

**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



Deer Springs Winery

lam-5pm



2445 S. 48th Street Don't forget to shop at Cause for Paws. This "boutique for cheap" turns your donations and purchases into cash for animal charities, including LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program. CauseForPawsLincoln.org

all the best parts of summer for a fantastic

Join us on June 11

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is gearing

up for Wine & Howl; which will once again

happen at Deer Springs Winery. Now in its

eighth year, Wine & Howl brings together

for Wine & Howl!

dog friendly afternoon event! Bring your dog, a blanket or lawn chair and join us on June 11th for an afternoon of fresh country air, food, wine, vendors, music and mans best friend. If you are looking for a new companion, many of the area's rescue organizations will be bringing pets looking

for their forever homes.

You won't want to miss the raffle prizes, featuring pet, wine, and decor gift baskets from all around the area. With just a suggested donation of \$7 to attend; there are just too many reasons you have got to be there! The wine will start pouring at 11am and the bands will play until 5pm. As we inch closer to June, we will announce the band schedule. Like us on Facebook or check out our webpage for more information.

Come on out and meet the "Miracle Mutt"! Star is a mixed-breed female pit bull who was shot by the New York City Police Department in 2012 while she was protecting her homeless owner who was in the midst of a seizure. Star's shooting was captured on video, and went viral, leading to controversies over police handling of companion dogs.

#### **Vendors Needed**

Interested in promoting your organization or business at Wine & Howl? There are lots of vendor spaces left to fill and we would love to have you. At just \$50 for non-profit organizations and \$100 for businessesbooths at Wine & Howl are a very affordable way to meet hundreds of pet and wine enthusiasts!

# To Lincoln Day May 26, 2016

LINCOLN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is looking forward to the annual city-wide event; Give to Lincoln Day. This day-long interactive fundraiser is a quick and easy way to support amazing local causes like LAA's pet food bank and low-cost spay/neuter program. Your donation has a direct impact on the number of homeless animals in our area and beyond!

From 12am to 11:59pm on Thursday, May 26th, make your tax deductible donation to LAA online at givetolincoln. razoo.com or in-person during regular business hours at the Lincoln Community Foundation, 215 Centennial Mall South. All funds raised for LAA on Give to Lincoln Day are eligible for a proportional share of a \$300,000 match pool from the Lincoln Community Foundation.

With all the press around Give to Lincoln Day, we know that it will be hard to miss the event: but if you are worried-just follow LAA on Facebook! We'll keep you in the know on Give to Lincoln Day and all our upcoming fundraisers.

This May 26th, we hope you will join us in addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in our area. Whether it's to provide food and supplies for companion animals in need, or to combat overpopulation through spaying and neutering, even the smallest donation makes a difference in the life of animals.

#### Local groups sponsor pet food/ toy drives for LAA



Students for Education in Exotic and Companion Animal (SEECA) held a pet food and toy drive on both UNL campuses April 11-22. During the event, they collected donations for our Pet Food Bank and for The Cat House. SEECA provides an opportunity for students with an interest in companion, exotic, or zoo animals to become acquainted with one another and to improve the knowledge and understanding of these animals. We would like to thank all of their volunteers for thinking of us when organizing this awesome event and everyone who donated food to the cause.





We would also like to put a big thank you out to Allstate's "Helping Hands Committee" for having a pet supply drive in February benefiting both Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House. We were able to supplement our pet food bank with many bags of food and many new and gently used pet supplies, including kennels, collars, dog toys and treats. It is community minded events like this that help us do what we do to help pets and their people in need.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated at one of these events!

#### Fix me meow!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has done spay/neuter projects for big dogs, Pit Bulls and Chihuahua and one tiny project for cats. This year, we decided to do a big project for cats during February to celebrate February being spay/neuter month.

"Fix Me MEOW!" is the name of the project and it became a BIG project! Over



175 Lancaster County residents responded during February wanting their cats altered. "Fix Me MEOW" offered spaying/ neutering for cats at a low cost of \$25 per cat. The \$25 included vaccinations as needed. The project took off with a bang, so along with low cost spay/neuter voucher for dogs, the last few Fix Me MEOW vouchers were just sent out at the end of March. The total number of cats "fixed" through this project will be published in the next issue of Pet Talk.

Projects such as this are paid for by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors through fundraisers, donations and grants. This project alone will cost LAA over \$5,000— and worth every single penny! This is where YOU, the community, can help. Many of the cats altered through this project are "community" cats—cats who are not feral but don't seem to "belong" to anyone and if not altered, can produce an infinite number of kittens. LAA is very thankful to our community for their continued support through donations of pet food, toys, beds, and money.

#### **Every day is Tag Day**

Losing a pet is a nightmare for any pet owner, but pets with ID tags and microchips are much more likely to find their way home to their loving family.

According to a study reported on by Adopt a Pet, in the over 1000 households randomly surveyed, 14% of dogs and 15% of cats were lost at least once in the past five years. Of those lost pets, 7% percent of dogs and 25% of cats were never found. That's 153,000 dogs and 645,000 cats that are lost each year and are not recovered by their original owners.

However, ID tags or microchips were also responsible for 15% of dogs getting home. As for cats, only one owner of the 1000 surveyed reported finding their cat through its tag or microchip, but Adopt a Pet points out that, "Two thirds of the lost cats who were not found did not have any identification ... If as many cats were wearing ID or chipped as dogs, perhaps 15% would also be reunited with their owners."

The American Humane Association offers these tips to make every day tag day:

 Make sure your pet wears a collar with a current ID tag, rabies tag, and city/ county license. Include a contact name, address, and daytime and evening phone numbers.

- Keep your pet's licenses, ID tag, and microchip current. Make sure to update all of the above if you change your address or phone numbers.
- When moving or traveling, place a temporary tag on your pet with the phone number of someone who knows how to reach you.
- Remember that even indoor pets need tags. Many strays in shelters are indoor pets who escaped and got lost. In addition, a higher percentage of cats stay missing because people tend to assume that a cat seen outside is an outdoor cat.
- Most pets who have been adopted in recent years have been microchipped by the shelters.

Microchipping provides an additional layer of assurance in the event that the pet's collar and tag fall off or are removed. Microchipping involves embedding under the animal's skin a tiny electronic capsule that emits a unique code that can be scanned and looked up in a database to find its owner. There are many databases where you can register your pet's microchip ID to increase your chances of reuniting with your lost pet. Moreover, most shelters check for microchips when an animal is brought to them.

#### Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle Miklos



Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? I learned about LAA through Project Homeless Connect.

### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I work full time for a non-profit mental health/substance abuse agency. I live in a house purchased within the last year

with fiancé and our cat, Stilton. Spend lots of time working on house projects.

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

I conduct interviews with spay/neuter clients.

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

I find it rewarding to assist folks getting pets altered. They are always grateful. It is

rewarding to play a small part in helping control the population of homeless cats and dogs.

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

I encourage folks to volunteer in some capacity to benefit animals and their humans.

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

I hope folks will donate in time or money to help provide emergency food for pets and to control the population of homeless cats and dogs.

## 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.

#### **Volunteer needs**

#### Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS

That's how we feel about our volunteers! We cannot do what we do without our amazing volunteers; Our programs wouldn't run without them. If you have a skill that you could lend to our organization and are looking for a volunteer opportunity please contact us. Many of our positions can be done right from your home. We would love to welcome you to the LAA volunteer family!

#### Opportunities to help include:

#### **Phone Line Shifts**

We need help returning phone calls! Our volunteers are responsible for returning voicemails left during a short daily window. You are able to listen and return the calls on your own schedule. We use basic tracking software and provide one-on-one training and the whole team is available to help with your questions. Make a huge impact in just a couple of hours a week!

#### **Newsletter/Poster Distribution**

We need help spreading the word!
Delivering newsletters or posters to a small list of businesses that have already agreed to put them up. All you have to do is drop them off. A vehicle is required and various routes are available. Each distribution takes just a couple hours and happens just 4-6 times per year.

#### **Event Helpers**

We have a few events per year where we can always use more help. Volunteers can sign up for the specific tasks at the event and can help for just a few hours at a time. We send email notifications when we need help, all you have to do is sign up on our website.

#### **Pet Food Bank**

We are in need of volunteers to help staff our pet food bank on Thursday nights. Volunteers would need to make a consistent weekly commitment from 7-8 pm to help distribute pet food and supplies at our pet food bank and be able to lift 50 lbs. The position requires  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours each week.

#### Save the Date!



# August 18 Tour De Brew Lnk is supporting LAA!

Tour de Brew LNK is a fun leisure bike ride and charity pub crawl wrapped into one awesome time! The event is held once a month on a Thursday evening through the spring and summer.

The ride is open for anyone over 21 to participate and features a different craft brewery and charity each month. Hit the road for free samples, drink specials and raffle tickets for great prizes at the end of the ride!

For more information visit www.tourdebrewlnk.com



Take your walk for a dog<sup>™</sup>

#### 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.

# Calendar of **events**

#### Give to Lincoln Day May 26

givetolincoln.razoo.com

#### Tails 'n Trails Pet Walk & Festival May 21

Fallbrook Town Center www.capitalhumanesociety.org

## Wine & Howl June 11

**Deer Springs Winery** 

#### Tour de Brew LNK Fundraiser August 18 www.tourdebrewlnk.com

Meow & Chow October

**Details TBA** 

# from the community

"Thank you everyone for your time and assistance, you are Awesome!" - Mitchell

"Thank you! I am so excited to finally get my fur babies all taken care of. God bless you!"

Aaron

"I have been able to keep my pets, thanks to this program. Thank you so much."

- Dawn

I am a full-time student focusing on my studies and the well-being of my dog Buddha. Because of his food sensitivity, food for him is very expensive. This program is a big help and I am very grateful. Thank you!

- Annonymous

Getting food has helped me out a lot, times are tough. My van broke down and we lost my daughter's SSI benefits. It has become very hard to get to work and my bills are growing.

- Annonymous

#### **PUPS & Pals**

A tired dog is a good dog.

That's what the folks at PUPS & Pals say. Stay and play at PUPS & Pals is a playgroup concept different than doggie daycare; it's where you stay and play WITH your dog. Size appropriate playgroups are available during the week from 4-7 and all sizes of dogs gather together on Saturdays from 1-3. Rain or shine, hot or cold, the climate controlled play room is available to you and your dogs for just six bucks (and the cost is per family, not per dog!).

Located at 1541 Center Park Road, PUPS & Pals is a division of Lincoln's own Domesti-PUPS pet therapy and service dog nonprofit organization. They opened PUPS & Pals last July to share their training facility in its off hours with the community, and will help you build your relationship with your dog. While they do offer private and group obedience training, they specialize in more specific topics of interest such as Tellington Touch, Puppy Manners, Reliable Recall, Brain Games, Focus Training and much more.

Each season brings a host of new classes to choose from along with reliable favorites like the AKC Canine Good Citizen class. Finding ways to have fun with your dog can help build your dog's confidence, and provide creative ways to incorporate obedience training at the same time without you or your dog getting bored. The more time you spend with your dog, the

more you build a positive relationship with your canine friend. And you'll find a few human friends as well... if you're going to make a new friend, it should be a dog-friendly one, don't you think?

And the fur-kids socialize as well with doggie birthday parties! That's right, you can throw a birthday party for your dog and invite his doggie playmates. Human and canine treats are provided, along with two hours of canine play. It's a pawfect way to celebrate with your four-legged friend. The facility is also available to dog related groups such as rescues, which can be used for meetings, adoption meet and greets or whatever your needs might need.

Dog supplies such as treats, clickers, antlers and bully sticks fill the shelves at PUPS & Pals along with Eco-friendly cleaning products from Home Clean Home are available as well, which are especially helpful when your canine friend has allergies. And don't forget leashes and collars too! PUPS & Pals features the European hands-free leather leashes which provide over six different variations and uses.

So whether you need to just have a good time with your dog, brush up on a few skills or learn a trick or two, try out PUPS & Pals... you'll be glad you did; and your dog will too!

www.pups-pals.com

#### The Mighty and The Tiny



Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas—The Mighty and The Tiny—quite fitting descriptions for these two much loved dog breeds. At the end of June 2015, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors received a grant from Best Friends

Animal Society to be used for spaying and neutering Pit Bulls and Pit Bull mixes. After doing additional research, it was discovered Chihuahuas are currently an over bred breed of dog and are being killed in shelters for the simple fact there are too many.

The name for the project, The Mighty and The Tiny, came about as a way to show respect for both breeds—although those who know and love Chihuahuas realize

these little dogs think they are mighty! On the other hand, those who know and love Pit Bulls realize many Pitties think of themselves as tiny as they try to fit themselves in our laps.

The Mighty and The Tiny project provides spaying and neutering of all Pit Bulls and Pit Bulls mixes; and all Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes for \$25 per dog. LAA set a goal of having 100 Pit Bulls altered in one year or by June 30, 2016. To date, about 75% of our goal has been reached. It is because of our generous community that LAA can offer these projects and your continued support is needed.

If you are a pet guardian of a Pit Bull/ Pit Bull blend or have friends and relatives who have a Pit Bull family member, contact Lincoln Animal Ambassadors through the website, LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org where you can complete an application for a voucher or call LAA at 402-817-1168.

#### **Spayghetti & No-Balls**

The third annual Spay-ghetti and No-Balls dinner was a smashing success! This year's event was held at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln. Partnering with Nebraska No-Kill Canine Rescue, we raised just over \$8,000 dollars with your help!

Volunteers from Lincoln Animal
Ambassadors, Nebraska No Kill, Southwest
High School and Northeast High School
helped with decorating, serving tables,
setup and cleanup. 150 supporters and
volunteers were served a spaghetti dinner
including salad mix and spaghetti provided
by Super Saver, sauce from Sorrisos
Gourmet Pasta Sauce, Meatballs with
Mohrhauser Farms All Natural Beef, and
Fazoli's breadsticks. Local wine supplied

by Deer Springs Winery, James Arthur Vineyards, Junto Winery and Glacial Till Vineyard. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of the community, a wealth of volunteers and our very generous donors.

A huge part of the event's success was our dessert auction, including desserts from many of the area's best bakeries and pastry chefs. Professional auctioneer Tom Bassett was on hand to auction off all of the pies, cakes, cupcakes, and confections that were donated to help the cause. We had a fantastic turnout and are looking forward to next year's event. Be sure to Like us on Facebook so you get invited to all of our events!









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# Thank you! Spayghetti & No-Balls Donors and Volunteers

Beer Paws Belle, Queenie & Sadie Aalberg **Belmont Veterinary Center Butterfly Bakery** Canine Design Capital Humane Society Cause for Paws Conroy's Family Bakery Cotner Pet Care Cupcakes & More Dairy Queen - Grill & Chill David Clark Framing **Deer Springs Winery Ehlers Animal Care Eidos Ergnomics** Fazoli's Glacial Till Vineyard High Society Cheesecake Hy-Vee James Arthur Vineyards Junto Winery Le Cupcake Mohrhauser Farms Nature's Logic Nature's Variety Nebraska Animal Medical Center Nothing Bundt Cakes Pups & Pals (A division of Domesti-Pups) Second Chance Pups Serendipities Cupcakes Sitstay.com SolutionOne Sorrisos Gourmet Pasta Sauce South Ridge Animal Clinic Stauffer's Cafe & Pie Shoppe Super Saver

Roxanne Stone Jane Nelson Blake Gilmore Roseanne Kolveck Tom Bassett Kyndall Bedell Katie Brown Darryl Rivers Susan Lien Kayla Gebbie Kinzee Hillis Hannah Hoffman Steffany Lien Vanessa Lobo Skyler Neal Amy Nelson Trey Nelson Annie Nguyen Emma Rhodes Darryl & Sarah Rivers

Superior Veterinary Care Valhalla Bee Farm

#### LAA numbers

#### Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Total Spay/Neuters 2,214

#### **Pet Food Bank**

#### **DRY FOOD**

12,544 lbs. so far in 2016 3,584 lbs. per month 284,650 lbs. since inception

#### **CANNED FOOD**

3,488 cans so far in 2016 997 cans per month 68,073 cans since inception

#### LITTER

2,023 lbs. so far in 2016 578 lbs. per month 44,720 lbs. since inception

## We're running on E!

The pet food bank is running very low on canned dog food and we could use a boost. Consider buying a few extra cans the next time you are at Petco or Super Saver and leave them in the bin or barrel. Or drop off at any of our donation drop sites:

- 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)





#### **Considering the older dog**

You see his size, temperament, and even how much training he's received.

By getting the dog from a rescue group or shelter with knowledgeable staff, you can state your requirements, and they'll help match you up with a dog to suit your lifestyle.

You want a dog, but aren't sure you are able to devote the next 10+ years to one. An older dog could be the answer.

Having been abandoned, or neglected, they are grateful for a loving home.

You can't beat the feeling you get, knowing you gave a dog a second chance, and more than likely saved him from being killed in a shelter. Older dogs generally have some kind of training; they just might need a refresher. Behavior problems in most shelters would have led to them being killed.

Most have mellowed, and are happy to sit with you while you watch TV or read a book.

Adopting an older dog shows compassion, and that life has value, no matter what the age.

You won't be supporting the cruel puppy mill industry, by getting a puppy from a pet store, or backyard breeder.

Reprinted with permission from Hindy Pearson, Caring for a Senior Dog. September 23, 2015.

#### **Pancreatitis: Fast and Furious**

If your dog has lost interest in food and is vomiting, often it's just a passing thing. He may have picked something up out of the grass outside, or found something on your kitchen floor that seemed like a good idea at the time, but is now making him ill. On the flip side, it could also mean pancreatitis.

What function does the pancreas serve?

The pancreas sits behind the stomach, and produces and secretes digestive enzymes, essential for food digestion. It also produces insulin, which helps control metabolism and blood-sugar levels.

#### What is pancreatitis?

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas. Digestive enzymes, which usually lie dormant until they reach the small intestine, are activated prematurely in the pancreas, and start digesting it.

It can come on suddenly (acute), or keep reappearing (chronic). Basically, chronic pancreatitis is multiple attacks of the acute form.

#### **Symptoms**

- · Loss of appetite
- Vomiting/projectile vomiting
- · Difficulty breathing
- · Stomach ache
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Fever
- Swollen abdomen
- · Elevated heart rate

#### Causes

- · Side effect of medication
- Result of eating fatty/greasy foods
- Hypothyroidism
- High amounts of lipids or calcium in the blood
- Cushing's Disease
- · Trauma to the pancreas
- Older dogs
- Overweight dogs
- Genetics

Even if your dog does not ordinarily eat a high fat diet, just eating a large amount of fatty food in one go can cause acute pancreatitis.

Dogs can usually recover from mild cases, but severe cases are more worrisome, and can lead to the death of your dog.

#### **Diagnosis**

Your vet can get a pretty good indication of whether or not there is a possibility of pancreatitis, based on what you tell them about your dog's condition, and symptoms.

They may perform blood tests and a urinalysis, and other tests such as ultrasound and x-rays.

#### **Treatment**

- Treat dehydration
- · Provide pain relief
- · Provide anti vomiting medication
- Take him off food to allow the pancreas to rest (how long is up to him—could be 2 or 3 days)
- · Withhold water if still vomiting
- IV fluids
- Electrolyte therapy
- Possibility of antibiotics to fight infection

#### Prevention

You won't necessarily be able to prevent pancreatitis from ever happening, but there are precautions you can take to minimize the likelihood:

- · Keep your dog at a healthy weight
- Don't let anyone give your dog human food or table scraps
- Make sure your garbage is out of reach
- Be sure your vet is aware of all medications your dog is taking, to ensure none of them could potentially cause another episode
- Many cases happen over the holidays, when rich fatty food is in abundance.
- Be extra vigilant about what your dog is putting in his mouth, and keep an eye on anyone slipping him food. Better safe than sick.

#### **Prognosis**

Pancreatitis can be very unpredictable. I've known dogs who have had it most of their lives, but a strict diet kept it pretty much under control.

Mild cases, or dogs that had a "one off" episode don't typically require more than a good diet, and diligence on the part of the family.

Chronic pancreatitis can lead to other more serious issues, so you want to be very strict in following all recommendations made in your dog's treatment to avoid going down that very slippery slope.

#### Conclusion

If your dog is vomiting regularly, call your vet's office immediately. Let them know of your concerns, and be sure to mention anything your dog may have eaten. Pancreatitis can attack fast, and attack hard, so the sooner you start treatment, the better your chances of a positive outcome.

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# Thank you! Recent donors

Gloria Best G.M. Bucco Mary Douglas Paula Einemann **Emily Faubel** Sharon Holtgrewe Diane Huseman Kent & Shelley Mattson Kristin Packett Trishia Peterson Sharri Rowley Charles & Lela Sayward Bert Schriner Carol Siefkes Jacqueline Skalak V. Clancy Smith Linda & Dave Uhrich Audra Vornbrock Joni Winters Assurity Life Insurance Co. Capital Humane Society Granite City Mars Pet Care Nichelson Family Foundation Petco - North Petco - South Purina Animal Nutrition LLC South Ridge Animal Clinic Target - N 48th Walmart - N 27th

# donations in memoriam

Kathy & Mike Pueppke, for their Dog Tito Heather Beed, for her dog Wiggles Denise Rice, for her father Loyd Lily







402.817.1168 PO Box 67072 Lincoln, NE 68506









# donate!

online at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Your gift makes a difference in the fight against animal homelessness. You can save hundreds of animals by helping to spay/neuter just one! You keep a family together in difficult times. No matter how small—your donation makes a huge impact on pets and their people.

Donate through our website, LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org using PayPal. You can also return this form and your gift in the enclosed envelope. Donations of Pet Food & Supplies can can be dropped off any of our drop off locations, listed on both the cover and on our website.

Name
E-mail
Address (City, State, Zip)
Please select your contribution amount:
□\$25 □\$50 □\$75 □\$100 □\$250 □\$500 □ Other \$
<ul> <li>□ Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program</li> <li>□ Pet Food Bank</li> <li>□ General Funds</li> </ul>
Make checks payable to: Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Mail to: PO Box 67072 Lincoln, NE 68506
Thank you!