

# Pet Talk

FALL 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

**Or donate through our website  
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org**

### Pet Food Bank drop off locations:

Petco 56th & Hwy 2 *(bin in front entry)*

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

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

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.*

## LAA assists with vaccinations

On August 23, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors initiated a program running through the end of 2021 to pay \$20 per vaccination needed for the spay/neuter procedure for pets that have been issued a voucher through our income-based Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, LAA's cornerstones for combating pet overpopulation.

To request a spay/neuter voucher for your pet, and to take advantage of this limited time offer for necessary vaccinations, just submit a voucher request on LAA's website or leave a message on LAA's voicemail. An LAA volunteer will respond to the call to get the information necessary to issue a voucher if you are not able to request the voucher online.

Once the voucher is received, it is the recipient's responsibility to make an appointment with a participating veterinary clinic and to bring their pet to the veterinarian's office.

**Continued on page 5**

## LAA's Pet Food Bank has moved!

*By Allison Hunter-Frederick*

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is excited to announce that it has moved its pet food bank to a new facility. Their new space is at 300 Oak Creek Drive, where LAA will have a much larger warehouse.

LAA's pet food bank space has increased from 700 square feet to 2100 square feet. According to LAA's president and co-founder Mary Douglas, not only will the space make it easier to store and distribute pet food to those in need, but it'll allow LAA to take advantage of opportunities that it hasn't been able to in the past due to limited space.

The move was a major project, and LAA appreciates its volunteers who helped with the move. LAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run completely by volunteers. "It took the time and generosity of a good number of volunteers to pull it off. Our volunteers are vital to our existence and the good that we do in the community," said Douglas.

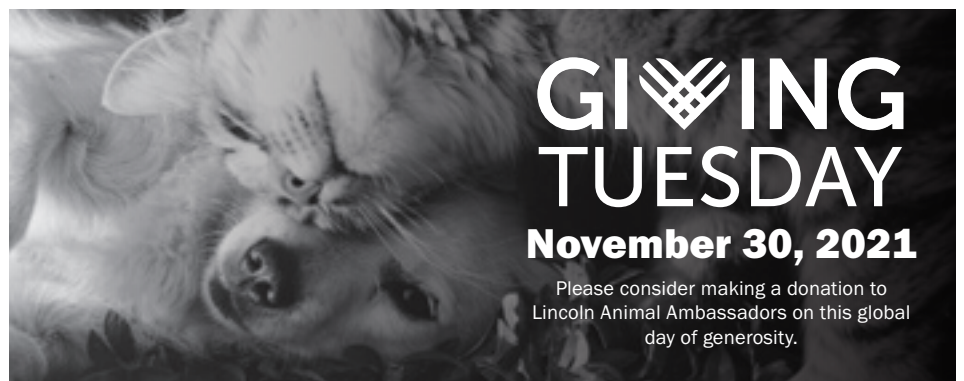
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## SAVE THE date!

**Spay-ghetti  
& No Balls Dinner  
March 2022**

More details to come!

**Wine & Howl  
June 12, 2022**



# WE NEED YOU!

## Volunteer and prevent homeless animals

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. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org).



## Featured Rescue: **LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs**

No matter what people are going through, there always seems to be something that will instantly bring a smile to their face. Lutheran Church Charities and its well-trained golden retrievers, referred to as the LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs, do just that by being present during all situations. People often drop to their knees to absorb the gentle, furry presence of the Comfort Dogs that brings joy and calmness when they need it the most.

When invited, LCC's K-9 Comfort Dogs serve at church events, school visits, chapel talks, school and library reading programs, nursing homes, hospitals, and community events, to name a few.

For over ten years, LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs have been deployed to serve those affected and the community after mass shootings. Also, the losses of loved ones and property can overwhelm the survivors of natural disasters. The presence of LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs brings friendship, love, and comfort during difficult times. In crisis or disaster situations, LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serve families, first responders, and the community affected by tragic events.

Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) is a faith-based ministry with a mission to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. Headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois, LCC never charges those we serve!

### **130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are present in 27 states and seven are in Nebraska.**

The purpose of a comfort dog is to interact with people of all ages and circumstances. Together with their ministry teams, LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are good listeners, non-judgmental and confidential. Many people will talk to a comfort dog before talking to

people to process the stress or grief that they are experiencing.

Since 2012, when the first LCC K-9 Comfort Dog was placed in Nebraska, many Nebraska teams have responded to ten national crisis or disaster situations. In March 2021, Comfort Dogs Joanna, Priscilla, Eddie, Katie, and their teams responded to the King Soopers Store mass shooting in Boulder, Colorado, to comfort those impacted by this tragedy.

### **Meet LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Joanna**



Joanna Comfort Dog and her handlers stay busy with regular monthly visits in the Lincoln community and surrounding area. She comforts people in hospice care and at the cancer center, and shares love

with her friends at assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing, long-term care, and rehabilitation facilities. Sisters in different facilities—one in hospice care and one in assisted living—were connected by their love for each other and mutual love for Joanna Comfort Dog. She always made them smile. Their voices would exclaim, "Oooh Joanna! You are so sweet, pretty, and soft." Handlers took pictures of each sister with Joanna and framed photos for their rooms. These sisters were touched by a shared love for Joanna, as are so many of her friends she visits! At Christ Lincoln Schools and schools throughout the state, Joanna Comfort Dog meets students of all ages at their special events or in times of crisis. Christ Lincoln congregation members enjoy seeing her at church services and activities.

**Continued on page 3**

## Volunteer Spotlight: Zvi Murry

### Where did you first learn about LAA?

I learned via Google. I moved to Lincoln in March of 2020, right when COVID had kicked off and wanted to volunteer and Lincoln Animal Ambassadors offered a perfect way to “virtually” volunteer.



### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born and raised in Colorado. I moved to Lincoln because my husband is attending law school at UNL. I completed my master's degree in Biology in May of 2020. In my spare time I love to bike, read,

hike, volunteer, and spend time with my dog Prim.

### What are your LAA volunteer duties?

Right now I primarily volunteer as a phone line volunteer for the pet food bank and the spay and neuter program.

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

I love knowing that I am helping animals get altered. I truly think that this is so important because it helps with protecting them against certain illnesses, helps address unwanted behaviors, and saves money and lives by reducing overpopulation.

### Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

Right now the only volunteer work I do is through work occasionally.

### What would I recommend for someone wanting to volunteer?

I would recommend the phone line shift. It is a perfect way to flexibly volunteer.

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

I would add a vet clinic with unlimited money.

## Thank you to our recent donors!

Doug & Vicky Bedell  
Gloria Best  
Andrew & Renee Benson  
Lisa Bradley  
Katie Brown  
Burke Casari  
Sandra Coatney  
Judith DeGraff  
Mary Douglas  
Mary Jo Dykes  
Paula Einemann  
Kim Gilliland  
Judy Johnstone  
Barbara Michael  
Carol Raiter  
Capital Humane Society  
Cybergrants (US Bank Foundation)  
Facebook Foundation  
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Petco - South  
Walmart

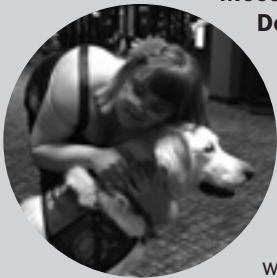
### In memory of

Ribgy Beed (Dog)  
Annie Petersen (Dog)  
Penny Steggs (Dog)  
Cooper Cech (Dog)  
Bree Hoffman (Cat)  
Hammy (Dog)

## Continued: LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs

Joanna Comfort Dog and her ministry team have traveled for national deployments to Highlands Ranch, Colorado; El Paso, Texas; Ft. Dodge, Iowa; and Boulder, Colorado.

### Meet LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Priscilla



Priscilla Comfort Dog and her handlers enjoy weekly and monthly visits throughout Lincoln and nearby communities. Visits with the Lincoln Police Department

and the 911 dispatch office are always a special time to thank them for their protection and service. She also visits the Child Advocacy Center twice a month to comfort children and family members in the court system who have experienced

trauma. Priscilla's snuggles help them go through the investigation and healing process. Other regular visits include grief support groups, memory units, assisted living facilities, schools, senior centers, and daycare centers. Priscilla brings extra love when attending visitations and funerals, especially for the sudden loss of young lives. She loves her work with special needs children and teens by attending Respite Care events and Tim Tebow's Night to Shine. Priscilla Comfort Dog and her ministry team have deployed nationally for the California wildfires and two shootings in Colorado, most recently in Boulder.

For more information about Lutheran Church Charities or the LCC K-9 Ministries: [www.LutheranChurchCharities.org](http://www.LutheranChurchCharities.org)  
[www.K9Comfort.org](http://www.K9Comfort.org)  
[www.Kare9.org](http://www.Kare9.org)  
[www.K9Blue.org](http://www.K9Blue.org)

# By the numbers

## Pet food distributed in 2021

### Dry food

21,060 lbs.

Approximately 2,106 lbs. a month

Since inception: 529,721 lbs.

### Canned food

15,589 cans

Approximately 1,559 cans a month

Since inception: 179,036 cans

### Litter

4,274 lbs.

Approximately 427 lbs. a month

Since inception: 90,971 lbs.

### Number of families helped in 2021 (many numerous times throughout the year):

164

## Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

3,432 total animals

1,767 dogs

1,654 cats

11 rabbits

## Don't just take your dog for a walk...take your walk for a dog!

You walk your dog anyway, now you can support Lincoln Animal Ambassadors every time you walk your dog! Go to **WoofTrax.com**, download the app on your phone, and get walking! This is a completely FREE way to make a donation, just by doing something you already do.

## End of 2021

By Mary Douglas

It's been a strange couple of years. The pandemic has made us learn to live differently and be grateful for things we took for granted before. And with that, LAA has had to learn to do things differently also. Our biggest adjustments are no contact distribution at the pet food bank and not being able to hold our annual fundraisers as we normally would, plus many other procedures that have changed.

Why are we grateful? Because there is no *us* without *you!* Your overwhelming generosity helps us to support the vital work we do in Lancaster County. For 13 years LAA has addressed the root causes of animal homelessness. We have assisted approximately 175 families throughout 2021 distributing over 21,000 pounds of dry pet food this year, over 15,500 cans of pet food, over 4,200 pounds of cat litter and other pet related items and we have continued our work spaying and neutering Lincoln pets totaling 3,427 spay/neuter procedures during our existence.

LAA would like to thank all of the corporate donors that have donated to the pet food bank this year. We would also like to extend thanks to all the individuals who dropped donations in our donation bins around town. Every little bit adds up to a lot and that is how LAA's pet food bank has worked for 13 years. We can't do this without all of you!

**We need your help to continue our work. Here are simple ways you can help us with our mission.**

**Send an end of year donation to LAA** to P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506 or donate on our website at [www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org)

**When ordering your holiday gifts from Amazon, order through Amazon Smile** and choose LAA as your charity. Amazon Smile donates a portion of your purchase to the charity of your choice. And you still get all of your Amazon Prime perks. *This costs you nothing but helps LAA tremendously!*

**Organize a pet food drive at your work place or school** and let LAA know when you are done. We will come and pick it up. Contact LAA at 402.816.1168 or e-mail us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org)

**If your employer does a charity match program, select LAA as your charity.**

**List LAA as a charitable beneficiary in your estate plan.**

Again, we appreciate our community so much! Thank you for all of your support during 2021.



## Continued: LAA assists with vaccinations

The recipient should contact the veterinary office of their choice to let them know they have an LAA voucher and confirm that it will be accepted by them. Check LAA's website for a current listing of clinics that accept our vouchers. LAA's vouchers are issued for a given amount that reduces the final spay/neuter cost. The amount is based on many different factors such as the age and size of the animal being altered. Similar to a coupon, all costs beyond the issued value of the voucher are the recipients responsibility. But through this promotion, LAA is covering \$20 per any vaccine the pet needs to perform the spay/neuter procedure.

One of the reasons that participating vets

work with LAA is they believe in the benefits of spaying and neutering animals. Along with this procedure, most veterinarians also offer a variation of other preventative care, again because they believe in its importance. A final reason given by the veterinarians I talked with, is the desire to give back to the community.

If you know of a pet that needs to be spayed or neutered and vaccinated, now is a perfect time to contact LAA to see if they qualify for a voucher. From now running through the end of 2021, each spay/neuter voucher will cover \$20/per required vaccination up to two vaccinations for each cat and up to three vaccinations for each dog.

## Continued: LAA's Pet Food Bank has moved!

LAA is also entirely supported by donations and fundraisers. Unfortunately, LAA has not been able to have its normal annual fundraisers over the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

LAA's income-based food bank and spay/neuter program helps keep pets and families of Lancaster County together. To donate, you can donate on LAA's website or by mail at P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68506. To schedule a pet food bank pickup or apply to volunteer, contact LAA at 402.816.1168 or info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

LAA is an all-volunteer organization funded by donations and fundraisers. The 501 (c)(3) nonprofit is thankful to the community for their generous support, which helps LAA with its mission to address

the root causes of animal homelessness in the Lancaster County area by helping pets and their people through income-based programs such as a voucher-based low cost spay and neuter program and a pet food bank.

### **New Pet Food Bank address:**

300 Oak Creek Drive (north of W. O St off of Sun Valley Blvd.)

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

Petco 56th & Hwy 2 (bin in front entry)

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

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

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

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

Shopping  
online this  
holiday season?  
**Donate to LAA  
while you do!**

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[http://smile.amazon.com/  
ch/27-3018037](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037)**

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LINCOLN COMMUNITY  
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**Arnie's  
Pet Food**



# 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 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!