

Pet Talk

FALL 2026

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

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

Long Dog Fat Cat
8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110

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

LAA fundraisers keep our programs going

For the past 18 years, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) have been dedicated to improving the lives of community pets by providing spay and neuter assistance, pet food, and other essential supplies that help keep beloved pets in their homes. The generosity of our supporters and the success of our fundraising events is how these programs are possible.

This year was no exception. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended and supported our two signature dog-friendly events: the 2nd Annual Furry Fiesta in March at Off Leash Dog Bar and the 18th Annual Wine & Howl in June at Deer Springs Winery.

Our March event, Furry Fiesta – Nacho Average Trivia Night, brought together animal lovers for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and delicious Mexican-inspired cuisine. Guests tested their knowledge during LAA trivia while enjoying a taco and nacho bar generously provided by Tico's Restaurant & Tequila Bar, Embassy Suites, Walmart, and Pan Dulce Bakery.

In June, the weather treated Wine & Howl attendees to a beautiful sunny day at Deer Springs Winery. While guests sipped wine and wine slushies and their canine companions snacked on dog jerky provided by Happy Howie's Natural Dog Treats, they listened to live music from the award-winning band No Motive.

Continued on page 4

See inside for photos from this year's Furry Fiesta and Wine & Howl!

Collaboration is the key

LAA believes we can accomplish more by working together. We are always looking for ways to stretch every donor dollar as far as possible to support our mission of addressing the root causes of animal homelessness.

In addition to our low-cost spay/neuter program and income-based pet food bank, we actively collaborate with organizations, veterinarians, and community partners to expand our reach and help more pets remain in loving homes.

Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue – Spay/Neuter Outreach

For several years, LAA and Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue have partnered to share the cost of spaying and neutering pets outside Lancaster County. This collaboration helps pets remain with their families when the cost of surgery might otherwise force owners to surrender them to a shelter or rescue.

Together, we have completed more than sixty projects, focusing on households with unaltered male and female pets to prevent unwanted litters. We have also assisted families whose landlords require pets be spayed or neutered to remain in their homes and helped pets facing health risks, such as pyometra, where spaying is a lifesaving treatment.

Capital Humane Society/Stransky Veterinary Center

We are grateful for our long-standing partnership with Capital Humane Society (CHS) and the Stransky Veterinary Center.

Continued on page 5

Calendar of events

Stuff the Truck

October 10

SuperSaver
2525 Pine Lake Rd

CHS Tails & Treats Trunk or Treat Event

October 9

Friday - 4 pm
Capital Humane Society
Pieloch Adoption Center

LAA Spayghetti & No Balls Dinner

October 24

Saturday - 6 pm
Unitarian Church



Walmart ✨

LAA receives two grants

The Lincoln Community Foundation awarded LAA a \$5,000 Open Door grant to support our pet food bank and spay/neuter voucher programs to help low-income families with expenses that keep dogs and cats out of shelters and prevent unwanted litters from adding to the pet overpopulation problem.

The South 27th Street Walmart Supercenter awarded \$500 to provide additional spay/neuter vouchers through Walmart's Spark Good! initiative.

We appreciate these valuable community partners!

Rescue Spotlight: Haven Animal Rescue, Where Animals Come First

Haven Animal Rescue Nebraska is a nonprofit, licensed animal rescue based in Omaha, NE, made up entirely of dedicated volunteers. The rescue was founded in August 2023 when longtime friends Kristi LeGrande and Starla Muller combined more than thirty years of animal rescue experience to create an organization with one simple goal: to help animals without limitations. Regardless of breed, size, age, or medical needs, every dog deserves a chance.

In just 3 years, Haven Animal Rescue Nebraska has helped more than six-hundred dogs and cats find loving forever homes. We are committed to rescuing abandoned, neglected, homeless, and suffering animals and giving them the care they need to thrive.

Most of the dogs that come into our rescue are from Omaha and communities throughout Nebraska. When space allows, we also welcome dogs from the southern United States to help ease the overwhelming shelter crisis there. We regularly take in dogs from overcrowded shelters where they are at high risk of euthanasia, owner surrender situations involving illness or hardship, commercial breeding facilities that are downsizing or retiring dogs, and neglect cases when we get the call. One thing we will never do is buy dogs to rescue them.

Every animal that enters our rescue receives the care they deserve. Our foster homes provide a safe and loving environment while each pet receives comprehensive veterinary care, including spaying or neutering, vaccinations, heartworm testing, microchipping, fecal testing, dentals, preventatives, and any additional medical treatment or surgeries they may need. We also provide socialization, high-quality food, rehabilitation, and professional training when necessary. Our goal is not simply to find homes, but to carefully match every pet with the forever family that is the best fit for both.

One of the many rescues that impacted our team this year came earlier when a



deputy in rural Nebraska contacted Kristi about a horrific neglect case involving twenty-eight Labrador Retrievers, including one pregnant mama. Our rescue rose to the challenge and along with coordination from the local sheriff's department and two other rescue groups who helped us by each taking a few of the dogs, we were able to get all the dogs off the property, provide the medical care and rehabilitation they desperately needed, place them into loving foster homes, and ultimately get them adopted into wonderful forever families.

That is just one example of the lives that have been changed through Haven Animal Rescue Nebraska. We have also hosted low-cost vaccine and microchip clinics and regularly provide food and supplies to pet owners in need. Our network of volunteers and supporters make it possible to give these animals a second chance, and there is nothing more rewarding than watching them experience safety and love for the very first time.

As an all-volunteer organization, fundraising is essential to providing lifesaving medical care and meeting the ongoing needs of the animals we rescue. We are currently planning our biggest event yet, Lights of Love: A Pet Memorial Luminary Celebration, where families can honor beloved pets who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge while helping homeless animals still waiting for their chance. More information about this fundraiser and ways to support it can be found on our Facebook page.

Continued on page 3

Volunteer Spotlight: **Kate Manuel**

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? Word of mouth in the community.

Tell us a little bit about yourself. My husband, my son, and I moved to Nebraska in 2018 for my husband's job and have been building ties to the community since then. I work for the State. In my free time, I volunteer with my church and several organizations, including LAA. I also do printmaking (primarily relief print and screen printing) as a hobby. Animals and plants are my favorite subjects.

What areas do you primarily volunteer for us at this time? My primary volunteer activity with LAA is scheduling pet food bank pickups. I also help at times with set-up or clean-up for events.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities? I enjoy meeting a range of people and learning about them. It's also great when you can actually help someone resolve an issue in their lives.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln? My son and I volunteer with The Cat House, helping to feed the cats and clean their rooms.

What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? I would recommend that you jump in and don't be afraid to ask questions. There are lots of opportunities, and the current volunteers are great resources. It's ok that you don't know all the answers when you start out. There are people who will know the answers to your questions, and they are always happy to



I hate having my picture taken. But here are my cats and dogs. Yes, they sleep a lot.

share their expertise and experience with you.

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be? Simply more resources to support the programs LAA already has.

Continued: **Haven Animal Rescue**

Like every rescue organization, our ability to save lives depends on the support of our community. The more help we have, the more animals we can help throughout Nebraska and beyond. We may not be able to save them all, but we can make a life changing difference for every animal that comes into our care.

To learn more about Haven Animal Rescue Nebraska, view some of our adoptable pets, or find ways to get involved, visit HavenAnimalRescueNebraska.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you **ANNUAL SPONSORS**

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STRANSKY
VETERINARY CENTER**

Ameritas 



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animal care

 **CAPITAL
Humane Society**

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Thank you to our donors!

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Heather Beed
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Wynn Hjermstad
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Larissa Hunsberger
Jeanie & Earl Imler

Donations in MEMORIAM

Mary Douglas – Chihuahua
Taco Balta
Crystal J Sato & Ed Stibal
Tim Johnson – Paxton
Daniel Demuth in memory
of Patricia DeMuth



Continued: LAA fundraisers

More than thirty vendors offered unique shopping opportunities, local rescue organizations introduced dogs available for adoption, and visitors enjoyed delicious food from MetaModern BBQ and The Corndog Company. Approximately sixty-five raffle baskets gave attendees plenty of chances to win exciting prizes, making the day even more memorable.

Both events were wonderful celebrations of our community's love for animals and helped raise the funds needed to continue LAA's mission. We sincerely thank our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, donors, and everyone who attended. Your support allows us to continue helping pets and the families who love them.

Stuff The Truck at Super Saver

A huge thank you to Super Saver at 56th & Nebraska Highway for sponsoring a "Stuff the Truck" event for LAA's Pet Food Bank in April.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our pet-loving community, we collected:

- 857 lbs. of dry pet food
- 1,900+ oz. of canned pet food
- 272 lbs. of cat litter
- Cat and dog treats, along with many other much-needed pet supplies

These donations help us keep pets fed and in their homes when families are facing financial challenges. We are grateful to everyone who stopped by to donate and to Super Saver for partnering with us to make this event such a success.

Mark your calendars for our next "Stuff the Truck" event at Super Saver Pine Lake on October 10. And don't forget—you can support our Pet Food Bank all year long by dropping donations into the LAA collection barrels located at both Super Saver stores.

Continued: **Collaboration is the key**

Before the Stransky Veterinary Center opened, LAA referred clients to CHS's cat spay/neuter program, with LAA vouchers covering the full cost of the procedures. When CHS expanded its efforts to include dogs, we partnered once again. LAA issued vouchers while CHS provided matching vouchers, allowing clients to receive twice the financial assistance for their dog's spay or neuter surgery at participating veterinary clinics.

To streamline the process, LAA shared our voucher software with CHS, making the program seamless for clients. After the Stransky Veterinary Center opened, CHS discontinued its voucher program in favor of providing low-cost surgeries directly through the clinic. Today, many LAA voucher recipients continue to use Stransky because of its affordable, high-quality services.

Pawsitive Impact Project

The Pawsitive Impact Project, operated by CHS and includes a pet food/supply pantry, has become another valued partner. Our organizations regularly share pet food and supplies, and when storage space has been limited, LAA has been happy to help.

More importantly, an LAA volunteer attends the project's weekly food distribution to educate pet owners about the importance of spaying and neutering and to issue LAA vouchers directly to eligible families. This partnership allows us to reach pet owners where they are

and remove barriers to accessing these important services.

The Purpose – It's All About the Cats/ Barn Cats of Nebraska

LAA is excited to partner with "The Purpose – It's All About the Cats" on our newest initiative, Barn Cats of Nebraska.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor who wanted to promote the value of barn cats as an important part of working farms, this program educates farmers and land owners while providing affordable spay and neuter services for barn cats. Together, LAA and The Purpose have already altered more than 70 barn cats throughout Lancaster County and surrounding communities, and we look forward to helping many more in the years ahead.

Prescription Pet Food Assistance

Prescription pet food can be financially out of reach for many families, especially those already relying on our income-based pet food bank. While we occasionally receive donated prescription diets, we do not always have the specific food a pet requires.

When that happens, LAA works directly with the family's veterinarian to help purchase the appropriate prescription diet. This assistance allows pets with chronic medical conditions to continue receiving the nutrition they need while remaining with the families who love them, helping prevent unnecessary surrender or euthanasia.

Our Greatest Partner: Our Community

Our most important collaboration is with our community.

Without our donors, volunteers, supporters, veterinarians, and partner organizations, none of these programs would be possible. Every partnership and every donation works toward the mission of keeping pets healthy, preventing unwanted litters, and allowing families to stay together.

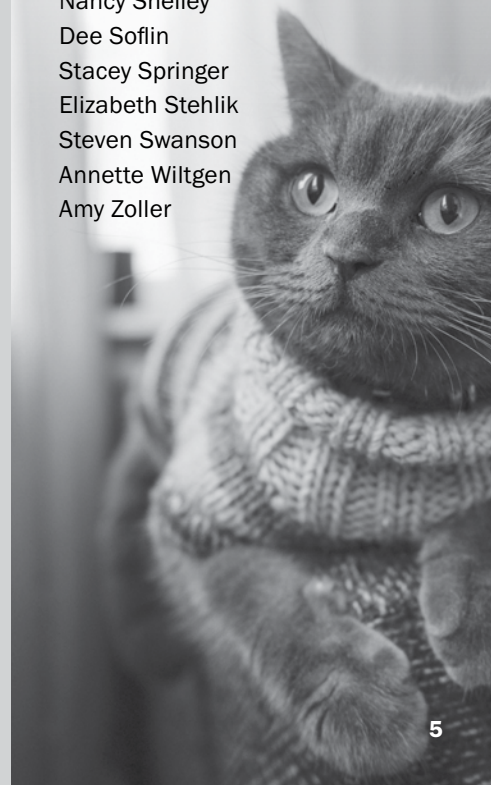
From all of us at LAA, thank you for believing in our mission and for helping make a lasting difference for pets and the people who love them.

Thank you to our donors!

Tim Johnson
Linda Johnson
Kelcie Keeling
Judy Kracl
Tammie Lang
Jennifer Lorenz
Lacey Losh
Judy McGinnis
Mikki McGuire
Mark Mesarch
Barbara Michael
Nathan Morris
Bernadette Parys
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Cathy Sayre
Jodi Schroeder
Nancy Shelley
Dee Soflin
Stacey Springer
Elizabeth Stehlik
Steven Swanson
Annette Wiltgen
Amy Zoller



Farm cat altered in partnership with The Purpose. Four dogs altered by collaboration efforts with Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue.





Pet Food Bank is running **LOW...**

Current Needs:

Dry Adult Dog Food

Dry Adult Cat Food

Cat Litter

Dog & Cat Treats

Pet Beds, Toys, Food & Water

Bowls (*gently used items accepted*)

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.

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

Long Dog Fat Cat
8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110

ComPAWssion: A thrift store in Lincoln to benefit animals

Four years ago, after seeing how many people and animals needed help, founders Nina and Julissa began their mission in Guanajuato, Mexico. They started small—selling food, hosting garage sales, and organizing raffles to raise funds. Driven by their passion, they eventually officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

Today, ComPAWssion Without Borders operates with a dual mission: supporting local animal welfare in Lincoln, Nebraska, and providing critical resources to animals in Mexico.

Through our dedicated thrift store—where we receive donations and sell items to generate funding—and other community-

driven initiatives, we provide:

- Food and essential supplies
- Spay and neuter services
- Critical veterinary care
- Rescue operations and advocacy programs to give a voice to the voiceless

Thank you for all your support and ComPAWssion! Come browse the store or donate!

5740 Old Cheney Rd, Ste #8
Lincoln, Nebraska
compaws.org
531.350.4068
compawssion24@yahoo.com



Reserve tickets at
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb or by calling
402-817-1168. Tickets will be sold at the door.

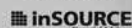
Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner & Dessert Auction

October 24 @ 6 p.m.
Unitarian Church / 6300 A St / Lincoln

Thank you
to our
sponsors!



Instinct



\$25
PER ticket

New LAA Program: **Barn Cats of Nebraska**

A Collaboration Between Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) and The Purrrpose
Serving Lancaster, Cass, Otoe, Gage, Saline, Butler, and Saunders Counties

Fix Your Barn Cats — Free of Charge!

Healthy barn cats are an important part of a successful farm. Through this new partnership, LAA and The Purrrpose are helping farmers and property owners improve the health of their barn cat colonies while preventing unwanted litters—all at no cost.

LAA President Mary Douglas said, “This new program not only helps reduce animal overpopulation in our region, but it also benefits farmers by improving the health of their barn cat colonies, protecting livestock, and creating a healthier overall farming environment. Healthy barn cats are an asset to every farm, and we’re excited to help make that possible.”

Why Participate?

Spaying and neutering barn cats provides many benefits:

- Prevents reproduction and reduces overpopulation
- Decreases the spread of parasites among cats and livestock
- Helps reduce the risk of rabies transmission from wildlife such as bats and raccoons

- Stabilizes established cat colonies, reducing the number of new cats entering the territory
- Reduces fighting, disease, and spraying
- Creates healthier cats that are better mousers
- Lowers supplemental feeding need by as much as 25%
- Reduces roaming, helping cats stay closer to home

What’s Included?

Each cat enrolled in the program receives:

- Spay or neuter surgery
- Rabies and distemper vaccinations
- Flea and tick treatment
- Examination and treatment of wounds or injuries, along with an overall health evaluation
- Microchip for permanent identification.
- Left ear tip to identify the cat as spayed or neutered
- Assistance with trapping and transportation, or you may transport your own cats

LAA Pet Food Bank

5,470
FAMILIES ASSISTED

575,802 total
pounds of dry
food distributed

133,584 total
cans of food
distributed

LAA Spay Neuter Assistance Program

5,792
SPAYS/NEUTERS

- 2,866 total dogs
- 2,912 total cats
- 14 total bunnies and a rat

WE NEED YOU!

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 our volunteer application at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org.

Grant Researcher & Writer

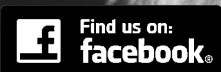
Help us secure funding for our life-saving programs. We are looking for volunteers with an interest in researching grant opportunities and/or writing grant proposals to support our programs and other initiatives. Experience is helpful but not required—strong research and writing skills are a plus.

Newsletter & Flyer Delivery

Two to three times a year, we need volunteers to deliver newsletters and event posters along an assigned route to veterinary clinics and pet-related businesses throughout the community.

Events & Fundraising Team Member

Join our fundraising team and help make our events a success! Volunteers work together to plan and coordinate fundraising events, recruit sponsors, and assist with event setup, activities, and promotion. It is a fun way to support our mission while making a difference for pets and their families.



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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 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!

