

Pet Talk

SPRING 2012

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

Giving back is something we should all do

By Bobbi Pettinger, Volunteer

These days, with the current economic situation the country is in, it seems that more and more families are finding it harder to make ends meet each month. For my family that struggle became even more difficult when my husband was unexpectedly retired from his employment for medical reasons and our income was reduced by almost half. Unfortunately, our creditors didn't see fit to reduce our monthly payments by half, as well. There just isn't enough money coming in anymore to cover the expenses.

One of my biggest concerns was being able to provide for our pets, our furry kids as we call them, since all of our two legged children are no longer at home. It was then a good friend of mine told me about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and their Pet Food Bank. I cannot begin to express how helpful this organization has been. It makes so much sense. There are food banks for people who have difficult times, it is only natural that there should be the same available for the animals that they love. We still have trouble making ends meet each month, but not having to worry about how we are going to provide for our pets has been such a relief.

The first time I had set up a time to pick up food, I was greeted with a warm welcome and friendly faces. They were interested in my pets, they asked about special diets so, if possible, they could meet their needs. During our conversation, I had told them about medications that one of my dogs needed to take and they even gave me information on a no cost insurance program through the county that might be able to

assist with that since the medication Bogie needed was one that was also prescribed to people. You could tell they weren't there because they "had" to be, but because they "wanted" to be and that they cared.



I absolutely love their philosophy of having those that they are able to help, also give back to the community. Giving back is something that we should all do, as even the smallest act can make a difference to someone and can only make the world a better place. I have been very fortunate. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was looking for volunteers and I was lucky enough to be allowed to become a part of their organization. It is a pleasure to be working with such an amazing group of people. Since Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an entirely volunteer driven group, it is their dedication and commitment to helping animals that allows this service, as well as their low cost spay and neuter program, to be available to the community. *continued on page 2*

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

Calendar of events

Tastefully Simple Fundraiser
Now thru May 21, 2012

Give to Lincoln Day
May 17, 2012

Dog Days of Summer
May 19, 2012
MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue Adoption Event
Verizon Call Center Parking Lot
4600 Innovation Drive, Lincoln, NE
10 am to 2 pm

Tails 'n Trails Walk
May 20, 2012
Haymarket Park
12 to 3 pm

4th Annual Wine & Howl
June 2, 2012
Deer Springs Winery
11 am to 5 pm
Benefit supports Lincoln Animal Ambassadors.

3rd Annual Meow & Chow
October 28, 2012
Scottish Rite Temple
Details TBA. Benefit supports Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House.

Giving back is something we should all do

continued from page 1

You can tell by their positive attitudes and friendly approach that they truly care.

I have only been volunteering with them for a short period and I am continuing to discover new things they do for the animals of our community as well as the people that own them. I couldn't be prouder of being part of such group. I am one of the voices that returns calls (they have been very patient as I learn the ropes) and it is a great feeling to be able to help others and learn about the fur kids in their lives.

The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Temporary Assistance Pet Food Bank is funded totally by donations and run entirely by volunteers. Approximately 3,000 pounds of dry pet food a month is disbursed, plus canned food, litter, and other pet items. To volunteer contact us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

Current Pet Food Bank Needs List:

- Litter
- Dry pet food
- Cat treats
- Dog treats
- Leashes & collars
- Pet beds
- Cat & dog toys
- New and gently used items welcome

Donations can be dropped at:

PETCO North
(bin in front entryway)
48th & O Street, Lincoln, NE

PETCO South
(bin near cash registers)
56th & Highway 2, Lincoln, NE

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
2325 S. 24th Street, Lincoln, NE

Now through May 21:

Tastefully Simple Fundraiser



Tastefully Simple and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has teamed up for fundraiser! Portions of all sales proceeds will go to LAA by following the simple steps below.

Go to www.tastefullysimple.com.

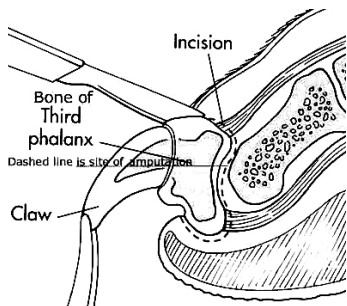
- 1) Do all of your shopping first.
- 2) When you are ready to check out, go to your shopping cart.
- 3) When you are on the shopping cart page, select "Find Host/Event"
- 4) Under "Find Party by Host Name," type in:
First Name: Animal
Last Name: Ambassadors
Select "search"

Shop today to stock up your kitchen shelves for your summer fun *and* help LAA!

Declawing: Information and the alternatives

By April Hurt

To keep the claws or to de-claw your feline friend - that is the question. Before you make a decision, here are a few things to consider: De-clawing is not a "minor" surgery as veterinarians may suggest, it is a very major surgery. The cat's claw is not like



a human's nail, a cat's claw is connected to the bone. De-clawing is actually an amputation of the last joint of your cat's toes (this includes ligaments and tendons, too!). De-clawing has been made illegal in many countries around the world. This is a very painful surgery and recovery for you cat.

The amputation of this very important part of their anatomy can drastically deform a cat's feet and also deprive them of their primary means of defense. Here are some possible and serious complications to consider: litter box avoidance, biting and aggression, excruciating pain (cats are proud and are very

good at hiding pain), damage to the radial nerve, hemorrhage, bone chips that prevent healing, painful re-growth of deformed claw inside of the paw (this isn't visible on the outside), and chronic back and joint pain as shoulder, leg and back muscles weaken. Cats can also be emotionally scarred from this surgery—some people have reported that their cat's personality and behavior changed after de-clawing. Don't worry, there are other alternatives to de-clawing!

First, understand that your cat scratches mainly to mark territory and for exercise. Try trimming you cat's claws to deter scratching. Offer your kitty lots of rough-textured scratching posts and place them in rooms where you spend a lot of time. Try different positions of scratching posts—some cats prefer vertical scratching and others prefer horizontal. Also, you can try nail caps—vinyl caps that go over the cat's claws. Cats don't like aluminum foil or citrus scents...try covering areas with foil or using citrus scented sprays to keep your kitties away from the furniture. Please be sure to consider the quality of life for your feline friend, whatever you choose. And remember to stay educated!

Volunteer Spotlight: Jane Cech



This quarter's volunteer spotlight features Jane Cech, a teacher for over 20 years who works on many endeavors for LAA including contacting possible clients for the low cost spay/neuter program.

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal

Ambassadors? I read an article in the Lincoln paper about a woman who received help from LAA. There was a website listed for LAA so I checked it out. I also had donated some dog food and the person who contacted me to pick up the dog food, Mary Douglas, shared information about LAA.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been a teacher for 20 plus years and I officiate high school volleyball. In my free time I like to paint, garden and do needlework. I have a dog, Cooper. He is a Westie who has been such a blessing in my life.

What areas do you primarily volunteer for us at this time? I currently volunteer with the low cost spay/neuter program, making calls to potential clients. I have also volunteered for various LAA events (Wine

and Howl, Petco Info Table and LAA booth at the Love My Dog Expo)

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities? I find making calls for the low cost spay/neuter program very rewarding. Being able to offer assistance to people who are in need of altering their pet(s) is so important, not only for them, but for the animals and our community!

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln? My dog, Cooper, recently has been certified as a therapy dog through Healing Hearts. We go to the Waterford (an assisted living facility) 2-3 times a month and visit all of his "girlfriends" and a few male friends, too. Besides going to the Waterford, Cooper goes to school with me 4-6 times a month when I am reading books to the Kindergarten classes that I teach. I am also an active member of the Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni Council, which involves volunteering for a variety of NWU events.

What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? That they should attend a LAA meeting to see if this is something that they are really interested in and if it is, take the ball and run with it, because there are so many things that you can do to get involved.

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be? Endless amounts of money so that LAA doesn't have to worry about funding for the spay/neuter program or the pet food bank.

On Thursday May 17th, Lincoln will come together for Give To Lincoln Day, sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation. We need YOU to join us.

It's 24-hours of unprecedented giving to nonprofits. It's your chance to help make a real difference, right here in our community. You can help sustain Lincoln Animal Ambassadors which works so diligently to improve our community. Show your support through Give To Lincoln Day, and your gift will be increased by helping us get a proportional share of the challenge match fund. Please visit www.GiveToLincoln.com and search for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors to donate on May 17.

give
To Lincoln Day
May 17, 2012

Learn more and give online May 17th:
www.GiveToLincoln.com

Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation

LAA awarded \$9,000 in grants

Three national charities have awarded significant grants to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) in support of its programs.

In January, 2012, Banfield Charitable Trust awarded a \$5,000 grant to LAA in support of its temporary assistance Pet Food Bank. Banfield Charitable Trust works to keep the most vulnerable populations together with their pet companions. They promote the human-pet bond which provides mental, physical and emotional benefits to our communities. With Banfield's assistance, LAA continues to work to prevent the surrender of pets, which needlessly burdens public and private shelters.

Many local pets in need of spay-neuter services will receive assistance thanks to the PETCO Foundation and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). These organizations granted \$2,000 each to LAA in recent months. Each year the PETCO Foundation helps animal-welfare organizations find lifelong, loving homes for millions of orphaned pets, as well as fund spay and neuter efforts. The ASPCA provides local and national leadership in three key areas: caring for pet parents and pets, providing positive outcomes for at-risk animals and serving victims of animal cruelty.

In addition, LAA was selected as a charitable partner by both of Lincoln's PETCO stores during the company's Tree of Hope campaign that raised money by asking customers to "round up" during the recent holiday season.

These grants, under the direction of LAA, will help reduce pet overpopulation and prevent pet euthanasia in Lincoln and surrounding areas.

ASPCA

 **PETCO
FOUNDATION**

 **Banfield
Charitable Trust**

SEE YOU THERE!

4th Annual Wine & Howl

June 2, 2012

Deer Springs Winery

11 am to 5 pm



The numbers

as of April 2012...

PET FOOD BANK

LAA has disbursed more than 76,000 lbs of dry pet food, 9,600 cans of pet food, and 11,300 lbs of litter. That's an average of more than 4,200 lbs of dry pet food a month.

LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

More than 600 dogs and cats! That's the number of pets LAA's Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program has altered since its beginning in June 2010. Five local veterinarians are working with LAA to reduce Lincoln's pet overpopulation.

Remember: Two cats and their offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years. Two dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 in six years. Spaying or neutering just one animal can help save thousands of lives because nationwide, 56% of dogs and 72% of cats entering shelters are killed.

Spay/Neuter update: The results keep growing!

By Pauline Balta

As of March 31, 2012, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has been invoiced for 606 pets altered at the six veterinarians currently working with us. That total includes 256 dogs altered and 350 cats altered.

Included in the 256 total altered dogs, 48 Pit Bulls/Pit Bull mixes have been spayed or neutered. A good number of these alters were a direct result of LAA's recent "Be Responsi-Bull Campaign."

LAA is fortunate to have a current group of six volunteers regularly interviewing clients for the spay/neuter vouchers. With each call lasting an average of 15 minutes,

our volunteers must be committed to the cause, and for that we are very thankful.

It is with pleasure that LAA announces the addition of Parkview Animal Hospital and Clock Tower Animal Clinic to our list of veterinarians who work with our "community" of Lincoln citizens working together to make the lives better for our companion animals. The list of veterinarians whom Parkview and Clock Tower are joining is: Wachal Pet Health Center, Nebraska Animal Medical Center, Vintage Heights Veterinary Hospital, All Feline Hospital, and Belmont Veterinary Center.

Featured Rescue: Ratbone Rescues

By Donna Kavanagh

Ratbone Rescues started as many other rescues do—out of concern for abandoned dogs and a desire to help them find their forever homes.

Caroline Wood in Jacksonville, FL founded Ratbone Rescues as a result of seeing an internet description of an abandoned dog who reminded her of her own rat terrier. The dog was 1200 miles away, so she called everyone she knew to try to help this dog. The dog was saved in September 1999, and Ratbone Rescues began.

Ratbone Rescues now works with over 200 volunteers around the country who rescue rat terriers and work to place them in their forever homes. Commonly, the rescue's web page receives requests for helping "ratties", generally from people who surf shelters and request help from the rescue group. Sometimes a dog parent has a critical or terminal illness and needs to give up their dog but doesn't want the dog to end up in a shelter. Sometimes dogs are in abusive situations and are rescued. Sometimes a dog has special needs and would be euthanized in a shelter. All of these dogs are helped by Ratbone Rescues.

Volunteers then move into action, transporting the rattie to a foster home. The foster home cares for the dog until it can be adopted. The dog is fully vetted, spayed or neutered, and microchipped before being adopted. If a dog comes to Ratbone Rescues injured, the group will provide medical care and provide for recovery so it can be adopted out.

The adoption process includes phone interviews with the adopter's vet, the adoptive family, and their references.

Volunteers also make a home visit to the prospective adopter. The foster families are closely involved in the adoption process to ensure the right homes are found for the dogs. Volunteers then transport the rattie to its forever home.

During its first year of operation, Ratbone Rescues rescued five rat terriers. They now rescue over 300 rat terriers per year, and they have saved over 3,000 dogs that might otherwise not have been rescued. There is a constant need for rescues for ratties on death row in shelters all across the country.

Ratbone Rescues operates on a volunteer basis; you can help through monetary donations as well as by donating toys, treats, collars, leashes, and other items. Volunteers are needed for foster homes, home visit coordinators, application coordinators, and transport coordinators. You can also help by sponsoring a rat terrier from the website: www.ratbonerescues.com.

Foster homes are in great need in Nebraska. This would help the rescue group coordinate temporary homes for dogs rescued from kill shelters in Nebraska and neighboring states.

Ratbone recently implemented a "Seniors for Seniors" program in an effort to help more senior ratties find forever homes. Applicants over age 55 can adopt a senior rat terrier (at least 7 years old) for only \$75. Rat terriers can be active and healthy well into their teens. It's a great program to keep the seniors (human and ratties) young at heart! They love to be around their people, so rat terriers are great companions for seniors who want a loyal and constant companion. The best way to help is to adopt a dog!

It's the season!

By Anna Pasold

Everyone loves a circus, even some of your pets, but not a circus of fleas and ticks. These little pests can cause big trouble. They are vampire parasites, feeding on blood and spreading disease. Fleas carry disease, cause skin reactions, allergies, resistance to pesticides, anemia, tapeworms, and even Bubonic Plague.

Fleas are difficult and costly to control and eliminate if not properly dealt with at the right time. Just two little fleas can leave behind hundreds of eggs and larvae which lead to infestation on your pet and in and around your home. They can live up to two (2) months off of your pet and for up to one (1) year on your pet.

Ticks, the other pet pests can easily transmit serious illness such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever,

anemia, skin irritations, tick paralysis, and many more. Ticks are hard to detect on your pet because when they bite into your pet's skin they release a numbing agent going unnoticed for days while they feed. So, we know you love your pet(s), cats, dogs, or both, you need to know how important it is to keep control of those little pet pests.

Use the appropriate treatments on a regular basis, keep bedding washed, give regular baths, and we all know a clean home is a pet's second best friend. There are some really good treatments out there and we will all experience it at least once, so try my favorites, Frontline™ and a couple cans of MyCodex™, these kill ALL stages of the flea life cycle. I give each an all-PAWS-up rating. To learn more about flea and tick prevention contact a local veterinarian.

Boarding: Avoiding pet parent pitfalls

By Brady Rivers

No one knows a pet quite like their own pet parent and the thought of leaving them in a strange place with new people can be more than a little cringe-inducing. Knowing what to look for in a commercial boarding facility can make the difference between a restful vacation and a nervous breakdown.

As with human hotels, finding care for pets during the bustling summer months can get a little tricky. Plan well in advance to avoid a last-minute panic. If you're able to visit the facility ahead of time, take a good look around. Is it clean and inviting? Do the employees seem caring and knowledgeable and are they willing to address your questions and concerns? Even if you're not able to tour the entire facility, the employees should clearly communicate where your pet will be sleeping, exercising and relieving itself, as well as a basic rundown of their daily schedule.

Other important information to consider:

Vaccinations: Know which vaccinations are required and be prepared to provide proof from your veterinarian.

Veterinary Care: Should your pet need medical treatment, is there a veterinarian on staff or on call?

Food: Does the facility provide food or will you need to bring your own? What about accommodations for special diets?

Medication: Some facilities may not be able to administer certain medications or care for pets with serious medical conditions.

Your comfort level is the most accurate gauge in determining the best place for your pet. A good boarding facility will help reduce your animals' anxiety—and yours—while they're away from home.

Thank you to our donors

January-April 2012

Allstate Financial Services, LLC
ASPCA
Banfield Charitable Trust
Banfield Pet Hospital, Papillion
Anthony Carstens
Burke Casari
Cause for Paws
Janet Chung
Corn Republic Parrot Head Club
Randy and Mary Douglas
Sinda Dux
Liam and Dianne Ferguson
G. Steven Ferris
Liz Freeman
Hearts United for Animals
Crystal Herndon & Laurence McClain
Diane Huseman
Hy-Vee, N. 27th Street, Lincoln
Hy-Vee, Stacy Lane, Lincoln
Constance Kingston
Charlene Lautzenheiser
P&G Pet Care, Aurora, Nebraska
Petco, 48th & O Streets, Lincoln
Petco, 56th & Hwy 2, Lincoln
Petco Foundation
Runners with a Reason
Kathleen Rupert
Daniel & Ericka Schafer
Sara-Jane Schroeder
David Scoby & Donita Consbruck
Marcee Seng
Sitstay.com
Marylee Smith & Gary Hill
Kaywin Sohl
Melissa Stamps
Target, N. 48th Street, Lincoln
David & Jennifer Ungbarsky
Verizon Foundation –
Cybergrants, Inc.
Helen Wagner



SitStay.com

Ask around...
we have a
Reputation!

Local ReTAIL
5831 North 58th Street
Lincoln, NE 68507
402.467.3426

www.sitstay.com

SitStay.com

We specialize in the long, healthy life of your dog (and cat)!

**Over 2500
Hand-Picked
& Tested**

- Premium Dry, Canned & Raw Food
- Long-lasting Chews & Healthy Treats
- Safe & Fun Toys
- Grooming Supplies
- Crates, Collars, Leashes & So Much More!

wine AND howl

Saturday, June 2

11am to 5pm

Deer Springs Winery

162nd & East Adams Street
www.deerspringswinery.com

Bring your dog, a blanket, lawn
chairs, and enjoy the country air!
Please have your dog on a leash.

Vendor Exhibits • Wine Tasting
Gift Raffle • Food • Live Music

Dogs available for adoption!
Rescue Roundup @ 4pm

Suggested \$5 donation

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.

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!

PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506

Lincoln Animal
Ambassadors
SIOUXESSE
JEWELRY

Find us on:
facebook

