

# Pet Talk

**SPRING 2025**

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

## Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding area. LAA assists pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, an income-based temporary assistance pet food bank and teaching people about being responsible pet guardians at community events.

## Donate

**Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program  
Pet Food Bank**

**General Funds**

**Mail to:** PO Box 67072,  
Lincoln, NE 68506

**Or donate through our website  
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org**

**Pet Food Bank drop off locations  
listed on page 3.**

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

## Food Bank of Lincoln and PetSmart Charities Join Forces

LAA's pet food bank is a valuable resource for 45 to 50 low-income families in Lancaster County each month. Our pet food bank is stocked with donations given by the community. The Food Bank of Lincoln reached out to LAA this winter to coordinate a donation to us, as well as other animal related groups, coming through their organization from PetSmart Charities.

On a frigid day in January, the Food Bank of Lincoln delivered approximately 15,000 pounds of dog food and 4,600 pounds of cat food to the LAA pet food bank. Kudos to the very polite and kind Food Bank of Lincoln driver who delivered that day in the sub-zero winter weather!

This was not the first time that the Food Bank of Lincoln has helped LAA with pet food donations and at times has delivered large loads that came their way to us with their big trucks and power pallet jacks. We value our partnership with the Food Bank of Lincoln and appreciate all that they do to help us and the food insecure humans of Southeast Nebraska.

We cannot thank PetSmart Charities enough for this large donation that helps us to support those families that count on LAA to feed their pets in the next few months. This donation, along with the many other donations LAA gathers in the community donation barrels and various donors, shows our community's commitment to companion animals in need.

## Give to Lincoln Day

Give to Lincoln Day is a giving day event that encourages you to contribute to Lincoln and Lancaster County nonprofit organizations between May 1 and May 29. Give to Lincoln Day is coordinated by Lincoln Community Foundation, in partnership with local nonprofit organizations.

Every donation makes a bigger impact on Give to Lincoln Day because nonprofits also get a proportional share of a \$650,000 challenge match fund made possible by LCF and generous sponsors.

The purpose of Give to Lincoln Day is to promote philanthropy in Lincoln and Lancaster County. There are three primary goals:

- Introduce new donors to local nonprofit organizations.
- Help nonprofit organizations tell their stories and educate the public about the positive impact they have on our community.
- Shine a spotlight on charitable giving to raise new money for local nonprofits.

Give to Lincoln Day is intended to be a bonus fundraising opportunity for local nonprofits in our community.

## SAVE THE date!

**Wine & Howl  
June 8**

Deer Springs Winery  
16255 Adams Street  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

# give

**TO LINCOLN DAY  
THURSDAY, MAY 29**

# Calendar of events

## **Tails & Trails**

**May 17**

Capital Humane Society  
Fundraiser  
Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery  
Palmyra, NE  
4 - 8 p.m.

## **Give to Lincoln Day**

**May 29**

[givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com)

## **Annual Pet Blessing**

**June 1**

First Plymouth Congregational  
Church  
2000 D Street  
11:59 Service

## **Wine & Howl**

**June 8**

Deer Springs Winery  
16255 Adams Street  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## **Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner & Dessert Auction**

**October 11**

Unitarian Church  
6300 A Street  
6 - 10 p.m.

## **Bark at the Moon**

**October 19**

Paws 4 Fun Event  
222 N. 44th Street  
1 - 3 p.m.

## **Tails & Treats**

**October 26**

Capital Humane Society Event  
Pieloch Pet Adoption Center

## *Rescue Spotlight:* **Stray By The Bay**

Stray By The Bay started with founders Emily Cancelmo and Andrew Altman having a passion for cats, rescue, coffee, and the thought of "what if?." Since 2023, they have been on the journey of opening Stray By The Bay Cat Cafe while rescuing a small number of cats and kittens in need from the community. The duo envisions a unique cafe experience allowing customers to experience both the coffee shop and cat adoption center all under the same roof. The idea is for customers to be able to enjoy beverages and homemade baked goods while socializing and enriching the lives of rescue cats in the cafe's care. Partnered with both the Beatrice and Capital Humane Societies, the goal is to get more cats out of the shelter and allow them to show off their true personalities in a more relaxing atmosphere. This in turn will hopefully lead to an increase in adoptions, a lower rate of cats re-surrendered, and a decrease in workload and overcrowding in the local shelters.

The two have been eager to help local cats in the community and have not let the lack of a physical location hinder that. Since its founding, Stray By The Bay has rescued eighteen cats and kittens and have fostered another twelve through the local shelters. With a physical location, they are optimistic that those numbers will be able to increase tremendously provided by the additional space. Currently, the two have been working with the UNL College of Law's Weibling Entrepreneurship Clinic to make sure they have their legal ducks...cats in a row while also attending local events, hosting small fundraisers to benefit the cafe's opening, and caring for a variety of foster/rescue kittens.

After all the proper paperwork is complete and filed with the state, Stray By The Bay hopes to pick out their physical location late spring/early summer 2025. The organization plans to launch a crowdfunding platform



through GoFundMe. This will help cover some of the costs required for renovations and purchasing of necessary equipment that the physical location will require. Once at their goal, a lease will be signed, and renovations will begin to bring the dream Emily and Andrew are envisioning Stray By The Bay Cat Cafe to become reality. Upon completion, the cafe will have a unique theme to the triple landlocked state of Nebraska. Originally from the east coast, Emily, and Andrew hope to bring a coastal and beachy vibe to the cafe through their designs, decorations, and themed menu. The physical location will not only provide a safe haven for adoptable kitties but will also house a space for both fun and educational events and fundraisers. Along with cat yoga and movie nights at the cafe, Stray By The Bay aims to educate the community on responsible cat ownership, local fostering programs, and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) initiatives. Overall, the organization is committed to supporting the community of Lincoln, its stray cat population, and the local rescue efforts. They hope that the local cat and animal loving community will help support them in their endeavors towards saving even more cats this coming year and beyond.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Pati Hughes

I first heard about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors from my good friend Mary Douglas. Mary and I met in college back in 1976, ok I told you my age there. I am a 66-year-old mother of one daughter and four wonderful grandkids. I work full-time as the Director of Finance for InSource, an insurance Agency in Lincoln, NE. I love coffee, Bruce Springsteen's music, taking vacations and spending time with my family.

I currently am the Treasurer for LAA; I joined the Board of Directors in September 2024. My current duties are depositing the donations, paying the bills, sending receipts out to donors, and running the financial reports. I am trying also to be active with their fundraisers as time allows.

I find it very rewarding to help others. I feel like the mission of LAA – to address the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln NE, is a very worthwhile cause. I was surprised to find out how many



things LAA does and how dedicated the volunteers are. I am excited to join this group of passionate people who care about others and their pets.

I do volunteer other places. I have volunteered with VITA which is the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. We do free tax filing for low-income taxpayers. I also am the treasurer for my church, Havelock United Methodist. I also have volunteered for Meals on Wheels and People's City Mission.

I would highly recommend you investigate volunteer opportunities with LAA. We have a variety of different areas where you can help others. It is very rewarding to assist people be able to keep their pets when their life situations make it difficult for them.

## By the numbers

### Spay Neuter Assistance Program

4,947 total spays/neuters  
2,519 total dogs  
2,414 total cats  
14 total bunnies and rats

### Pet Food Bank

43 families assisted in March  
545,208 total pounds of dry food distributed  
125,144 total cans of food distributed

## Pet Food Bank: Dry and canned dog and cat food, clumping litter needed

The LAA Pet Food Bank has a distribution once a week for qualified families to help feed their pets. We appreciate our communities' support! You can help by donating these items at any of the donation sites.

### Donation drop off locations:

Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2  
(barrel at exit door)

Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy (barrel at Customer Service)

Super Saver 27th & Pine Lake  
(barrel at exit door)

St. Matthews Episcopal Church  
2325 S. 24th St. (leave near office)

Arnie's Pet Food 56th & Hwy 2

Pet Central Station  
5591 S. 48th St.

Long Dog Fat Cat  
8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110

## LAA Volunteer Opportunities

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer organization. We are always looking for committed, skilled volunteers to help our programs thrive. LAA is not a hands-on animal group. We help pets and their people, but we don't rescue or re-home animals. If you are interested in helping animals in your community and would like to volunteer your time, we'd love to talk to you. Consider our current needs:

### Grant Writer

LAA is completely donation driven and we sustain our programs with donations, fundraising events and private grants. Of course we like big grants, but we like small ones too! They all add up to one more pet altered or one more can of food purchased. So if you have some experience writing grants, or want to gain grant writing experience, we would love to talk to you. A mindset incorporating

LAA values and an interview with Board members would be required.

### Events Team Members

LAA is completely donation driven and we sustain our programs with donations, fundraising events and private grants. An important part of our existence are fundraising events. We hold two-three fundraising events each year and we always need volunteers with good ideas and volunteers to help staff these events. The fundraising events are so much fun! If you enjoy party and event planning, decorating or organizing, serving on this committee might be the volunteer opportunity for you. You could be help in a big way or a small way, a one-time event or several events. A mindset incorporating LAA values would be preferred. If this is your "cup of kibble" we would love to talk with you.

# Thank you to our Furry Fiesta Donors!

Arnie's Pet Food  
Beer Paws  
Capital Humane Society  
Embassy Suites  
Instinct  
Long Dog Fat Cat  
Max Raven Rescue  
Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue  
Off Leash Dog Bar  
Paws 4 Fun  
Super Saver  
Taco Inn  
The Modern Image with David  
and Caralea  
Tico's of Lincoln  
Walmart  
Whitehead Oil Company  
The Modern Image with David  
and Caralea

## Animal Blessing Set for June 1

Mark your calendars for the Sunday, June 1, 11:59 a.m. service at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 2000 D Street. Everyone is invited to bring their well-behaved pets on leashes or in crates or cages. Following the short indoor service, in the courtyard, the clergy will offer individual blessings for each pet. In addition, a blessing will be offered to photos of absent pets as well as to a child's favorite stuffed animal. The blessing is free and open to the public. LAA will be a benefactor of a free will offering.



## Furry Fiesta Fun!

March 1, 2025, marked the inaugural "Furry Fiesta – Nacho Average Trivia Pawty" LAA fundraiser at the Off Leash Dog Bar. This was a fun dog-friendly event that allowed guests to bring their dogs and enjoy other people's dogs at the same time. Sixty-five guests and volunteers enjoyed a nacho and taco bar followed by five rounds of trivia. The top two trivia teams took home prize baskets from Instinct Pet Foods and Whitehead Oil Company. Guests received swag bags with each bag including dog biscuits for the pups to enjoy. A big thank you to the vendors who support LAA all year

long and came to set up a table to promote their organization. Each vendor supplied a raffle basket awarded to the winning ticket holder.

At the end of the evening, this event raised \$1450 for LAA's general fund but the bigger success was the wonderful time had by everyone! We would like to thank Off Leash Dog Bar for allowing us to have the event in their space and donating \$1 from each signature Strawberry Bark-arita drink to LAA. We hope to do this event every year and hope you can all join us next year!

## Lincoln Community Foundation Awards LAA an Open Door Grant

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is very grateful to receive a \$7,500 Open Door Grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation for operational support of the pet food bank and spay/neuter program in 2025.

LCF's Open Door Grants provide flexible operating and program grants to support

the compelling needs and opportunities of Lancaster County nonprofit partners. We appreciate Lincoln Community Foundation for the valued role it plays in supporting Lincoln's nonprofit community through grants, Give to Lincoln Day and other resources.



# 17th Annual Wine & Howl

Join LAA in celebrating their 17th Annual Wine & Howl event this year. Wine & Howl is LAA's largest yearly fundraiser that supports their income-based pet food bank and spay/neuter program. And it is dog friendly – must be on a leash!

Live music by No Motive, an award-winning cover band playing your favorite country and rock tunes across five decades! No Motive starts at noon! So come out for a blast from the past! Relive those golden years!

Do you need more reasons to mark your calendar for this fun event? SoCal Taco Shop and MetaModern BBQ food trucks will be there plus other food vendors – including vegetarian choices. Deer Springs will have their easily accessible wine tent

set up. Yes, they will have wine slushies! Did we mention it was dog friendly?

OK...still on the fence? Raffle prizes will be available, as usual. Karl Skinner will emcee again this year making for a fun time. And to top that off there will be plenty of fresh air, Deer Springs' beautiful shady location, vendors, dogs up for adoption, raffles, food, wine, fabulous music, and did we mention the event is DOG FRIENDLY?

A suggested \$10 per person donation (dogs get in free!). Seating is limited, so bring a blanket or lawn chair, your dog (dogs are not required to attend) and LAA will supply the fabulous day of fun!

Online applications for vendors are available at [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org).

## Thank you to our donors!

Joni & Martin Winters  
Patty Bailey  
Ava Huber  
John & Diane Huseman  
Julie Felzien  
James Pittenger  
Sinda Dux  
Lisa Bradley  
Audrey Schneider  
Heather Crockett  
Judy Johnstone  
Kent & Shelley Mattson  
Paula Einemann  
Tom & Karen Bassett  
Patty & Steven Zeleski  
Barbara Michael  
Bonnie Burgeson  
Nancy Mocroft  
Andrew & Renee Benson  
Deb Plasek  
J.C. Preston

## Donations in MEMORIAM

Christy Hutchison – Ruby  
Greyhound  
Nancy Mocroft – In honor of  
Margaret Cheuvront



**Lincoln Animal Ambassadors**  
**WINE & HOWL**

**Sunday  
June 8th  
11am - 5pm**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM**  
**NO-MOTIVE**  
FRESH RIFFS  
ROCK OF FACES

**DEER SPRINGS WINERY**  
**162ND & E ADAMS**

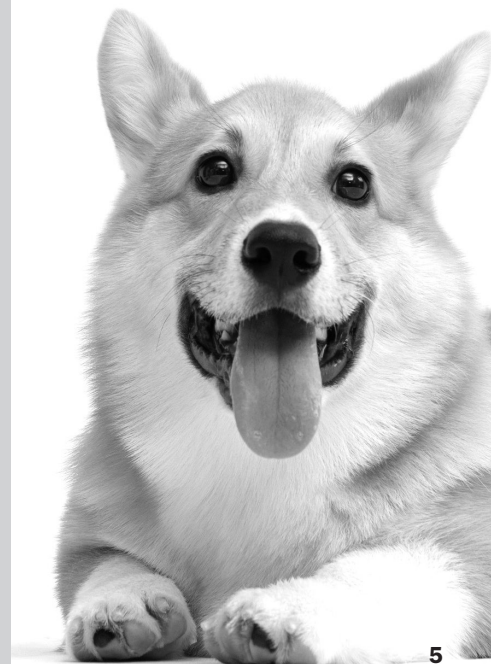
**VENDOR EXHIBITS • WINE TASTING • GIFT RAFFLE • FOOD**

**BRING YOUR DOG, A BLANKET, LAWN CHAIRS, AND ENJOY THE COUNTRY AIR! PLEASE HAVE YOUR DOG ON A LEASH.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Ameritas**  **UBT**  
Union Bank & Trust

**Instinct**  
THE FAW BRAND





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LINCOLN COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



## We need your **support!**

Did you know that you can name Lincoln Animal Ambassadors on your United Way donation? Your donation helps provide services to pets and their people in and around the Lincoln area. We couldn't do it without the support of people like you!

**Donate through our website, [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://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).

**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!

