur Vineyards

Kitchen Sink Cookies

Nature's Logic

Nature's Variety

Pan Dulce

Paws Up Nebraska

Revolution Rescue

Second Chance Pups

SitStay.com

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Sweet Spot Bakery & Catering

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DISTIO

Wachal Pet Health Center

Sadie Aahlberg

Tom Bassett, Auctioneer

Kyndall Bedell

Katie Brown

Julie Cole

Mary Douglas

Blake Gilmore

Ramzi Hynek

Melissa Ripley

Linda Schrage

Roxanne Stone



Lincoln Animal Ambassadors raises \$8,000 at 4th Annual Spay-ghetti and No Balls

130 people attended Lincoln Animal Ambassador's annual Spay-ghetti and No Balls fundraiser on the evening of Saturday, March 25, at the Unitarian Church, raising nearly 8,000 for our spay/neuter program.

For \$25, attendees received a dinner that included salad, spaghetti and sauce, and breadsticks. Meatballs were an optional additional cost. Hostesses sent tables one at a time to the buffet line. The all-volunteer wait staff kept everyone's water and tea glasses filled; wine was available for purchase. Energy ran high, with much conversation and laughter throughout the room.

President Mary Douglas took the stage following the meal to thank guests for their support. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has provided almost 2,700 spay/neuter procedures since its start in 2008, and distributes 3,000 pounds of pet food each month to clients through its pet food bank.

The event's featured organization was Second Chance Pups, which pairs inmates at the Nebraska State Penitentiary with unwanted dogs in need of training. The group was represented at the event by its president and lead trainer, assistant trainers, and graduates of the program.

Melissa Ripley, the organization's adoption coordinator, gave an overview of the program. Selected inmates work together with a professional trainer, prison staff, and volunteers for a nine-week rotation to provide dogs with basic obedience training, socialization, behavior modification, grooming, and daily one-on-one attention. Over 220 inmates have participated, and about 350 dogs have found homes since the program began in 2004.

The event culminated with the very popular dessert auction. About 22 cakes, pies, and/or cookies were up for auction. Auctioneer, Tom Bassett, ran the auction. Bidding was tense, with winning bids ranging from \$35 to \$280. At the end of the evening, two lucky ticket holders each won a basket of pets' supplies donated by Nature's Variety

An enormous shout out to all who supported Lincoln Animal Ambassadors by coming to Spay-ghetti and No Balls. Special thanks also goes to the 22 businesses who donated food and desserts, more than 24 organizations that sponsored tables, and approximately 30 volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly. You help save lives every single day!





Do I Want To Volunteer? Why?

Have you been looking for a way to make a difference in your community? Help others? Get involved with a cause that you care about? Or maybe just be productive? We can think of dozens of reasons why you should volunteer. Once you figure out WHY you want to volunteer, we'd love for you to check out the volunteer opportunities the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has to offer.

Many of LAA's volunteer opportunities allow you to volunteer from your own home, using your own phone and computer. Returning voicemail calls, conducting spay/neuter interviews over the phone, record keeping and application review. We have opportunities to help outside your home as well, such as distribute pet food at the pet food bank, pick up pet food donations, distribute newsletters and posters, or volunteer at fundraising events.

More importantly, volunteering for LAA allows you to be a very important part of how our organization works. We are all volunteers, from all walks of life, with many different skill sets. You can use your skills in a productive way...or even learn some new skills! Some of us are in the work force, but



looking for something meaningful to commit our time to. A cause we can get behind, that we believe in. Or some of us want to explore new areas of interest, expand our horizons or have conversations with new people.

LAA volunteer, Donna says "Taking my phone shift is a very real way to be part of my community, to help those in need. It is satisfying to know we are helping Lincoln's at-risk pets and their people. Pets are a very important part of so many people's lives, mine included, and I can't imagine having to give them up if I became unable to afford to feed them. Being an LAA volunteer helps me feel like I have a vested interest in LAA's success. I know that what I do is necessary and without us – volunteers – pets and their people would not get the help they need."

Volunteering can take anywhere from 30 minutes to a couple hours each week, depending on the position. We do ask volunteers to commit to an extended period of time when they come on board. Training is provided as well as assistance and continuous support.

"I volunteer for pets who cannot care for themselves. They rely on their owners and sometimes their owners have to rely on us. It makes me feel good to know that as a volunteer, the call I took, will result in a pet getting altered or will not be hungry. There is no greater love than the unconditional love from a pet. To help them makes me smile inside. I know that is corny, but so true" says LAA volunteer, Skeeter.

We are all in this together! Consider volunteering for LAA if for no other reason than to feel better about yourself!

To inquire about volunteer opportunities go to: www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org/what_you_can_do/volunteer.html or e-mail us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

Rescue Starts With Just One Animal, continued from page 5

She's also become an advocate of spay/neuter. "There are many people who spend endless hours trying to find homeless animals homes just to turn around and see another 10 that need homes. There are many organizations such as Lincoln Animal Ambassadors that can assist with costs of spay/neuter or offer a pet food bank." Megan believes that if more people were educated on animal welfare, it might make a difference..

One of my favorite podcasts, Community

Cats, emphasizes that animal rescue starts with a series of tiny steps. In its introductory segment, hostess Stacey LeBaron says that she rescued one cat when she was a child, then adopted several cats with her husband, eventually volunteered as a secretary for a local rescue, which led to her work with the highly successful Merrimack River Feline Rescue. It's easy to feel intimidated by all that animal rescuers achieve, but Megan is one local example that shows rescue can truly start with just one cat.

Healthy Paws Foundation donates \$2,500 to Pet Food Bank

healthypaws® PET INSURANCE & FOUNDATION

In March, LAA was contacted by the Healthy Paws Pet Foundation to discuss how we impact our community. Following this discussion, Healthy Paws made an unexpected donation! We were thrilled to be selected as one of their recipients and are excited that the Pet Food Bank will continue to be a vital part of our mission to reduce animal homelessness!

Healthy Paws Pet Insurance & Foundation makes it affordable to give your pet the best medical care possible. Healthy Paws is a top-rated pet insurance plan covering everything that matters including accidents, illnesses, cancer, emergency care, genetic conditions, and alternative care. For more information about Healthy Paws, or to sign up your pet, visit www. healthypawspetinsurance.com.







402.817.1168 PO Box 67072 Lincoln, NE 68506















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 using PayPal or mail this form to LAA. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street; Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2 and 27th & Cornhusker; or both Petco Lincoln locations.

27 th & commusitor, or both retto Emoni locations.
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
Make checks payable to: Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Mail to: PO Box 67072 Lincoln, NE 68506
Thank you!