

Pet Talk

FALL 2025

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

Pet Food Bank drop off locations
listed on page 3.

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

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

Contact us at
info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

The impact of volunteers on LAA

Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization, providing critical support that helps extend services, strengthen our pet communities, and reduce operational costs. Their contributions allow us to

Our volunteers infuse LAA with energy, passion, and dedication. Their commitment fosters trust and credibility, showing that our organization has community support behind its mission.

focus resources on our core mission rather than on overhead.

One of the greatest benefits our volunteers bring is their time and skills. From administrative work and event planning to direct service and fundraising, our volunteers often perform tasks that would otherwise

require paid staff. This not only saves money but also brings diverse expertise and fresh perspectives that enhance program delivery.

Our volunteers also help build stronger connections with the community. By serving, they act as ambassadors, spreading awareness and encouraging others to get involved. Their commitment fosters trust and credibility, showing that our organization has community support behind its mission.

Most importantly, our volunteers infuse LAA with energy, passion, and dedication. Their willingness to give freely of their time reinforces the spirit of service and collaboration that defines the non-profit sector. In short, volunteers do not just help Lincoln Animal Ambassadors run—they help us thrive.

LAA is in current need of grant writers. Find more information on page 3.

LAA out and about in the community



LAA has been out and about at various locations issuing spay neuter assistance vouchers to qualified individuals.

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, LAA was at Lincoln Homeless Coalition's Project Connect Lincoln. PCL is an all-day event held at the Pinnacle Bank Arena for Lancaster County residents who may be currently houseless or at risk. LAA issued 21 spay neuter voucher assistance vouchers at this event. Information about LAA's income-based pet food bank was also given out.

Every Thursday an LAA representative is at Capital Humane Society's Pawsitive Impact Project pet food pantry to issue vouchers to those who may need them.

About once per month, Pawsitive Impact Project has a pet food pop up at a community center or other location at which LAA is also represented and issuing spay neuter assistance vouchers.



Calendar of events

Tails & Treats

October 26, 2025

Capital Humane Society Event
Pieloch Pet Adoption Center

LAA & Stransky Spay/ Neuter Day

October 29 (dogs)

November 5 (cats)

Furry Fiesta

March 7, 2026

Off Leash Dog Bar

Wine & Howl

June 14, 2026

Deer Springs Winery

Thank you to our donors!

Audra Dostal
Barbara Michael
Carol Miller
Donna Connely
Gloria Best
John & Diane Huseman
Kim Gilliland
Norman West
Patricia Anderson



Rescue Spotlight: The Purrrpose

The Purrrpose—it's about the Cats is a "roaming," all-volunteer based non-profit focused on the well-being and sustainability of community cats by preventing overpopulation and cat abandonment. In 2024, the founder and Executive Director, Amy Bolton, felt that there were needs for marginalized cats that weren't effectively being addressed in and around the Lincoln community.

The dream is for a dedicated sanctuary for those cats that would otherwise have nowhere to go—specifically, unwell, unsocial, unfriendly cats with zero options in shelters or rescues because they are a community or stray cat. To get to this dream, however, it was clearly identified that there was work to be done before the reality of a sanctuary. The strategic plan was born.

The 2025 focus has been on providing low/no-cost microchips for cats to increase the likelihood that a cat will be reunited with its owner, instead of being surrendered or lost forever. To date, over 400 microchips have been provided for pets in and around the Lincoln area. In November 2025, the first Microchip Scanning Station will be unveiled to allow the community to check for microchips all day every day with the hope of faster reunification and return home.

Supporting spay and neuter, vaccinations and cat well-being also reduces the likelihood of an "oops" if the cat happens to be an indoor/outdoor, or outdoor companion. The Purrrpose put its paw out to help organizations like Lincoln Project Connect to provide free feline spay/neuter, microchips, vaccinations and transportation, food, collars and carriers.

The Purrrpose was a partner in June 2025 to the Beatrice Humane Society, along with several other agencies, to provide experienced and trained trap-neuter-return teams in the Wymore/Blue Springs



community. In that project, 185 cats were spayed and neutered, the largest spay/neuter clinic in Nebraska and Kansas history. Partner to create a blueprint for mass, targeted trapping events, we continue to chip away at the number of cats that need rescued in the future.

Looking into the future, The Purrrpose knows that *it is* about the cats. Our targets for the future are increasing the number of spays and neuters, microchipping and building a foundation for The Purrrfect Place Cat Sanctuary.

The Purrrpose—it's about the Cats, *is* about the cats. Even though the non-profit is a kitten in the herd of feline non-profits, the game plan is in place. The gaps will be filled, and hope will be available. Learn more at www.thepurrrpose.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Marlies Hager

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? I learned about LAA from the adorable Spayghetti posters I would see every year at our vet clinic and dog daycare.

Tell us a little bit about yourself. I am a Colorado girl who moved to Lincoln 6 years ago for work. My husband and I are both scientists—he is a chemistry professor at UNL, and I work in research and development at Zoetis. We have two mini-goldendoodles who we love dearly, and who keep us on our toes. I love to spend time outdoors with my dogs, travel (with the dogs when possible) and read!

What areas do you primarily volunteer for us at this time? I am volunteering with the events team. I help plan events and help out in any way I can the day an event. I am so excited about this year's Spayghetti!

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities? I absolutely love having a pet and have experienced so many benefits from my fur-babies. I think anyone who would be a good pet parent should have that opportunity, and I love what LAA does to help make pet ownership a reality for those with financial hardships.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln? I participate in volunteering events at work, but at this time, that is it. Before I moved to Lincoln, I volunteered with science education groups and for local food organizations.



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

Ambassadors? I would say just reach out! I was interested for a long time before I finally reached out to volunteer, and I was welcomed right away. This organization is kind and positive, and I enjoy working with everyone I have met so far.

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be? In a perfect world, we could also sponsor low-cost vaccination and dental health care for pets! These costs can add up but add so much to a pet's health span.

By the numbers

Spay Neuter Assistance Program

5,216 total spays/neuters
2,634 total dogs
2,568 total cats
14 total bunnies and a rat

Pet Food Bank

4,981 families assisted
556,591 total pounds of dry food distributed
128,072 total cans of food distributed

Pet Food Bank: Adult dry dog food, clumping litter, & flea/ tick meds needed

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

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 a volunteer application at 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.

Thank you to our Spayghetti & No Balls Dinner 2025 Sponsors!

Baker's Candies
 Busy Batter Bakery
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 Colby Ridge Popcorn & Ice Cream
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 Stransky Veterinary Center
 Super Saver
 The Warm Cookie
 T. Marni Vos
 Toast
 Tom Bassett
 Venue
 Village Inn



Event: 2025 Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner & Dessert Auction

Award winning humorist T. Marni Vos entertained the crowd at the Lincoln Animal Ambassador's Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, October 11th at the Unitarian Church. Attendees enjoyed salad, spaghetti, and bread sticks, with meatballs available at an extra cost. Wine and beer were also available for purchase.

After the laughter created by the witty and funny T. Marni Vos, LAA's popular dessert auction took place featuring 31 luscious, creatively decorated desserts made and donated by local bakers. Local auctioneer, Tom Bassett, kept the laughter going during the spirited dessert auction bringing in over \$3,000 in dessert sales alone.

Mary Douglas, LAA's President indicated, "This event goes a long way to support LAA's spay and neuter assistance program and income-based pet food bank each year and we are so appreciative of those who attend this event each year and for those new attendees that came out for the first time. As I have always said—we cannot do what we do without the support of our community, and they showed up for us tonight in a big way. Because all the food and desserts are donated for this event, LAA would like to thank all their donors and sponsors for this event. Without them this event would not have been a success."



Event: Another successful 'Stuff The Truck' at Super Saver

Super Saver at Pine Lake Road and South 27th hosted Lincoln Animal Ambassadors for a "Stuff the Truck" event on October 4 for their income-based pet food bank. From 10 am-4 pm LAA volunteers promoted their pet food bank needs as customers came into the store. And those customers came through in a big way, donating 860 pounds of dry pet food, over 3,000 ounces of canned pet food, almost 1,500 ounces of pet treats, over 180 pounds of cat litter, plus so many other pet related products including toys, cat trees/scratchers, kennels, pet food dishes, pet beds, litter boxes, and flea/tick medication. Super Saver donated 15% of all pet-related items sold in the Pine Lake



store that day totaling \$450 plus \$250 in cash donations. WE TRULY STUFFED THE TRUCK! It was a huge success, thanks to Super Saver Store Manager Matt Kempston, to our dedicated LAA volunteers, but most of all to our great animal loving supporters who purchased pet food and donated it at the event. THANK YOU TO ALL.



LAA receives Walmart 'Spark for Good' grant

A big thank you to the Walmart Store on South 27th Street for a recent \$500 Spark Good Local Grant in support of our spay/neuter assistance program for low-income families.

Spark Good Local Grants provide funding directly from Walmart and Sam's Club facilities to local non-profit organizations with the goal of helping people live better, together. LAA has helped families alter more than 5,000 pets since the beginning of the income-based spay and neuter program, preventing millions of unwanted puppies and kittens from being born and going to local shelters and rescues. "We couldn't do our work without generous grants and donations from the community," said Mary Douglas, LAA President.

Thank you to our annual sponsors!

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BH
Black Hills Energy

Walmart



Event: National Spoil Your Dog Day at Off Leash Dog Bar

LAA was honored to help Off Leash Dog Bar celebrate National Spoil Your Dog Day on August 10. The celebration included LAA providing "pup cups" for all the doggies visiting the bar that afternoon. Pup cups contained blueberries, bananas, and whipped cream. We thought you would enjoy some pictures of the pups enjoying their sweet treats!





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LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



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 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!

