

Pet Talk

SUMMER 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

LAA partners with the Center for People in Need

The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is thrilled to have partnered with the Center for People in Need! Our Pet Food Bank recently moved in with the Center and we would like to thank them for allowing us to lease warehouse space with them. Our pet food pick up dates and times remain the same, but the address has changed:

**3901 N 27th Street, Door #2
Lincoln, Nebraska**

The Center for People in Need was founded in 2002 by Beatty Brasch. Over the years it has grown to a 100,000 square foot facility, and is currently an important 501(c)(3) charity, serving tens of thousands of Lincolniters a year. LAA feels a bond with the Center as we work with the same mindset and we help many of the same Lincolniters with pet food. It just makes sense!

Housed in a former warehouse and retail store, the Center's facilities include expansive classroom space serving hundreds of students daily, a fully staffed and equipped warehouse that distributes millions of dollars' worth of consumer goods to those in need, as well as conference space, computer labs, and job training facilities.

We want to send a huge thank you out to the Center and all of LAA's dedicated volunteers who helped us with the move and organization of the new site. LAA's warehouse manager, Ron Stow, spent hours and hours prepping and organizing for the move. We could not have done it without him and all of the other volunteers who came out to help.

We still need the communities help with the pet food bank. We cannot do what we do



Blake Gilmore, Mary Douglas, Beatty Brasch, Pauline Balta

without the great support that we get from the community! You can drop off donations at the following locations:

- **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)

Or you can help financially by mailing your donation to PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506, or donate on line at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org.



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.



by the numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

2671 total spay/neuters

1350 dogs

1310 cats

9 rabbits

Food Bank Numbers

Dry food

January - June: 26,829 lbs.

Approx. 4,471 lbs. per month

Since inception: 357,760 lbs.

Canned food

January - June: 10,255 cans

Approx 1,709 cans per month

Since inception: 94,916 cans

Litter

January - June: 4,685 lbs.

Approx 781 lbs. per month

Since inception: 52,070

Number of families helped so far in 2017: 253



Featured Rescue: The Community Cats at LAA's Pet Food Bank

When we moved into the Pet Food Bank location on Knox Street in 2016, we were sad to see the neighborhood was also

home to at least one colony of feral cats with some very young kittens.

Mama was not tame, but was willing to accept some food.

Over the last few months, the kittens have grown up and have learned to trust people.

Ron, our resolute warehouse manager, has worked with a resident

of the surrounding complex to keep the local cats from starving.

Fast forward a few months and we finally felt like one of the kittens, who we called Callie, was now somewhat tame, would let us catch her and get her spayed. We finally caught her in late spring when we estimated she was approximately nine months old. Keep in mind that LAA is not a rescue organization and does not typically rescue any animals directly. We thought it was important to help in the neighborhood we called home. It also helped that we knew she had a home after she was spayed, as an LAA volunteer had agreed to take her in.

The first order of business with Callie was getting her in to see Dr. Otto for a check-up. She was in good health after some basic preventative care. Unfortunately, we were also too late as she was also already pregnant! This unfortunate turn of events meant delaying her spay procedure and having a few extra kittens to care for. Ron

and Donna stepped in to care for her while she was very pregnant and now her kittens are getting a good start on life! Callie must have sensed the excitement of Wine & Howl because she gave birth the day after to 3 adorable kittens. These 3 will be cared for until they are old enough to be spayed/neutered and then the search is on for homes for these cute little ones.

Callie's story will have a happy ending; but there are a few cats left in the neighborhood who can't be tamed. Because we are not a direct rescue organization and do not have the proper licenses, we are working with animal control and local rescue groups to insure the well-being of the cats we are leaving behind in the neighborhood. These colonies can be very successful when all of the cats have been spayed or neutered—Trapped, Neutered, and Returned—but can also be expensive! That is where we need your help! Make a donation to "Callie's Colony" to help us leave a lasting legacy in the community and save these cats from a terrible fate.



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.



Volunteer Opportunities: LAA needs you!

Ah, summertime. A time to rest, relax, refresh, and have fun! Yeah, right!! For most of us, summer is busier than ever. We've got ball games to shuttle kids to, vacations to plan, gardens and yards to tend, cookouts...camp outs...and all manner of activities vying for our time. But as you may know, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors doesn't ever go on vacation! We've been busy this summer too! Our pet food bank just relocated, we held Wine & Howl in June, and the need to feed hungry pets and spay/neuter other pets never takes a break. That's where you come in! We are looking for volunteers to fill several positions. Here are some of our current openings:

Phone Line Volunteer

We need phone line volunteers! These volunteers would be assigned a phone shift and return calls made to our hotline during that shift. This position allows the volunteer to work from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Experience with spreadsheets is a plus, but we will train. Time requirement: 1-3 hours per week, depending on shift. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Pet Food Bank Volunteer

We need help in our pet food bank on Thursday nights. This is when we distribute pet food and other supplies to clients. This position requires the ability to lift 50#. We need someone dependable who can volunteer on a consistent weekly basis, each Thursday evening from 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm. We assist clients with their orders and helping to load them into their cars. There is an opportunity for additional hours throughout the week depending on your availability, as we need someone to assist our warehouse manager with stocking and organizing the warehouse.

Spay/Neuter Interviewer

We need volunteers to call potential spay/neuter voucher recipients to collect their information and set them up with a voucher. This volunteer works from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Calls are completed at your own pace! Must be at least 18 years of age.

Pet Food Bank Application Reviewer

We need a volunteer to review applications for our pet food bank. Our program is income need-based and applicants must provide an application and supporting

documentation to ensure they meet program guidelines. This volunteer would work from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Some clerical/administrative as well as experience with spreadsheets is helpful, but we will provide training. This position requires a time commitment of approximately 2-4 hours per week. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Donation Pickup Volunteer

We need a volunteer with a pickup who can assist with semi-regular pickups of donated items. We pick up donations throughout Lincoln and deliver them to our pet food bank location. There are several pickups weekly and these can be coordinated with our current volunteer. A pickup is necessary due to the volume of donations.

Newsletter/Event Poster Distribution

We need volunteers to distribute our newsletters and event posters. We have North and South routes available in Lincoln. Volunteer would distribute to specific locations on a route. A vehicle is required. Distributions take place 4-6 times per year. Each distribution requires approximately 2-4 hours.

Distribution Spreadsheet Data Entry Volunteer

We need a volunteer to enter data into our spreadsheet with details of weekly pet food bank distribution information. This volunteer would work from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Some clerical/administrative experience is helpful, as is knowledge of spreadsheets; but we are willing to train you! This position requires a time commitment of approximately 2-4 hours per week. Must be at least 18 years of age.

We're all busy, but if you have an hour or two each week to help us help others, fill out a volunteer application on our website or give us a call at 402.817.1168. We'll help you find a meaningful way to be a part of our community by helping others—and that good feeling will last way longer than those summer tan lines!

Calendar of events

Dog Bowl: September 3

4-7 p.m., Pinewood Bowl
Friends of the Dog Parks fundraiser

Streets Alive: September 10

1-5 p.m., Belmont area

Dog Stock: September 17

Country Pines
Nebraska No-Kill Canine Rescue fundraiser

Fall for Pride: October 8

1-5 p.m., Antelope Park

Project Homeless Connect: October 11

Pinnacle Bank Arena

Tails & Ties: October 20

5:30 p.m., Cornhusker Marriot
Capital Humane Society fundraiser

Meow & Chow: October 28

5 p.m., Center for People in Need

Thank you to our recent donors!

Billie Jo Machmueller	CJ Foods
Burke Casari	Domesti-Pups
Carol Siefkes	Morans Liquor
Charles & Lela Sayward	Nature's Variety
Chris Neukirch	Omaha Industries
Gina Noel	Petco - 48th & O St
John Huseman	Petco - Pine Lake
Kent Mattson	SitStay
Mary Douglas	South Ridge Animal Clinic
Nancy Mocroft	Target
Patricia Anderson	Wachal Pet Health Center
Renee Benson	WalMart
Trishia Peterson	West "O" True Value
1867 Bar	
Capital Humane Society	

Special thanks for supporting Wine & Howl!

Deer Springs Winery
 Petco
 St. Matthews Episcopal Church
 Cool Poppas
 Back Alley
 Gene & Jerry
 All Hounds on Deck
 Animal Care Clinic
 Bailing Out Benji
 Big Dogs Huge Paws
 Canine Design
 Family Pet Project
 Friends of the Dog Park
 GRINN - Golden Retriever Rescue
 Harley's Dream
 Hearts United for Animals
 HyVee Catering
 Nature's Logic
 Nature's Variety
 Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue
 Neukirch Glasswerks
 Paws 4 Fun
 Pug Partners of Nebraska
 Revolution Rescue
 R.u.F.F. Rescue
 Second Chance Pups
 SitStay
 Linda and Dave Uhrich
 Sonia Colberg
 Jody Cox
 Chris Wheeler

from the community

"This has been great for my clients. It reassures them that their pets will be fed regularly and not to worry about them not eating. Thank You!"

"Thank you so much for help with food and spay assistance. The quality of life for us and our pets is tremendous. I'm forever grateful to all who have so kindly given their time to help everyone. Thank you! You are so kind."

LAA raises \$6,400 at Wine & Howl Event!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors owes a big thank you to the community for making the 9th annual Wine and Howl fundraiser a success. An estimated 400 people attended this relaxing annual event at Deer Springs Winery. Close to \$6,400 was raised to support LAAs' low-cost spay/neuter program and pet food bank.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., patrons enjoyed clear skies, live music, wine and a picnic lunch. Three bands took the stage to entertain the crowds: Jerry & Gene, Cool Pappas, and Back Alley. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit with several rescues, local animal welfare groups, and sellers of pet-related merchandise. Hy-Vee catered food for the event while Deer Springs served a wide selection of their locally made wine.

At the end of the event, raffle winners took home more than 70 themed gift baskets. Popular themes were dog care, cat care, cooking, baking, and kid fun.

With a name like Wine and Howl, attendees were encouraged to bring their dogs. The dogs enjoyed lots of treats, buckets of water, splash pools and all the tennis balls they could chase! Many of the dogs also enjoyed a "pup-cone"; which is a tiny ice-cream cone filled with peanut butter.

LAA is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization funded entirely by donations and fundraisers. It addresses the root causes of animal homelessness in the Lancaster County by helping pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, a low-cost vaccination clinic, and an income-based pet food bank. Learn more about the organization on their website LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org. Be sure to check out their blog for information about LAA's impact in the community and lots of pet-care tips and tricks!

Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's event on June 2, 2018!



Wine & Howl shirts for sale!

To purchase, contact LAA at info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org



Volunteer Spotlight: Blake Gilmore

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I first learned about LAA from a post on LinkedIn recruiting a new marketing committee. I went to a brainstorming meeting and was asked to join the board shortly after.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

We have 3 dogs at home: A Siberian Husky named Onyx, a Lab/Beagle named Hamilton and a Pomeranian/Docksen named Scrappy. I work for a software company and travel a lot for work and fun. When I'm not doing something for work or LAA, I am generally doing something related to Scuba Diving and like to get away to a tropical destination as often as possible!

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

In addition to serving on the Board, I lead the marketing and communications committee. That means I manage our webpage, blog and social media accounts. I also act as the IT person and answer all the generic contact information emails we receive. I also make desserts for our fundraisers. My most favorite job is calling Bingo at Meow & Chow!

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I think it is important to find a cause you are passionate about and do something to make life better for someone else. It keeps you grounded and reminds you to appreciate your blessings!



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

You couldn't find an easier volunteer opportunity! We are short several volunteer positions that don't even have to leave the couch. We really need those people who can return voicemails from our phone line - and in just a couple of hours a week you can make a big difference!

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

It is hard to add one thing to a wishlist. Like most organizations we are constantly in need of something to complete the task at hand! Something that would make a huge impact would be a little more top-of-mind awareness of our mission! Even if you can't volunteer, you can be an advocate for LAA by telling your friends about the crucial role LAA plays in ending the cycle of homeless pets in our country! Our preventative mindset sometimes gets lost behind the "feel-good" stories of the dogs and cats that find a home - but all too often there is another dog or cat that didn't - and we want to change that!

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.

Too hot for Spot!

What should you do if you see a dog left in a hot car?

According to Lincoln Animal Control, you should call their office right away. You can also call the Lincoln Police Department, although sometimes those calls are referred to Animal Control. Breaking windows yourself is not advised! If the Animal Control Officer believes the animal will not make it, they will do what they need to do. Normally the Animal Control officer will video/audio tape the event and have Lincoln Police or another Animal Control officer be present at the time.

On a hot summer day, the inside of a car heats very quickly. On a 85° day, for example, the temperature inside your car, with the windows slightly opened, will reach 102° in 10 minutes. In 30 minutes that temperature will rise to 120°.

Your dog's normal body temperature is 101.5° to 102.2°F. The closed care interferes with your dog's normal cooling process of evaporation through panting, so his/her body temperature rises. Your dog can withstand a body temperature of 107° to 108°F for only a very short time before suffering irreparable brain damage, heat stroke, or even death.

So remember, when you park the car, don't park the dog too! Play it cool and leave your dog safe at home—not in a hot car!

**Lincoln Animal Control
402.441.7900**





8th ANNUAL

MEOW AND CHOW

fundraiser for
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
& The Cat House

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28

**BINGO • PRIZES
RAFFLE • FOOD
& FUN!**

NEW LOCATION!

Center for People in Need
3901 N 27th St., Door #2
5pm DOORS, 6:30pm BINGO

\$25 donation at the door
All you can eat soup and bingo!
Bread, dessert, and beverages also
provided.

Mark your calendar for Meow & Chow 2017!

When the school supplies start showing up in stores, we know that summer is already winding down and it is time to start planning for Meow & Chow!

This year the event will be held on October 28th at the Center for People in Need's Event Room. This is a new location for the event, but one of our favorite benefits is much easier parking!

We look forward to another exciting year of food and prizes and hope to see you at the event!



Thank You Tender and True!

In May, Tender and True donated more than 3,000 pounds of dry cat food to our Pet Food Bank. We want to thank them for their support! Tender and True Pet Nutrition was launched in October 2014. Each recipe begins with only the best premium ingredients, featuring U.S. farm raised Organic and Antibiotic-Free Poultry as well

as Certified Sustainable Seafood. Tender and True was originally sold exclusively at Whole Foods Market throughout the country. Today, you can find Tender and True at many Pet Specialty Stores as well as online at Pet360 and Chewy.com.

Thank you to Ron Stow for volunteering to drive to Omaha to pick up this donation!

LAA's Pet Food Bank on the move!



New warehouse organization



Distribution volunteers - Heather Bauer and Kayla Groover

1%

of our entire revenue was donated over the course of 2016

19+

working dog and rescue organizations were helped



which equates to...



2016 DONATIONS Good for Your Dog Supplies

Give to Lincoln Day

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Give-to-Lincoln day donors for their generous support during Give to Lincoln Day in May, 2017.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer-driven organization, we rely on donations, private grants and fundraisers like this to continue with our important work in the community. All proceeds from this fundraiser, including our portion of the Lincoln Community Foundation match grant, will go directly toward our low-cost spay and neuter program and our income based pet food bank.

We are humbled and encouraged by the amount of community support for our mission and daily efforts to help "at risk" companion animals in this area.

Nature's Variety Work Day at the Pet Food Bank



Nature's Variety volunteers helped organize and clean-up the pet food bank during their recent Volunteer Day. In addition to sending volunteers to help with the housekeeping, Nature's Variety has also recently made a number of donations of dog and cat food to the pet food bank. We really appreciate all of their fantastic support!

Thank you to our Give to Lincoln Day Donors!

Beverly Anderson	Mary Morris
Pauline Balta	Christine Neukirch
Ingrid Bangers	Pam Nicholson
Dina Barta	Barbara Nieveen
Kyndall Bedell	Kathy Northrop
Heather Mae Beed	Mary Jo Parys
Lynn Beranek	Misty Petersen
Todd & Jade Blacksher	Trishia Peterson
Sally A. Carter	Julie Pittenger
Anne Cech	Shannon Poppe
Scott Chaffin	Kayla Rappi
Janet Chung	Brady Rivers
Sandy Coatney	Ruthann Rivers
M. Elizabeth Conley	Cathy & Chris Sayre
Catherine Corbet	Lela & Charles Sayward
Warren & Jody Cox	Jennifer Schmidt
Heather Crockett	Adrienne Shay
Becca DeWitt	Judy Shay
Leah Droge	Nancy M Shelley
Allison Frederick	Sharon Shelley
Blake Gilmore	Regina Shields
Thomas M. Haase	Karl Skinner
Gale Hadenfeldt	Elizabeth Stehlik
Katherine Haskins	Valerie Stehlik
Jeanie & Earl Imler	Kathleen Thuman
Tammie Lang	Linda & Dave Urich
Jennifer Lorenz	Jim & Marlene Wagner
Lydia & Jason Mann	Mary Yager
Denice Mitchell	
Melissa (Mitsi) Money-Beecher	



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In Memory of Frankie Beckman

In Memory of Ellie Winter

In Memory of Scout Refshauge

In Memory of Ernie & Stella Rivers

In Memory for Gimpy Holmes

In Memory of Missy Dykes





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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 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!