

# Pet Talk

WINTER 2018

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](http://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.

**Cause  
for  
Paws**  **Boutique  
for  
Cheap**

2445 S. 48th Street

This "boutique for cheap" turns your donations and purchases into cash for animal charities, including LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program.

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

## Spay-ghetti ~and~ NO BALLS DINNER

**MARCH 24 at 6 P.M.**  
**UNITARIAN CHURCH 6300 A St.**  
**\$25 per ticket**

Our annual spring fundraiser, Spay-ghetti and No Balls, will once again be held at the Unitarian Church at 6300 A Street. 2017 was a fantastic year for LAA and we look forward to another great year ahead!

Our efforts to prevent homeless animals are paid for solely by a few fundraisers and your donations, so please consider joining us at this event to help save lives!

A prevention strategy has an enormous impact on the lives of animals in shelters and rescues. The average cost of spaying one animal is less than 1/10 the cost of caring for a homeless pet until it can be placed in a loving home. And when shelters or rescues are full, animals meet a terrible fate.

Salad, spaghetti and breadsticks will be served for dinner starting at 6:30. A selection of wine will be available for purchase by the glass. After dinner, we will have some entertainment followed by a dessert auction featuring delicate sweet treats from several local businesses and bakeries for a super sweet dessert auction. Advance tickets can be purchased online: [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb).

## Challenge the spay/ neuter excuses in February

by Allison Hunter-Frederick

February is Spay/Neuter Awareness month and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors challenges every owner to have their pet altered. But can't the procedure endanger pets? And is it necessary for a single-pet owner? Or what if you want to breed? Isn't it expensive?

**Excuse #1: "I don't want to risk my pet's health."** Your pet will be at greater risk if you don't have your pet altered. Neutering reduces the risk of prostate cancer in males. Uterine infections and breast cancer are more common in intact females.

Intact males will do almost anything to find a mate: mark territory, mount furniture, and fight. Intact females will react to hormonal changes during heat cycles, making them nervous and whiny. It should come as no surprise that intact pets are more likely than altered pets to be relinquished, and many relinquished pets will be euthanized!

**Excuse #2: Pets should have one litter for health reasons.** There is no supporting medical evidence for this excuse. In fact, spaying female animals before their first heat, before they are fully grown, is easier on them than waiting until later in their lives. Smaller pets have less body fat, meaning less tissue trauma and less bleeding. Smaller pets also need less anesthesia, meaning they'll wake faster and often go home the same day.

Continued on page 5

# by the numbers

## Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

2,744 total spay/neuters through 2017

## 2017 Food Bank Numbers

### Dry food

56,444 lbs., approximately 4,704 lbs. per month  
Since inception: 387,375 lbs.

### Canned food

118,811 cans, approximately 1,568 cans per month  
Since inception: 103,472 cans

### Litter

9,496 lbs., approximately 791 lbs. per month  
Since inception: 60,785 lbs.

Number of families helped in 2017 (some numerous times): 413

## 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](http://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: Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue

By Kerri Kelly

Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue is a foster home based rescue in Lincoln, Nebraska. Its mission is to save orphaned and abandoned pets from overcrowded rural shelters and find them loving, forever homes. Dolly's Legacy is a registered non-profit charitable organization with the State of Nebraska, and a licensed animal rescue with the Nebraska Dept of Agriculture. It is also a federally registered 501c3 organization; all donations are tax deductible. It is a member of the Nebraska Rescue Council, and an approved rescue with AdoptaPet.com and Petfinder.com. Kerri Kelly, Founder & Executive Director, has been a driving force on the animal rescue front for many years. She has coordinated the rescue placement of and mobilized transport for more than 15,000 death row animals in high kill shelters in the south.

### Inspiration behind Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue

Dolly was rescued at age 11, from a terribly neglectful environment along with 11 additional Pekingese. They were all show breeders and had champion bloodlines and trophies. Sadly, the breeder stopped caring for them and placed them in crates in a furnace room where they lived 24 hours a day. When rescued, they had burns on their bellies from laying in their own waste, ulcerations on their eyes causing some of them to be blinded, and severe matting of their coats that was pulling on their skin. Kerri immediately bonded with little Dolly and knew this sassy Peke was meant to be hers. Dolly absolutely loved Cupid, her blind fur brother, and became his seeing eye dog. The two were always at each other's side, and caused all kinds of mischief together. She was an absolute doll and brought much joy and laughter to her family. Dolly lived for just 2½ more years and suddenly departed from this life, leaving her mommy and Cupid devastated. The two knew her life was something incredible and should be honored with a legacy befitting such a beautiful, precious, little lady. Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue was founded on what would have been her 14th birthday, August 9th, 2013. It is the rescue's hope they are making her proud as she smiles down upon them.

### Available for adoption

Rosie has the most beautiful markings on her coat, like carefully painted swirls! She's truly a unique beauty! Playtime is important to her, so when she nibbles your toe or hops towards your every move it means she's ready to play and you can expect a good time. She enjoys the presence of child, adult, dog, or cat as long as she is able to explore or cuddle. Along with her adventurous soul, Rosie adores attention and will let you know when she would like to be petted by leaping up into your lap or rubbing against your leg. Rosie is sweet, full.

Chance is built much like an army tank...wide, low to the ground, and plows through most anything, thinking the world is his playground! He is also the happiest dog with the biggest smile! He is a bit of a "class clown" and always makes his foster family laugh with his silliness. To say he loves toys is an understatement; squeakers are his favorite. The best words to describe him is a fun-loving goofball. He adores other dogs and has such fun in their company. The more the merrier when it comes to playing, and he will literally play until he drops, takes a brief nap, then it's time for more fun! He has not been introduced to cats yet, but we can't imagine he would want to do anything but play with them. Chance is a big, strong boy but gentle with his kisses and hugs. He has great manners and is house and kennel trained. If you are looking for Mr. Happy-Go-Lucky and someone who will bring joy to your life, look no further than our Chance—he is an absolute gem of a dog!

If you have any questions or are interested in adopting Rosie or Chance, email [DollysLegacy@aol.com](mailto:DollysLegacy@aol.com). To get updates and see more photos of adoptable pets, like us on Facebook and check out our website at [dollyslegacyanimalrescue.org](http://dollyslegacyanimalrescue.org).



## Volunteer Spotlight: Rod Bauer

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

From my wife, and fellow volunteer, Heather. I first started by distributing food out of the nursery at St. Matthew's Church. At that time, we only had 3-4 clients coming in for assistance. To see the program grow has been such an eye-opening experience, in terms of the great need within Lancaster County.

### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up on a ranch in Western Nebraska. Then I met Heather, and moved to Lincoln, and have been here for 21 years. Heather and I have been married for nearly 22 years, and we have a daughter, Michaela, who is 23 years old.

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

I am at the Pet Food Distribution center every Monday and Thursday night, carrying food out for clients.

### What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

Knowing that animals are being fed.

### Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I also volunteer at the Salvation Army with my wife.



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

It's very rewarding to help people and their pets. Whether it's the Spay/Neuter program or the Pet Food Bank program, I know pets are being properly taken care of, and that we are reducing the amount of pet homelessness.

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

My wish is to find additional pet food suppliers willing and able to donate pet food to the cause.

### 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](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org) or calling 402.817.1168.

## Calendar of events

### LAA Night at Raising Canes

**February 20**

**5-8 pm**

Mention the fundraiser at the register and 20% of sales will be donated to LAA

### I Love My Dog Expo

**February 24 & 25**

**9 am-4 pm**

Lancaster Event Center

### Paws & Draws

**March 4, April 1, May 6**

**5-9 pm**

1867 Bar

### Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner

**March 24**

**6 pm**

Unitarian Church

### Wine & Howl

**June 2**

Deer Springs Winery



# Interview with Stefanie Pearlman, Law Librarian and Animal Advocate

by Allison Hunter-Frederick

How can a law librarian help animals? If you're Stefanie Pearlman, you study animal law, assist others in their research projects, and help found an animal law caucus. Two years ago, I started a series here at Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Talk shining a spotlight on volunteers in the animal welfare world. With this series, I wanted to encourage myself and others to think outside of the box when it came to volunteer ideas. Stefanie is a perfect example of how one to match unique skills with a passion for animals.

Stefanie Pearlman is a professor of law library and reference librarian. Her responsibilities include reference duties and teaching a portion of the legal research component of First Year Legal Research and Writing. She serves as the faculty advisor to the National Animal Advocacy Competition team, runs the Faculty Research Assistant Fellowship Program, and chairs the Social Responsibilities-Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. I'm honored to introduce her to you.

## **Tell me about your background with animals.**

In my baby book, my mother wrote, "Stefanie loves dogs and approaches nearly every dog in sight!" I was 11 months old when she made that entry. Unfortunately, that didn't translate into having the company of my own dog. The only companion animals we had growing up were a couple of goldfish when I was in grade school. As an adult, I adopted my first dog, Katey, from the Humane Society of Missouri.

## **When and why did you become interested in animal law and research? How has this changed how you view animals? What does it feel like to be an author of professional publications?**

When I started working at the Schmid Law Library at the College of Law, University of Nebraska, I had the freedom to create my own research agenda. My interest in animals led me to dedicate part of my scholarship to the study of animal law. Since I am a law librarian, it was natural



to focus more specifically on helping others research animal law. It gives me a sense of satisfaction to know that my work helps other people complete their own research projects.

## **You were a founding member of the animal law caucus of the American Association of Law Librarians [AALL]. Why did you feel a need for this caucus? And how you help set this up?**

There are many law librarians interested in animal law. When one of my colleagues proposed creating this caucus, I jumped at the opportunity to assist. It was very small in the beginning...maybe four of us. There are over one hundred members now. I suppose we created the caucus the same way most people start a group, filling out paperwork and discussing our goals. Since then, we have hosted guest speakers at most of our business meetings and created a web presence where we share information on animal law.

## **What was the purpose of the "Lessons from the Snail Darter" program? How did you end up being a moderator for it? What was that experience like?**

This is one of my favorite projects by the Animal Law Caucus. There is a famous Endangered Species Act case, Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill, which involved the snail darter (a fish) and a dam project. Zygmunt Plater was the attorney who argued on behalf of the respondents, in support of the snail darter. The Animal Law Caucus proposed a program at the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference where he could discuss this case and his book *The Snail Darter and the Dam: How Pork-Barrel Politics Endangered a Little Fish and Killed a River*. The program was selected and I had the good fortune to introduce him. It was a wonderful program.

## **How do you prepare for the roles of a coach to students in animal law competitions and supervisor of independent animal law research projects? What have you learned about mentoring from those roles? About animal law?**

When coaching, I review the problem and the related law. I then help the students to the extent permitted by the rules of the competitions. Independent research projects are a bit different. I have long conversations with each student to discover their areas of interest and whether a particular topic is a good fit for a research paper. We also discuss research strategies. I review drafts of each paper and provide feedback before a final draft is submitted.

The main thing I learned from working with students is how fantastic they are. It is a joy to work with them. They are bright, enthusiastic, and full of great ideas. Through these projects, I have a greater understanding about animal law. It is a broad area of law, which includes wildlife, agricultural animals, and companion animals. I learn something new from every student.

## **What are some basic animal laws that it's important for the public to know? Ones involving wildlife? Ones involving farm animals. Ones involving domesticated animals?**

This is a hard question to answer. I suppose the most important animal laws for people to understand are the ones that directly impact them. Such as limits to the number or type of animals they can own, hunting laws, and wildlife laws that protect certain animals and their habitats. Patrons are welcome to come to the Schmid Law Library to do research to learn more about animal laws. Information about our hours can be found at: <https://law.unl.edu/library/>.

## **The most traditional ways that one helps animals is by rescue, adoption, transport, and fundraising. What are innovative ways that you help animals? What advice would you give to those for whom the traditional ways don't fit?**

The best way to find nontraditional ways to help animals is to match your skill set with your love of animals. I am a law librarian, so I do my best to help people research animal law through my writing and the occasional presentation. Find what you are good at and try to use that to make a difference for animals.

## Continued: Challenge the spay/neuter excuses in February

**Excuse #3: My male dog's manhood will be destroyed.** A pet's personality is formed more by genetics and home life than by sex hormones. Sterilization doesn't change basic personality, cause sluggishness, or weaken the pack instinct. If anything, a neutered male will be less interested in searching for a mate and more interested in pleasing his owner. Combined with the right training, sterilization should result in a better-behaved pet.

**Excuse #4: My indoor pet has no opportunity to mate.** Any pet can escape its house or yard. In the few minutes that your pet is running loose, it could mate with other wandering intact pets.

**Excuse #5: I want another pet like mine.** Breeding your own pet because you want one more for yourself is like making a batch of cookies every time you want to eat one or two, then having to find other people who are also in the mood for cookies. And if you want another pet like the one you

have, you need to know it's impossible to create a pet identical to your own. Are you identical to either of your parents? Even professional breeders cannot guarantee what characteristics will be inherited by a litter.

**Excuse #6: I want my children to experience the "miracle of birth".** This lesson can be taught in ways that don't come at the expense of your pet and its offspring. Finding homes for the offspring takes a lot of work. Consider too that each home you find means one less for animals desperately waiting in shelters.

**Excuse #7: I can't afford it.** Lincoln Animal Ambassadors offers a low-cost spay-neuter voucher program in cooperation with several local vet clinics. People pay what they can afford toward the procedure and LAA pays the rest.

Accept the challenge: Spay and neuter your pets today. No excuses!

## February: Adopt A Rabbit Month

by Allison Hunter-Frederick

February is not only the month of love, but it's also Adopt a Rabbit Month. If you think rabbits don't need rescue, a 2012 study by a pair of researchers with the University of Guelph in Canada might cause you to think again. Shelter intake and adoption numbers were tracked at four shelters in Massachusetts and Rhode Island from 2005-2010, and revealed that rabbits and birds competed for the dubious honor of being the third most frequently surrendered animal.

Why are rabbits finding themselves in shelters? The researchers discovered that 77% of the rabbits were owner surrenders. However, unlike with dogs, behavior wasn't the top cited reason. Instead, rabbits were surrendered because owners had stopped having the ability or interest to care for them. Other outstanding reasons for relinquishment were being forbidden by a landlord to have them or owning too many rabbits.

The Rabbit House Society states that thousands of bunnies will be impulse purchases every Easter. Buyers simply don't have any idea of the amount of care that rabbits need. In the holiday's aftermath, shelters are deluged by unwanted bunnies, and often have no option but to euthanize them. The Rabbit House Society also says

that some rabbits don't even make it to a shelter but are "simply dumped in the streets, left in parks, or in other people's yards". Because these rabbits weren't born in the wild, they're unable to care for themselves and are likely to be injured, become ill, or even be killed before reaching a shelter.

The Rabbit Haven stresses that a pet rabbit is NOT a toy. It suggests that if people want to buy a rabbit, they should start by buying a plush toy or by sponsoring a rabbit in a shelter. For those who educate themselves about the needs of rabbits, there are plenty of rabbits available for adoption. The 2012 study noted in the first paragraph that while rabbits had a 23% euthanasia rate, adoption rates for them were higher when local foster groups were used to help care for the rabbits.

I have personally never owned a rabbit, but I do treasure my years of being a guinea-pig owner. If you are considering adding a rabbit to your family, what better time than Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month? You might just end up finding that you're no bunny until some bunny loves you.

**Check petfinder.com for rabbits adoptable in your area.**

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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.



## Pet Food Bank is running low!

LAA's Pet Food Bank is in need of canned dog food and dry kitten and cat food donations. You can drop off donations at the following 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)



5<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL

# Spay-ghetti and NO BALLS DINNER

*& Dessert Auction*

**MARCH 24 at 6 P.M.**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH 6300 A St.**

**\$25 per ticket** Seating is limited.

Reserve tickets at [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb) or  
(402) 817-1168. Tickets will be sold at the door.



# The Cat House's Cat Love Therapy Program

by Allison Hunter-Frederick

Back in 2011, Shawntel Myers read about a therapy dog in a book she bought at a The Cat House garage sale, and started to wonder if the same could be done with cats. She brought the idea to The Cat House, where she volunteered, who agreed for her to try cat therapy. The first visit was a success and this was the beginning of Cat Love Therapy, which celebrated its five-year-anniversary just over a year ago. I met with Shawntel recently to find out more about the program and her involvement with The Cat House.

## **What inspired you to become a volunteer at The Cat House?**

I wanted to find something to do outside of school/work, and volunteering was something I considered. My mom volunteered with The Cat House for a short period of time, which got me interested in joining the volunteer team. This was a perfect way for me to help out in the community and enjoy the company of cats at the same time.

## **What are your duties at TCH?**

My current duties are scheduling and organizing Cat Love Therapy visits. When I first started, I cleaned rooms.

## **How did you set up contacts in the community?**

When I first started, I contacted places and asked the activity directors if they'd be interested in us visiting. Most visits in the past few years have been scheduled by people contacting The Cat House with an interest in us visiting them.

## **What kind of TCH cats have been good candidates?**

Finding cats that do well on therapy visits is a hit or miss. Over the past six years, I've learned a few things that let me know if a cat may do well on a visit or not. Cats with an easy-going temperament that enjoy being held and will tolerate a harness, tend to do best on visits. Before taking a cat, I'll walk the cat around outside their room on a harness and leash to see how they do. If they do well in that scenario, it lets me know there's a good chance they may do well on a pet therapy visit.

You don't truly know though how well a cat will do until it goes on a visit. For example, we've taken cats you'd think would do well, but they don't. Usually they end up being too scared, or don't want to sit still even for a minute!

## **What are the most typical places therapy cats are taken? What are the most unusual places therapy cats have gone?**

The most typical places therapy cats have gone are Assisted Living and Rehabilitation/ Care Centers. The most different place we've gone is to The Children's Museum.

## **How often do therapy visits happen? How long is each visit? What do visits consist of?**

On average we go on one to two visits a month, with each visit lasting about an hour. Most visits, residents will gather in a commons area. If resident wants to hold a cat, a volunteer will place a cat on their lap to hold and pet. People who don't want to hold a cat usually would rather just pet or observe the cats interacting with others.

## **What are some of your memorable cat therapy moments?**

My most memorable moments are those in which people get super excited to see the cats. The expression of joy on their face as they interact is priceless. It's great too when a cat really enjoys going on visits. We used to take a cat named Cuddles who loved sitting on laps. She would purr, knead the air, and occasionally even give kisses.

## **Why should someone volunteer with Cat Love Therapy?**

It's a great way to share cats with cat lovers who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to interact with them.

## **Why should someone volunteer with The Cat House?**

It's a good way to provide care and support for these great cats that are waiting to find a forever home.

## **Give a tip to prospective The Cat House volunteers.**

Generally when you start volunteering, you'll do cleaning. Getting involved in other areas as well is also great! Fostering, TNR, fundraising, craft events, Cat Love Therapy, and helping out during open hours are a few examples of additional activities one could get involved with.

*The Cat House provides a safe no-kill shelter and adoption facility for cats in the Lincoln, Nebraska area. There are many volunteer opportunities available, which you can find at [thecathouse.org](http://thecathouse.org).*

# Thank you to our recent donors!

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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 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street; Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2 and 27th & Cornhusker; or both Petco Lincoln locations.

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Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Pet Food Bank

General Funds

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Lincoln, NE 68506



## Thank you!