



Pet Talk

WINTER 2015

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

Our mission

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

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, both PETCO Lincoln locations and Super Saver at 56th & Hwy 2 and 27th & Cornhusker. As a 501(c)(3), all donations to LAA are tax deductible.
Or donate through our website LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

2nd Annual Spay-ghetti & No-Balls Dinner

The 2nd Annual Spayghetti and No-Balls fundraiser will be held at 6:30 pm on March 7th at the WSI Hall 1430 N. 10th St. in Lincoln. Guests will enjoy a spaghetti dinner followed by a dessert auction. Admission is \$25 and includes dinner and entertainment. Wine and beer will be available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased on our website lincolnanimalambassadors.org. For more details con-

tact us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or call 402-817-1168.

This is a joint fundraiser between Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue to support our programs. Both LAA and NNKCR are 501(c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organizations funded entirely by donations and fundraisers.



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

Look us up at our custom URL:
[http://smile.amazon.com/
ch/27-3018037](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037)

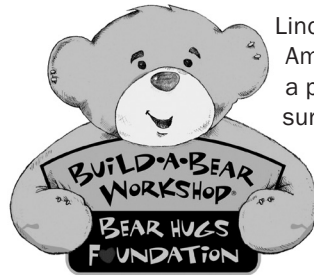
Low-cost Vaccination Clinic

Preventative care is equally important for pets and people, but sometimes the costs are prohibitive. Several area veterinarians offer low-cost vaccinations clinics and will perform the preventative examinations necessary to keep your pets happy and healthy for years to come. You can find more information about low-cost vaccination options on our website.

Volunteers from Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and the Nebraska University Pre-Veterinary Club teamed up with Cotner Pet Care to offer a low cost vaccination clinic in December and January. We had good attendance at both events and will continue to hold clinics on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information about the clinic, contact Cotner Pet at 402-904-4492. Cotner Pet Care is located at 1265 S Cotner Blvd. Our next clinics will be offered on February 3 and March 3, from 6-8 PM.



LAA's spay/neuter program gets a bear hug



Lincoln Animal Ambassadors received a pleasant year-end surprise in the form of a \$1,500 grant from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation for our low-cost spay/neuter program.

The purveyor of all things plush and fuzzy provides direct support for animals in domestic pet programs through the sale of its Bearemy's Kennel Pals. One dollar from the sale of each plush animal is donated through the company's Bear Hugs

Foundation to organizations working with or on behalf of domestic pets throughout the United States and Canada.

As a volunteer-run nonprofit organization, LAA relies on grants and donations to fund our public assistance programs. The award from the Bear Hugs Foundation will pay for costs related to spay/neuter surgeries for companion animals of low-income families in the Lincoln and Lancaster County area, improving the quality of life for cats and dogs and helping us combat pet overpopulation. Since its inception in 2010, LAA's spay/neuter program has provided funding for over 1,608 surgeries.

The numbers

2014: 58,775 pounds of dry pet food distributed plus canned food, cat litter, and other pet related items. An average of 4,897 pounds disbursed each month.

Total amount of dry pet food disbursed in 5 years since the pet food bank began: 228,925 pounds—almost a quarter of million pounds.

Number of families assisted in 2014: 489 unique families—many multiple times.

Number of animals altered by the low-cost spay/neuter program: 1608; 817 dogs, 791 cats

**228,925
pounds**

of dry food disbursed since the beginning of the pet food bank in 2010.

Halloween movie night turns into a charitable event

By Mary Douglas

High School student, Emma Keifer decided to have a group of friends over for a Halloween movie night. She had learned about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors in her quest to help animals in her community. She thought, "Why not inform her friends at her Halloween movie party about Animal Ambassadors and help out the community at the same time."

Emma asked her 35 guests to bring pet food and pet related items to donate to the party. She educated her guests about the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and she

learned that her guests also had a desire to help local animals. The result was huge! In the end, she collected a car load of pet food and items for the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors income-based Pet Food Bank.



Emma was crowned Miss Gering County Outstanding Teen on November 8, 2014. She will go on to compete in North Platte in June in the Miss Nebraska Outstanding Teen Pageant, with the potential to go on to the Miss America Outstanding Teen Pageant in Orlando, Florida.

LAA is grateful and appreciative of Emma's efforts for our benefit. In our eyes, she is truly an Outstanding Teen! Thank you Emma!

Volunteer Spotlight: Pauline Balta



Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

That's pretty easy! I was one of the founding members way back in 2008 so I helped select the name for our group, its mission and goals. I have gotten to see the organization progress to a solid, nonprofit animal welfare group who is earning a reputation for

being a go-to group for animal lovers finding themselves in a financial squeeze.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up on a farm in Northwestern Minnesota where "free range" cattle and chickens were the only way to raise the animals who provided our eggs, milk and meat. Growing up on a farm provided me with the luxury of having ducks, chickens, cats, dogs, horses and cattle to be around as well as pet crows and whatever other little creature found its way to our farm and that is what started my love for animals.



I have one child, C, along with his partner, Mari, who provide me with four grand doggie, Charlie, Scrappy, Ralphie and Martin; and two grand kitties, Buddy and Frank; all adopted as rescues from a variety of places.



In 2002, C and I lost our dog, Marvin, and were in need of a dog to fill the void Marvin left. I happened upon Hearts United for Animals volunteers at a local pet supply store and as the saying goes, "The rest is history."



C and I adopted Nels and since that time I have had the pleasure of adopting dogs Lucy,

Kiwi, Tico, Vincent and to foster Leandro. Several kitties—Spanky, Jasper and most recently, Miss Fluffy Pants Marmalade—have blessed my home with their quirkiness and silliness. Each one has their spot in my heart and will remain there even though several have left my touch.

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

I am the coordinator for the low cost spay/neuter program, and a board member—and that keeps me busy and out of trouble.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I love hearing how much pet guardians love their dogs and cats. While doing interviews for spay/neuter vouchers, I can depend on many funny, endearing stories the pet guardians share about their pets. I never tire of hearing about the pets they love so much.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I volunteer for Hearts United for Animals and credit them for getting me on the track to volunteer in the animal welfare field. I am a victim advocate for Voices of Hope, a crisis center for victims of domestic and sexual assault.

What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

There is much pride and self-confidence to be gained from volunteering with pets and their guardians. A "small, insignificant" volunteer position does not exist. Each and everything done by volunteers is an important part of the big picture. No one person can do it all!

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be?

Wow... one thing? That's hard! I look back at what LAA started out with and see how far we've come. I feel so grateful for a community who is so willing to pitch in to help LAA and other animal welfare groups realize their missions of no more homeless pets. One huge wish I have is to that the need for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors would cease to exist...

LAA needs volunteers like you!

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA is looking for individuals to help with phone line shifts, returning pet food bank and spay/neuter inquiry calls as well as spay/neuter voucher interviewers. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or calling 402.817.1168.

from the community

I am going through financially and medical hard times. It has been a "God Send" to know that LAA is here to lean on. My 12 year old best friend and I are very thankful. God Bless You.

Thank you so much for all that you do. It has impacted Missy, Josie and Rocky greatly. The quality of food helps keep them healthy during these difficult financial times. We have been together since 1998, when I rescued Missy and her kittens on an abandoned farm. Thanks so much again as this is helping us remain a healthy, happy and very close family. Thanks especially to Deb who was so helpful this evening!

It's so frustrating to know that you can help so many people, but you really need help too. I've always been treated with respect. The volunteers are so ready to help.

You have helped me with my cat, dog food since I had to quit my job September 28. I've had surgeries since and I want you all to know how much I appreciate everything you have done. When I'm back on my feet again I will be happy to donate back to you. Thank you so much!

I'm the one with three boxers. Without your help, dogs would not be healthy and hungry. All of you are wonderful, helping cats and dogs. I know my dogs are happy!

Being on a fixed income it's hard to get food for my animals. My animals are just like my family and act like them too. So the food bank has helped out.

LAA has been there for me when I lost my job and couldn't afford to even feed my baby girl Kittie Spookie. I have had her for 14 years and she means the world to me! If not for LAA I would have to had given her away because of my money situation! Thank you so much!

Pictured Top: Vincent and Leandro; Pictured Middle: Marmalade; Pictured Bottom: Jasper

Plan for disaster; Safeguard your pet

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. Unfortunately, animals are also affected by disaster.

The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you evacuate your home, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND! Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.

If you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets; consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

For more information about planning for emergencies with your pet; visit ready.gov/caring-animals.

More than a second hand store Cause for Paws - Boutique for Cheap

By Mary Douglas

I was welcomed by a friendly dog named Emba and was then directed to notice today's sale board when I walked through the door. 50% off all clothing, shoes and jewelry. WOW...50% off! I strolled through the store, looking at interesting home décor, furnishings, pet related items and décor. Racks of nice quality women's clothing from XS to 3X. Display cases filled with jewelry, handbags, scarves and shoes.

But looking around, it could very well be in a high end boutique. Everything was so elegantly displayed and the staff was so attentive. But they are not really staff...they are all volunteers! And all of the items for sale were all donated by the community. High end and designer brands at very reasonable prices—and remember TODAY THEY ARE 50% OFF! I purchased 4 brand name sweaters and a great necklace for under \$40!

But why should YOU shop here? Because all of the proceeds go to local animal charities. When Sue Adair Sturgis retired she wanted to do something to help animals. Her background was in retail and she knew how to do it right. And she is continuing to do it right at Cause for Paws – Boutique for Cheap.

Cause for Paws, a 501 (c)(3), moved to their current location a few months ago at 48th & Normal Boulevard from their Old Cheney Road location, and they have extended their hours with some evening and sometimes Sunday hours, depending on volunteer availability. Sue reports that now that people are getting used to their new location and hours, business is picking up. And that means she can help more animals. The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is one of the many local animal charities that Sue supports with the proceeds at Cause for Paws. We frequently receive a check for our low cost spay and neuter program.

If you look behind the counter, you will see signage showing the most recent number of animals that the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has altered with the support of Cause for Paws. That is

because Sue knows that spay and neuter is an important component in the fight against pet overpopulation in our community.

Have you always thought you wanted to help animals but just didn't have the time, the money or the emotional will? There are many ways to help animals without going to a shelter and walking a dog or changing the cat's litter pan. Donate items and clothing you don't need any longer to Cause for Paws (receipts available). Volunteers are always needed to work at the store. Or volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors to pick up voicemail phone calls, do spay/neuter interviews, (all from your own home) distribute posters/newsletters, or help at the pet food distribution site or special events. Or JUST SHOP AT CAUSE FOR PAWS... How much easier could that be?



NEW LOCATION!
2445 S. 48th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

NEW HOURS!
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
10am - 5pm
Tuesday, Thursday
10am - 7pm
Sunday
1 - 4pm (when volunteers are available)

CauseforPawsLincoln.org
402-420-5758



Featured Rescue: Raptor Recovery Nebraska

The organization known as Raptor Recovery Nebraska started in 1976 under the auspices of Wachiska Audubon Society, when Betsy Finch was their President. As the raptor program grew into encompass the entire state, Raptor Recovery became a separate, nonprofit organization in 1984 with Mrs. Finch as Director.

During the 1980's RRN worked with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to help restore declining populations of Barn Owls, by managing a ten year breeding program for the nocturnal hunter. During this period over 300 young Barn Owls were raised and released to the wild.

RRN receives injured and orphaned raptors (birds of prey) from all over the state, and has become well known statewide. In 1988, RRN was part of the Nebraska Peregrine Falcon Project, which also included the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Audubon Society of Omaha, and Fontenelle Forest (Bellevue). The introduction of Peregrine Falcons to downtown Omaha resulted in these falcons not only being a permanent part of the Omaha landscape, but ultimately expanded to a second pair of falcons residing in downtown Lincoln.

Meanwhile, RRN found a home in 1995 for the state headquarters on a small farmstead east of Lincoln, near Elmwood. Large flight pens were constructed here thanks to a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

On July 1, 2013 Raptor Recovery Nebraska merged with Fontenelle Forest, and became Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery. For the past 39 years, RR has served the needs of over 11,800 injured or orphaned raptors statewide, and spoken to thousands of people. Using our avian ambassadors to increase public awareness of the value of these amazing birds, our popular raptor programs are constantly in demand.

The Elmwood facility, while primarily our rehabilitation headquarters (off limits to public visitation) also houses some of our avian ambassadors, and is open year-round strictly by appointment only (limited to small groups).

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue is open to the public year round, and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor activities at 1111 Bellevue Boulevard, Bellevue. More of our avian ambassadors can be viewed there as well.

Anyone interested in scheduling a raptor program in the Lincoln area can contact janet@fontenelleforest.org, or find out more visiting FontenelleForest.org



Calendar of events

The Cat House Garage Sale

February 6 & 7

Friday, 9am - 5pm

Saturday, 9am - 3pm

The Cat House, 1935 Q Street

I Love My Dog Expo February 28 & March 1

Lancaster Event Center

Benefit for DomestiPups

Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner

March 7

6:30pm, WSI Hall

Dog House Rock March 28

Towers Event Center

70th & A Streets

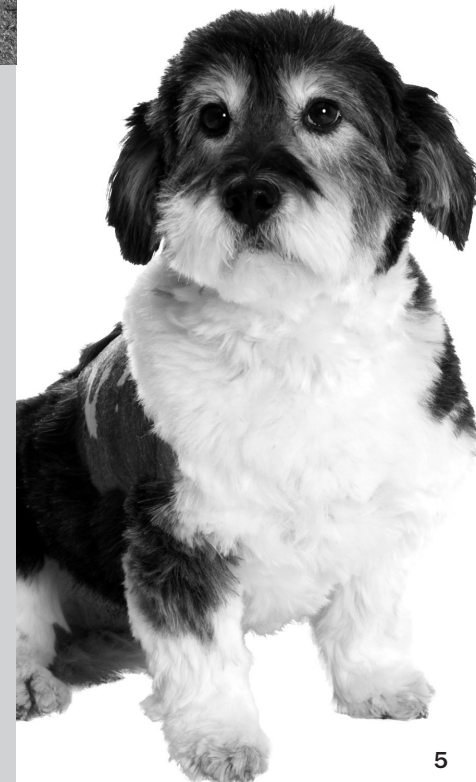
Benefit for Sadie Dog Fund

Wine & Howl June 6

Deer Springs Winery

Meow & Chow October 17

Scottish Rite Temple





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402.817.1168
PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



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 and 27th & Cornhusker; 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!