



Pet Talk

WINTER 2013

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors promotes enriching our community through progressive thinking, education, awareness and public support. We are committed to improving the lives of animals and alleviating cruelty in Lincoln and the surrounding area.

Donate

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program
Pet Food Bank
General Funds
Mail to: PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street and both PETCO Lincoln locations. As a 501(c)(3), all donations to LAA are tax deductible. Or donate through our website LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Cause Paws
Boutique for Cheap

Don't forget to shop at Cause for Paws, located at 57th & Old Cheney Road. This "boutique for cheap" turns your donations and purchases into cash for animal charities, including LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program. CauseForPawsLincoln.org

Spay/neuter update:

Happy Mew Year, Happy You Year

Lincoln Animal Ambassador's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program waiting list is over 150 clients long! What? Yes, Lincoln Animal

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

Lily Tomlin

Ambassador's waiting list for assistance with low cost spays and neuters is too long.

Why? Lincoln Animal Ambassador's Low-cost Spay/Neuter Program is dependent on donations, grants, and volunteers. In 2010, when LAA's program was initiated, a promise was made to the veterinarian clinics agreeing to work

with the program that no voucher would be issued without money to cover it. For many unpreventable, unforeseen reasons this past spring and summer LAA had a huge influx of requests and almost ran out of money to cover vouchers. So issuing vouchers had to be restricted.

The slowdown in issuing vouchers did not mean the number of cats and dogs needing spay and neutering assistance slowed down. The result: a very long wait list of Lincoln citizens, trying to do the right thing, still needing assistance altering their pets.

Since June 2010, LAA has assisted with altering 1,275 pets belonging to local citizens. The number of unwanted litters of kittens and puppies prevented is in the millions but that is not enough with the number of pets placed with local rescue groups and shelters for adoption. Yes, something more needs to be done. We must persevere! One at a time. That One could be you!

Good news! The amount of positive accomplished by One is infinite. The "ripples" of litters caused by one unaltered cat or dog

are stopped. Far-reaching ripples will result from the good done by one person doing one or both of the two things below:

1. Donate money. One donation of \$20 can assist with getting a male cat or dog neutered, thus preventing all the litters one male can produce in his lifetime. Every donation, no matter if it is \$1 or \$1,000 is put to good use. LAA is an organization which is comprised of volunteers doing the work in their homes; therefore, overhead is only what is absolutely necessary.
2. Donate time. One hour of volunteer time equals three to four LAA's clients interviewed to receive a spay/neuter voucher. For those unable to donate money, volunteering is an excellent way to help. Volunteering for LAA is also a great way to "help animals" for those who feel they can't handle the realities of doing hands-on rescue work.

Fortunately, right now vouchers are being issued full speed ahead, but LAA does not ever want to experience another slowdown. You, as a member of our community, are counted on to help with the mission to prevent homeless pets in Lincoln. LAA will not be satisfied until there are no more homeless pets.

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is very thankful for all the support received over the past three years. The accomplishments of this organization could not have happened without your support.



Two cats and their offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years.

Two dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years.

SEE YOU THERE!
**6th Annual
 Wine & Howl**
June 7, 2014
 Deer Springs Winery
 11 am to 5 pm

If you are interested in being a vendor at this fundraising event, you may call 402-817-1168 and ask for a vendor application or visit lincolnanimalambassadors.org. Last year, we had over 400 attendees and look for that number to grow again this year!



No pet hungry

On October 27th, a local University of Nebraska-Lincoln group called "No Pet Hungry" held a fundraiser to benefit Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. The student group, part of a class titled "Leadership, Communications and Teams", is called "No Pet Hungry" and sold dog biscuits, donating \$170 to LAA. The class is led by Dr. Coleen Jones, and the team leader for this project was Paige Travis. Thank you, No Pet Hungry, for your donation! The funds will help provide food for Lincoln's pet population!

Featured Rescue: R.u.F.F. Rescue, Inc.

R.u.F.F. Rescue, Inc. emerged from the desire of several community individuals that saw the need in Lincoln and its' surrounding area to provide a rescue for small dogs, 25# and under. We became licensed with the state and incorporated in March 2012, and then obtained our non profit 501 c 3 status shortly after. The current working board has more than 50 years combined experience of animal rescue. We do not have a shelter or facility to provide housing for our rescue dogs, instead, we rely on volunteers to provide a loving environment within their family homes. Our volunteers have a career, families, pets and busy life style, yet find the time to provide that extra touch and love that is so much needed for our rescue dogs. To our delight and surprise, we celebrated our first year as a rescue, knowing that we facilitated 41 dogs being adopted into their forever families.

The dogs that come into our care with R.u.F.F. Rescue, have arrived with a variety of life experiences: animal shelters, owners that are no longer able to care for their dogs, rural community vets, special need dogs, puppy mills or commercial breeding facilities, and yes, those strays, that have landed at our volunteers' doorstep. After an assessment and vet needs completed, rescue dogs are placed in a loving foster home waiting for their forever family to adopt.

Funding is always an issue within small nonprofit organizations. R.u.F.F. Rescue started out with seed money from a one-time donation generously given by one local non dog related business. The rescue currently operates on a small budget of donations for dog adoptions. Community vets are utilized for the needs of our rescue dogs. Discounts of services and supplies are always welcomed for the continued survival of our rescue.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed in R.u.F.F. Rescue. Some individuals may think fostering is the only volunteer opportunity available, not true, if you are unable to foster with our organization, please consider other opportunities to help: sponsor a rescue dog, transportation of rescue dogs, volunteer to

host or coordinate fundraisers, post on your personal FaceBook page our rescue dogs looking for their forever home—social media is fantastic for getting the word out of our rescue needs. Can you sew? ... make items for the dogs or a fundraiser. Other options may include financial donations, gift cards to Menards or Tractor Supply, or check with one of the volunteers as to what may be needed within the rescue at that time. The ideas are endless for volunteering with our small dog rescue organization.

Fostering a rescue dog starts by completing a volunteer application on line via our website: ruff-rescue.com. Foster training and ongoing support is available to all foster families. Food and other supplies are provided for your foster dog. We monitor our rescue dogs food intake, as we believe diet is essential to the overall good health of our rescue dogs. We encourage our foster parents to share input with the adoptive family, as they have gained a great deal of knowledge of their foster dog.



R.u.F.F. Rescue volunteers attend numerous events in Lincoln and surrounding areas to share our rescue dogs and educate the public on rescue dog needs. We offer specialized training to our volunteers as well as the community on topics of rescues, foster parenting and dog training assistance. We have several speakers within the rescue that offer public speaking to educate the public on rescues, rescue dogs and their needs, or other topics.

If you are ready to offer your time and/or resources, to help small rescue dogs in need, please visit our website ruff-rescue.com.

Volunteer Spotlight: Scott Warner



The LAA volunteer spotlight this quarter is shining on Scott Warner.

Scott is one of LAA's pet food bank volunteers. He currently assists with the Monday evening food distributions.

Scott originally contacted LAA in order to get food for his dogs and was impressed with our organization and wanted to be able to help others the way he had been helped, so he offered to be a volunteer. Scott has been volunteering with LAA for about 2 years. He started out by volunteering with the pet food bank on Thursday evenings but moved to Monday nights about 1 1/2 ago. We move a lot of heavy bags of food around, so it's nice to have some manpower. There is usually a crew of 3 or 4 working on food bank shift, and it can get very busy.

Why adopt a senior pet?

By Jennifer Howenstine

Every year thousands upon thousands of "senior" animals sit helplessly by in shelter cages as families charmed by playful puppies and boisterous kittens take the youngest animals available home with them. Senior pets five years and older are among the most difficult for shelters to find homes for. Future pet parents may assume these senior animals are past their prime, have little energy, or may come with ingrained bad habits. However, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there are several advantages to choosing a senior animal over a kitten or puppy.

- **WYSIWYG:** What You See Is What You Get. Senior animals have fully developed personalities and body sizes. They will not grow larger or acquire different personalities in 6 months to a year. A kitten or puppy may turn out to be completely different in middle age than it appeared when it was adopted, but a senior pet's personality is well established.

Scott was born in Arizona and moved to Nebraska as an infant, when his dad obtained a job here. He has 1 brother and 3 stepbrothers in Lincoln as well as 3 half brothers, so he has a big family! Scott enjoys college football and is a huge NASCAR fan. He likes Jeff Gordon but since Jeff hasn't done too well lately, Scott started following Jeff's teammate, multi-Sprint Cup series winner Jimmie Johnson.

Scott has two dogs—one is a Beagle and one is a Beagle/Coonhound mix.

What does Scott enjoy about volunteering—what keeps him coming back every week? He says the work is rewarding, knowing he is helping others. It can be exciting and fun. And, if he could add one thing to the LAA "wish list", he said it would be "more room" for the pet food bank. We almost doubled our pet food bank space this spring, and yet we still find ourselves in cramped quarters. That says a lot about the growing need for our program and to have reliable volunteers like Scott who help keep it running. Thank you, Scott, for all of your hard work!

If you'd like to become a volunteer with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, please contact us at 402-817-1168 or fill out a volunteer application on our website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

- **MANNERS & HABITS:** Older pets do not need to be housetrained or introduced to human house manners and habits. Older dogs may have received previous obedience training and older cats are already socialized and used to human interaction. They are less likely to destroy furniture and create havoc during play.
- **SCHEDULES.** Older pets are more likely to sleep through the night and are less demanding of attention from their owner's time during the day since they have lesser need for play.
- **TRUE RESCUES.** Senior pets are truly in danger at most animal shelters since they are more difficult to place and are most likely to be passed up by potential adopters. Thus, by adopting a senior pet, you will be truly saving a life.

Jennifer Howenstine is a Lincoln resident and proud owner of an 11-years young senior cat.

WANTED

The following are wanted by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors:

- Volunteers to assist with our marketing efforts
- Volunteers to work with the media and social media
- Volunteers to help with fundraising and events
- Volunteers to help pick up donations around Lincoln

Do you like to have fun, work with people, and know that what you do benefits the companion animals of Lincoln? Then visit our website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org, and fill out a volunteer application. No matter what area of skill you have expertise in, we have a spot for you!

Volunteer Potluck

Recently, the volunteers of Lincoln Animal Ambassadors were able to share a potluck dinner hosted by LAA's board as a "thank you" to the volunteers for all of their hard work. It was a way to help recognize the efforts of its volunteers and to come together for some good food and conversation. Each volunteer in attendance took a turn introducing themselves and telling everyone how they volunteer for LAA. Some of us volunteer with others, and some of us volunteer from the comfort of our home and don't get to mingle as much with other volunteers, so this was a way to get to know each other and share some time with fellow animal lovers. We all work together toward the same goals, so it was nice to meet others and enjoy a relaxing dinner. We can't thank our volunteers enough for all they do, because LAA depends solely on volunteers to manage our programs. Thank you!!

from the community

LAA would like to share some of the "thank you's" and notes of encouragement we have received from program recipients and community partners:

Just want to thank you all for your recent help with neutering costs. A beautiful young female came onto my farm this spring and stayed, an outdoor mouser who spent most of her time close to the house. In less than a week I noticed she was pregnant. She had her litter of kittens outdoors because she doesn't like to be indoors for more than a few minutes. The family now spends a good deal of time on my back porch. The two kittens who survived were neutered (turned out they were both males) by NAMC yesterday with the help of your vouchers. I had had the mother spayed at my own expense in July. Now I feel so responsible that I know my feline population is in check. Your help made this warm, fuzzy feeling possible. Again, thanks!
Gayle

Thank you endlessly!
Desiree

Thank you so much! I will call Dr. Wachal's office tomorrow to set up Ricky's neutering asap. We don't want to segregate our kitten genders any longer than we have to. The LAA volunteers' time and energy is so appreciated. I can't thank you and Animal Ambassadors enough!
Deb

in memoriam

In memory of Chuck Mathes, brother of LAA volunteer Tom Mathes, two \$20 memorials have been received for our programs. Our condolences go out to Tom and his family, and we thank the donors for these gifts.

Meow & Chow event raised over \$9,000 for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House

The 4th annual Meow & Chow fun and fundraiser night was held on October 26th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln. Over 200 guests enjoyed a variety of soups, breads, desserts, and beverages and played bingo to help raise funds for two of Lincoln's animal welfare groups, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House. Lincoln's own Brad Anderson, one of the Channel 10/11 meteorologists, was our celebrity bingo caller. The event raised over \$9100, which was divided between the two groups and used to further their mission of improving the lives of Lincoln's companion animals. The Cat House is Lincoln's no-kill cat shelter at 1935 Q Street. Their website is www.thecathouse.org if you'd like more information. And Lincoln Animal Ambassadors funds a temporary assistance pet food bank and a low-cost spay and neuter program. For more information on our programs, please visit our website at www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for next year's Meow & Chow. It will be held on October 25, 2014 at the Scottish Rite Temple. It'll be fun!



We would like to thank the many, many volunteers who helped make this night a fun-filled evening benefiting countless animals. We could not do this without you!

We'd also like to thank the following donors who provided food and prizes for the evening:

A Novel Idea	Restaurant
Bookstore	Open Harvest
BK Pet Necessities	Petco Foundation
Bread & Cup	Pepsi Cola of Lincoln
Bryan LGH	Rodizio Grill
Butterfly Bakery	Runza
Buzzard Billy's	Schaefer's
Canyon Coffee	St. James United
Company	Methodist Church
Choctelier Blue	Ladies
City Clock	Stauffer's Café & Pie
Cupcakes & More	Shoppe
Distinctive	Swag Fabrications
Impressions	The Canine
Don & Millies	Consultant
Eileen's Cookies	The Cookie Company
Grand Paws Country	The Egg & I
Kennel	The Goldworks
Granite City	Jewelers
Gratitude Café &	The Grain Bin
Bakery	The Lincoln Race
JML Jewelry	Course
Appraisals	The Mill Gourmet
Jimmy John's	Coffee
Just Popped Popcorn	The Still
La Paz Mexican Fare	The Venue
& Cantina	Tico's
Le Quartier Baking	Wunderrosa Winery
Company	9 South CharGrill
Licorice International	And especially to all
Lincoln Espresso	the personal friends
Misty's Steakhouse	of The Cat House
& Lounge	and Lincoln Animal
Nebraska Bookstore	Ambassadors
Olive Garden Italian	

Super Saver sandwich fundraiser

On November 23rd, LAA held a Sub Sandwich fundraiser at Super Saver on 56th & Hwy. 2. Several volunteers made sub sandwiches to order for shoppers on a very cold Saturday morning, raising over \$600 for our low-cost spay and neuter program. Our thanks to Matt Kempston, store director, and Super Saver for providing the ingredients for the sandwiches. We were also able to fill our donation barrel in the store, helping put food on the shelves of our pet food bank to help feed Lincoln's at-risk pets. This fundraiser is a fun time, and we look forward to making you a sandwich next year!



Pictured left to right, volunteers Anna Pasold, Jen Howenstine, and Ruthann Rivers

Beyond being a vet: Career opportunities for animal lovers

By Molly Hoffmann, Humane Educator

All of us have heard something similar to this statement: "My son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter loves animals and thinks they want to be a veterinarian." When I hear these words my initial thought is usually something like: Great, this world can never have enough animal lovers. And then it quickly turns to: There are so many ways to have a career helping animals besides just being a vet and I want people to realize this simple truth.

I was once an employee at one of the largest humane societies in the United States with close to 140 employees, only three of which were veterinarians! My point is that any child or teen should be encouraged to pursue a career that utilizes their strengths and interests. Let me show

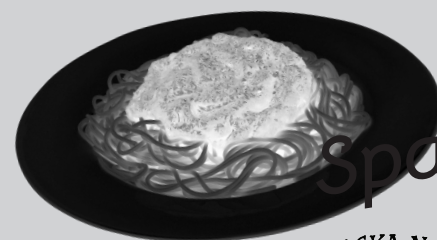
you what I mean. The chart below provides a list of opportunities. The left hand column list some interests and special skills you may see in a young person who is an animal lover and the right hand column give examples of how they can be used to help animals at a humane society.

All 140 employees made that humane society great. It is a reality that not every young person has the intellectual ability to be a veterinarian or will want to go to college for eighth years. What is a reality is that everyone has skills and interests that can be utilized to help companion animals. So the next time you hear that common proclamation, please encourage that youngster to pursue other options in animal rescue that are just as important to caring for animals and saving lives.

Good with money, attention for detail	Accounting department
Mechanically inclined, enjoys "hands on" physical work	Maintenance department
Artistic and likes computers	Website designer and/or manager
Social and charismatic	Development department
Intuitive with dogs or cats	Trainer in the behavior department
Good communicator and well-spoken	Public relations
Natural teacher	Humane education
Creative and good handling skills	Groomer
Interested in law enforcement	Animal control officer
Strong interest in science and caring	Veterinary technician
A natural shopper or sense of fashion	Gift shop employee
Party planner	Event coordinator
Desire to work with animals directly	Animal care technician
Strong people skills!	Adoption counselor or support staff
Good under pressure	Community call center operator

SAVE THE DATE! February 15

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors & Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue join forces for the Spay-ghetti and No Balls Dinner Fundraiser



Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner Fundraiser



Calendar of events

Spay-ghetti & No Balls Benefit Dinner

February 15
Warehouse #4 (old Spaghetti Works)
6pm

I Love My Dog Expo

February 22 & 23

Lancaster Event Center

Catsino Night

April 5
The Cat House fundraiser with poker, black jack, roulette, craps and trivia!
Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St
Doors 6:30pm, Gambling 7-9:00pm

Give to Lincoln Day

May 29
Sponsored by Lincoln Community Foundation. www.lcf.org

Animal Blessing

June 1
First Plymouth, 20th & D

Wine & Howl

June 7
Deer Springs Winery
11am - 5pm

Meow & Chow

October 25
Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St





PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



Banfield
Charitable Trust



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, www.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, or both Petco Lincoln locations.

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

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!