

Pet Talk

FALL 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

As a 501(c)(3), all donations to LAA are tax deductible.

Or donate through our website
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

A small group doing big things

A message from LAA President Mary Douglas

Do you ever think your small contribution doesn't make a difference? Well you are wrong. The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) is a small group doing big things! But we are not doing it alone. We CAN'T do it alone. You—our donors—make it happen! If you were a donor to LAA in the last few years, YOU are a part of our accomplishments. You are the reason we will reach 2000 spay and neuters with our low cost spay and neuter program this year! You are the reason we have distributed over 225,000# of dry pet food to low income families and their pets. We're all in this together! We can't say it enough... Thank you for your continued support!

If you are starting to think about your end of year donations, please keep LAA in mind. With you we can address the root causes of animal homelessness and work together in the fight against pet overpopulation right here in our own community. As a local 501c3, we work with nine different local veterinarians, many retail supporters, and individual donors to fund and stock our low cost spay and neuter program, low cost vaccination clinic, and income based pet food bank. You truly can make a difference! Every little bit counts.

With you as our partner LAA works to keep pets in their home, reduces the hundreds of thousands of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens that would be created without the spaying and neutering that happens through our program. Partner with us to help families better care of their pets and make better choices for their pets and our community. We value your support and can't do what we do without you.

Thank you for your continued support!

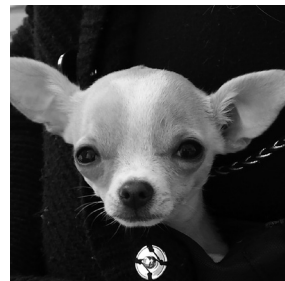
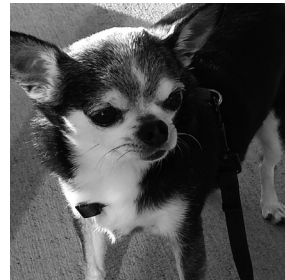
LAA helps pets at Project Homeless Connect

Outside the Pinnacle Bank Arena Poppy and Psycho, two tiny Chihuahuas, were first in line to get vaccinations, a health check, nails trimmed and licenses—at no cost to their pet parents. Project Homeless Connect Lincoln 2015 offered these services for the first time to individuals who are homeless or near homeless and have pets.

Project Homeless Connect Lincoln is a one-day, one-stop event where individuals and families who are homeless are able to receive a wide variety of immediate, on-site services and support for unmet needs. This event is organized by the Lincoln Homeless Coalition, a collaborative group of organizations working together to address the issue of homelessness in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Organizations such as People's City Mission, Matt Talbot Kitchen, Voices of Hope, CenterPointe, Lutheran Family Services, Clinic with a Heart, Nebraska Department of Corrections, and Veteran's Affairs are a few of the agencies belonging to this Coalition.

In 2012, the Coalition decided to invite agencies to provide information on services available for the pets of those who are homeless or near homeless. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) was invited to be present for the first time that year. Every year since 2012, LAA has been involved.

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**Cause
for
Paws**  **Boutique
for
Cheap**

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

Volunteer needs

Phone Line Shifts - Returning Pet Food Bank and Spay/Neuter Inquiry Calls

LAA has several phone line shifts open to pick up inquiries from pet food bank recipients and/or spay/neuter inquiries. These phone calls can be picked up from the comfort of your own home, using your own telephone and the hours are flexible. You do not need to pick up the call when it comes in. You will return a call from a voicemail message system at your convenience. Having access to a computer with an internet connection is necessary to communicate with the other LAA volunteers via email and call tracking using a shared spreadsheet. Some experience in viewing and entering small amounts of data on a Google Docs spreadsheet is helpful, although training is provided if you are not familiar with Google Docs. This type of volunteer position consists of approximately two hours per week or less, depending on your shift.

Pet Food Bank Application Reviewer

Our program is income need-based and applicants must provide an application and supporting documentation to ensure they meet program guidelines. This volunteer would work from home. A telephone and computer/internet are mandatory. Some clerical/administrative as well as experience with Google Docs is helpful, but we will provide training. This position requires a time commitment of approximately 2-4 hours per week. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Newsletter/Poster Distribution

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is in need of volunteers to distribute our newsletters and event posters. We have North and South routes available in Lincoln. Volunteer would distribute to specific locations on a route. A vehicle is required. Distributions take place 4-6 times per year. Each distribution requires approximately 2-4 hours.

1-800-Pet-Meds donates flea and tick preventions



At Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' Pet Food Bank

distribution center, you'll find the usual assortment of dog and cat foods, boxes of treats, and bags of litter, which we distribute to the tune of nearly two tons each month. In addition to these necessities, LAA is a source for pet supplies for families in need- beds, bowls, toys, collars and leashes, flea and tick medications—the items that are so easily taken for granted.

Apart from being bitey, bloodsucky critters, parasites can cause miserable allergic reactions and pass on dangerous diseases. Preventative medications are safer and more cost effective than treating infestations, especially for our clients who are struggling financially. When this spring's heavy rains

brought an invasion of fleas and ticks, the demand for pest preventatives was high, but our supply was running low. For an organization that runs entirely on donations, it was a tricky situation. We reached out to animal medical companies for help.

When they learned of our dilemma, the folks at PetMeds Cares responded quickly with a donation of over 200 applications of dog and cat flea and tick preventatives. A charitable program of 1-800-PetMeds, PetMeds Cares organizes product donations to shelters and rescue groups across the country. With their support, we can continue to help keep pets healthy and families together.

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is always accepting donations of new or gently used pet supplies for our Pet Food Bank. Contributions are accepted at our four Lincoln collection sites.



amazonsmile
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Look us up at our custom URL:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>

LAA Pet Food Bank: Donation drop-off locations

Donations of pet food and any form of pet supplies (new or gently used) can be dropped at any of our Lincoln drop sites listed below.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, PO Box 67072,
Lincoln, NE 68506

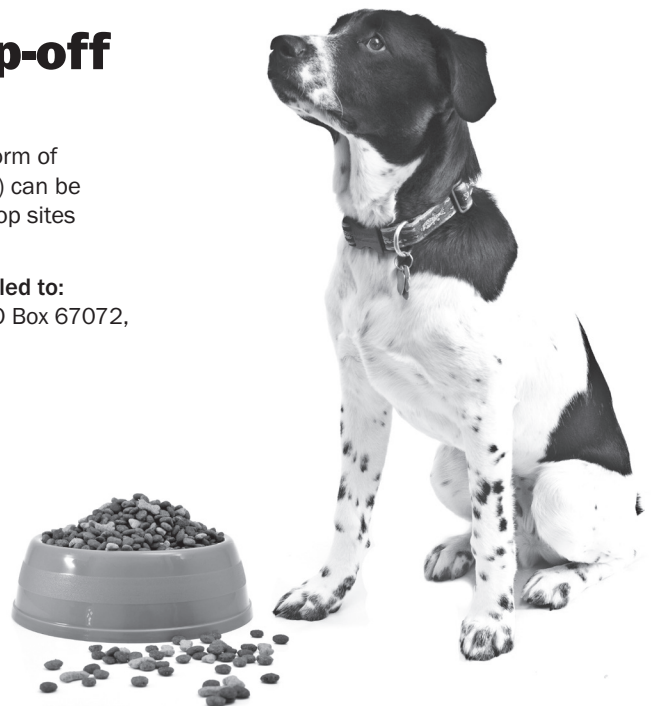
Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2

Super Saver, N. 27th Street

Petco, 56th & Hwy 2

Petco, 48th & O Streets

**St. Matthews Episcopal Church,
2325 S. 24th Street**



Volunteer Spotlight: Heather Bauer

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I actually saw a business card on the bulletin board at St. Matthew's, and spoke with Linda Gavin about volunteering for the group. She put me in contact with Mary, and the rest is history.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am married to a wonderful man, Rodney. We have been married for 19 years. We have a 21 year old daughter, Michaela. We have lived in Lincoln for 19 years. We moved here a week after we married. I am very active in my church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. It is my home away from home I guess you could say. I am considered a Professional Volunteer. We are HUGE Husker fans! We have only been to one official game, but we did enjoy this year's spring game. We own one cat, Freckles, who is extremely spoiled! But then, only children usually are!

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

I volunteer in a lot of areas. I take the Wednesday night PFB calls, I do the S/N calls, I also review PFB applications. I can be found at the side of the road during the Wine and Howl event, greeting the vendors and visitors. Luckily the rain has quit both years I have had that illustrious duty! I also work in the PFB from time to time.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I love the fact that we are able to help almost every person that calls our phone line. I rarely have a caller hang up unsatisfied. There is always some way we can help them. Even if it means I bother Mary with multiple calls!

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I volunteer a lot around my church, especially in the office answering calls. I am also very active during the holiday season with the Salvation Army. I have been with them for over 10 years. I started as a bell ringer, and I now help with the client sign-up for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. I also deliver packages to area nursing homes. AND I still ring bells... outside no less!

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

I would recommend that they start with the PFB phone line, so they can get to know our program a little better. They will get such a variety of calls that they will quickly learn all we have to offer, and all the resources that are out in the community as well. We also get to know some of the clients and their needs since we speak to them every month.

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

I wish we had an unending amount of money. That way we could fund the PFB with all sorts of supplies besides food, toys and leashes. We could use the money to help with more specialty foods for those animals that require it for sensitive stomachs; we could help more with medications; we could pick up a few of the cheaper vet bills that tend to come up when a cat or dog suddenly becomes ill.

LAA needs volunteers like you!

LAA needs volunteers like you! If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or calling 402.817.1168.

from the community

"Mishka is so happy to have food. She is growing big and strong; ½ lb a week."

"The pet food bank has allowed me to feed my cat every month and also provide litter too. My pet is also an emotional support animal in which my family doctor approves of. He helps with my depression and anxiety. Thanks a million guys, you all are awesome!"

"Libby, Dixie, Sugar, Vagabond, Sassy, Bark & Meow say THANK YOU. Happy Trails."

"The pet food bank is a blessing from the heavens. I thank God for the precious people who dedicate their lives and time to help the unfortunate ones as I. Living on a fixed income is tough and getting worse. Thank you for all the donations to help me keep them fed."

"The pet food bank has helped me out in a time of need. My income is very low due to the death of a family member and school costs. I find the pet food bank is very generous. Thank you."

#GIVING TUESDAY™

A new tradition of giving

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity.



Another 'souper' success: 6th Annual Meow & Chow

After months of preparation, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors once again partnered with The Cat House to host the 6th annual Meow & Chow, our annual soup and bingo event. With a record attendance of more than 200 diners and volunteers, we raised just over \$8000 to support our programs.

Without the support of our amazing community this wouldn't have been such a successful event. For dinner, we had almost twenty different kinds of soups as well as many different kinds of breads and desserts, all donated by local restaurants and volunteers. After dinner, we gave away more than fifty bingo prizes, followed by another fifty raffle prizes—most of our prizes were again donated by the community. We would especially like to thank David Jesperson of 10/11 News for joining us to call bingo and then our raffle prize winners.

Thank you to everyone who attended!
We hope to see you at next year's Meow & Chow!



LAA helps pets at Project Homeless Connect

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As every pet parent knows, pets are completely devoted and often the only non-judgmental beings in our lives. Most pet parents will literally go without food themselves to provide food for a beloved pet. Assisting pet parents with pet food, and obtaining low cost spays and neuters helps reduce part of the stress involved with the risk of homelessness.

Being this was the first year, traffic was not as brisk as we would have liked but

vaccinations were given to 12 dogs and two cats as well as licenses for each pet. LAA handed out six low cost spay/neuter vouchers along with several pet food assistance applications.

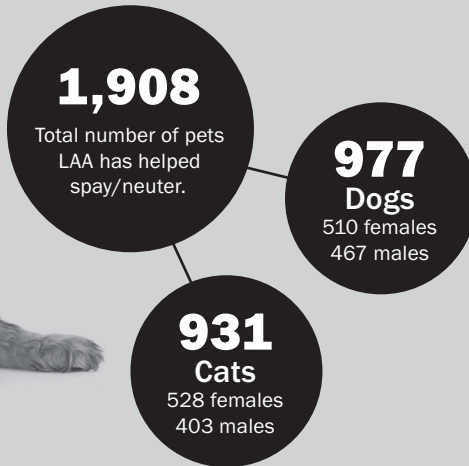
Thank you to Christian Veterinarian Mission for providing veterinarians, Animal Control for providing free licenses, Hearts United for Animals who provided kennels; and the veterinarian technicians provided by several veterinarian clinics in Lincoln.

A huge 'thank you' to our Meow & Chow donors

- A Cause for Paws
- Art by Me
- Artist Cindy Walker
- Beacon Hills
- Blink's
- Bread & Cup
- Butterfly Bakery
- Buzzard Billy's
- Capriotti's
- City Clock
- Chocolatier Blue
- Conroy's Family Bakery
- Don & Millies
- Eileen's Cookies
- Flatwater Grill
- 48 Bowl-Parkway Lanes
- Fred's @ Parkway Restaurant
- Granite City
- Greenfield's
- JML Jewelry Appraisals
- La Paz
- Le Quartier Baking Company
- Licorice International
- Lincoln Running Company
- Lincoln Stars Hockey
- Misty's
- Nature's Variety
- 9 South Chargrill
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Novel Idea Bookstore
- Olive Garden
- Open Harvest
- Oskar & Klaus
- Patty's Pub
- Paws & Claws Grooming
- Pepsi Cola
- Presbyterian Church Ladies
- Raising Cane's
- Runza
- Super Saver
- The Cookie Company
- The Egg & I
- The Still
- The Venue
- Tico's
- WunderRosa Winery
- Pauline Balta
- Kyndall Bedell
- Mary Douglas
- Jennifer Fowler
- Blake Gilmore
- Connie Haeffner
- Cheryl Johnson
- Donna Kavanagh
- Sonia Kovar
- Gaylene Mulherin
- Norma Patzloff
- Deb Pearson
- Norma Peshek
- Karen Petersen
- Velda Rademacher
- Brady Rivers
- Larry & Ruthann Rivers
- Renee Runge
- Clancy Smith
- Faye Stevens
- Sara VanCleave
- Alma Vlasak
- Jim Volkmer
- Laura Wong

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors

The numbers



Estimated dry food distributed through end of 2015

- 4,181 lbs.** Estimated dry food distributed per month, over 2 tons per month)
- 50,172 lbs.** Total distributed through end 2015, over 25 tons
- 279,100 lbs.** Total distributed since inception, almost 140 tons!

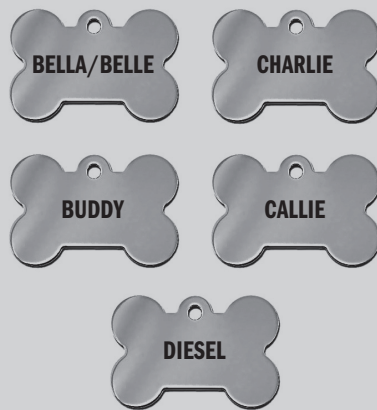
Estimated canned food distributed through end of 2015

- 1,043 cans** distributed per month
- 12,516 cans** distributed through 2015
- 66,172 cans** distributed since inception

Estimated litter distributed through end of 2015

- 723 lbs.** distributed per month
- 8,676 lbs.** distributed through 2015, over 4 tons
- 42,468 lbs.** distributed since inception, over 21 tons

Most common names



400

Estimated unique families helped through the end of 2015—over 400 (371 through 9-30-15)



Update:

THE MIGHTY AND THE TINY

A **spay & neuter** project targeting Lincoln's most 'at-risk' breeds **Pit Bulls & Chihuahuas**

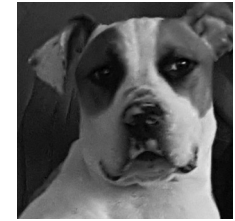
\$25

PER DOG

Use special code:
Best Friends
Call now—Limited
availability



SAVE THEM ALL



Kitty, Luna, Chandler and Mozart's Requiem recommend using Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' The Mighty and The Tiny project to have your Pit Bull or Chihuahua spayed or neutered! These lucky doggies and their lucky pet parents used The Mighty and The Tiny vouchers so spays and neuters cost them only \$25 each. These canines won't be bringing any puppies into a world that is already overpopulated with their breeds. Currently, Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas are the two breeds at the highest risk of being

euthanized in shelters.

As of now, 17 Pit Bulls and 19 Chihuahuas have been spayed or neutered through The Mighty and The Tiny project. There is a limited number of vouchers so don't wait! To obtain a Mighty and Tiny voucher, you can send a request using LAA's website, LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org or call 402-817-1168 and leave your name and phone number. Thank you to Best Friends Animal Society, who in part, is funding this project.

Featured Rescue:

Basset and Beagle Rescue of the Heartland



Basset & Beagle Rescue of the Heartland is devoted to rescuing and rehoming bassetts and beagles in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. We also put great emphasis on educational efforts

regarding these breeds and responsible pet ownership. We just celebrated our 10th anniversary in October and over the past decade have found loving homes for over a 1000 dogs! In 2014 alone we adopted out over 200 dogs.

BBRH regularly has between 20-40 dogs in rescue at any given time and while we focus primarily on bassetts, beagles and mixes we do occasionally have tree walkers, bloodhounds, other hounds and honorary "hounds" we could not leave behind. All of our adoptable dogs are on our website, www.bassetandbeagle.org, Petfinder and Rescue Me. Every dog is up-to-date on shots, HW tested (and treated if needed), spayed or neutered and microchipped. We encourage all adopters to do their research on the breeds before adopting so that can determine if a hound is the best fit for their family. We often do trial weekends to make sure a particular dog is a good match.

We do not have shelter facility but rely on our amazing network of foster homes to provide love, training and care until we

can find dogs their forever home. As we can only save as many dogs as we have open foster homes, we are always looking for new people to open their hearts and homes to help save a life. Fostering is a such a rewarding experience and BBRH provides all the food, crates and vet care. Most of our foster homes are located in the Omaha area but we also have fosters in the Lincoln and Missouri.

Many of our dogs come from high-kill shelters in Missouri, Tennessee and Alabama. We do not turn away dogs because of health conditions and these vet bills add up. In the past 2 years we have treated more than 30 dogs for heartworm at a cost of over \$1000 per dog and have had multiple litters of puppies break with Parvo. To help cover these expenses we host two large Bingo fundraisers each year to help offset these costs. Next year our "SOUPer Bingo" event will be held on February 20th and "BBQ

and Bingo" will be held July 16th. Please come out and support this great cause.

Because so many of our dogs are pulled from other states, in addition to rescue, BBRH and its volunteers are heavily involved with transport. We help transport dogs not only for our rescue but other rescues and shelters in the area. Almost every week there are transports running to or through the Omaha area. Each leg is typically only 60-90 miles and we are always looking for more volunteers. If you ever wanted to help save lives but are unable to foster, then please think about giving transport a try. Plus you have the most adorable and appreciative co-pilots along for the ride.

To learn more about Basset & Beagle Rescue of the Heartland, our adoptable dogs or how you can help...

www.BassetandBeagle.org
f BassetandBeagle



Lincoln's Tour de Brew raises money for LAA



Tour de Brew LNK is a fun leisure bike ride and charity pub crawl wrapped into one awesome time—and on September 17th, this amazing organization raised \$2050 for LAA's programs! We owe Moran's Liquor Works, Empyrean Brewing Co, Cycle Works, Founders Brewing Co. and all of the Tour De Brew LNK Sponsors a huge Thank You for organizing a fantastic event and supporting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors.

For more information about Tour de Brew LNK or its sponsors; or to participate in their monthly summer events—check out Tour de Brew LNK on Facebook. They select a different organization to support each month and ask participants to make a \$5 donation in order to participate. It couldn't be more easy or fun to make a donation to a great local organization. Participants also receive a raffle ticket at each stop on the tour - so the donation comes with a chance of winning some really cool stuff!

www.TourdeBrewLNK.com

 [TourdeBrewLNK](https://www.facebook.com/TourdeBrewLNK)

The Mighty & The Tiny Project: What does it mean to be “at-risk”?

By Allison Hunter-Frederick

Did you know that according to Petfinder that two of the dog breeds with the highest numbers available for adoption are Chihuahuas (over 13,000) and pit bull terriers (over 17,000)? Other than the Labrador retriever, which also runs around 17,000, the closest that any other breed numbers is around 5,000. My heart sinks to see those astronomical numbers. Some other breeds, such as English shepherd, Irish setter, and Japanese Chin each have fewer than a hundred in need of adoption. It's difficult for me to envision how thousands of Chihuahuas and pit bulls could possibly get adopted. Yet there is something that all of us can do to help. As the recipient of a grant from the Best Friends Animal Society, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has created The Mighty and the Tiny Project whereby the group will spay/neuter Chihuahuas and pit bull terriers at only \$25 per dog. LAA chose these two breeds because they are the most difficult breeds for shelters to place. We can support their efforts.

Who is the Best Friends Animal Society? Why have they awarded this grant? Nearly 30 years ago, this animal welfare group helped pioneer the no-kill movement. At that time, more than 17 million pets were being killed annually in our nation's shelters. Through the implementation of spay/neuter and trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs to reduce the number of pets entering shelters, and through the increase in the number of people who adopt companion animals, these numbers have been reduced to around four million deaths per year. Four million is still too many. The Best Friends Animal Society, along with many other animal welfare groups, are

committed to reducing that number to zero. One way they are working to achieve this goal is through their No More Homeless Pets Network partner program with local shelters, which includes Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Another way is through their national initiatives that focus on animals most likely to enter America's shelter system. Currently, these are: cats, castoffs from puppy mills, and pit-bull-terrier-type dogs.

The sad fact is that more than seven animals per minute are killed in our nation's shelters. That's 9,000 per day and 4 million per year. The majority of euthanized dogs are pit bulls. Sadly, pit bulls were once considered a great family dog; now, thanks to a reputation for being aggressive, they're often banned due to Breed Specific Legislation. The Chihuahua is the second highest breed in terms of number of homeless pets being euthanized. According to Mill Dog Rescue, the Chihuahua population has increased as rapidly as the pit bull population. By 2010, largely due to Taco Bell advertising and other media influences, the Chihuahuas accounted for 2.4% of the dogs offered for sale or adoption. Yet overbreeding has saturated the demand for these tiny dogs.

If you have an unaltered Chihuahua or a pit bull terrier, please take advantage of the below offer from Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. If you aren't in that situation, please help LAA's The Mighty and the Tiny Project reach as many dogs as possible by donating. Let's all work together to reduce the number of homeless dogs.

Learn more about the Mighty and Tiny Breeds on our blog at lincolnanimalambassadors.wordpress.com

Calendar of events

**Giving Tuesday
December 1**

**Wine & Howl
June 11, 2016**
Deer Springs Winery

**Spaghetti & No-Balls
Dinner
March 2016**
Details TBA

**Meow & Chow
October 2016**
Details TBA



Sub sandwich fundraiser

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors opened the Husker Football Season by hosting our annual Sub-Sandwich sale at the Super Saver on 27th and Cornhusker. Numerous volunteers helped prepare sandwiches for hungry Super Saver guests and even some BYU fans came through the line. We owe Super Saver a huge Thank You! for donating all of the ingredients for sandwiches and all proceeds from the sales of sandwiches. LAA would also like to thank all of the Super Saver associates who were incredibly helpful and all of the volunteers who helped make the day a success!





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SAVE THEM ALL



donate! **online at LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org**

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, 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!

