



# Pet Talk

FALL 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](http://LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org)



**Cause For 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](http://CauseForPawsLincoln.org)

## The Family Pet: The Overlooked Casualty of Hard Times

By Mary Douglas

The economy has been hard on everyone in the last few years, and many communities across the country have established food banks in an effort to assist people who are on fixed incomes, out of work or who are just in need of a hand up. But an often overlooked casualty of hard times is the family pet. In an effort to pare down the necessities and cut household costs to get by, it's the household pets that often go by the wayside.

Some people, out of work or under-employed, are forced to live in their cars because they refuse to say goodbye to their pets. Most homeless shelters, including Lincoln's own, don't allow pets, for various reasons. Most people in these situations do not want to turn their pets into the animal



**LAA's pet food bank received a \$5,000 grant in 2012 from Banfield Charitable Trust for supplies, equipment, food transportation costs, and specialized prescription food.**

shelters, because many times the shelters are full and they fear they will be euthanized. For most people, their pets are their family members. Companion animals and people often rely on each other for their mental and physical well being. In hard times, it is

even more important for the family to stay intact. The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) recognized the need for companion pet assistance in the Lincoln and surrounding area. In 2009, LAA's Temporary Assistance Pet Food Bank was created in an effort to

provide cash-strapped owners a way to keep their canine and feline friends in their homes. It is doing for pets what the human food bank network has successfully done for people in this country for many years.

LAA has distributed approximately 85,000 pounds of dry food since the pet food banks creation. That's around 4,000 pounds (or two ton) per month. In addition, approximately 15,000 cans of pet food and 14,500 pounds of cat litter. Along with those essential basic items, flea and tick medications, collars, leashes, dog beds, food dishes, shampoo, toys, and other pet related items have been readily distributed to those in need. Occasionally, bird food, gerbil, hamster and rabbit food and bedding are available.

Unlike traditional human food banks, the pet food bank does not typically benefit from a resource boost around the holidays. Most people don't think of giving to the pet food bank during that time, and funding can sometimes be a problem. Most food and items are donated. Gently used items are welcome. Gratefully, LAA's pet food bank received a \$5,000 grant in 2012 from Banfield Charitable Trust for supplies, equipment, food transportation costs, and specialized prescription food.

LAA works with many corporate and private donors to supply the need for Lincoln's companion animals in need. Corporate organizations, as well as 4-H and Girl and Boy Scout groups, do pet food and pet supply drives for the pet food bank. The Bank is run by a staff of 16-20 volunteers that perform duties at once or more a week to make the program run smoothly. No one is paid a salary.

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# The Canine Scrub



By Molly Hoffmann

Mike Wensel had an idea. After living in Oregon where do-it-yourself dog washes were fairly common, he wanted to bring a “West Coast idea” to the midwest upon moving back to Lincoln. Mike and his partner, Lezlie Ferguson, created The Canine Scrub, a self-serve dog wash at 2774 South Street. It’s a business based on the concept that bathing your dog can create a big mess if done at home with water, shampoo, fur, and wet towels all over the place. With our cold Nebraska winters bathing your dog outside with the hose is not possible. So Mike and Lezlie worked with a brother-in-law to design three tubs that would make bathing your dog easy and affordable to anyone. Each tub has a non-slip mat, hose and nozzle, and pull-out steps for easy accessibility.

At The Canine Scrub, you pay for just the tub use as towels, aprons, grooming tools, and dryers are provided. You can bring your own shampoo or purchase shampoo in a variety of scents. This small business is clean and friendly. I speak from experience

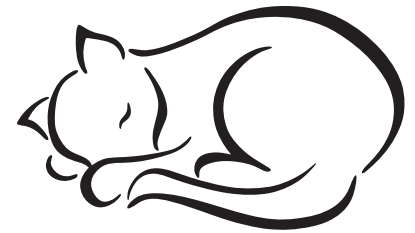
when I say how helpful Mike and Lezlie were with my older, large dog who has cancer. Perhaps this caring approach comes as a result of both Mike and Lezlie always having dogs in their lives. Currently they are guardians to a German Shepherd who was rescued as a stray puppy and a Black Lab/Chow mix who is now in it’s fourth and final home. In addition, both Mike and Lezlie are proud that their family members also only have rescued dogs.

Lezlie feels as though it is the ideal place to work as the customers are happy to be with and talk about their dogs. They have seen all sizes of dogs come through their



Molly Hoffmann bathing her dog, Trek.

doors so far, from a tiny Min Pin to a giant Great Dane. They say their most humorous moments come from a few dogs jumping out of the tubs. So the next time you have a less-than-clean canine, please consider The Canine Scrub. For business hours or contact information: [www.thecaninescrub.com](http://www.thecaninescrub.com) or 402-477-2782



## Featured Rescue: The Cat House

By Faye Stevens, TCH President

The Cat House was started because of the overwhelming need in our community for a no-kill alternative to traditional shelters and the ever-increasing need for additional feline rescue and adoption resources. The volume of unwanted, abandoned, and stray animals needing homes may not be apparent to the general public, but it is staggering. Not a day goes by without requests to take in cats that need new homes for various reasons. The cat’s owner passes away and no family member can take him in. Tenants move out of an apartment and abandon their cat. A litter of small kittens is found under a house. A child develops a severe cat allergy. The common threads are 1) cats and kittens who need help and 2) people who don’t want the cats and kittens to go to a place where they may not be given the chance to find a new home, because of the cats’ age, health, color, or temperament.

At any given time, The Cat House is responsible for the care of around 150 cats and kittens. Approximately 100 live in the shelter at 1935 Q St; a few stay at the PetSmart adoption center at 5200 N. 27th St. Very young kittens, nursing mother cats, and cats with special health needs stay in foster homes. The Q St shelter is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1:30–4 p.m. Every cat or kitten that comes to The Cat House is spayed or neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and tested for feline leukemia virus (and feline immunodeficiency virus, if considered to be at risk). Cats also receive other vet care as needed—many adult cats need dental work, while others need to switch to a quality diet to resolve health issues. While they await that perfect person or family, cats live in a cage-free environment—most cats live in rooms with 5–10 other cats,

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## LAA is looking for skilled volunteers

We’d love to have you join our volunteer team! LAA is looking for skilled volunteers in the following areas:

- Computer skills
- Event coordinating
- Event volunteers
- General volunteers for pet food disbursements
- Interviewing skills
- Marketing
- Reporter/Journalistic/writing
- Telephone skills
- Volunteers with good people skills
- Volunteers with trucks available for hauling
- Warehouse management
- Website design/maintenance

### Contact us:

[info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org)  
402-817-1168



# Volunteer Spotlight: Jeanie Imler



## Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I first learned about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors shortly after we moved to Lincoln in 2007. My mother cut out an article from the

Lincoln Journal-Star that had a picture of a lady with a dog and an article saying that the LAA had given her a leash for her dog. Previously to that she had been using a rope. This obviously made a great impression on me, and I called the contact number that was listed in the paper—the rest is history! What a super group of selfless, dedicated and hard-working people I have had the honor of working with.

## Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born and raised in Lincoln—attended Southeast High School, and UNL majoring in teaching secondary education in French and English. I studied in Grenoble, France the summer of 1970 and have traveled to Europe several times since then. I lived in Cozad for 33 years after graduating from UNL. My husband Earl and I have been married for 17 years and moved back to Lincoln in 2007. I have one daughter, Michelle and husband Nathan and grandson, Avery. I teach all four levels of French at Pius X High School and thoroughly enjoy it—this will be my sixth year at Pius.

**What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?** Volunteering and giving back to others is the most rewarding

experience I can imagine. I can only think of positives in this area, and it has been truly amazing to see how many people have been helped by the low-cost spay/neuter program and the local pet food bank.

## Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

Occasionally, I will go to the Cat House, and pet the cats—my favorite group is the cats with Feline Leukemia.

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

The most wonderful part of LAA is that we all have one common goal: to help animals and people that want to keep their pets and improve their quality of life. That is the feeling that truly bonds everyone in this group and I simply love it. “Acceptance” is the word that comes to my mind and in this world we all have our strengths. I truly feel that LAA has drawn upon all of our different strengths and capabilities to help the animals no matter what the circumstances are.

**If you could add one thing to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors “wish list,” what would it be?** Personally, my one “wish list” would be a couple more places where people could drop off food and supplies donations instead of both Petcos and St. Matthews Episcopal Church. That is a wonderful place, but I truly think we need a couple more “commercial” locations as well that would be easily accessible to the public. *Editor’s note: Watch for details for another drop off location in Lincoln coming soon!*

# Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program Stats

<b>Total pets altered</b>	<b>732</b>
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>320</b>
Female	166
Male	154
<b>Dog breeds most altered:</b>	
Pit Bull/Mix	61
Chihuahua/Mix	49
Terrier/Mix	38
Boxer/Mix	14
Shih Tzu	12
<b>Cats</b>	<b>412</b>
Female cats	237
Male cats	175
<b>Most common names:</b>	
Buddy	14
Tiger/Tigger	14
Max/Maxie	13
Bella	10
Charlie	10
Cali/Callie/Cally	10
<b>Cute, unusual names:</b>	
Sir Bubba Fred	
Sinalicious	
Reverend Pete Meow Meow Meow	
Caramel Carrot	
Blueberry	

## The Family Pet

*continued from page 1*

**As of August 2012, LAA has disbursed more than 85,000 lbs of dry pet food, 15,000 cans of pet food, and 14,600 lbs of litter. That’s an average of more than 4,000 lbs of dry pet food a month.**

between volunteers, corporate and individual donors has proven to be a successful way to give much-needed support to Lincoln’s animals in need.

The organization is fortunate to have connected with wonderfully giving volunteers that are committed to making the pet food program work for those in need. This partnership

## Donations 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

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

**Monetary Donations:**  
LAA  
P.O. Box 67072  
Lincoln, NE 68506



## 4th Annual Wine & Howl: Perfect weather makes for record attendance

By Tammie Lang

The 4th Annual Wine & Howl fundraiser hosted by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) occurred on June 2, 2012. With the participation and donations from many individuals and corporate sponsors, there was a great selection of music, food, raffle prizes, vendors and wine—something for everyone! Attendance exceeded expectations, with over 400 hundred coming and going throughout the day, and the weather was perfect. The event was also a success in terms of funds raised, bringing in approximately \$4,500. Just as important, awareness was raised about local rescue groups, as well as how LAA is meeting the needs of companion animals in Lincoln and

the surrounding area.

LAA is excited to see how much community support exists for our organization. As an all-volunteer organization, all money raised will be used locally to further LAA's mission. LAA could not do what it does without the support from the community and its supporters.

LAA 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 through their pet food bank and low-cost spay/neuter program. Hope you can join LAA for the 5th annual Wine & Howl! in June, 2013!



## Featured Rescue: The Cat House

*continued from page 2*

with room to run and play. Some cats, due to temperament or diet requirements, have their own smaller areas, but even the "efficiency apartments" have room for a



volunteer or potential adopter to sit with the cat and get to know him or her. There is no time limit for the right person to come along—cats can stay at The Cat

House as long as it takes.

In addition to their adoption and foster programs, The Cat House also operates a "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) program for feral cats. Feral cats are not socialized to people and are not adoptable. TNR is a program that helps these cats and the community. Cats are humanely trapped; spayed/neutered; vaccinated; microchipped; eartipped, which is the universal symbol that a cat has been altered and vaccinated; and returned to their outdoor home under the watchful eye of a caregiver. The caregiver monitors the health of the cats in the colony; ensures they have shelter; and provides food. Not only does the TNR program reduce the number of unwanted kittens—it improves the quality of life for the cats and their human neighbors. The cats are healthier, and behaviors such as fighting and marking are greatly reduced. If foster homes and funds are available and kittens from feral mothers are young enough to be socialized, The Cat House takes in the kittens from the feral colonies and finds a foster who will socialize the kittens so that they can be adopted into loving forever homes.

The Cat House is staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, adoption fees, and fundraisers (such as "Meow and Chow," the joint Cat House-Lincoln Animal Ambassadors fall event). Since adoption fees do not even cover vet bills, The Cat House relies on donations to keep their doors open.

## Thank you to the Wine & Howl vendors, sponors and performers!

HyVee  
Pause for Paws  
Alena Serie & Jennifer McCullough/Scentsy  
Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue  
2nd Chance Pups  
Invisible Fence  
Nebraska Wildlife Rescue Team  
KZUM Radio  
Magic Faces Face Painting  
Northern Plains Boxer Rescue  
The Wounded Heart TWH Rehab Center  
Voice for Companion Animals  
Stella & Dot Independent Stylist (Emily Ruwe)  
RUFF Rescue  
Canine Design  
Blue River Pet Rescue  
Ehlers Animal Care  
Rick's Steak Out  
Pawrific Dog Treats  
Hearts United for Animals  
Lisa Bradley, Massage Therapist  
Epona Horse Rescue  
Good Dog Rescue  
Adamz K9  
Sara Jane Schroeder  
Lisa Bottsford/Tastefully Simple  
SitStay.com  
Deer Springs Winery  
Guitar Center  
Tom & Wes  
Cool Pappas  
Resonators  
The Nelson Trio

# First Annual Bark & Bowl

By Mary Douglas

The 1st annual Bark & Bowl fundraiser between Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) and Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue (NNKCR) was held on Saturday, July 28th at Sun Valley Lanes from 2 – 4:30 p.m. A HUGE thank you to Sun Valley Lanes for opening the alleys up for this fundraiser! A good crowd came in out of the scorching heat at Sun Valley and gathered to “STRIKE IT LUCKY” for the two non-profit groups.

For \$20 each, participants enjoyed 2 games of bowling, shoes, a free beverage and every one left with a prize from the prize table! A great time was had by everyone involved and best of all, much needed funds were raised for both groups.

NNKCR is a 501(c)(3) dog rescue group. They provide emergency foster care for homeless dogs, veterinary care for dogs in our care and find forever homes for homeless dogs. NNKCR is an all-volunteer organization, and 100% of all funds donated go toward our rescue efforts and the dogs in our care. They rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home dogs.

LAA promotes enriching our community through progressive thinking, education, awareness and public support. They are committed to improving the lives of animals and alleviating cruelty in Lincoln and the



surrounding area. They are an all volunteer organization with no paid employees. They run a low-cost spay neuter program and a temporary assistance pet food bank. 100% of all funds donated go toward these programs.

Watch for information for the 2nd annual Bark & Bowl next summer and plan to attend!



## OCTOBER 28

DOORS 430PM BINGO 6PM

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE 16th & L  
All you can eat soup & bingo games!  
Bread, dessert, and beverages also provided.

\$20 DONATION AT THE DOOR  
BINGO PRIZES RAFFLE FOOD & FUN

3rd annual fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors & The Cat House



The Cat House



# Calendar of events

## The Cat House

### Garage Sale

**August 24 & 25, 2012**

Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

1935 Q Street

## NE No Kill Canine Rescue Coed Sand Volleyball Tournament

**August 25, 2012**

9 a.m.

Spike's Beach Bar & Grille

## Dog Days of Summer Garage Sale

**September 6, 2012**

Sadie's Dog Fund

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2224 Heather Lane

## First-Plymouth Church Animal Blessing

**September 15, 2012**

Booths open at 1 p.m.

Service 2 p.m.

2000 D Street, courtyard

## Petfinder Adoption Options Seminar

**September 18, 2012**

Time and location TBA

Lincoln

Sponsored by PETCO Foundation

## Sub Sandwich Sale

**September 29, 2012**

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Super Saver, 56th & Highway 2

Benefit supports LAA

## Joining Forces, Saving Lives Speaker Series

**October 20, 2012**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park

Speaker: Mike Arms, President of the Helen Woodward Animal Center in San Diego, CA

## 3rd Annual Meow & Chow BINGO & Soup Supper

**October 28, 2012**

Scottish Rite Temple

4 p.m.

Benefit supports LAA and The Cat House

## 5th Annual Wine & Howl

**June 8, 2013**

Details TBA

# 3rd Annual Meow & Chow

October 28, 2012

4:30 p.m.

## Scottish Rite Temple

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House will hold the Third Annual Meow & Chow fundraiser on October 28, 2012 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln at 4:30 pm.

There will be food (soups, breads, desserts)! There will be bingo! There will be prizes!

Mark your calendar and join us for a fun-filled evening. It's a purr-fect way to show your support for our feline friends!

Please contact us at 402-817-1168 or email us at info@LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org if you would like to donate food and/or prizes to the event. We'll see you on October 28th!

# 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](http://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

Lincoln Animal  
Ambassadors  
Paw Prints

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