

Pet Talk

SPRING 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

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

Pet Food Bank update: Growing pains

2012 numbers:

Total dry food distributed = 49,950.40 lbs.

(average of 4,167 lbs. per month)

Total cans distributed = 20,860

(average of 1,738 cans per month)

Total litter distributed = 8,569 lbs.

(average of 715 lbs. per month)

Miscellaneous items: flea medication, treats, leashes, collars, grooming items, toys, beds

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' temporary assistance pet food bank is growing! In 2011, we assisted 380 families. In 2012, that number grew to 431, an increase of 51 families. Many of those pets and their families received pet food numerous times during the year. That equates to 1,184 unique animals assisted in 2012—pets who might have gone hungry without the help of the pet food bank!

The increased requests for assistance in 2012 has put a huge demand on our inventory. All pet food that is disbursed from the LAA Pet Food Bank is donated, or purchased with donated funds or grants. When a large donation of pet food is offered, we sometimes struggle to find room to store it until it is needed. We currently lease space for our warehouse from The Cat House, and they have generously agreed to lease LAA additional space to accommodate larger donations. Construction to increase the space will start soon.

LAA makes every attempt to spend all donated funds on our low-cost spay/neuter program and the temporary assistance pet food bank. That is made possible because it is run completely by volunteers and no one receives a salary or payment for their time.

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Spay/Neuter update: Celebrating our 1000th spay/neuter!

One of Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' primary programs is our low-cost spay/neuter program. Through this program, we have spayed or neutered 1,000 pets in the Lincoln area since the program began in June 2010! That means we are preventing THOUSANDS of unwanted kittens and puppies from being born and thereby reducing the number of animals ending up in the shelter system. That also means we are contributing to healthier, happier pets and families. Unaltered pets are subject to infections and other diseases that can kill them. In January, we sent out 74 vouchers to recipients for spaying and neutering. That number is up from 56 in both December and November 2012.

To celebrate our milestone 1,000th spay and neuter, we recently held a celebration at Cause for Paws, 56th and Old Cheney. The store opened its doors for the day with specials, food and drinks, and pets up for adoption

through Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue. We have set a goal to reach 1,500 spay and neuters this year. For the pet guardians in the Lincoln area who can't afford to pay the full cost of altering their pet, our program helps them in this very important area of pet care. Won't you consider donating to our program? It would be wonderful to have another celebration yet this year, and we can do it with your help!



Volunteers Ruthann Rivers and Brady Rivers celebrating at Cause for Paws

SEE YOU THERE!
**5th Annual
 Wine & Howl**
June 8, 2013
 Deer Springs Winery
 11 am to 5 pm

If you are interested in being a vendor at this fundraising event, you may call 402-817-1168 and ask for a vendor application or visit lincolnanimalambassadors.org. Last year, we had over 400 attendees and look for that number to grow again this year!



Recently, Mary Douglas was pleased to accept, on behalf of Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, a check for \$1,339.39 from Petco Foundation from their Tree of Hope Campaign. Jeff Stoller, the Store Director at the 56th Street & Hwy 2 store, presented the check to Mary. The funds will be used for our low-cost spay and neuter program. Thank you, Petco!



Growing pains *continued from page 1*



But sometimes additional expenses, such as increased rent, insurance and construction costs, are necessary for us to continue to run these programs successfully.

Please consider a donation, large or small, to help offset the increased cost of rent, insurance and construction costs. Your donation would help animals in need locally and help people maintain their companion animals in times of economic hardship. Donate online at www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org or

by mailing a check to: Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506.

PET FOOD BANK WISH LIST

- Litter
- Dry pet food
- Cat treats
- Flea medications (cat & dog)
- Leashes, collars & food bowls
- Pet beds
- Dog crates/carriers
- Cat & dog toys
- New and gently used items welcome

Donation items 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

Super Saver (bin at exit doors)
 56th & Highway 2, Lincoln, NE

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

Featured Rescue: Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc.

Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. is a non-profit, all volunteer-based organization dedicated to the raising and rehabilitating of orphaned and injured wildlife from the state of Nebraska, with the goal being to release them back into the wild. They are permitted through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, which gives them the ability to care for the wildlife until it can be released.

WRT was created in Lincoln in 1979. The number of members has grown over the years, but the organization is always needing more volunteers to help with rehabbing the wildlife that they get in every year. They average over 2,000 animals a year—which includes mammals, songbirds, waterfowl and reptiles/amphibians.

During the spring and summer months, in particular, the volunteers are very busy with animal care. WRT gets phone calls all year round. They work with the public to identify whether or not the animal actually needs to be “rescued.” Many times, a nest of rabbits or a songbird can be left alone for mom to continue to care for them. It is always a good idea to contact WRT and speak with someone before assuming that the animal should be taken from their location and taken to a rehabber.

Not only does WRT rehabilitate orphaned animals, but also injured ones. They have several vets throughout the state that assist with animal care. Many of the expenses for WRT are due to either vet bills or the food and supplies that the animals require while in their care.

Their website wildliferescueteamneinc.org provides helpful information on whether or not to rescue an animal, how to get involved and/or make a donation, and other useful links.

WRT is always looking for help with hands-on animal care, transportation, phone duty, public relations, education, cage-building, and fund-raising. Besides wildlife rescue, WRT provides educational programs to civic groups, including senior citizens groups, Scout troops, school classes, churches, and nature centers. These presentations explain the importance of the ecosystem and the balance of nature, as well as the role of Wildlife Rescue Team, Inc. in rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife.

If you are interested in becoming a member or learning more about WRT, please contact them at 402-473-1951.

wildliferescueteamneinc.org
 402-473-1951

Volunteer Spotlight: Ron Stow



Ron going over donation paperwork with Mary Douglas, LAA president

Prior to volunteering with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, Ron has volunteered with the City Mission and Matt Talbot Kitchen, doing maintenance work. Ron has officially volunteered with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors since June 2012. He got involved with LAA as his significant other (Donna) volunteers for LAA and naturally Ron joined her. Since that time, he has participated in Wine & Howl, our sub sandwich fundraiser at Super Saver, and Meow & Chow. He currently volunteers at our Pet Food Bank, helping with the Monday night distribution. He has filled in whenever asked to—he has driven to pick up large pet food donations on several occasions, helps unload pallets of food, and helps inventory and stock the pet food bank with those donations. He is willing to help with anything we need help with.

Ron is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, but has called Lincoln “home” for the past 8 years. Ron attended OSU for one year, then joined the United States Air

Force and spent most of his four years stationed at Ramstein AFB in Germany. He travelled extensively throughout Europe in those four years, visiting England, France, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland. Upon return from active duty, he began a career with the Department of Defense, working with tactical aircraft in several capacities but mostly as an avionics technician.

Ron enjoys keeping busy. He likes to tinker in the garage, work in the yard in the summer (he has a vegetable garden expansion planned for spring), and cooking. Ron's favorite TV show is “NCIS,” and he enjoys action movies and classic rock.

LAA is in need of volunteers to fill several capacities, so Ron fills in where he can. He enjoys helping with the pet food bank. He has reorganized the warehouse and helps to keep it functioning smoothly. It is rewarding to him to be able to help pets who might otherwise not get the food they need and at the same time, help people by providing for the pets they have during times of economical hardship. For anyone thinking about volunteering for LAA, Ron's advice is to just get involved—there is something that suits your interests and skills and we can always use more volunteers!

If Ron could fulfill his “wish list” for LAA, it would be more shelving and a pallet jack for the pet food bank! These items would make managing the warehouse easier.

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.



February 23-March 9 Upload your photos!
March 17-23 Vote!
www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org

New year, new class

By Molly Hoffmann

In the Lincoln Animal Ambassador's mission statement, this phrase is included “promotes enriching our community through progressive thinking, education, awareness and public support.” We are excited to begin offering in the month of February a humane education class open to the public, both adults and children. Recipients of LAA's pet food bank can receive two hours of community service by attending one of these classes. The classes will be held once a month at St. Matthew's Episcopal church at 24th and Sewell streets. The dates and time may vary so please check the calendar on our website each month.

The first class held in February focused on how to be a responsible pet guardian. The classes will be led by Molly Hoffmann who is both a professional educator and a former humane educator for a large humane society and has 20+ years in animal rescue and advocacy. Participation by attendees in the class is strongly encouraged as we can all learn from each other. In the future it is expected that experts on various topics will be invited as guest speakers. Future topics may include: the importance of spay/neuter, the need for adoption and rescue groups, protecting urban wildlife, positive reinforcement training, and safety around animals.

LAA firmly believes that through education we can build a more humane community by promoting and encouraging empathy and compassion for humans, animals, and the environment.



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:

Hello, Thank you so much for helping me get my dog neutered. I love my little guy a lot and want him in my life for a very long time and with this done it will happen. Again thank you!!
Sally Maher

Congratulations on launching your new website and welcome to the Firespring family! Please let us know how we can help you use your website to support and increase awareness of your mission. Wishing you success!
Regards, Molly Coke, Director of Support Services

Thank you; we got the food and it is appreciated. We are really struggling right now and your organization has helped us tremendously. Thank you for helping us take care of our special little gifts of joy.
Sara

I live in Waverly and have eight feral cats. We appreciated so much the cat food we received from you. That was such a great help, we were so grateful for your generosity.
Lorene

We really want to thank you so much for helping us out! With our dog, Lola, being as sick as she was, she couldn't ask for a better Christmas present.
The Perry's

Thanks so much to LAA for sharing the recent pet food donation with Coalition for Pet Protection! This will keep our pantry in good shape. Also, congratulations on reaching 1000 spay/neuters! CPP is grateful that this program is available, as we have certainly referred many pet owners to LAA.
Deb Pearson, CPP

Thank you so much for the dry cat food we received. We sincerely appreciate the help.
Lorene

Just wanted to say thanks. Your help is much appreciated.
From Izzy, Alanah & Brenda

Spay/neuter program receives \$2,000 grant from the Greg Biffle Foundation



Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Greg Biffle Foundation in support of our low-cost spay/neuter program.

The Greg Biffle Foundation was founded in 2005 by Greg and Nicole Biffle to create awareness and serve as advocates to improve the well-being of animals by engaging the power and passion of the motor sports industry. Greg Biffle is a NASCAR Sprint Cup driver. Since its creation, the Greg Biffle Foundation has awarded grants to over 500 humane groups and animal shelters across the country. Greg teamed up with other NASCAR drivers to help support Spay Day USA, a national campaign of the Humane Society of the United States to promote the life-saving benefits of spay/neuter.

Many local pets in need of spaying or

neutering will receive assistance thanks to the Greg Biffle Foundation. LAA is nearing 1,000 pets spayed or neutered since we began our program in June 2010, which means we are working to decrease the pet overpopulation and subsequently reduce the numbers of pets that enter the shelter system or end up being euthanized. Eight local vets work with LAA to reduce Lincoln's pet overpopulation. We appreciate the support of the Greg Biffle Foundation in this endeavor. Remember: Two cats and their offspring can produce 420,000 cats in seven years. Two dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs 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.

For more information on the Greg Biffle Foundation, please visit gregbifflefoundation.com

Celebrating our 1000th spay/neuter!



Volunteer Pauline Balta and Tator Tot, up for adoption through Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue



Cause for Paws volunteers Diane and Sue with a Boston Terrier up for adoption



David and Sharon Hayes with their Great Pyreneese, Captain Sully



Larry Pankoke, Karl Skinner with Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue, and Jack Saltzman



Laura Hinton, LAA intern, modeling a leather jacket for sale at Cause for Paws



Volunteer Molly Hoffmann shopping

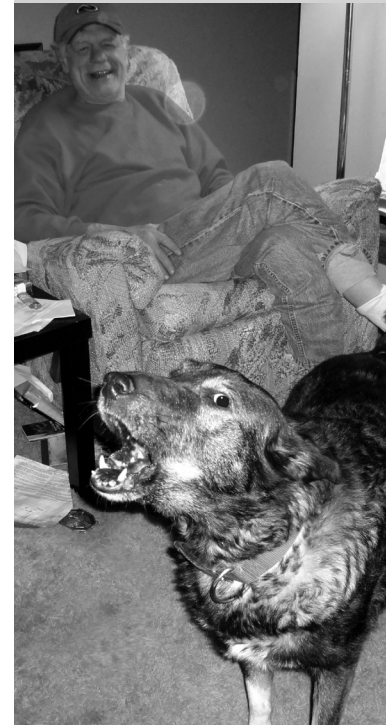
The First Lady of LAA

By Mary Douglas

Driving to work on a beautiful morning last fall, I glanced over to see a sweet older German Shepherd mix leisurely walking along the sidewalk with her guardian, who was loosely holding her worn red braided leash. As I drove by, I took a closer look. I was certain I had seen and met that dog



before. In a hurry to get to work, I drove on. In the next few weeks I would see the same gentleman off and on walking the older dog. Sometimes she was carrying something in her mouth, but always seemed to be happy to be out walking, as most dogs are. I then realized who it was. It was Lady, a German Shepherd Collie mix that was the first dog that the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors had assisted from their new Temporary Assistance Pet Food Bank in the fall of 2009.



Lady was about 10 years old in 2009 and her guardian, Penny, was an elderly woman with medical issues. I first delivered food to Lady one Sunday

afternoon and noticed a very thin strap of leather lying by the door, and Penny proceeded to talk to me about her dog, as Lady wagged her tail at me, happy that someone was there to visit and pet her. It seems that the thin strap of leather was what they used to walk Lady, and the story

went that she would sometimes break loose from it and chase squirrels and run off. They would search for her after she broke loose and when they returned, unsuccessful, there she was at the apartment door, waiting for them. Penny, and her upstairs neighbor, Bob, (who helped with the walks since Penny had medical issues) were concerned that she would be hit by a car on one of these squirrel romps. I made the decision at that moment that Lady needed a better leash. After dropping off the food I headed out to purchase a new leash and collar for Lady. And I knew it had to be a strong one. "The thick red braided leash would be good, and red would look so good on her" I thought. I returned to Penny's apartment and fitted the collar around Lady's neck and handed her the leash. I delivered food to Penny and Lady several times in the next year and then did not hear from Penny again. I often wondered how they were doing. Hoping they were experiencing better times.

I was at a fundraiser recently in the same area of town that I had seen Lady and the gentleman walking, and was heading home about 8:00 p.m. I spotted the older dog and the man leisurely walking. This time Lady had a huge knuckle bone in her mouth, carrying it along on her walk. I had the time, so I had to stop and re-connect. The gentleman was the upstairs neighbor, Bob. He told me that Penny had passed away last year sometime and had gone into a nursing home prior to that. Penny had called Bob when she was going into the nursing home and asked if he would take Lady, as he had always helped walk her and Lady loved Bob. Bob was retired and loved Lady so of course he said yes. It was good to re-connect with Lady and see that she was still doing well, now at age 13 or 14. I'd like to think that Lady remembered me, as she looked up at me that night, with that same endearing look she had in 2009, tail still wagging happily, and she dropped her knuckle bone near my feet as if to say "Thank you for helping me."

Bob tells me that Lady keeps him active because she loves to walk and they walk miles and miles around the neighborhood every day, with the worn red braided leash she received from LAA in 2009. LAA's pet food bank has assisted thousands of pets and their people since our beginning in 2009. But Lady is truly the "First Lady of LAA" and she definitely looks good in red!

Calendar of events

LAA Photo Contest February 23-March 9

Upload photos

March 17-23

To vote!

lincolnanimalambassadors.org

I Love My Dog Expo February 23 & 24, 2013

Lancaster Event Center

Catsino Night April 13, 2013

The Cat House fundraiser with poker, black jack, roulette, craps and trivia!

Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St
Doors 6:30pm, Gambling 7-9:00pm

Live auction and raffle, cash bar \$20 per person, includes one drink voucher, \$5,000 gambling money

Verizon's Dog Days of Spring May 4, 2013

Local adoption event at Verizon
4600 Innovation Drive
Lincoln, Nebraska
10am - 1pm

Give to Lincoln Day May 16, 2013

Local fundraising event

Tails 'N Trails Pet Walk & Festival May 18, 2013

Capital Humane Society
Fallbrook Neighborhood
10am-1pm

Wine & Howl June 8, 2013

Deer Springs Winery
11am - 5pm





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 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!

PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506

