

Pet Talk



WINTER 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

February is National Spay/Neuter Month

February is National Spay/Neuter Month, and the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' low-cost spay/neuter program is focusing on Pit Bulls and Pit mixes. Why? Sadly, Pits and Pit mixes are the most euthanized dog breed in shelters across the country. LAA wants to be proactive by preventing unwanted litters of puppies from being born, eventually becoming homeless, and ultimately ending up at a shelter where their chances of being adopted are slim. Similar spay/neuter drives focused on this breed have been successful in Nebraska and around the country. How can you help?

First, if you have an unaltered Pit Bull or Pit mix please consider making the healthy and responsible decision and get your dog altered. Second, share LAA's hotline (402-817-1168) with friends or family in need of assistance. And finally, please consider making a monetary donation to LAA so we can help as many dogs and their human families and possible.

Spay/Neuter 101

LAA would like to remind everyone of the importance of spaying and neutering of all pets. Not only does adoption of animals from shelters help reduce the number of unwanted animals in each city, but through educating the public about the importance of animal spay/neuter, a philosophical change in the mindset of all individuals can occur.

Animals that are spayed or neutered generally lead healthier lives and tend to live longer. A healthier pet will also save money on vet bills. Sterilized pets are easier to train and often behave better. These pets are calmer, more focused on their owners, and less likely to roam. Moreover, dogs and cats do not enjoy mating or giving birth; animals only reproduce from instinct, not from emotion.

Some other important facts to consider:

- Spay/neuter surgeries will lead to a decrease in the euthanasia rate and increase the live release rate (the number of animals that leave the shelter alive).
- 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.
- The gestation for a cat is only 63 days, and females can get pregnant at four months of age.
- Between 3 and 4 million adoptable animals are euthanized in animal shelters each year simply because they do not have homes.
- Spaying and neutering dramatically reduces the number of stray animals on the streets.

Cause for Paws
fashion
with
compassion

Buy your tickets now!

Cause for Paws is hosting Fashion with Compassion, a fashion show and auction, at the Cornhusker Marriott's Grand Ballroom on Saturday, March 3. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased by stopping at the store during regular business hours. For more information, call (402) 420-5758.



Thank you!

Employee Owned
SUPERSAVER

We'd like to thank the Super Saver at 56th & Highway 2 team for hosting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Sub Sandwich Sale on November 26, 2011. All the ingredients and fixins for the sandwiches were donated by Super Saver. Customers were able to purchase a 6" sub for \$3, or a 12" sub for \$6. Business was brisk the day of our sale as it was right before the last home Husker football game. What better way to get ready for game day than to have a sub sandwich on fresh bread with proceeds going to a great charity? Customers were also asked to donate pet food items in our pet food bank barrels located in the Super Saver lobby.

LAA would also like to thank all the volunteers who showed up to be temporary sandwich creators the day of the event! In three hours of work, LAA raised approximately \$600. Be watching for the next Sub Sandwich Sale at Super Saver at 56th & Highway 2 in 2012!

Pet Food Bank assists more than 350 families in 2011

By Mary Douglas

2011 was a year of many changes for LAA's Pet Food Bank. The number of recipients are increasing by leaps and bounds since our birth in 2009, as we become more well known as a temporary

Thank you to everyone who has donated money, pet food and pet items to this program in 2011! assistance program for those in need of a hand up to help care for their pets. In turn, we are thrilled to be seeing a pattern of recipients who once used our program regularly, only needing our assistance every few months, or not at all, as well as some recipients donating back to the program or volunteering their time. That means we are meeting the goal of the pet food bank program. To lend a helping hand and to educate and assist families and their pets until they can make a plan to feed their pets on their own. We measure that success one family at a time.

THANK YOU to everyone in the community has donated money, pet food and pet items to this program in 2011. The program is strictly donation driven and run solely by volunteers. We could not have done it without you!

Current Pet Food Bank Needs List:

- Dry kitten food
- Canned cat food
- Cat litter – clumping (smaller bags)
- Cat treats
- Dog treats
- Leashes, collars, food bowls
- Pet beds
- Cat & dog toys
- New and gently used items welcome

Donations can be dropped at:

PETCO North

(entryway donation basket)
48th & O Street
Lincoln, NE

PETCO South

(donation basket near cash registers)
56th & Highway 2
Lincoln, NE

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

2325 S. 24th Street
Lincoln, NE



Featured Rescue: Husker Cats

By Jennifer Hiatt

Four years ago, Richie Graham, a professor with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln libraries, wanted to help the feral cats that were swarming the University's City Campus. His idea grew to be the award-winning volunteer based group Husker Cats. Now a group consisting of more than 80 volunteers and 273 Facebook friends, Husker Cats works year-round to help stabilize and ultimately reduce the UNL feral cat population, working with, but not funded by, the University. In May of 2009, the Capital Humane Society honored Husker Cats with the John F. "Rick" Akin award, which is given in recognition of people or groups who have significantly aided the welfare of animals.

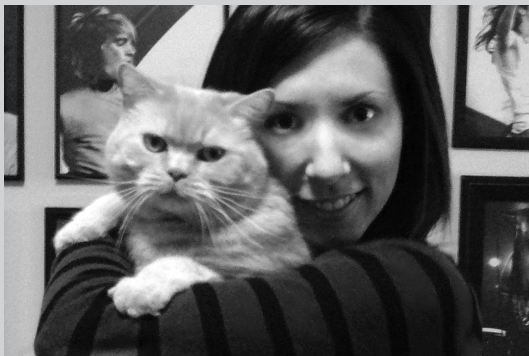
Feral cats are cats that were either born outside and have never had interaction with humans or domestic cats that found their way outside and lost their trust in humans. After reaching adulthood, these cats are highly unlikely to be suitable house pets and often face euthanasia if they ever find themselves in a shelter. However, it is important to note that feral kittens, if loved at an early age, can be socialized and become wonderful companions.

Husker Cats uses a systematic approach called Trap-Neuter-Return to help stabilize the University's feral cat population. TNR is the most cost effective way to maintain a feral cat population. According to the Husker Cats' website, "the cost of sterilization and returning a feral cat is less than half the cost of trapping, holding, killing and disposing of a feral cat." TNR is the most efficient way to do this. Trap and Remove methods do not seem to work. Once a group of cats are removed from an area, other cats will re-inhabit the area to take advantage of the resources. By neutering and returning the cats, Husker Cats removes both overpopulation problems and re-inhabitation, allowing them to monitor the cats already present in the area.

Husker Cats has been largely successful at helping and cultivating a healthy, kitten free feral cat colony on the University's City Campus. You can help the Husker Cats movement by volunteering or donating, food, money or supplies.

Visit them at: <http://huskercats.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/31354625891/>

Volunteer Spotlight: Kyndall Bedell



This quarter's Volunteer Spotlight features Kyndall Bedell. Kyndall is a graphic designer and the resident designer of all LAA's logos, fliers, posters, brochures, and newsletters. She brings fashion and flair to all of LAA's printed pieces.

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? I learned about LAA from another volunteer at The Cat House.

Tell us a little bit about yourself. I was born and raised right here in Lincoln, Nebraska. I have always been very compassionate towards animals, which is what drew me to LAA. I've been vegetarian for seven years and vegan for the last five years. A compassionate vegan lifestyle has brought so much joy and sense of purpose to my life. I am also a lover of art, and feel very fortunate that I make a living by creating art as a graphic designer. I also volunteer with The Cat House and I've had pets all of my life. Currently, I have one cat, Jack, adopted from Capital Humane Society. I saw him on their weekly televised adoption show and said "I want that cat!" I went the next day and adopted him. It was love at first

sight! I've fostered and adopted other cats through The Cat House as well. I'm also a lover of music (alternative, punk, Celtic, indie), and football. I am a connoisseur of beer and am a European history nut.

What areas do you primarily volunteer for us at this time? I serve on the communications committee. I design most of LAA's print materials, including the newsletter, brochures, etc.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities? Creating a professional look for LAA is crucial in being recognized within the community as a serious and forward-thinking organization. Using strong graphics helps convey our message to the public and creates a memorable image for LAA.

What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors? Even though there is some heartache and frustration in animal rescue, it's important to keep a positive and optimistic outlook. Working with such compassionate people makes that easy to do!

If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors "wish list," what would it be? I think as this organization grows, we need to increase our audience and awareness of animal rights issues. One way we can do that is to create public service announcements: either in the form of commercials on local stations (TV and radio), or billboards, etc.

View Kyndall's design work at www.kyndallbedell.wordpress.com.

All Feline Hospital offering discounted rates in February

During the month of February, All Feline Hospital will be offering a spay/neuter clinic for cats every Tuesday. All surgeries will be done on injectable anesthesia and receive one pain medication injection prior to surgery. All cats will go home on the same day. Only young healthy cats will be accepted, and no additional surgical procedures such as declaws will be performed.

Costs: Spay \$50, Neuter \$30

Vaccinations: Rabies \$6.15, Upper Respiratory \$11.40

Flea treatment (if fleas are found) \$10

Ear mite treatment (if ear mites are found) \$6.60

Deworming (if requested) \$4-\$12 depending on type requested

Eligibility: Must be under 5 years of age and in good health.

Spay/neuter clinics tend to fill up fast, so make your appointment today!

333 N. Cotner Blvd, Suite 5
Lincoln, NE 68505
402-467-2711
info@allfelinehospital.com
www.allfelinehospital.com



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

Brand New POGO cards for sale!

POGO While quantities last, Lincoln's popular POGO cards are available from Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. LAA is selling the Purchase One, Get One discount cards for \$25. The cards are valid through December 31, 2013, and \$10 from each card sold goes to LAA to support its programs and services.

ADOPT

Remember there are homeless cats, kittens, dogs and puppies (all breeds).

THOUSANDS need a home!

Search online at www.Petfinder.com



SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual Wine & Howl

June 2, 2012

Deer Springs Winery

Details TBA.



The numbers

as of January 2012...

PET FOOD BANK

LAA has disbursed more than 60,000 lbs of dry pet food, 7,500 cans of pet food, and 9,000 lbs of litter. That's an average of more than 2,500 lbs of dry pet food a month.

LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

More than 500 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 story of a little kitten named Carly

By Pauline Balta

In early December Terri noticed a tiny calico kitten hanging around her place of employment. Being an animal-lover, Terri could not get that kitten out of her mind. A live-trap was found, food set inside and almost immediately little lost kitty was eagerly gobbling up the food.

After being treated for worms, fleas, and mites, and getting her first round of vaccinations, this very lucky little baby was named "Carly" and went home to live with Terri and her family. Carly was an early Christmas present and did exactly what any normal kitten should do—undecorated her family's Christmas tree!

One problem still existed and that was coming up with the money to get little Carly spayed. Terri called around to find out the cost of getting Carly spayed and discovered that she would have to save for several months to come up with the funds to get Carly spayed. Terri could not stand to watch Carly go through a heat cycle one more time as it was quite evident, like all cats, going through a heat cycle simply made Carly miserable.

One vets office told Terri, "We have just the number for you!" and gave Terri the phone number to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors for her to get in touch with the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program. Carly will not have to endure a heat cycle any more after this month—something that had already happened once to her.

Terri may not have been able to keep Carly if she had not received assistance with getting Carly spayed.

LAA's Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program has been in existence since mid-2010 and has assisted with getting about 500 animals altered, thus preventing an exponential amount of kittens and puppies. Until very recently all of the program's funding has come completely from fundraisers and donations. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and their Pet Food Bank and Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program with its five cooperating veterinarians are excellent examples of a community working together for the betterment of all.

Cause for Paws
PRESENTS

fashion
with
compassion

A RUNWAY FASHION SHOW BENEFITING LOCAL ANIMAL RESCUES AND ORGANIZATIONS featuring the latest styles accompanied by our furry friends

saturday
march 3rd

DOORS OPEN 6:00 P.M. • SHOW 7:30 P.M.

THE CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT
333 South 13th Street

\$25 PER PERSON • Limited seating available • Reserve your Tickets by February 25th
Tickets sold at Cause for Paws • 402.420.5758 • 5700 Old Cheney

AUCTION • RAFFLE • HORS D'OEUVRES • FULL BAR

Homeward Bound: How animal transport works to save lives

By Molly Hoffmann

Have a road trip coming up? There is a way to enjoy your travels and help homeless animals. It's called "Animal Transport" and it allows homeless animals to find their forever home. Rescue groups and humane societies need help moving animals, primarily dogs and cats, both short and long distances. All you need is space in your car for a kennel and the desire to help save a life.

Scott Besch of Nebraska Italian Greyhound Rescue and the Nebraska Rescue Council shared a couple of examples of how animal transport works. His rescue group had an individual who commuted between Lincoln and Omaha for work to transport dogs. It was not only convenient for the group's volunteers, it also saved them time and the cost of gas.

Scott has also organized longer transports to Canada and Alaska that involved six to eight individuals. In a long-distance transport, the distance "legs" are divided up between the individuals. The transporters decide how long they want their "leg" to be—an hour up to several hundred miles.

Transporting animals can be a challenge to organize and the longer the distance, the more difficult it becomes especially in rural or remote areas. The animal should travel with a health certificate issued by a vet and acquired by the rescue group or humane society. This certificate is only valid for 10 days so once the transport begins it needs to continue until the animal is delivered to its destination. The following are resources to aid with animal transportation:

- **Yahoo and Google groups** dedicated to animal transport that are listed under the interstate name (for example: pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/180-Transport)
- **a Facebook group** called "Animal Transport-Nebraska"
- **a trucking operation** called "Operation Roger – Trucker Transport Network," operationroger.rescuegroups.org
- **pilots willing to fly animals**, pilotsnpaws.org or animalrescueflights.org

There are two contacts here in Nebraska that most transports originate from:

1. **Jennifer Misfeldt** who maintains a transport list and emails it to any rescue group if a transport is available. Email: luckypawpals@aol.com
2. **Nebraska Animal Rescue:** www.nebraska-rescue.org

You can find an entire list of rescue groups that are state-licensed in Nebraska for 2012 at: www.nerescue.org/html/nebraska_animal_rescue_and_shelter_list.html.

It should also be mentioned that if you are leery of having an unfamiliar animal in your vehicle, you can still help moving such supplies as food, kennels, or other donations from one town to another. If the rescue group or shelter you are transporting for is a 501(c)(3), you can deduct mileage from your taxes if you itemize (last year it was 15 cents per mile).

Personally, I have done several animal transports over the years—as short as driving animals to Omaha to as long as dropping a dog off in the Chicago area. I have made it a habit to contact rescue groups and humane societies from both this area and my destination area that I will be traveling and the dates.

One memorable transport for me was driving a severely neglected Australian Cattle Dog to the Denver Airport where she was then flown to California to begin rehabilitation with an ACD rescue group. A few weeks later, I received an email update on how she was doing and a sincere thank you from the new guardian. I still have that email and read it periodically to inspire me to continue to do more to help animals.

In closing, please consider taking a furry passenger with you on your next road trip. That animal will be closer to its forever home and you will be left with a warm sense of accomplishment... not to mention a sloppy kiss or a soft purr.

Calendar of events

I Love My Dog Expo
February 25 & 26, 2012
Lancaster Event Center
Saturday 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday 11 am to 4 pm
\$5 per person. Proceeds benefit Domesti-PUPS.

Cause for Paws Fashion with Compassion Runway Show
March 3, 2012
Cornhusker Marriott
Doors 6 pm, Show 7:30 pm
\$25 per person. Purchase tickets at Cause for Paws. Proceeds benefit local animal charities.

Dog House Rock with Joseph Hall
March 3, 2012
Havelock Social Hall
7 to 10 pm
\$20 per person. Contact Pam Hoffman at 402-420-0121 for tickets. Proceeds benefit Sadie Dog Fund.

4th Annual Wine & Howl
June 2, 2012
Deer Springs Winery
Details TBA. Benefit supports Lincoln Animal Ambassadors.

3rd Annual Meow & Chow
October 13, 2012
Details TBA. Benefit supports Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House.



LAA receives pair of \$2,000 grants

Two national charities have awarded significant grants to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors in support of its low-cost spay/neuter program.

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). The two organizations both granted \$2,000 to LAA in recent months, which will help reduce pet overpopulation and prevent pet euthanasia in Lincoln.

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 month of December 2011.

ASPCA

 **PETCO
FOUNDATION**

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**

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