

# Pet Talk

SUMMER 2014

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

## 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 For Paws**  
Boutique for Cheap

**NEW LOCATION!**  
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

## Lost our lease! We need your help

By Brady Rivers

Thanks to the generosity of our allies at The Cat House, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' pet food bank has made its home at 1935 'Q' Street for the past several years. With the recent purchase of a new building, the folks at The Cat House will soon be moving their felines into fancier accommodations, and

**Pets are part of our family. Just think, how you would feel if you could not take care of your family members properly? If you couldn't afford to buy their food or medication? The LAA pet food bank helps people keep their pets in their home during these trying times, when they might not otherwise be able to afford to do so.**

we here at LAA want to give them the most room possible to focus on caring for Lincoln's homeless cats and kittens. Our goal is to find a new location for pet food storage and distribution by the end of the year, and we need help from our community-minded readers to do it.

The ideal facility would provide 600 to 800 square feet of temperature-controlled space to store food, litter, and other supplies, have a garage door and a separate entrance for our regularly scheduled food distributions two evenings

each week. Since the majority of pet food bank recipients reside in north and central Lincoln, we'd prefer a location within those sections of the city, but we're open to any possibilities.

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so any charitable reduction in rental costs is a potential tax deduction. Whether you're with a company that has some extra space to let, or a person or nonprofit looking to share a bit of room (and looking for some extra income), we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to contact

LAA president Mary Douglas with ideas for potential properties at 402-540-7017. We can also be reached on our voicemail line at 402-817-1168 or via email at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org. Thank you for thinking of Lincoln's underserved pets and their guardians.

### **A few words of thanks from the community...**

"I sure appreciate getting dog food and treats for my dog when we need them. Dog food gets to be expensive at times."

Sharon

"Without your help I would have had to take Lolo to the Humane Society long ago. I have been waiting for social security disability to make their decision and am on a small income for now. They saved me a lot of heartache and stress. Thank you all so much for your help. You guys and gals are great! You serve a very worthy cause! Best place ever for help. Thank you for helping me keep my friend Lolo. She is a Joy. God Bless You All!"

Susan

"I've been going to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors for 4 months. And am so thankful. I live on a disability check and live in a not so good neighborhood and my dogs are big so they intimidate people, just because of their size. Because they are big the cost of my place has gone up. Now I don't feel like I'm a bad person when they run out, they are there for me and my pets, and I've learned they love it so much each time I come home feeling like Santa Claus and they're smiling and jumping, making silly noises telling me they love the food and the biscuits.

Thanks to the Ambassadors, I'm not stressed out or hurt when I run out and have to tell them they have got to wait. And am capable to provide Bigfoot his allergy medicine and shots and licenses. I can walk my dogs and feel proud to let others admire them, but because they are so big, I ask them not to come close. They are my protectors and companions. Yes, I feel safe knowing they are healthy and fed. Thank you and God Bless You for all your support."

Mary, Bigfoot, and Meska



**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop on Amazon, why not support LAA while shopping? Shop AmazonSmile and choose LAA as your charity of choice. Just log into your Amazon account and select LAA as your charity. This is definitely an easy way to donate a little extra to LAA, which in turn helps us provide funds for pets in need in our community. Our custom URL is: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>. Thank you!

## Paws and remember

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors frequently receives memorials in honor of beloved family members and pets who have passed away. These are some recent contributions:

In memory of Schnauzer "Rufus" Rivers from Mary Douglas

In memory of Chocolate Lab "Katie" Hynek from Mary Douglas

"LAA—while these are rough times, your thoughtfulness is comforting. Squirt was so special to me and my son. He represented so much pleasure to us." -Nan

Donations made in honor of loved ones provide funds to help others through our pet food bank and low-cost spay/neuter program. We thank our donors for their generosity in time of personal sorrow.

## Featured Rescue: Lost Pets of Lancaster County



By Sam Franklin

Lost Pets of Lancaster County started on January 1st, 2014. I founded it after helping a friend reunite with her two lost German Shepherds, Nadia and Sergeant. The search for Nadia and Sergeant was

publicized by various local media outlets, which helped me to realize that not only was there a need to educate and assist people who lose their pets, but also indicated that members of our community cared and were willing to share the task of helping folks in that situation. I knew that I possessed the training and expertise to be an instrument to the community in this capacity, so I started the Facebook page to raise awareness regarding local lost pets.

Both the inspiration for such an undertaking and the reason behind my knowledge about finding lost pets originates from my own experience losing a pet—my Bassett Hound, Daisy—when I was living in Seattle. Because of Daisy, I know that the process of finding a lost pet includes more than the physical search; it's also an emotional task to find support and remain hopeful, the benefits of which I can personally attest to since I was reunited with Daisy successfully after four months.

On January 1st, Jennifer Martin contacted me when her best friend's dog, Lizzy, went

missing. I advised her on how and where to search and Lizzy was found and reunited five days later. She then became my business partner and it was not until that point in time that Lost Pets of Lancaster County became fully operational. Together, Jen and I went through the logistical process of becoming an established non-profit organization and we have been in business ever since!

We currently have a core group of about eight people who handle the day-to-day operations of making phone calls, hanging fliers, and searching for and tracking pets; however, we have thousands of people who follow our page and share posts, which is an incredibly integral component of our mission. We could NOT do it without them! Our posts have reached up to 75,000 people!



Contact us through our Facebook page, Lost Pets of Lancaster County, or our phone number 402-739-9939.

## The numbers

### LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Almost 1,500 dogs and cats! 719 cats/740 dogs. Eight local veterinarians are working with LAA to reduce Lincoln's pet overpopulation.

Spaying and neutering just one animal can help save thousands of lives because nationwide, 56% of dogs and 72% of cats entering shelters are killed.

### PET FOOD BANK

LAA distributes over 2.5 tons of dry pet food each month plus canned food and cat litter. Since the pet food banks inception in 2009, we have distributed over 179,000 pounds of dry food, over 49,000 cans of food, and over 17 ton of cat litter!

LAA has assisted 312 families with "at

**1,459**  
spayed/neutered  
dogs and cats

**312**  
families assisted by  
the Pet Food Bank  
in 2014

risk" pets in 2014; and 661 unique pets have been helped with these pet food distribution, many multiple times. In July, 2013 this program became income based. Since that time, the distributions have increased. An estimated 625 families will have benefited from this program by the end of the year 2014; and 1,322 unique pets assisted, many multiple times.

These disbursements help the pet guardian keep their pet in their home, possibly pay for their pets medications and other everyday expenses that some struggle with on a daily basis.

A big THANK YOU to donors from the community who make these programs possible.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Molly Hoffmann



Molly is pictured with Rango, one of her Border Collie mixes.

Our Volunteer Spotlight this quarter shines brightly on Molly Hoffmann. Molly is one of LAA's board members as well as our humane educator. Here is what she has to say:

After living in Lincoln for many years, I grew tired of hearing people's concerns regarding the lack of services to help companion animals. So with a few other dedicated individuals, we launched LAA—a result of one of my favorite quotes, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."

In addition to serving as a board member for LAA, I volunteer for The Cat House, Nebraska Border Collie Rescue, and direct a community service project to benefit the Wildlife Rescue Team. For money, I am a Science Educator and coach for Lincoln Public Schools with my current teaching position at Irving Middle School.

My passion is humane education for young and old as I believe the real change in animal welfare will come from people knowing more so they can do better. For two years, I worked as a humane educator for the Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha and since leaving continue to do presentations to groups of all ages on various aspects of animal welfare including: how to be a responsible pet guardian, the

overpopulation problem and importance of spay/neuter, what to consider before adopting, what puppy mills are, the link between animal abuse and domestic violence, etc. For a small donation to LAA monetarily or in pet food and supplies, I can do a presentation for your group—from pre-kindergartners to senior citizens.

In addition to doing humane education for LAA, I also serve as the volunteer coordinator, help unload pet food shipments, and assist at fundraising events. Our corp of volunteers is very diverse and each person brings unique experiences, skills, and information to benefit the good work we do in this community.

My recommendation to anyone interested in volunteering for LAA or any other animal rescue is to be committed and know that you are making a difference. Although there is still so much improvement to be made in animal welfare, it is happening! Our public leaders and politicians are being forced to make changes in laws to protect animals from suffering and it all starts with individuals wanting to make the change.

I am lucky to share my life with two adopted dogs and two adopted cats and one long-term foster cat. Dash and Rango are both Border Collie mixes who enjoy a good romp at the dog run and look forward to some camping adventures this summer and fall. Bree and Biff are indoor cats who supervise the neighborhood activities from their screened porch. Bamboo is my foster now for over five years who I continue to socialize on her timeline; it is very rewarding to see her progress on a daily basis as I have learned so much from her about animal behavior.

For more information on having a presentation for your group, please email LAA at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org).



## LAA WANTS YOU

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer organization. As such, we do not pay any staff and therefore have need of volunteers who possess the following skills:

- Returning calls made to our hot line for assistance
- Working with the media and social networking
- Writing/blogging
- Organizing events and fundraisers
- Picking up donations
- Stocking our pet food bank
- Taking inventory of pet food bank donations
- Marketing

Many of our volunteer needs require minimal time requirement, and some can be done from your own home. Other events require volunteers to staff events or help behind the scenes. If you love animals and helping others, we have an opportunity for you. You can fill out a volunteer application on our website, [www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org). We'd love to have you join us!

## 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:

Thank you so much for helping me get my kitty cat spayed. You are providing such an amazing service. Thank so much!

Lyndsay

Just wanted to say Thank you for helping getting our cat Stella spayed this week. It was a huge help to us. Thank you again!!!!

Kerry

“Thank you! You made my tail wag!”  
“S.” of Lincoln and dog, Bella

“I just wanted to thank you so very much for the help with the dog food as well as a box of treats! My pups have not had treats for awhile so they were ALL excited :)!!!”

Jim, Minnie, Brady and Ben

“Thank you so much for assisting me with getting my black Lab Callie spayed. It is such a big relief to have that possibility eliminated. I am very grateful for your help!”

Pennie

## LAA thanks you!

By Brady Rivers

Hi there. Aren't you looking sharp today?

Have we told you lately how wonderful you are? Not to mention caring and generous, with an impeccable sense of style? We can't say it enough: thank you. Thank you for supporting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Thank you for helping us distribute three tons of food and supplies to pets in need each month (that's a lot of kibble). Thank you for helping us pay for nearly 1,500 spay and neuter surgeries (that's a lot of... well, you know). Most of all, thank you for helping us grow over the past six years.

For low-income families and their companion dogs, cats, and assorted critters, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is a force for positive change, and contributions from awesome donors like you are what keep our programs running. Yes, we're butting you up just a little. But the fact remains that 100 percent of your donations have a direct impact on our community by funding programs to combat overpopulation, encourage responsible pet guardianship, and prevent animals from being relinquished to shelters due to financial hardship.

**Don't know about all the ways you can donate? Have a look at this handy list:**

- Make a secure Paypal donation at [lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://lincolnanimalambassadors.org)

- Shop Amazon.com and donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to LAA through the AmazonSmile Foundation.
- Enjoy deals at Lincoln businesses and contribute to LAA's assistance programs by downloading the Pickit app to your Apple or Android mobile device.
- Drop off pet food and supplies at one of the four pet food bank donation sites in Lincoln: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Super Saver at 56th and Highway 2, and both Lincoln Petco stores.
- Mail a check or cash to our post office box. Why not make use of the delightfully fun-sized return envelope included with this very newsletter?

LAA is also in need of time, skills and passion- after all, we are a grassroots organization! There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available for people who envision a better world for companion animals. Call, shoot an email to [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org), message us on Facebook, or send us a carrier pigeon and we'll let you know what you can do to help.

It's been a couple paragraphs since we've expressed our undying admiration, so we'll sign off by saying 'thanks' again. By the way, did you do something different with your hair? You are looking fab-u-lous.

## Learning to be charitable at a young age

By Mary Douglas

Ella Lounsbury had a birthday coming up and when she and her mom, Sarah, were planning her birthday party, Ella decided she wanted all of her gifts to be donations to help animals. She and her mom researched the animal groups in Lincoln and Ella wanted to help cats AND dogs, because she loves both of them. Ella asked all of her birthday guests to donate cash to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. When all was said and done, Ella and her mom had collectively donated \$260 to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Ella, her little brother and her mom, Sarah came down to help with pet food distributions one evening in early April to donate the cash. Since LAA leases space from The Cat House, they also got a tour of The Cat House from one of the shelter volunteers and were able to meet some cats up for adoption.



## A tick's story

By Jennifer Heidemann

Its target firmly identified; its multiple legs moving as a single, well-oiled machine with a firm destination in mind. In its sights: a large, soft, yellow-haired playground with endless possibilities. Its small, flat, almond shaped body making calculated movements to get to its feast. It will only be a matter of time now. It quivers with excitement at the thought of its next feeding; the nourishment the red, hot, metallic tasting fluid provides. It waits patiently; its first pair of many legs outstretched as its furry host comes just close enough. It jumps on; elated at the number of possibilities. It debates momentarily about feasting immediately; but elects to explore this new victim before settling in. With the victim completely unaware of its presence, it takes its time, finding just the right feeding spot. With its mouth so small and its bite nearly unrecognizable; it sinks in. Ready for the immediate nourishment this feeding will provide, it begins its feast. The sticky substance fills its body, preparing it for its next life stage. The feeding can last for hours, even days; the predator settles in to enjoy its victory. While this could be a trailer for the next teen/vampire movie, I'm sorry to report that it is not.

Ladies and gentlemen, what we have is a tick. And this ugly, brown parasite (with eight legs not considered a bug) has found a buffet rivaling Golden Corral on my dog; my very unaware, 85 pound wouldn't hurt a fly, yellow Labrador retriever.

As we charge into the spring and summer seasons, ticks come out in full force ready for their life-sustaining next meal. Sensing out their next victim by detecting breath and body odor, or feeling for body heat, moisture and vibrations. Once identified, these bloodsuckers deploy a practice called hematophagy; cutting a hole in their host's

epidermis and inserting their feeding tube. Aside from being extremely disgusting (I can feel them crawling on me as I am writing this article), ticks have the ability to transmit pathogens that cause disease to those they feed. As they engorge on their host's blood, ticks inject saliva into the victim's skin. This allows for the possible transmittal of 15+ tick-transmitted diseases; Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, ehrlichiosis; the list goes on. If left undetected and untreated, many of these diseases can kill our beloved pets.

As I'm sure is true for those who are reading this newsletter, I am a big softy when it comes to my dogs. And, as I'm sure is true for most as well, I will do just about anything to avoid touching or otherwise being in the same vicinity of a tick. I'm more of a prevention gal than a “pull a nasty, gross creepy-crawly thing off my dog” kind of a gal. From the recognizable green applicators of Frontline to the tablets and the collars, there are numerous (and effective) methods of tick (and flea) prevention for our furry family members. Although this is Nebraska and not much can survive during our gnarly winters, prevention should still be used year round. With so many different species within this order of Parasitiformes, ticks can be a problem well into late fall and ramp up in early spring. As a responsible and loving pet owner, we should do our due diligence in ensuring our lovelies are protected twelve months of the year.

Luckily, my furry and fun-loving beast of a retriever is current on his prevention application and the tick in this story is unable to stick. My big lug goes on about his day, totally unaware of the danger he just averted and I can rest easy that he is protected. Now about that next vampire blockbuster movie.

## Help your dog cool down with this frozen treat: Cool canine confection

- 1 or 2 well-mashed bananas (you can substitute applesauce or mashed pumpkin)
- 32 oz. plain or vanilla yogurt (use yogurt with active bacteria; do not use yogurt with artificial sweeteners or added sugar, as these are bad for doggies!)
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 2 Tbsp. peanut butter

Mix all ingredients in a blender. Freeze in a container, and scoop out a small spoonful for your dogs when they need a cold treat!

Please make sure your doggies aren't allergic to any of the ingredients and that they are not lactose intolerant, as milk can cause diarrhea and stomach upset in doggies. Remember to treat your doggies sparingly, because just like humans, too much of a good thing can add unwanted pounds to us canine companions!

## Calendar of events

### Litter Box Rally Sand Volleyball Tournament August 3

10 am  
Spikes, 2300 Judson Street  
Benefit for The Cat House

### The Cat House Garage Sale August 22 & 23

Friday, 9am - 6pm  
Saturday, 9am - 3pm  
The Cat House, 1935 Q Street

### Hearts United for Animals Family Reunion September 13

Kenl Inn  
2 - 5pm

### Second Chance Pups 10 Year Anniversary Event September 21

Greater Lincoln Obedience Club  
5740 Johanna Road, Lincoln  
11am - 2pm

### Meow & Chow October 12

Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St





## How you can help LAA, help the animals

### Volunteer opportunity:

LAA is in need of phone volunteers. One opportunity is to listen to and respond to voice mails left on our phone line. You are assigned a time period shift for the week. The other opportunity is to conduct our spay/neuter interviews. The benefits of these positions:

- no transportation needed as you do at the luxury of your own home
- no time constraints as you do at your convenience
- and best of all, you are helping people and their pets!

All you need is a phone, a computer, good communication skills, and basic computer knowledge. You will be trained by an experienced LAA volunteer. The difference you will make is significant and rewarding. For more information, please contact us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org) or leave a message on our phone line at 402.817.1168.

## 6th annual Wine & Howl a huge success!

LAA's 6th annual Wine & Howl fundraiser at Deer Springs Winery on June 7th was... well, a "howling" success!

The rain on Saturday morning ended and a beautiful early summer day followed, allowing everyone to enjoy a fun-filled day at Deer Springs Winery. There was live music, vendors to visit, food, dogs, raffle drawings, and lots of fun!

Over 400 guests attended the event, and we raised over \$4600. This money will help us spay and neuter a lot of cats and dogs, furthering our mission of improving the lives of Lincoln's pets.

We look forward to next year's event... see you there!



## Keep your cool this summer!

### Tips for helping your dog stay safe in the heat

1. **Walk your dog early in the morning or late at night**—it's cooler at these times, and you'll both be more comfortable.
2. **Protect your dog's feet with boots.** Heat rises from the ground, especially from cement and asphalt—and hot surfaces can burn your dog's feet. Dogs absorb and release heat through their feet, so boots help keep your dog from absorbing heat and thereby keeps him cooler.
3. **Keep your dog hydrated!** Dogs can't sweat—they cool off by panting. Carry a bottle of water along on your walks—or have your dog carry it for you in a doggie backpack or vest. The cold water bottles will help keep your dog cool this way, and it also gives your dog a sense of purpose when he has a job to do.
4. **Watch for signs of overheating in your dog.** If a dog gets overheated, he will pant and drool excessively. If he gets too hot, he will become lethargic, get bloodshot eyes, and may become pale. Make sure your dog gets plenty of water when it's hot out. Remember that dark-coated dogs absorb more heat than lighter-coated dogs. And overweight dogs are more at risk of dehydration.
4. **Set up a kiddie pool in the shade for your dog.** You can also use a sprinkler that sprays a gentle mist to help them keep cool.
5. **Cool your dog from the bottom up!** A wet towel under your dog is a good way to help him keep cool. Spraying your dog's paws and stomach with water, as well as over his back, helps cool him down.
6. **Let your dog dig in a shady area.** He can dig a den to lie in to help keep cool.
7. **Your dog is actually a pretty good meteorologist.** If it's too hot out, he'll know and instinctively want to exercise less or go back in where it's cool. Just let him step outside when it's hot, and he'll know. The hottest part of the summer is called "Dog days of summer"—and dogs know when it's too hot out. They understand the need to play it cool in the heat.
8. **Take your dog swimming.** It's a wonderful activity when it's hot. Make sure you hold on to him to help keep him safe as you move around in the pool.
9. **NEVER leave your dog in a parked car!!!** Your car retains more heat than an open area, even in the shade, and can become dangerously hot very quickly. Your dog can overheat and die in a hot car! Let him stay cool and comfy at home.

Enjoy the warm summer weather, but be safe and don't overdo it in the heat!



## Thank you!

### Lincoln Animal Ambassadors would like to thank the following Wine & Howl contributors...

- All vendors  
 All LAA volunteers and board members  
 Active Life Chiro  
 Bath Fitter  
 Beer Paws  
 Blue River Pet Rescue  
 Canine Design  
 Cathy Beneke  
 Cherished Moments by Beverly  
 Connie Beckman  
 Deer Springs Winery  
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 The Canine Scrub  
 The Cat House  
 The Green Spot  
 UNL Dairy Store  
 Voice for Companion Animals  
 Water my Health  
 And special thanks to Frances Hayes, Susan Lien, and Erik Rivers.



402.817.1168  
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](http://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 (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!