

Pet Talk

SPRING 2020

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

Or donate through our website

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Pet Food Bank drop off locations:

Petco 56th & Hwy 2 *(bin in front entry)*

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)*

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

LAA needs your help to keep their programs running healthy and strong

Participating veterinarians are critical to LAA's spay/neuter program and we need help recruiting more of them. We do not currently have enough clinics to keep up with the number of requests that we receive for vouchers. There are many ways that a clinic can participate in the program, even in a small capacity. If every veterinarian in Lancaster County commits to 1 or 2 procedures a month for LAA, our programs would thrive, and many people and pets in the community would benefit.

At your next veterinary appointment, please take a moment to ask your veterinarian about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Let them know that participating in our spay/neuter program is a great way to make an impact in the community and let them know we would be thrilled to meet with them to answer any questions and make sure the program works with their needs as well. This program has made a big difference and we would love for your vet to be a part of this legacy!

"The spay/neuter program offered by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors continues to have a major impact on reducing pet overpopulation, decreasing aggression in some dogs, but most importantly has allowed thousands of pet owners who can't afford these procedures to have them done. It saves pet owners with the cost of a city dog or cat license. Animal Control has heard many positive comments about LAA's spay/neuter assistance program from many of the Lincoln Veterinarians we interact with daily." said Steve Beal, Director of Lincoln Animal Control.

Nebraskan's take care of each other—and we need your help to keep LAA's programs running healthy and strong. We would love to hear from community veterinarian clinics, and others, who are willing to help. Contact info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or call 402.817.1168.

give
To Lincoln Day
THURSDAY MAY 28TH

Mark your calendars: Fundraising events postponed due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Wine & Howl 2020 has been moved to July 18th, from 2-8:00 p.m. We hope the later time will allow for dogs and people alike to stay cooler in the Nebraska summer heat. We hope you will join us!

In addition, our Spay-ghetti and No Balls Dinner has been rescheduled to October. All tickets purchased and sponsorships will be honored from the original March date.

By the numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

3,283 total animals

1,675 dogs

1,597 cats

11 bunnies

Food Bank

Dry food

10,589 lbs.

Approximately 3,530 lbs. a month

Since inception: 472,928 lbs.

Canned food

28,554 cans

Approximately 9,518 cans a month

Since inception: 130,160 cans

Litter

2,420 lbs.

Approximately 807 lbs. a month

Since inception: 78,908 lbs.

Number of families helped in 2020 (many numerous times throughout the year): 162

Vaccination Clinic

88 pets helped at Cotner Vet Care clinic so far in 2020

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**, 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: Joining Forces Saving Lives

By Mitsi Money-Beecher

In 2010, after some life changing moments, I made a decision to no longer sit on the sideline and do something for animals in Lincoln and surrounding communities. Previously I was saying the same thing as everyone else, "If I won the lottery I will save all of the animals and help Lincoln become a no kill community." I decided that day was finally the day to actually start saving pets and I didn't need to win the lottery to do it. I began contacting animal groups and met several people with the same dream and soon we founded Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue. We were doing great work for dogs, but I soon realized that the group that really needed my help was cats. I left Nebraska No Kill and started Joining Forces...Saving Lives. I decided that to really make an impact I needed to quit my paying job at UNL, start volunteering full time and dedicate my energy to saving animals.

Joining Forces...Saving Lives (JFSL) was created in 2012 with the goal of bringing animal organizations and the general public together to find new ways to save more pets in Lincoln and surrounding communities. We hoped to accomplish this through education, collaboration, and initiating focused programs.

That first year we brought in national speaker Mike Arms to talk to Lincoln about how we go about saving our dogs and cats and how to move Lincoln to a No Kill status of 90% live release rate. JFSL then partnered with the University of Nebraska on a companion animals sheltering symposium in 2015. We also attended several No More Homeless Pets conferences put on by the Best Friends Animal Society. This all helped get us

motivated and up to speed on what needed to be done.

Our TNR (trap neuter return) program began with a grant from Maddies Fund in 2017 to start a community cat program to help manage the homeless cat population. Through the efforts of JFSL volunteers working in the field and educating community members, the grant paid for the first 183 cats to be TNR'ed. Two and a half years later as of April 2020, we have TNR'ed 917 cats in 87 different colonies in Lincoln and surrounding areas. Our focus was (and still is) on those low income or high cat population areas most in need. TNR is the only proven way to decrease outdoor cat populations. The idea is to spay and neuter all the cats in an area and release them back to that area to reduce the amount of unwanted litters and new cats moving in, which in turn reduces the colony size over time and also reduces the number taken to the shelter. It also reduces nuisance behaviors like roaming and fighting. The cats are trapped in live traps, spayed/neutered, given vaccinations, microchipped, given dewormer and flea medicine, ear-tipped and then released to their outdoor home.

In these efforts we have worked jointly with other animal and city organizations and often get referrals from the Capital Humane Society (CHS) and Lincoln Animal Control. JFSL often partners with The Cat House to address areas that need TNR services. CHS has partnered with us and performs the TNR veterinary services at reduced rates.

Continued on page 6

Volunteer Spotlight: Erica Echternach

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I was given a list of non-profit organizations to call when I needed some help for my 6 year old German Shepherd, Zoey.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am a single mother of 3 boys, 1 girl and 2 dogs. I run a business in my spare time, help a friend with roofing jobs and volunteer at LAA. My life is busy but it keeps me young. I was born and raised in Olathe, KS spent 13 years in Phoenix, AZ and now the last 9 years here in Lincoln.



What areas do you primarily volunteer for LAA at this time?

I am currently working a couple days a week returning calls from current clients and answering questions for new clients. Soon I'll be training for the spay/neuter program, which I'm thrilled about.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I love helping people and when you hear the voices of those who you were able to assist, well that makes it all worth it. Knowing some of these people are able to keep their family members through hard times is awesome.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I sometimes volunteer at my son's school but mostly just LAA.

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

I recommend you prepare yourself to work with and assist a wonderful group of people. On the sad side of it be prepared to get some people you can't always help. Luckily there are other places you can refer them to but it hits your heart sometimes when you can't help.

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be?

Unlimited food donations and more veterinarians helping with our spay and neuter program.

I feel honored to be a part of this wonderful organization and I encourage anyone out there to volunteer with any of the wonderful programs for pets!

Calendar of events

Give to Lincoln Day

May 28, 12:00 am - 11:59 pm

You can donate online during the entire month of May at givetolincoln.com

Wine & Howl

July 18, 2:00 - 8:00 pm

Deer Springs Winery
Fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner

October TBD

Unitarian Church, 6300 A St.
Fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer and prevent homeless animals

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA has no paid employees and relies on volunteers to accomplish its mission. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.



Thank you to our recent donors!

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Julie Felzien
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Katie Brown
Katrina Christiansen
Kelly Lundgren
Kent & Shelley Mattson
Kevin Oetken
Kimberly Anderson
Kindra Foster

Give To Lincoln Day: May 28

Remember LAA on Give to Lincoln Day, which will be held on May 28th. Although our current world situation is ever-changing, as an online day of giving, the event will not be impacted.

Now more than ever, we need our community to come together on May 28th to support our organization and improve lives. Every donation you make between May 1st to May 28th helps us even more because they will also receive a proportional share of the \$500,000 challenge match fund. Give to Lincoln Day is your chance to make a real impact

on Lincoln's quality of life. We encourage everyone to join us for a record-setting event on May 28th.

More information about this event can be found at givetolincoln.com.

give
To Lincoln Day
THURSDAY MAY 28TH

Walmart.com Registry for Good

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is proud to be an approved 501c3 organization with Walmart.com Registry for Good. This allows you to make purchases to donate to LAA's pet food bank on line and have it shipped directly to us. We appreciate all of our supporters and we know that we couldn't do what we do without the Lincoln community.

To donate through Registry for Good, go to: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/welcome>

Scroll down and search for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and shop from our registry.

Walmart seeks to create value in the

communities around the world where they operate, strengthening them through local grants supporting programs that help them thrive. They work to strengthen these communities through both retail business and community giving. They support and invest in communities through local giving, encouraging volunteerism, and through programs to strengthen community cohesion.

Walmart 

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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.



LAA Pet Food Bank continues through the pandemic

In early March, when the COVID-19 pandemic was first starting to effect Nebraska, we put out a plea for dry dog food donations at the pet food bank. We received an outpouring of donations from the Lincoln and Lancaster County community. Companies and individuals alike! We truly believe animals make us better people and Lincoln's animal supporters compassion showed through in this case! We share the world with our pets and they have been our lifeline during these strange and scary times while so many of us are self-quarantining. Thank you for helping out those families that lost their jobs, suffered reduced hours, or just had more expenses than normal. We love you for your generosity and are so glad you

were there to help us get through this high demand period at the pet food bank.

During this time, we have continued to distribute pet food each week, with a no contact procedure. All needed information is gathered by our amazing phone volunteers and when distribution is made, a drive up distribution is made by allowing the recipient to open their trunk and get back in their car, and pet food is placed in their vehicle with no contact and social distancing being observed.

A huge thank you to our LAA volunteers who continued to man the pet food bank distributions each week during this high-risk time. We would not have been able to continue distributions without your brave and generous commitment to this program.

COVID-19 and our pets

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

In this time of uncertainty, there is reassuring news. According to both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA), there is no evidence that pets can spread COVID-19.

The CDC website states that coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, of which some cause illness in people and some cause illness in animals. However, the coronaviruses that infect animals rarely infect people. While the first infection of COVID-19 (and its predecessor SARS) has been linked to a live animal market, CDC added that public health officials do not actually know the exact source of COVID-19. Moreover, the disease is now spreading only from person to person.

The AVMA website explains that transmission of COVID-19 seems to most often occur "when there is contact with an infected person's bodily secretions, such as saliva or mucus droplets in a cough or sneeze." Transmission can also occur by touching a contaminated surface and then touching one's face, but AVMA states that this appears to be a secondary route. AVMA notes that when transmission occurs this way, it's most likely to be transmitted by smooth surfaces such as doorknobs rather than by porous materials such as pet fur.

The current position of both the CDC and the AVMA is that, unless a person is

diagnosed with COVID-19, pet owners can continue to interact with their pet as they normally would. This includes feeding them, grooming them, taking them for walks, and enjoying their company.

What if a person is diagnosed with COVID-19? The CDC advises pet owners facing that situation to restrict their contact with animals to minimize the possibility of their pet getting the virus "until more information is known about the virus."

Both the CDC and the AVMA recommend that owners minimize contact with their pet to avoid potential transmission. If there is a healthy member in the household, then this person should take over pet care. Pet owners should also contact their veterinarian, so that the clinic is prepared should the animal become sick. If social distancing isn't possible, then CDC and AVMA recommend that owners wear a facemask and to wash their hands before and after any contact.

All information provided about COVID-19 is based on the most current information at the time of this article being published. Information is regularly changing, and the public should check the aforementioned websites for updates.

*Real this entire article on our blog
lincolnpetculture.wordpress.com*

Thank you to our recent donors!

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In memory of

Trudy Balta, Dog
Samantha Krause, Dog
Toby Brown, Dog
Ceigi Bug, Dog
Dash Hoffman, Dog
Mia Stehlik, Dog

From the community



My family and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for not only helping with Penny's spay, but for also covering her pyometra procedure. We are beyond grateful and blessed. We are so happy that Penny is okay. Cotner Vet was awesome! They took excellent care of Penny. I am so grateful we got the surgery done & found this out when we did. I am extra thankful, grateful and blessed that you guys covered the expense for us. Penny is doing a good job recovering. Have a blessed day thank you.

Denise

Continued: Joining Forces Saving Lives

The summer of 2019 Lincoln Animal Control asked us to help with a situation in a trailer park in which nearly 20 cats (both friendly and feral) and 19 kittens had been abandoned in and under a trailer. The friendly mama cats and all 19 kittens were transferred to our care by Animal Control and CHS. Town and Country Lincoln helped us find wonderful homes for all of the kittens and friendly mama cats. The other cats were TNR'ed and other caretakers in the area were found before the trailer was demolished.

One farm area just outside of Lincoln used to surrender 50 to 70 kittens to CHS each summer. JFSL became involved and TNR'ed 100% of the cats and since then they have not brought any animals in for surrender. The same area would also annually surrender boxes of baby ducks. JFSL found a duck adopter and helped relocate 38 ducks to a new pond with wonderful caregivers and for the first time in years there have been no duck surrenders.

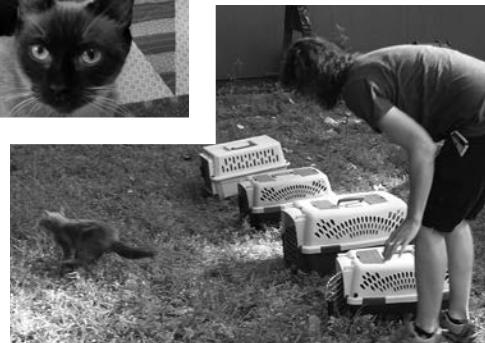
JFSL coordinated and organized the biggest single location TNR project in Nebraska history. We TNR'ed 100 cats in three busy days on a farm in Chappelle, NE in May 2018. We made arrangements for veterinarians and a mobile spay/neuter clinic to be on site and mobilized numerous volunteers to achieve this. We also brought back 15 rescued kittens to Lincoln and The Cat House took them in, finding great new homes for them all.

In 2018/2019, we received a Working/Barn Cat Grant from Maddie's Fund which provided for all the adoption fees for 108 cats that were not suitable as indoor pets to be placed in farm homes! The cats keep the adopter's property rodent free naturally in exchange for daily food, water and shelter. The working cat program provides a great alternative for these cats that otherwise would not have a chance.

We recently helped three different low income elderly ladies on farms get their farm cats TNR'ed. This included an energetic 91 year old woman who helped catch all 29 of the cats on her homestead. There is a huge need for this service and it really makes a difference to these people that want to do the right thing but don't have the knowledge or resources to

accomplish it on their own.

In the summer of 2019 we took in over 100 kittens while doing TNR. If found young enough, these kittens will make wonderful, loving pets. We work closely with local rescue organizations and no kill shelters to find homes for the kittens we find. We often help locate a foster home for the rescue and then the rescue finds the forever homes for the kittens. It truly is a joint



effort and we are very fortunate to have such great partnerships.

Joining Forces Saving Lives is an all-volunteer organization committed to do everything in our power to help save cats and dogs in our community. 100% of all donations go towards saving animals' lives, including maintaining our TNR and barn/working cat programs and providing vet care for any kittens found while doing TNR. We are always looking for volunteers that can help with: 1) TNR including trapping, transporting and releasing. 2) Continuing the Working/Barn Cat program. 3) Help find foster homes for kittens we find doing TNR so the rescues can find homes when they are big enough to be adopted. Contact info@joiningforcessavinglives.org or 402.937.9959.

LAA joins local organizations in helping Lincoln veterans and their pets

In 2017, a three-story apartment complex, Victory Park Veterans Residence, on the VA campus near 70th and O Streets opened for local low-income veterans. The 70-apartment complex is Lincoln's first available Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (VASH) named after the voucher program that helps subsidize the rent for veterans.

Many of the Victory Park residents have pets who are family for the veterans. For many of these veterans, veterinary services are often too expensive, and this is where three non-profit animal organizations—two local and one Southeastern Nebraska—and an Omaha veterinarian came into the picture.

Every three months Omaha veterinarian Dr. Ellis Jensen and his wife drive to Lincoln to provide routine wellness checks for the mostly dogs and cats who attend the clinic. At no cost to the veterans—vaccinations, nail trims, flea/tick prevention are provided to the veterans.

"My oldest son is still in the Army," said Jensen. "We've been with his platoons and his companies, and we've seen his people, and we just want to give back to the people who have given for us."

Hearts United for Animals from Auburn provides finances to provide the pets their checkups, vaccinations, nail trims, flea treatment, heartworm preventive, etc., free

of charge to the veterans. Caretakers from HUA set up tables of dog and cat food, pet toys, and treats for free access by the veterans.

If, during the exam, a medical issue is discovered, the veteran is referred to Sadie Dog Fund who will work with them to get any further necessary medical care required for the pet. Sadie Dog Fund is a nonprofit organization who works with qualified Southeastern Nebraska pet families to financially assist them when medical care is needed beyond routine vaccinations, spaying and neutering, etc.

Volunteers from Lincoln Animal Ambassadors are on hand to provide spay/neuter information to veterans if their pets are not altered. Veterans' pets who need altering, are done so with LAA covering the cost of the spay or neuter procedure. Information for LAA's pet food bank is given to veterans who are need of such a service.

This service allows the vets and their pets to stay healthy. As those of us with pets know, our pets provide much comfort, entertainment, love in our lives; and to think of having to surrender them to a shelter is heartbreaking. Our veterans have provided so much of their lives for our country, and this is one small way we can pay them back.

LAA receives grant from Lincoln Community Foundation

LAA would like to thank the Lincoln Community Foundation for awarding a \$4,800 grant in support of our pet food bank. Although all of our pet food and pet items are donated at the pet food bank, we still have to pay rent for the space we share with the Center for People in Need.

We are grateful to the Center for allowing us to cohabitate with them, and we are even more grateful to the Lincoln Community Foundation for this grant to assist with our rent for the next year. Thank you LCF!

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Until every pet has a home.

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.

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!

