

# Pet Talk

FALL 2024

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

## Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding area. LAA assists pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, an income-based temporary assistance pet food bank and teaching people about being responsible pet guardians at community events.

## Donate

### Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program Pet Food Bank

### General Funds

Mail to: PO Box 67072,  
Lincoln, NE 68506

Or donate through our website  
[LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)

Pet Food Bank drop off locations  
listed on page 5.

*Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.*

# SAVE THE date!

Spay-ghetti  
& No Balls Dinner  
November 16  
6 - 10 p.m.  
Unitarian Church

## A can't-miss event: Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner & Dessert Auction

LAA's annual fundraiser event is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, at the Unitarian Church at 6300 A Street starting at 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$25. Dinner will include salad, spaghetti, and bread sticks. Meatballs are available for an extra cost of \$5. Wine and beer will also be available for purchase.

LAA is excited to have Laura Wong, the new Executive Director of The Cat House speak regarding her new role and upcoming happenings with their programs. Stransky Veterinary Center will also be there for a short status update about their new facility.

LAA's popular dessert auction will feature a variety of luscious desserts donated by local businesses. Tom Basset will once again lend his professional and humorous auctioneer talents for the lively and fun dessert auction.

Mary Douglas, LAA President indicated "This event goes a long way to support LAA's spay neuter assistance program and income-based pet food bank each year. Collaborating with other animal-related groups brings forward speakers that can give our attendees information about what is new and exciting in our animal community. If we all work together, we can accomplish so much more."

Seating is limited, so reserve your seats now. Advance tickets can be purchased at [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org) or by checks mailed to LAA, P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

## LAA receives Walmart/Sam's Spark Good local grants

LAA received support for its spay neuter assistance program this spring from two local Walmart/Sam's Club Stores. Walmart Supercenter Store #1943 contributed \$500.

Spark Good Local Grants provide funding directly from Walmart and Sam's Club facilities to local non-profit organizations. LAA has assisted in altering

**LAA depends on our community to do what we do, and having the support of these local organizations makes us very grateful and honored to be rooted in this community.**

- Mary Douglas,  
LAA President

over 4,650 pets since the beginning of this income-based spay and neuter program, preventing millions of unwanted puppies and kittens from being born and thereby filling our local shelters and rescues. "LAA depends on our community to do what we do, and having the support of these local organizations makes us very grateful and

honored to be rooted in this community" said Mary Douglas, LAA President. LAA would like to give a huge thank you to Spark Good Grants for their continued support. We could not do what we do without this local support.

Walmart 

# Calendar of events

## **Paws 4 Fun 8th Annual Bark at the Moon** **October 20**

12 - 4 p.m.  
222 N 44th St, Lincoln  
FREE Halloween event!

## **Urban Hound Dog Park & Bar Fall Barket** **November 3**

12 - 8 p.m.  
4848 Van Dorn St, Lincoln

## **Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner & Dessert Auction**

**November 16**

6 - 10 p.m.  
Unitarian Church  
Annual LAA fundraiser.

# By the numbers

## **Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program**

4,648 total spays/neuters  
2,385 dogs  
2,249 cats  
14 rabbits and a fancy rat

## **Pet Food Bank**

4,487 families assisted  
533,370 pounds of dry food distributed  
124,225 cans of food distributed



## *Rescue Spotlight: 'AA' Place for Dogs*

Often, a significant barrier for addicts entering rehab is the cost and perceived unavailability of quality care for their four-legged companions. 'AA' Place for Dogs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that assists addicts by easing the burden and fear of entering rehab and leaving their valued four-legged family members. We offer support for the care of that animal while the owner is in rehab.

While a participant attends an in-patient rehab program, we use our partner local kennels to board their pet. A typical rehab stay averages 28 to 30 days. Our kennel providers are wonderful at keeping the owners updated as to their pet's status during this time. Because of this, using kennels provides the participant with the confidence that their pets are well taken care of, which eases the participants' concerns, allowing them to focus on obtaining sobriety. If the animal would need medical attention while at the kennel, vets are accessible either at the kennel or close by to offer that additional support, should it arise.

Here are a few testimonials from people who have used our services:

"AA Place for Dogs is a wonderful nonprofit organization that helped my son get boarding for his dog while he was in rehab. The facility that cared for his dog was the perfect location to be able to take our son to visit his dog on the weekends. The staff was incredibly kind and helpful. We know that it helped our son focus on his wellness by knowing his dog was being well cared for...we are forever grateful for this nonprofit organization!" - March 2023

"I can't thank you enough for everything you did for me! It's hard to believe that a little over a month ago I made the scariest decision of my life. I reached out for the first time in my life and asked for help. I was scared and ashamed. My number one concern was what was I going to do with my dog! I found out about AA Place for Dogs from a counselor who works for a Recovery Center. I feel like he was my angel that day because he led me to you. Not only did you reassure me that you would help me, but you shared your personal story with me.

*Continued on page 4.*





# Volunteer Spotlight: Dave & Colleen Kadavy

## Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

We found out about LAA from our good friend and LAA volunteer Deb DeFruiter. We started helping pickup donations which then needed to be inventoried and put away at the Food Bank. We got a good look at what they do and decided to volunteer. Dave is a very handy and together we did repairs needed at the Food Bank.

## Tell us a little bit about yourself.

We met at Cushman MFG where we worked for over 25 years. After Cushman closed, we both went to work for Kawasaki. Dave has worked there 21 years as a Manufacturing Engineer and will retire the end of this year. I was a Production Planner and am retired.

We have been married 37 years. We have two sons. Bob and Mara and two step grandkids Arija and Jordan from Lake Elsinore, CA. Brad and Amanda and two granddaughters Evila and Lilija from Lincoln, NE.

We've had several dog babies. Spike 17 years, Ollie Wallie Waddles 13 years, Cleo 16 years, Vinnie 12 years, and currently Ozzy 3 years and Missy 1.5 years. Our house wouldn't be the same without a dog. We have rental properties and spend a lot of time remodeling, painting and doing general repairs.

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

We volunteer at LAA Food Bank by helping unload, doing inventory and putting away supplies. Once a week we fill orders and bring to clients' cars as they arrive at the Pet Food Bank. I also like to talk to the clients to find out other needs and bring to them if available. If clients bring their pets, I try to take time to meet them also.

## What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

We like working with other volunteers, meeting people and sharing what LAA does for the community. We have people thank us and tell us how much they appreciate what we do. They say they don't know how they would feed their animals. This is very fulfilling to see how much they need us and how grateful they are.



## Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

Yes, we both have been part of Woodmen Life Chapter 264, Lincoln, NE. This is a fraternal chapter made up people who have life insurance or annuities through Woodmen Life out of Omaha, NE. Monthly money from each policy in our area is given to Chapters to help non-profit organizations like LAA, Food Banks, People City Mission, Foster Care Closet and many more.

Chapter 264 has donated money to LAA and helped buy a new pallet stacker to help unload heavy loads.

Woodmen Life also provides 3 x 5, 4 x 6 and 5 x 8 United States flags to us to donate to non-profit organizations.

## What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for LAA?

I would recommend helping with LAA because it is so rewarding helping other people and their pets. Just go online and fill out a form. Find out where they need help. Tell them what you are interested in and find a good fit.

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

More donations. There are drop boxes all over Lincoln. We can always use anything to do with pets.

# Thank you to our donors!

Audrey Schneider  
Barbara Michael  
Blake Gilmore & Chris Wheeler  
Bonnie Burgeson  
Brady Wetzell  
Burke Casari  
Capital Humane Society  
Carol Raiter  
Donna Connely  
Geanine H Bordogna Charitable Trust  
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John & Diane Huseman  
Judy Johnstone  
Marilyn Ferguson  
Mary & Randy Douglas  
Matt Kirkland, Realty Works Group, LLC  
Norman West, West's Landscaping  
Patricia Anderson  
Paula & Larry Einemann  
Sinda Dux  
Target  
Tom & Karen Bassett

## Donations in MEMORIAM

Miles Woods (dog)  
Ty Jimenez (dog)





## Girl Scout Pet Walk

LAA sends a huge “Thank You” to Girl Scout Troop #20821. Scouts, Ellena, Laree, and Kennedy worked for several months preparing for their Silver Award Event - a Pet Walk to benefit the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. They did a fabulous job preparing flyers to promote the event, making pet beds and toys to sell, and even baking dog treats to boost the proceeds. Raffle baskets were also available. They made swag bags for all the dogs that participated in the walk.

On October 12th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., pets and their people gathered at Randolph Elementary parking lot to register and walk the routes laid out by the Scouts on the neighborhood sidewalks. Donations were also collected for LAA's pet food bank.

This is not the first time Troop #20821 has collaborated with LAA. They are all animal lovers and have had many animal-related projects while earning their different level awards and community service hours through Girl Scouts.

LAA is happy to have been the benefactor of Troop #20821's recent efforts, but even more thrilled to be a part in helping these young Scouts learn how to give back to their community. We are certain they will be wonderful stewards to their community in future years and they are most certainly sure to work toward animal protection and safety in their adulthood.

KUDOS to Girl Scout Troop #20821 and their great Scout Leaders!

## Stuff the Truck 2024

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors would like to throw out a huge “Thank You” to our amazing community and Super Saver at 27th & Pine Lake for your incredible support during our “Stuff the Truck” event on October 5. It was such a great success!

The following was collected:

- 1,800 lbs. of dry pet food
- 2,270 oz. of canned pet food
- 1,000 oz. of pet treats
- 267 lbs. of cat litter
- 21 mos. of flea & tick medication
- Pet toys, collars, leashes, harnesses and many other pet related items.

LAA collected approximately \$400 in cash and gift card donations during the

event that will help to provide needed items. LAA's President Mary Douglas said “These donations will help with our fall and winter distributions at our income-based pet food bank. We distribute around 2,000 pounds of dry pet food each month plus canned food, cat litter and other pet-related items. This is a great boost for our program, but our organization works all year long to supply our warehouse with what is needed to help those in need.”

If you missed the Stuff the Truck event in October, permanent collection barrels for LAA's pet food bank located at seven locations throughout Lincoln. See the complete list to the right on page 5.



## Rescue Spotlight continued: ‘AA’ Place for Dogs

I want you to know that I was deeply touched, and I've told many people about you and they can't believe that you paid for the entire bill which I could of never afforded. I've been sober for 50 days and I feel great! I'm excited about living the rest of my life alcohol free. Thank you again for your love and support! I will never forget you!" - November 2023

“I was lost in a nightmare killing myself slowly, sometimes quickly and I didn't see a way out. As everything was burning down around me a solution was offered to me, but at a price. The price was my best friend. I was facing the choice of punishing the one thing that had kept me going by endangering my dog's wellbeing when he hadn't done anything but love me and give me a reason to live. That was a price I couldn't pay. AA Place for Dogs were the only people that actually helped me to save my life. I had been hit with Narcan twice the year before and overdosed alone in my own house once. Them taking the

moral quandary out of the equation was the only reason I was able to seek out the help I needed to save my life. Because I wasn't able to punish my dog who had never done anything except lay down next to an overdosed kid on the floor until he woke up, to give me more love. To save my own life was to be a better friend to my dog, to give him a better life. AA Place for Dogs understands on a personal level that addicts are people who love their animals as much as anyone and care enough to do the work to help people who may not be able to help themselves. They care about making sure you not only get help but can stay there without worrying about your dog when you have to be focused on saving your own life. They helped to save my life without even knowing me and they are willing to help you too.” - July 2023

To donate or subscribe to receive updates, please visit our website at [aaplacefordogs.com](http://aaplacefordogs.com).



## *Pet Food Bank:* **Dry cat food and clumping litter needed**

The LAA Pet Food Bank has a distribution once a week for qualified families to help feed their pets. We appreciate our communities support! You could help by donating these items at any of the donation sites.

### **Pet Food Bank drop off locations:**

Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2  
*(barrel at exit door)*

Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy  
*(barrel at Customer Service)*

Super Saver 27th & Pine Lake  
*(barrel at exit door)*

St. Matthews Episcopal Church  
2325 S. 24th St. *(leave near office)*

Arnie's Pet Food  
56th & Hwy 2

Pet Central Station  
5591 S. 48th St.

Long Dog Fat Cat  
8340 Glynoaks Dr. #110



## **Stuff LAA's stocking and shop Walmart Registry for Good**

**Shop our wish list at [walmart.com/registry/registryforgood](https://walmart.com/registry/registryforgood).**

Remember LAA this holiday season while you're shopping online. One of the easiest ways to donate pet food and pet related items to LAA's Pet Food Bank is to order online at Walmart's Registry for Good and search for LAA as your selected charity. They will ship your selected items to LAA for you. How could that be any easier?!



# **WE NEED YOU!**

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer organization. We are always looking for committed, skilled volunteers to help our programs thrive. LAA is not a hands-on animal group. We help pets and their people, but we don't rescue or re-home animals. If you are interested in helping animals in your community and would like to volunteer your time, we'd love to talk to you. Consider our current needs:

### **Grant Writer**

LAA is completely donation driven and we sustain our programs with donations, fundraising events and private grants. Of course we like big grants, but we like small ones too! They all add up to one more pet altered or one more can of food purchased. So if you have some experience writing grants, or want to gain grant writing experience, we would love to talk to you. A mindset incorporating

LAA values and an interview with Board members would be required.

### **Fundraising Event Planning**

LAA is completely donation driven and we sustain our programs with donations, fundraising events and private grants. An important part of our existence are fundraising events. We hold two-three fundraising events each year and we always need volunteers with good ideas and volunteers to help staff these events. The fundraising events are so much fun! If you enjoy party and event planning, decorating or organizing, serving on this committee might be the volunteer opportunity for you. You could be help in a big way or a small way, a one-time event or several events. A mindset incorporating LAA values would be preferred. If this is your "cup of kibble" we would love to talk with you.



## **Tails & Treats Fundraiser Event**

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors participated in Capital Humane Society's annual Tails & Treats fundraiser event on October 12. Dogs Cowboy and Doggy Parton were there to enjoy the treats.



 **LINCOLN**  
**animal**  
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Until every pet has a home.  **RIEKES EQUIPMENT**

# 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, [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org) using PayPal** or mail this form to LAA. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at various locations throughout Lincoln (see list elsewhere in newsletter).

**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!

