



Pet Talk

WINTER 2019

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

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

February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

February is here which means Valentine's Day is coming—a day when we shower our beloved cats and dogs with love—and maybe some special treats. February is also a good month to begin thinking about another good gift for your pet during this season of love—get them spayed or neutered!

February is nationally recognized as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month. The purpose is to encourage people to have their pets sterilized before the spring and summer months when there is a rampant overproduction of puppies and kittens. During that time most animal shelters experience an unmanageable increase in animal intake.

Benefits of Spaying and Neutering Your Pet

Reduce pet homelessness

The dogs and cats that end up in shelters are not the offspring of homeless animals—many are the puppies and kittens of cherished family pets and even purebreds.

Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide, more than 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters annually. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100% effective method of birth control for dogs and cats.

According to the report, neutered male dogs live 18% longer than un-neutered male dogs and spayed female dogs

live 23% longer than unsplayed female dogs. The report goes on to add that in Mississippi, the lowest-ranking state for pet longevity, 44% of the dogs are not neutered or spayed.

Another contributor to the increased longevity of altered pets involves the reduced risk of certain types of cancers. Unspayed female cats and dogs have a far greater chance of developing pyometra (a fatal uterine infection), uterine cancer, and other cancers of the reproductive system.

Medical evidence indicates that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age.

Curb Bad Behavior

While getting your pets spayed/neutered can help curb undesirable behaviors, it will not change their fundamental personality, like their protective instinct.

Unneutered dogs are much more assertive and prone to urine-marking than neutered dogs. Although it is most often associated with male dogs, females may do it, too. Spaying or neutering your dog should reduce urine-marking and may stop it altogether.

For cats, the urge to spray is extremely strong in an intact cat, and the simplest solution is to get yours neutered or spayed by 4 months of age before there's even a problem. Neutering solves 90% of all marking issues, even in cats that have been doing it for a while. It can also minimize howling, the urge to roam and fighting with other males.

Continued on page 6

by the numbers

2018 Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program Totals

2,991 total animals

1,495 dogs

1,486 cats

10 rabbits

2018 Food Bank Numbers

Dry food

40,789 lbs.

Approximately 3,399 lbs. a month

Since inception: 428,164 lbs.

Canned food

7,136 cans

Approximately 595 cans a month

Since inception: 110,608 cans

Litter

8,152 lbs.

Approximately 679 lbs. a month

Since inception: 68,937 lbs.

Number of families helped in 2018 (some numerous times):

330

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.

Featured Organization: ShelterMe Nebraska

As a community, we need to start having the conversation about domestic violence and pets! ShelterMe Nebraska currently fosters the companion animals of victims of domestic violence so they can escape the violence WITH their pets. 71% of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters reported their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence). WE NEED TO CHANGE THIS!

Companion animals are far too often an over looked victim of abuse. They are often used as leverage to further threaten, harm, or control victims. The victim is challenged with an importance of escaping domestic violence together, not only for their protection but for their companion animal. For many, having a four-legged support system can be extremely beneficial in the transition process.

Research has shown the presence of animals provides positive emotional healing. ShelterMe Nebraska has a mission to provide housing for survivors WITH their companion animals. This will be the first of its kind in Nebraska. We are motivated and determined to bring co-sheltering to Nebraska! Our plan is to provide an opportunity for victims of domestic violence to heal through the love and support of their companion animals.

Traditionally, temporary shelters do not allow companion animals. Abusers are aware of this fact, therefore using the animal as a pawn to keep the victim from fleeing. "With only 3% domestic violence shelters in the U.S. providing co-living options for survivors and their pets, individuals are often forced to make the nearly impossible choice of abandoning their pets to enter shelter, or remaining in an unsafe environment and risking further abuse." <https://urinc.org/program/uripals/>

As a survivor of domestic violence who was forced to leave her dog with an abuser while she got on her feet, Sam Franklin, President and Founder of ShelterMe understands the stress and hurt of leaving a companion animal with an abuser. ShelterMe Nebraska was incorporated in 2015 as a 501c3 organization with a vision to provide resources for both humans and animals across Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. You can find us on Facebook at ShelterMe Nebraska.



Pictured on the right: a few of our fosters; Katniss, Jordan, Daisy and Dave

Volunteer Spotlight: Amy Nelson

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I was fostering for a rescue in Lincoln and ended up attending the first Spay-ghetti dinner.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I work full time for my family's business as a "bee wrangler." We have two kids, two dogs (Miri & Gina, pictured) and two cats. When I am not busy working or volunteering I like to relax with my family.

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

I work on the events team primarily getting things ready for Spay-ghetti, Wine & Howl and Meow & Chow but also working on a couple small fundraisers if possible.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

The fact that we are helping animals and their owners get a leg up that may not have a chance due to no fault of their own.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I also volunteer for the local Girl Scout council with cookie sales, so my garage is usually filled with cases during cookie season.

What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for LAA?

It's great because you can give as little or as much of your time as you want/are able.

If you could add one thing to the LAA wish list, what would it be?

My wish would be more volunteers. If we had more it would help spread the load out so no one would feel overwhelmed with obligation, and we would be able to help more pets.



LAA needs volunteers like you!

See page 4 for our immediate volunteer needs. 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.

Notes from our Pet Food Bank recipients

"Gypsy—our black cat—loves the variety of food! Gwenny loves everything! They eat more and gain weight!"

"If there was not a pet food bank, I would not be able to have my pets at all. I have my pets as my therapy animals and they keep me a little more sane, and help with my grief over the death of my parents. I'm on a very tough financial budget and I can barely afford the amount of bills that I have. I can't afford food some times, and I'm more likely to buy food for my dogs. My dogs are my life and would be lost without them. With the pet food bank I don't know what I would do. You have given me a life of independence by helping me feed my babies. I wouldn't be able to live independently without them and without your help to feed them. Thank you so much!"

"I love Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Thank you soooooo much for taking care of my fur family. Also, the staff is amazing!"



Donate while you shop!

Look us up at our custom URL:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>

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.



We're running on E!

LAA is running low on canned cat and dog food.

Consider buying some extra cans the next time you are at the store. Donation drop-off locations are listed on the front cover.



WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer and prevent homeless animals

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA has no paid employees and relies on volunteers to accomplish its mission. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

LAA Volunteer needs

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA has no paid employees and relies on volunteers to accomplish its mission. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org. These are our current openings:

Pet Food Bank

We have an opening for Monday and Thursday evening pet food bank distributions. This position requires a dependable volunteer who can work one or both evenings each week. You will be responsible for assisting our client with their pet food orders and helping them load it into their cars. You would need to be on site from approximately 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm. Reliable transportation is required, and you must be able to lift 50 pounds and walk throughout the facility during your shift.

Phone Line Shifts - Returning Pet Food Bank and Spay/Neuter Inquiry Calls

LAA has a couple phone line shifts open to pick up inquiries from pet food bank recipients and/or spay/neuter inquiries. These phone calls can be picked up from the comfort of your own home, using your own telephone and the hours are flexible. You do not need to pick up the call when it comes in. You will return a call from a voicemail message system at your convenience. Having access to a computer with an internet connection is necessary to communicate with the other LAA volunteers

via email and call tracking using a shared spreadsheet. Some experience in viewing and entering small amounts of data on a Google Docs spreadsheet is helpful, although training is provided if you are not familiar with Google Docs. This position consists of approximately two hours per week or less, depending on your shift.

Tabling Events

This volunteer position requires the volunteer to attend shows, fairs, and expos. The volunteer will promote LAA and its programs through interaction with show attendees. We have brochures and other printed material available for distribution. Hours vary and usually consist of a shift during the event.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers with a truck, van, or trailer to periodically transport large donations of food.
- Volunteers to occasionally assist with the loading/unloading of food donations or re-organization at the warehouse.
- Volunteers who have computer and spreadsheet experience.
- Volunteers with fundraising experience.
- Volunteers to deliver event posters or quarterly newsletters on a specified route.
- Volunteers willing to contact companies to ask for donations for the Food Bank.
- Self motivated and creative volunteers to promote and supervise pet food/litter drives with organizations, companies and schools in the community.





Spay-ghetti and NO BALLS

DINNER

& Dessert Auction

MARCH 30 at 6 P.M.

UNITARIAN CHURCH 6300 A St.

\$25 per ticket Tickets will be sold at the door. Seating is limited. Reserve tickets at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb or (402) 817-1168.



Calendar of events

I Love My Dog Expo

February 23 & 24

Lancaster Event Center

Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner

March 30

6:00 pm

Unitarian Church

Wine & Howl

June 8

Deer Springs Winery

Table sponsorships available for Spay-ghetti and No Balls Dinner

\$100 Non-Profit

\$200 For-Profit

Contact us at

info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org

or 402.817.1168

Join LAA on March 30 for Spay-ghetti and No-Balls!

Our annual spring fundraiser, Spay-ghetti and No Balls, will once again be held at the Unitarian Church at 6300 A Street. Salad, spaghetti and breadsticks will be served for dinner starting at 6:00. A selection of wine will be available for purchase by the glass. Following dinner, look forward to some fun entertainment and activities! We will once again be featuring a number of desserts from local businesses and bakeries for a super sweet dessert auction. Advance tickets can be purchased from our website: LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb.

In 2018 we completed a record number of 509 spay/neuter procedures; almost 10 every single week! A prevention strategy has an enormous impact on the lives of animals in shelters and rescues. The average cost of spaying 1 animal is less than 1/10 the cost of caring for a homeless pet until it can be placed in a loving home. Our efforts to prevent homeless animals are paid for through fundraisers and donations, so please consider joining us at this event to help save lives.





Continued: February is Spay/Neuter Awareness Month

In both cats and dogs, the longer you wait, the greater the risk you run of the surgery not doing the trick because the behavior is so ingrained.

Cut costs

Caring for a pet with reproductive system cancer or pyometra can easily run into the thousands of dollars—five to ten times as much as a routine spay surgery. Additionally, unaltered pets can be more destructive or high-strung around other pets. Serious fighting is more common between unaltered pets of the same gender and can incur high veterinary costs.

Renewing your pet's license can be more expensive, too. Many counties have spay/neuter laws that require pets to be sterilized or require people with unaltered pets to pay higher license renewal fees.

Above from <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/why-you-should-spayneuter-your-pet>

Some ask, "Won't we run out of pets if all animals are spayed and neutered?" There

is no chance of running out of pets because we can't spay and neuter all the animals. Each day in the United States, 70,000 puppies and kittens are born—seven times the number of humans born. There will never be enough homes for these animals.

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) through its low cost spay/neuter program is working to end dog and cat homelessness. 2,991 local cats and dogs have been altered using LAA's low cost spay/neuter program. LAA is very proud of that number but realizes there are many, many more to be altered and that requires the efforts of our entire community. Funding and volunteers are always first and foremost needs. To donate to LAA you can go to our website, LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org and donate using PayPal. Volunteers are always needed to call the clients for getting the voucher information. To become a volunteer for LAA, a volunteer registration form can be completed through LAA's website.

Fix 'Em for \$50 – A special offer for Dogs in February!

During February 2019, National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors will offer a special price for spaying and neutering dogs!

Beginning February 1, 2019, the first 50 dog owners to request a voucher will get their dog spayed or neutered for \$50! The \$50 will include three vaccinations; rabies, DAZPP and kennel cough.

Call 402.817.1168 to get set up with a voucher.

FIX 'EM FOR \$50

A **spay and neuter** project for dogs in Lincoln.

CALL NOW!
402.817.1168





Thank you to our recent donors!

- Capital Humane Society
- All Hounds on Deck
- Canine Consultants
- Cause for Paws
- Cotner Pet Care
- Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue
- Nature's Variety
- Petco
- Petco - South
- Purina Animal Health
- South Ridge Animal Clinic
- Target
- Tractor Supply Company
- WalMart
- Andrew & Renee Benson
- Burke Casari
- Carol Siefkes
- Charles & Lela Sayward
- Christine Neukirch
- Connie Beckman
- Crystal Tinajera
- Diane Cottingham
- Dianne Ferguson
- James & Marlene Wagner
- James Hewitt
- Jay & Karen Snyder
- Jeanie Imler
- John Skalak
- Karen & Kenneth Jefferson
- Kyndall Bedell
- Margaret Aalberg
- Mary Douglas
- Mary Hewitt
- Mary Jo Dykes
- Patricia Anderson
- Peggy Barner
- Pete Phaisan
- V. Clancy Smith

Would you buy a Specialized License Plate to support Responsible Pet Ownership in Nebraska?

Nebraska residents may now have the opportunity to show they support responsible pet ownership and help pet friendly organizations that do low-cost spay and neuter—all by renewing their license plates. You've seen the many specialized license plates available to Nebraska drivers. A legislative bill has been introduced that would allow just that...support pet friendly organizations.

With a one-time production fee and an annual donation, in addition to your licensing fees, the new "I Support Responsible Pet Ownership" license plate may be an option in Nebraska. Proceeds from the plate will support non-profit organizations that promote spay/neuter programs across the state. These organizations usually depend on donations and private grants to support this important work. This is another way for those organizations to continue their missions, with your help.

"The possible opportunity to have these license tags sold in Nebraska is really special for all of the pet owners in

Nebraska," said Mary Douglas, President of the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. "The proceeds from these sales will support non-profit organizations and shelters—focusing on low-cost spay and neuter programs. This can help improve the quality of animal health and help to reduce the pet over-population problem throughout the whole state. It's a really, really exciting time to be able to work to support this opportunity. After all, spay and neuter is one of the most important pieces to the pet over-population problem across the entire country."

But we are not there yet. In order to complete the process, 250 Nebraska drivers must sign up and purchase the plate before they will be produced. We would love to know if you are willing to help support this initiative.

We want to hear from you!

For more information or inquiries, contact Lincoln Animal Ambassadors at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or 402.817.1168 or tell us your thoughts on Facebook!

Like our newsletter?
Become a sponsor!

Contact us at info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org





NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT 1147

402.817.1168
PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



We need your support!

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

Donate through our website, LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org using PayPal or mail this form to LAA. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street; Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2 and 27th & Cornhusker; or both Petco Lincoln locations.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Address (City, State, Zip) _____

Please select your contribution amount:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

- Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program
- Pet Food Bank
- General Funds

Make checks payable to:
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
Mail to: PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



Thank you!