



Pet Talk

FALL 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



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

Mark your calendars!

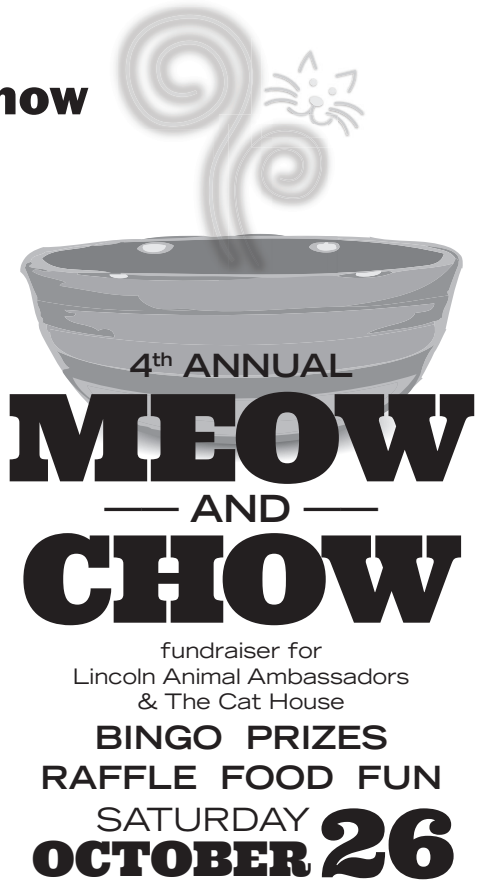
4th Annual Meow & Chow

The 4th Annual Meow & Chow Soup Supper and Bingo Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 26th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Last year, this event raised over \$7,500 and was attended by approximately 175 guests who gathered to support and raise funds for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House. Participants this year will enjoy soup, bread, and dessert donated by more than 20 different restaurants and venues throughout Lincoln. After dinner, the fun will begin with several exciting games of bingo. Bingo and raffle prizes will be provided by companies and supporters of both LAA and The Cat House. Admission is just \$25, which includes all you care to eat. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each. Be sure to contact either organization for more information or to pre-purchase raffle tickets: www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org or www.thecathouse.org

The Cat House is a safe no-kill shelter and adoption facility for cats in the Lincoln area. They also have a trap/neuter/return program for feral cats. Both LAA and The Cat House are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, volunteer-run, and funded entirely by donation and/or adoption fees.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun on October 26th. We'll see you there!



SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE
16th & L Streets
5pm DOORS 6:30pm BINGO
\$25 donation at the door
All you can eat soup and bingo!
Bread, dessert, and beverages also provided.

Support provided by petco foundation

2013-2015 POGO cards are here!

Help support LAA and purchase your new POGO card from us! Three POGO card sales can neuter a male cat. Please help LAA's efforts to reduce the pet overpopulation problem in Lincoln and Lancaster County!

POGO cards are \$25 and LAA receives \$10

from each sell. Thank you for your support for LAA and volunteering to help sell POGO cards!

Email us to buy or volunteer to sell:
info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org

To learn more about the POGO card:

www.pogocard.com

Networking saves lives

Helping a homeless veteran and her pet

By Donna Kavanagh

Earlier this summer, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors received an email from an employee at the Lincoln Veterans Hospital asking for help for one of her veterans. This veteran was homeless and living in her car with her Chihuahua mixed-breed dog. The veteran suffers from severe post-traumatic stress disorder due to her military service. Because of her trauma, she could not stay in any of the local homeless shelters. The veteran was seeking assistance in treating her PTSD and needed to get to several medical appointments. Because of the summer heat, this woman could not leave her dog in her car. Some of the appointments would last all day, so she needed to find a place for her dog on those days and times when she had appointments. This woman

absolutely would not abandon her dog. As we know, the human-dog bond can be very strong, and in times of personal strife, a person's pet can be what keeps them going. She simply needed some "doggie daycare" for her furkid.

LAA volunteers quickly went into action to help this veteran. As LAA board member Pauline Balta says, "this is one of the very reasons our group exists... to keep much-loved pets with their people." Voices for Companion Animals, out of Beatrice, stepped up and offered to help pay for doggie daycare. Another LAA volunteer, Brady Rivers, offered to check into the possibility of providing a discount on doggie daycare with her employer. And yet another local group, Coalition for Pet Protection, offered to pay for the vaccinations for the dog, that were needed for the dog to stay in doggie daycare, and

one of the volunteers also offered to help with doggie daycare while the woman was at appointments.

Our thanks to LAA volunteer Ruthann Rivers for doing the legwork in this story. She contacted the VA employee, coordinated with the other rescue groups, and gave the VA employee the options offered to assist the veteran. After all, this vet served her country and simply needed a little help in return. PTSD is a common result of military service, especially for those who have been in combat. Too often, we hear sad stories of vets with PTSD not getting the help they need, and LAA is glad to have played a small part in trying to assist a vet to enable her to get to her appointments and receive the care she needed and deserved while all the time knowing her beloved dog was being cared for. Networking saves lives!

Featured Rescue: Golden Retriever Rescue



By Brady Rivers

Americans are a bunch of goldiggers. That is to say, we really dig our golden retrievers. The sporting breed consistently ranks

among the top five most popular dogs, and it's not hard to see why. Few dogs have a reputation for being as gentle, loyal or even-tempered as the golden retriever. Plus, whose heart doesn't warm just a little at the sight of those sunny golden faces?

But even the popular kids need a little help sometimes. In the early 1990s, a group of responsible golden retriever breeders banded together after fielding calls from families who couldn't keep their dogs but were reluctant to relinquish them to shelters. By 1992, Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska or, fittingly, GRRIN, had grown into a busy organization with the mission of sheltering,



rehabilitating, and finding loving homes for golden retrievers in distress. Utilizing a foster care network, GRRIN finds homes for dozens of dogs in southeast Nebraska and western Iowa each year.

Goldens find their way to GRRIN from a variety of situations. Some are strays. Others are surrendered by their owners, veterinary clinics or shelters. Still others are victims of abuse or neglect. Over 30 percent of dogs surrendered to the rescue are seniors. On average, about 50 dogs come to the rescue each year, but that number can vary significantly, says Barb Garrett, GRRIN's adoption coordinator and communications chair. "When the recession hit Nebraska in 2009, we had almost 100 dogs go through the foster care system in a twelve month period. We had families desperate for us to take their goldens because they were losing their homes or could no longer afford their medical care. Recently, we've seen this number drop and 2013 looks like it will be one of our slowest rescue years on record."

It takes plenty of people to keep things running smoothly. The group has nearly 100 volunteers who handle every aspect of the adoption process, from transporting and fostering, participating in public "meet and greet" events, maintaining the popular website, and conducting phone interviews and home visits for potential adopters. Each adoptable dog receives

necessary medical care and a behavioral evaluation. Volunteers then visit with interested adopters, both over the phone and in person, to find the right home.

Because there is such a demand in Lincoln and Omaha for rescued golden retrievers, dogs are rarely in foster care for very long, says Garrett. "We always have a waiting list of approved families, and as soon as a dog is ready for adoption, we work to make the best match."

While golden retrievers make fantastic pets, Garrett cautions that they're canine Peter Pans, typically not maturing until between three to five years of age and remaining active long into their, well, golden years. As a sporting breed, they need plenty of exercise- sometimes up to two hours per day- and can develop destructive behaviors if they're left alone for extended periods of time. But for people with the time and patience for hair and oversized lap dogs, golden retrievers can make a great addition to the family.

Garrett and her colleagues have plenty of hopes for the organization's future, including building a facility that would serve as temporary housing for incoming dogs and a space for educational and social gatherings. In the meantime, they're getting ready to revamp their website and collaborating with other regional golden retriever rescues. Come what may, there's no question that for many lucky dogs, GRRIN is the El Dorado of the Midwest.

Volunteer Spotlight: Joyce Teets



Q: Where did you first learn about LAA?

A: I had placed an ad on Craigslist trying to find homes for a litter of feral kittens. Karl from LAA called me offering help. After talking with him for awhile I decided LAA sounded like a worthwhile organization, so I decided to volunteer.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself. Feel

free to share as little or as much as you'd like. Millions will read this (okay, hundreds at least)!

A: I'm a native Lincolnite, widowed, and retired from LPS. I live with my son and a childhood friend and of course our dog and two rescued feral cats. I also feed three plus ferals and an occasional possum and raccoon.

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

A: I answer voice mail and perform spay/neuter interviews.

Q: What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

A: I love being able to help people who are in need make sure their pets are well cared for. Since I love animals, I am also thankful to have an opportunity to contribute to making Lincoln a "no kill" city.

Q: Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

A: I have also volunteered at Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center.

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

A: Just be willing to do whatever is needed. I have severe arthritis and can't do things requiring much physical activity but I still found something I could do. I think almost anyone can find a volunteer opportunity.

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

A: I haven't seen the current wish list but I guess it would be more volunteers and more donations. Oops, that was two.

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.

Ellie Canady celebrates her birthday with a kind heart



Nine-year-old Ellie Canady of Lincoln had a great idea for her birthday party. Instead of gifts, she decided she wanted to GIVE. And GIVE she did! Ellie said this idea came to her when someone asked her what she wanted for her birthday. She realized she has so much already, that she wanted to give to the animals of Lincoln. When she approached Lincoln Animal Ambassadors with the idea, she wanted to know what we need for our programs. LAA told Ellie we always need more food for our pet food bank. We are always

running out of litter, and we also need other pet related supplies, and of course food! You can see from the picture that Ellie has some very generous friends and family who helped stock our shelves. We were blessed with donations of not only food and litter, but also flea and tick prevention, and cash.

Ellie has been an animal supporter for a long time. She's done other volunteer activities for animals, and enjoys her rescue dog, Kirby. Kirby in fact was not too happy when LAA arrived to collect all the dog food. He seemed to realize we were taking away all that great dog stuff he'd been watching for two days. (We assured Kirby that the donation was going to a good cause.) When asked what Ellie wants to be when she grows up, her answer was, a veterinarian. With a heart of gold, we are sure Ellie would be a great vet, and continue to support animals everywhere.

Thank you, Ellie, for thinking of LAA and our programs that support the animals of Lincoln. We hope your story inspires other 9 year olds to think of how they too can give to the animals of Lincoln!



LAA WANTS YOU

Volunteers are needed for a few upcoming events:

- **Meow & Chow fundraiser on October 26.** Volunteers needed in the kitchen, pick up food donations, work at admission table, and set up and tear down of tables and chairs.
- **Sub Sandwich Sale on November 23rd.** Volunteers are needed to make sandwiches and collect food for pet food drive.

Volunteers are needed on a regular basis for the following:

- **Promoting LAA on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook**
- **Blogging and writing articles for our quarterly newsletter**
- **Tabling events, volunteer fairs, and other events**
- **Marketing and media**
- **Taking phone calls from our hotline**
- **Picking up donations from various locations**
- **Pet food bank distributions and inventory**

If you have an interest, we have a place for you! Some positions allow you to volunteer from the comfort of your own home, and others let you get out and meet the public. Getting started is as easy as filling out a volunteer application on our website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org!



Another fun and successful event!

5th Annual Wine & Howl

July 13 was the date of our 5th Annual Wine & Howl fundraiser. It was a warm summer day at Deer Springs Winery, 162nd and Adams Street and everyone had fun in the sun, enjoying the live music, dog agility demonstrations, vendor booths, and of course, the wine. We had over 275 people in attendance—and many dogs!—and raised over \$4200 towards our two main programs, the Pet Food Bank and our low-cost spay and neuter program. Some of the doggie guests got to try out the agility equipment and then cooled off in kiddie pools.

We'd like to thank Deer Springs Winery for hosting the day's events. A huge thank

you and round of applause to the bands who provided music; Whoozon 1st, Cronin Brothers, and Tom & Wes. Also, we'd like to thank Greater Lincoln Obedience Club for providing dog agility demonstrations, and the following donors of raffle prizes; Deer Springs Winery, Jeanie Imler, Cherished Images, Canine Design, Canine Scrub, Kong Company, Recycling Enterprises, Katie Brown, Sara Jane Schroeder, and Nature's Logic.

Don't forget to save the date for next year's Wine & Howl at Deer Springs Winery on June 7th. We look forward to seeing you there!

LAA turns five! Happy birthday to LAA!

We turned five in August! We tried celebrating with a blowout party, but we learned the hard way—canned food does NOT belong in a piñata, and as far as Chuck E. Cheese, well, he may never be the same again.

Okay, we can deal with no party. But no gifts? No way! Your gifts to LAA provide much-needed supplies and services to pets all over Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Help us continue to celebrate with a donation of time, money or supplies to our Pet Food Bank or low-cost spay/neuter program.

Visit LAA's website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org, to learn more about how you can help or to make a donation via Paypal by pressing the shiny, orange, candy-like button.

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



Year-end charitable giving

By Mary Douglas

Most of us want to be in a financial position to do more for those who need our support. Our government's tax laws offer incentives that encourage support of the work of organizations and institutions that are making a difference in the world. Through careful planning, a year-end gift can allow you to do more for others than you may have anticipated and still improve your own position both today and tomorrow.

A gift to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA), or another charitable organization, provides you the opportunity to have some personal satisfaction and demonstrates your belief in our mission. It may also result in a more tangible return—in the form of desirable tax benefits. Charitable contribution deductions on your current income tax return and capital gains tax savings are some of the benefits. Future estate tax savings may also result from your gift. There are many questions on charitable giving to consider before this year draws to a close:

WHEN SHOULD YOU GIVE?

For those who itemize deductions, a gift made before January 1 is deductible in the year in which it is made. If you have had to take the standard deduction in the past, a gift in the appropriate amount may increase your deductions above the standard. This qualifies you for a greater tax benefit.

WHAT SHOULD YOU GIVE?

Thoughtful gifts are not only still possible this year, but are also practical for many donors. In addition, these gift suggestions may serve as sensible strategies beyond this year.

GIFTS OF CASH

Nothing is as simple and direct as giving cash. You can make a general donation to be utilized for the organizations greatest current need. You may also designate a gift for a specific purpose. A receipt from us documents your contribution. LAA is a 501 (c)3 so your cash gift is tax deductible. However, you are not limited to giving a cash gift. In fact, your tax benefits may be even greater if you give other property, such as assets that have appreciated in value, such as securities, real estate, life insurance, and other gifts that provide income. For creative ways of donating, talk with your accountant or estate planning attorney.

EFFECTIVELY TIMING YOUR GIFT

To benefit from a deduction this year, the effective date of the gift also must be in this year. For example, if you are issuing a check to a charitable organization, the effective date of your contribution is the date it is hand-delivered or postmarked.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

The availability of the income tax deduction helps a charitable person be even more charitable. The focus on the end of the year is designed to remind donors of the date by which a gift must be made to take advantage of the deduction. Neither, however is a substitute for the desire to help charitable organizations. As you contemplate the kind of year it has been and your charitable plans for the future, please consider LAA. We know that if you support us, it's because you believe in our mission. And for that, we thank you.

A victory for animal advocates

By Molly Hoffmann

Finally there is good news for animal advocates! The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that large-scale breeding facilities (also known as puppy mills) that sell puppies over the Internet, by phone, or by mail must be licensed and inspected regularly for basic humane care standards. This ruling also applies to large commercial breeders of other warm-blooded pets, such as kittens, rabbits, and small mammals. These federal inspections will certainly lead to improved conditions and reduce suffering due to substandard, filthy, and overcrowded conditions for thousands of dogs in this country.

Previous to this ruling, large-scale breeders who sold to pet stores were regulated but not those who were using the Internet to

sell directly to the public. These Internet sellers were avoiding inspections due to this oversight. This new rule came as a result of pressure by a few large animal advocacy groups and thousands of individuals (just like you) urging their elected officials to take notice.

Sadly, puppy mills are not going to go away anytime soon as they remain profitable for the breeders. All of us need to be proactive and encourage our friends, family members, neighbors, coworkers and all others to adopt a dog, puppy, cat, kitten, rabbit, gerbil, guinea pig, hamster, chinchilla, or ferret from an animal shelter or rescue group. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors works closely with rescue groups and shelters in the Lincoln area and we always encourage **"Adopt, Don't Shop."**

Calendar of events

The Cat House Adoption Special October 1-15

1935 Q Street
Special rate of \$15 for all adoptions completed October 1-15. Visit www.thecatshouse.org for adoption hours.

Meow & Chow Soup Supper & Bingo October 26

Scottish Rite Temple
16th & L Streets
Doors open at 5 pm
Bingo begins at 6:30 pm

Singing for Sadie Dog Fund October 26

Grandmother's Restaurant
70th & A Streets
2 - 4 pm

The Cat House Garage Sale November 22 & 23

1935 Q Street
Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm

Sub Sandwich Sale November 23

Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2

Wine & Howl June 7

Deer Springs Winery
162nd & Adams Streets

thank yous & memorials

"I just wanted to send you a card to thank you for providing the help to get my kitten neutered! I couldn't have done it without your help!!" – *Most sincerely, Karen*

"Thank you so very much for all you do! Finding you was a huge blessing!" – *Cindy*

In memory of Tobee, a sheltie belonging to Ray and Betty Bloomquist of Lincoln, from Jody Workman of Bennet, NE



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!