



Pet Talk

WINTER 2016

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

As a 501(c)(3), all donations to LAA are tax deductible.

Or donate through our website
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Spay-ghetti ~and~ NO BALLS DINNER

MARCH 12 at 6 P.M.
UNITARIAN CHURCH 6300 A St.
\$25 per ticket

Cause for Paws



Boutique for Cheap

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

A new mission for LAA

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was founded from a grassroots meeting of people who wanted to reduce the number of animals euthanized in local shelters and improve the lives of animals in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Using other successful community programs as our model, we created several programs as part of this mission. Six years later, we have distributed almost 275,000 pounds of food and have helped with more 2,000 spay/neuter procedures! These are huge milestones for a grassroots organization—milestones that wouldn't have happened without generous community support and a hoard of dedicated volunteers!

Our focus will still be on bettering the lives of animals, but we felt it was time to update our mission statement to reflect the intent of our signature programs. Our spay/neuter voucher program and pet food bank are designed to prevent animals from ending up in shelters. We work hard to reduce the number of pets in shelters and rescues and our new mission statement is meant to reflect that:

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of Animal Homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding communities.

With this small change in place we are looking forward to an exciting year! Thank you for your continued support as we work to reduce the number of homeless animals in our area. We hope to see you at one of our fundraisers this year. We are already planning for the biggest Spay-ghetti & No-Balls, Wine & Howl, and Meow & Chow ever and hope you can join us! Please help us spread the words to everyone you know: Less homeless animals starts with everyone spaying or neutering their pets!

Fix Me Meow!

A new program for spay/neuter month!

Most of us who work or volunteer in animal welfare have experienced the reality that one unaltered female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years. All debates on the accuracy of that hypothetical equation aside, there's no question that cats are prolific breeders. As a result, they have a rough go of it in America's shelters, with some organizations estimating a nationwide cat euthanasia rate as high as 70 percent.

Spaying and neutering is proven to be one of the most effective tools in the fight against euthanasia of adoptable animals. Following the positive response to "The Mighty and the Tiny," which focused on pitbulls and Chihuahuas, LAA is excited to announce "Fix Me Meow," a spay/neuter project targeting cats in Lincoln and Lancaster County. During the month of February, LAA will offer cat spay and neuter vouchers, including vaccination fees, at a cost of \$25 to our clients. It's a tall order, but we hope to alter at least 100 cats during this project.

Those interested in receiving spay/neuter assistance through this project can contact LAA via our voicemail line or website using the code phrase "Fix Me Meow." To support this or any of Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' public assistance programs, please donate online through PayPal or by using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter.



Join us! at Spay-ghetti and No-Balls

The 3rd Annual Spay-ghetti and No-Balls fundraiser will be held March 12th at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A St. in Lincoln, Nebraska. Guests will enjoy a spaghetti dinner followed by a dessert auction. Admission is \$25 and includes dinner and entertainment.

New this year: If you can't handle spaghetti without meatballs, you can add-on a few meatballs for a small extra charge. Nebraska wines will be available for purchase. Tickets will be available on our website www.LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/snb. You can also email a reservation to info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or call 402-817-1168.

Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue is a no-kill dog rescue group that provides emergency foster care for homeless dogs, veterinary care for dogs in their care and helps find forever homes for homeless dogs. Both LAA and NNKCR are 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organizations funded entirely by donations and fundraisers.



Volunteer needs

We are committed to addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and Lancaster county, and we could use some extra help! Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has a dedicated group of volunteers who manage our programs; but, we are searching for others who share our passion for helping Lincoln's at-risk pets.

It's easy to get started if you're looking for a rewarding experience! Many of our volunteers don't even have to leave the comfort of their own recliners! Just go to our website and fill out a volunteer application at www.LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org!

Opportunities to help include:

Phone Line Shifts

Returning Pet Food Bank and Spay/Neuter Inquiry Voicemails

LAA has several 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 simple online program. Data Entry experience is helpful, but we will provide training. This type of volunteer

position consists of approximately two hours per week or less, depending on your shift.

Pet Food Bank Application Reviewer

Our program is income based and applicants must provide an application and supporting documentation to ensure they meet program guidelines. This volunteer would work from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Some clerical/ administrative as well as experience with Google Docs is helpful, but we will provide training. This position requires a time commitment of approximately 2-4 hours per week. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Newsletter/Poster Distribution

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is in need of volunteers to distribute our newsletters and event posters. We have North and South routes available in Lincoln. Volunteer would distribute to specific locations on a route. A vehicle is required. Distributions take place 4-6 times per year. Each distribution requires approximately 2-4 hours.

We also have opportunities helping at fundraisers and events, which are scheduled at various times throughout the year.

The opportunities are varied—you can choose what you'd like to help with and how much time you have to volunteer. So, what are you waiting for?! Get started with LAA today!

Obedience, friend or foe?

By Marcy Stewart

Start your puppy off right. Training should begin in puppyhood and will always be something you do throughout the dog's life. Here are some tips for creating obedience as a lifelong habit:

- Start with a good kindergarten puppy class that is aimed at teaching your puppy to learn from you. Make sure the class teaches the basic commands, such as loose leash walking, sit, leave it and come to name a few.
- A puppy play group can be used along with a puppy kindergarten class, but not as the sole means for socialization and training.
- As the pup moves from young puppyhood into adolescence (around 8 months

of age), your young dog may have a working knowledge of basic commands and your expectations. The dog will need consistent rules and eventually an understanding of the consequences to breaking those rules. This does not mean you become ugly, or angry. It means you remain firm, and consistent. There will be times when the young dog will need reminding of how to act in a particular situation. Take this opportunity to remind the dog that what they are doing is unacceptable. But don't get caught reacting to unwanted behaviors. Instead, teach the dog what you want him to do and build on your successes.

Continued on page 5

Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Douglas

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

In 2008 I heard about a public meeting about trying to reduce the euthanasia rate in Lincoln. I attended that meeting, and from that point on I was immersed in the founding of the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA). I am one of two founding members still involved in the organization from that initial meeting.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am married with two sweet senior dogs. I have been in Lincoln for 35 years, originally from Scribner, Nebraska. I grew up with dogs and have always loved animals.



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

I am the President of LAA and have served in that capacity for several years. I am also the Pet Food Bank Coordinator, and all that entails.



What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I am a person who likes to succeed in anything I take on. I believe that is part of the reason that LAA has been so successful in reaching our goals. Our board members and volunteers have that same passion for LAA. It is so rewarding to me to see that as an all volunteer group, we can work together and accomplish so many things... all as volunteers with the same passion and commitment. I am sometimes overwhelmed with emotion by the generosity and commitment of our volunteers and supporters. It's wonderfully rewarding to see that so many people believe in the

same cause and vision that we had back in 2008, and that this small group is making a difference in our community. I am continually grateful and thankful for all involved in LAA, including those founding members who are no longer involved in the organization.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln? I am a long time volunteer for Hearts United for Animals and I volunteer for the Lincoln Legal Professionals Association. I have volunteered for many other organizations in the past, but in that last 7 years, have focused mostly on animal advocacy.

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

I feel like the LAA volunteers are a family. There are so many different things you can do to volunteer, depending on your skill level. (Fill out a volunteer questionnaire on our website and choose your interests) A lot of our volunteer opportunities can take place from your own home. We are always in need of phone volunteers. This position is the face of LAA. It is the first contact with the families and pets that we help, and it's a great way to learn about what LAA does to address the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and Lancaster County. If you really want to help animals, but feel like "hands on" work is too hard for you, this is another great alternative.

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

Well, of course, unlimited funds is helpful to all non-profits. But, aside from that, it would be nice to have a stationary location, temperature controlled, for the pet food bank (at least 600-900 square feet) to be able to do our bi-weekly pet food distributions at the same location that we store our food. We currently have a small donated space for distributions (Thank You Superior Vet!) but we have to re-stock that space a couple times a week from a storage unit where our food supply is stored.

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.

THE MIGHTY AND THE TINY

A **spay & neuter** project targeting Lincoln's most 'at-risk' breeds **Pit Bulls & Chihuahuas**

\$25 PER DOG
Use special code: Best Friends
Call now—Limited availability

With the help of a Grant from Best Friends Animal Society, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "The Mighty & The Tiny" project is spaying and neutering our community's most at-risk breeds, Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas, all for the low cost of just \$25 per animal.

To date 19 male Pit Bulls/Pit Bull blends have been neutered and 28 female Pit Bulls/Pit Bull blends have been spayed. Forty-four Chihuahuas have been altered, of which 20 are males and 24 are females.

This project will continue through June 30, 2016, or until the grant limit has been reached. If you have friends and/or relatives who have unaltered Pit Bulls or Chihuahuas, please refer them to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors at www.LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/mtp where you can complete a request for a voucher. A request can also be called in to our voicemail line at 402-817-1168. You will receive a response within 24 hours.



Calendar of events

I Love My Dog Expo February 27 & 28

Lancaster Event Center
ilovemydogexpo.com

Spay-ghetti & No-Balls Dinner

March 12

6:00 pm
Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street

Wine & Howl

June 11

Deer Springs Winery

Meow & Chow

October

Details TBA

donations in memoriam

Angela & Tim Zocholl - dog - Mojo

Jan Portsche - cat - Bailey

Deb Defruiter - dog - Sara

Paula Nightengale - dog - Bonnie

Moerer Family - dog - Ziggy

LAA numbers

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Total Spay/Neuters 2,056

Pet Food Bank

DRY FOOD

55,685 lbs. (2015)

4,640 lbs per month (almost 2 1/2 ton/mo)

272,106 lbs. (since inception - over 1/4 of a million ton)

CANNED FOOD

11,829 cans (2015)

986 cans per month

65,485 cans (since inception)

LITTER

8,905 lbs. (2015)

742 lbs per month

42,697 lbs. (since inception)

Featured Rescue: Blue River Pet Rescue

The Blue River Pet Rescue began in the fall of 2010 with a small group of Seward County residents meeting to discuss their concerns on the lack of available care for pet animals in the community; specifically those that were abandoned, unwanted or strays. These people had a strong belief that the communities in Seward and the surrounding counties have progressive minded residents, and should be able to provide care for this animal population. To that end, the Blue River Pet Rescue, a 501(c)(3) organization was formed. We feel it is important to have a local shelter for people to take their pets to, especially when they are experiencing life changes that make it difficult to care for their pets. People need a place where they know their pet will be taken care of, and put into good, caring homes.

We started small and slow. Currently we operate using a small network of foster homes, which limits the number of dogs we can assist. The most dogs we have had at one time is five, and currently we are not accepting cats due to the lack of foster homes, but that is about to change.

Residents of Seward will soon see a new sign in town! We are one step closer to fulfilling our dream of building a shelter. The Board of Directors recently purchased a lot south of Seward and we have launched a capital campaign to raise funds for the project. We are aiming for \$600,000. That should allow us to finish paying for the lot and get the building done.

The planned shelter will house approximately 12 dogs and be capable of housing up to 15 cats. Also we are proposing an outdoor play yard, an adoption meeting center and access to veterinary care. All animals will undergo assessment prior to adoption.

As a non-profit organization, Blue River Pet Rescue will depend on the support of community volunteers and donors to make our goals a reality. If you have a passion for pets, please consider volunteering with us or making a donation to our organization.

www.BlueRiverPetRescue.org

 Blue River Pet Rescue



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Look us up at our custom URL:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>

Obedience, friend or foe? *continued*

Continued from page 2

- Timing is key, you need to immediately respond to the inappropriate behavior to be able to show the dog, nope that is not what you should do, but do this instead.

Continue obedience training throughout his life. Incorporate training activities in your daily routine: waits at doorways, gets in the car when invited, feed them after they sit, comes when called etc. Once the basics are mastered teach them new advanced commands to stimulate his mind. Dogs have to do in 18-22 months what it takes human beings 18-20 years to do: they have to grow up. A human child's education begins at an early age, and they may attend school for 13 years and many continue their education for another 4 plus years in college or trade school. Even as adults we may need additional training on new tasks that come up at work, getting a new phone,

etc. Let's create those opportunities for our dogs as well. One 6-week-obedience course or a few private lessons aren't going to fix everything; although, it will lay down a great foundation. We will not be able to introduce all of life's challenges or experiences in one 6 week course. You must continue using what you have learned and strive to learn more. Give your dog the opportunity to succeed and teach him right from wrong.

So why train a dog? Because training a dog to be a responsible, trustworthy member of the family is the first and best means to empty out shelters, and take active, positive progressive steps to make sure they don't fill up again.

Learn more about obedience training on our blog. You can find it on our website: www.LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Thank you! Recent donors

Bert Schriener
Betty VanLund
Bob Williams
Brady Rivers
Burke Casari
Christopher Cassiday
Connie Beckman
Diane & John Rupnow
Diane Cottingham
Diane Ferguson
Diane Huseman
Donna Kavanagh
Dorothy Ladman
Eric, Yravis & Kirk Bahm
Jacqueline Skalak
James & Marlene Wagner
Jeanie and Earl Imler
Jennifer Lorenz
JoAnn Workman
Joyce Teets
Karen Jefferson
Kendra Detweiler
Linda Cady
Lindsey Fisher
Marisue & Steven Wagner
Mary Douglas
Mary Hewitt
Marylee Smith
Mike & Jo Ann Workman
Molly Hoffmann
Niki Svik
Norma Nicholson
Patricia Anderson
Patricia Rice
Reinder & Carol Siefkes
Ryan & Heidi Gratopp
Sharon Ellermeier
Sharon Page
Sharon Shelley
Sheila Jones
Stephen Novak
Tammie Lang
Valarie Stehlik
Vicki Miller
1-800-PetMeds
B&R Stores
Canine Consultants
Capital Humane Society
Cause for Paws
Celerion
Community Services Fund of NE
Domesti-Pups
Fear Crafters
Girl Scout Troop
Mars Petcare
Morans Liquor Works, LLC
Nature's Variety
Nichelson Family Foundation
Patty's Pub
Petco North & Petco South
South Ridge Animal Clinic
Super Saver
Superior Veterinary Care
Target
Walmart

FIX ME MEOW

402-817-1168
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org/fixme

\$25 PER CAT

Use special code: Fix Me Meow
Call now—Limited availability



Spay-ghetti

and

NO BALLS

MARCH 12 Reserve your seat

DINNER





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

402.817.1168
PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



SAVE THEM ALL



donate! **online at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org**

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!

