

Pet Talk

SPRING 2021

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of Animal Homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding communities.

Donate

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program

Pet Food Bank

General Funds

Mail to: PO Box 67072,
Lincoln, NE 68506

Donate through our website
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

**Ask your employer if they have a
donation matching program**

Pet Food Bank drop off locations:

Petco 48th & O Street *(bin in front entry)*

Petco 56th & Old Cheney *(bin in front
entry)*

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

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

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

Like our
newsletter?
**Become a
sponsor!**

Contact us at [info@
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](mailto:info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)

LAA Pet Food Bank: **COVID-19 No-Contact Distribution**

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has not waived in its pet food distribution during COVID-19. In snow, rain and pandemic, our dedicated volunteers have distributed every week during this pandemic. There have been increased demands on the pet food bank, but with community support, we have been able to fulfil the requests up to this point.

Kudos to our dedicated, diligent and committed volunteers who show up each week and do what has to be done to help feed the pets and families in need in Lancaster County. We could not do it without them and the support of our community.

Wish List

- Clumping Cat Litter
- Dry Dog Food
- Flea & Tick Medication – Dog & Cat
- Monetary donations allow us to purchase what is currently needed

Remember LAA for Give To Lincoln Day on May 25

**Give online anytime May 1-May 25 at
GiveToLincoln.com**

Lincoln Community Foundation is hosting the 10th annual Give to Lincoln Day on May 25, 2021. A special day of giving to encourage philanthropy to Lincoln's nonprofits. Every donation makes a bigger impact because nonprofits also get a proportional share of a \$500,000 challenge match fund provided by Lincoln Community Foundation and their sponsors.

Your support of the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors on Give to Lincoln Day helps more low-income families feed their four-legged family members. It helps low-income families spay and neuter their pets to help reduce the pet over-population problem in Lancaster County. Your donations allow families to keep their loving pets in their home and help to keep those pets healthy. For many families, their pets are their only family, and your gifts to LAA allow these less fortunate pets and their people stay together in a healthy and happy home.

Offline donations must be mailed to the Lincoln Community Foundation (215 Centennial Mall, Ste 100, Lincoln, NE 68508) and postmarked by May 18. Checks must be made payable to "Lincoln Community Foundation" with "LAA" in the memo line.

**Thank you for
your support!**



Thank you to our donors!

Margaret Aalberg
Patricia Anderson
Patty Bailey
Tom Bassett
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Online Pet Scams

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

If you're thinking about adding a new pet to your family, be on your guard against online pet scams. According to a study conducted by the Better Business Bureau, as much as 80% of paid advertisements about pets may be fake. The BBB Scam Tracker has 907 reports on pet scams, and the Federal Trade Commission has 37,000 complaints involving pets bought online.

The BBB says that it's understandable why pet scams are so pervasive. Pet ownership has been growing in popularity, with the selection of a pet being viewed as the first step toward bringing a pet into the family. Digital shopping is also becoming more the norm, with the result that more consumers are buying their pets online.

The online site Pet Scams describes how pet fraud occurs. First, scammers hook buyers by stealing text and images from legitimate websites to create phony advertisements and then they offer prices so low that the buyers become attached to an animal that doesn't exist.

Next, scammers connect buyers to a Short Message Service (SMS) and attempt to collect payment via bank wire in an attempt to appear legitimate. According to the BBB, buyers are typically asked to send money through Western Union or MoneyGram.

After that, scammers will start charging fees for filing paperwork, shipping from a remote location, transporting by a third party, renting a special crate, immunizing the animal, and other bogus charges. They rarely schedule an in-person meeting. In the final step, buyers are asked to provide information about themselves. The BBB says that by now buyers are in deep even if they realize that something is amiss. Scammers will often claim the pet is at the airport and threaten the buyer with criminal charges for "animal abandonment" unless more money is sent.

How can you avoid being part of an online pet scam?

- Don't buy a pet without seeing it in person. Legitimate breeders should welcome a visit.
- Search the internet for pictures of the pet to see if they are exclusive to the seller's site. On Google Chrome, place a cursor over a photo and right click for an option to do an internet search for the photo. A website

called tineye.com will also search pictures.

- Search the internet for descriptions on the seller's site. If the same language shows up in several places, you're likely dealing with a fraud.
- Always use a credit card in case you need to dispute the charges.
- Research prices for the breed you are interested in adopting. If someone is advertising a purebred dog at a discounted price, you could be dealing with fraud.

What if you've been a victim of an online pet scam?

Stop contact with the scammer, inform the publication or site where you saw the ad, contact the company you used to send money, and file a report with the following places:

- BBB's Scam Tracker
- Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-FTC-HELP
- Homeland Security Investigations: 866-347-2423
- Internet Crime Complaint Center: <http://www.ic3.gov>

The Humane Society of the United States encourages those looking for a new pet to check their local shelter or rescue. According to HSUS, one out of every four dogs in U.S. shelters is a purebred, and breed rescue groups will provide a larger selection of purebred animals.



Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Cady

Where did you first learn about LAA?

I first learned about LAA from my friend Pauline Balta. As a fellow animal lover, she recommended LAA as a great volunteer opportunity when I retired. She was right.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was raised on a ranch in Western Nebraska. We had animals of all types, horses, calves, dogs, cats, and any other critter we could drag home. Life was not complete without animals around. I went off to college and then to the US Navy, so pets were not an option.

It was not until I moved to Lincoln and bought a house with a fenced yard that I got my first dog. We had two small sons and I wanted them to grow up with dogs because having pets just makes you a better person. I have not been without a dog since. Most of my dogs have been rescue pups, seven in all. I did finally get two cardigan corgis from a reputable breeder in Iowa. I tried finding a rescue cardigan but everyone who gets one keeps them because they are so darn cute and loveable.

What are your LAA volunteer duties?

I answer the LAA call line helping to set up appointments for food, doing interviews with people needing help with spay/neuter costs, and answering general questions. I also enjoy helping with community events that LAA attends and LAA fund raisers.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

Helping people who may need help caring for their animals is very rewarding.



Educating people on the importance of spaying and neutering

their animals as well as helping with the cost is also rewarding. Working with the team at LAA is fun. Everyone chips in and does their part, and we have a good time while we do it.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I'm a member of the board of the Lincoln PFLAG Chapter. PFLAG provides support, education, and advocates for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community.

What would I recommend for someone wanting to volunteer?

Wanting to help animals goes without saying but also sometimes patience with their pet parents. The people who need our help are sometimes struggling and it may take some thinking out of the box to get the job done.

What would you add to the LAA wish list?

More funds to help with vet bills. I get several calls a month asking for help with those bills. We have a list of organizations that can help but it would be nice if we help too.

Thank you to our donors!

Arnie's Pet Food
Canine Consultants & Pet Supply
Capital Humane Society
Community Services Fund of NE
Fidelity Charitable
Food Bank of Lincoln
Geanine H Bordogna
Charitable Trust
Hy-Vee N 84
Nature's Logic
Network for Good
Petco North
Petco South
Target
Walmart
Wilderness Kennels

In memory of

Barbara Barnes
Nancy Borchers
Ute Butler
Maggie - Dog (Kathy Moore)
Buddy - Dog (Beverly Jiminez)
Maverick - Dog (Heather Beed)
Spike - Dog (Donna Kavanagh)
Max - Dog (Lynn Knutson Young)
Louise - Dog (Jeanne and Earl Imler)
Daisy Mae - Cat (Sonia Colberg)
Tuffy - Dog (Pati Hughes)

Fido needs you!

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA has no paid employees and relies on volunteers to accomplish its mission. Fill out a Volunteer Questionnaire on our website at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org, call our phone line at 402.817.1168, or email us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

Pet Food Bank Distribution Volunteer

Assist recipients at pet food pickups loading pet food into vehicles and work with a small group of committed volunteers to collect what is needed for each recipient.

- 2 hours per week
- Must be available during our Wednesday distribution hours, 6:15-8:15 p.m.
- Must be able to lift 30 pounds

Phone Live Volunteers

Pick up voicemail messages and return phone calls to schedule pet food pickups, arrange for spay/neuter vouchers to be issued and give resource information for other pet related matters.

- 30 minutes to 2 hours per week
- One training session required



By the numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

3,367 total animals

1,723 dogs

1,633 cats

11 bunnies

Pet food distributed so far in 2021

Dry food

7,978 lbs.

Approximately 1,995 lbs. a month

Since inception: 516,639 lbs.

Canned food

3,387 cans

Approximately 847 cans a month

Since inception: 166,834 cans

Litter

1,724 lbs.

Approximately 431 lbs. a month

Since inception: 88,421 lbs.

Number of families helped so far in 2021: 114



Storm stress and your pet

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

It's that time of year again. The time when your dog might tremble, whine, or pace. The time when your cat might hide in a cupboard, under the bed, or inside your couch. The time when your guinea pig or other small critter might shake, bolt, or run for cover. It's the season of lightning bolts electrifying the sky and thunder roaring through our neighborhood.

Those with pets who suffer from storm anxiety typically won't outgrow fears on their own. Just the opposite, in fact.

"Thunderstorms are a common canine phobia. The phobia often occurs in canines with other anxiety disorders and can arise from a fear of the noise or the lightning flashes. It's not always just from the thunder. Strong winds can also cause dogs to react."

—Nebraska Animal Medical Center

Their fears will tend to intensify throughout the season as storms become more frequent, and with each new storm season their fears will be worse than the last. Obviously there is a need for pet owners to provide support.

This article will help

you understand your pet's fear, recognize the signs of a developing phobia, and find ways to support your otherwise calm and happy pet.

Storm Anxiety Triggers

A distant rumble. A flash of light. Animal experts aren't certain exactly what aspect of a thunderstorm causes our pets the most discomfort. Some veterinarians suspect dogs are set off by a combination of wind, thunder, lightning, barometric pressure changes, static electricity, and low-frequency rumbles that precede a storm.

Negative experiences might also be a trigger. For example, some of our four-footed companions may experience painful shocks from static buildup before a storm. Alternatively, some pets might just suffer from noise phobia, also fearing fireworks, gunshots, and other loud noises.

Storm Anxiety Signs

Foremost, you need to recognize that the pets who suffer from thunderstorm fear are not misbehaving, but are displaying symptoms of anxiety.

Dogs: A dog with a thunderstorm phobia may try to run away in panic or look for a hiding place that feels safe from the storm. Then again, your dog might stay right next to you and follow you from room to room. Other physical signs of a storm stress include: drooling, panting, sweating (from the paws), whining, barking, and pacing. In

the case of full-blown phobia, dogs might chew, claw, scratch, tear down door frames, or even break through windows.

Cats: A cat with a thunderstorm phobia will probably only show mild signs such as: developing large pupils, being anti-social, and even hiding. More severe signs include: rising hair coat, tail bushy, hunkering down and tense body, hissing and spitting.

Storm Anxiety Solutions

Safe Place: Probably the best treatment is avoidance. If there's a place where your pet feels safe, you can have your pet ride out the storm there; and if you don't, create one. Be sure your pet can come and go freely, as some animals become anxious if confined. Then stock the safe area with food, water, treats, and toys. You might also include soft blankets or pillows. At the approach of a storm, turn on the lights in the room so any flashes of lightening that make it through the window coverings won't be too obvious.

Calming Methods: Not getting fearful yourself is the first step. The next step is to provide your pet with positive distractions. Simply sitting with your pet before they become anxious might help. Distracting your pet with play or with a favorite toy can also put them at ease. Soothing music can drown out the more distant thunder claps. Anything that sends the positive message that storms are good will potentially cause your pet to relax.

Products: Snug-fitting shirts and wraps especially designed to calm anxious pets have been recommended by animal experts. They're said to have a calming effect similar to swaddling a baby. Some also have anti-static linings. An often-named garment is Thundershirt.

If you do decide to try an anxiety garment, give your pet time to adjust to it and have your pet wear it before a storm. Also, start with a light pressure and then distract him with some play.

There are commercial pheromone products that mimic pets' calming natural pheromones. Some people find that the products work well.

If none of the ideas described above help alleviate your pet's fears, consult your veterinarian. They will be best equipped to offer ideas and assess whether medication may also be needed for your pet to help them through storms.

Visit lincolnpetculture.wordpress.com to read this article in its entirety.

Calendar of events

Give To Lincoln Day May 25

Donate online May 1-25 at
GiveToLincoln.com

Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner Fall 2021

LAA fundraiser

Rescue Spotlight: Big Red Rescue of the Heartland

Behind every rescue there are humans. Humans with hearts of gold and each one with their own story and journey. Big Red Rescue Of The Heartland was founded in 2014 by two women in different stages of their journey and have now adopted over seven hundred dogs, cats or small animals in need. These two women have always loved and cared for animals. Serving on different boards and volunteering for many aspects of rescue the decision was made to form an all breed, foster based rescue.

Big Red Rescue is a non-profit, all volunteer rescue group. This group was organized to help abandoned, surrendered, abused and neglected animals. Our volunteers provide rehabilitation for the animals and so much more. Providing education and methods of socialization for the animals is one



of many things we take part in. No matter the age of the animal, Big Red Rescue (BRR) provides health care for all of the animals in need.

Adoption applications can be found on our website and foster homes are always welcome!

BigRedRescue.com



**The kindness you
have shown me and
Dabby will be forever
appreciated. THANK
YOU!**

From Linda and Dabby

WINE
&
howl
july
25th

WINE TASTING
GIFT RAFFLE • FOOD
LIVE MUSIC • VENDORS

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Deer Springs Winery
162nd & E. Adams St.

Suggested \$10 donation
(per person)

Bring your dog, a blanket,
lawn chairs, and enjoy the
country air!



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LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Until every pet has a home.

**ARNIE'S
PET FOOD
STORE**

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 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, 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!

