

Pet Talk



SPRING 2014

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

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



Cause For Paws
Boutique for Cheap

NEW LOCATION!
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

Got cats?

Beat the 'heat' and get 'em 'fixed!'

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is partnering with Nebraska Animal Medical Center to offer a week of altering cats. Be one of the first to call in during the week of April 14 – 18, 2014, to get an appointment for altering

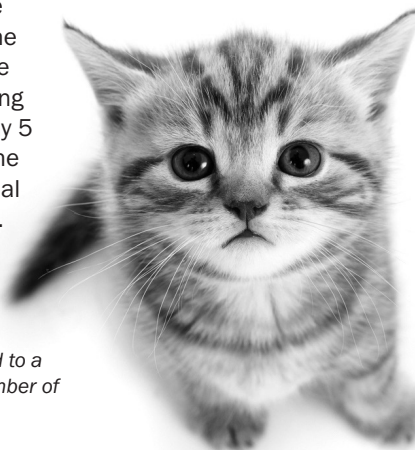
There are a limited number of vouchers to have cats altered for the low price of \$25 per cat through the LAA low cost spay and neuter program.

your cat at Nebraska Animal Medical Center during "Beat the 'Heat' & Get 'em 'Fixed' Week," May 5 – 9, 2014.

Until the limit is reached all pet guardians of cats who call Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and use the phrase "Beat the 'Heat'" will be issued vouchers to have their cats altered for the low price of \$25 per cat through the LAA low cost spay and neuter program. This offer is limited to Lancaster County residents only. Each pet guardian will be limited to three cats per guardian during this project.

Call Lincoln Animal Ambassadors at 402-817-1168 during the week of April 14 – 19, 2014, and use the term "Beat the 'Heat'" to take advantage of this offer. The surgeries will be performed during the week of May 5 – 9, 2014, at the Nebraska Animal Medical Center.

This offer is limited to Lancaster County residents only and to a previously set number of surgeries.



LAA's Wine & Howl:

A life changing event

By Mary Douglas and Shelly Clark

Fontane was found as a stray in Aurora, Nebraska. Aurora Adopt A Pet volunteers took him in and cared for him for two years. Fontane made friends with many of the dogs there, but one by one they found forever homes, but Fontane, the big black dog remained.

A great opportunity came when Second Chance Pups selected Fontane for their training program. After the nine week training was complete, no one came forward to adopt Fontane, proving the well known fact that the hardest dogs to get adopted are big and black. After all, Fontane passed his training sessions with flying colors. He was a great well behaved loving dog.

Fontane returned to Aurora Adopt A Pet where the volunteers continued to love and care for him, still working to find him a forever home. Across Nebraska, and beyond, Shelly Clark and many other people were sharing pictures, videos, and fliers of Fontane, but the phone did not ring. Fontane remained in Aurora.

Rod Johnson from HOPE Training and Rescue suggested that Shelly bring Fontane to LAA's

Wine and Howl and show him as an adoptable dog at their booth. Aurora Adopt A Pet agreed to let Shelly take him to Lincoln for the 2013 Wine and Howl at Deer Springs Winery.

Aaron Boucher attended that Wine & Howl. Aaron knew how great rescued dogs could be, as he and his wife had adopted their great dog, Tilly, from a Nebraska shelter. Aaron visited with Fontane and realized what a great dog he was. He remembered his niece said her boyfriend, Jordan, was looking for a black lab.

Continued on page 6...

SEE YOU THERE!
6th Annual Wine & Howl
June 7, 2014

Deer Springs Winery
 11 am to 5 pm
 Vendor spaces still available. Non-profit \$50, Profit \$100. Vendor applications available at www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org or (402) 817-1168.



Paws and remember

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors frequently receives memorials in honor of beloved family members and pets who have passed away. These are some recent contributions:

- In memory of Larry Hoffmann
- In memory of Chuck Mathes
- In memory of Angel Kavanagh
- In memory of Squirt Welsch
- In memory of Meze Teets

Donations made in honor of loved ones provide funds to help others through our pet food bank and low-cost spay/neuter program. We thank our donors for their generosity in time of personal sorrow.

Featured Rescue:
Second Chance Pups



A Cause for the Paws
 Nebraska's Premier Prison Pup Training and Adoption Program

Every morning, hot or cold, rain or shine, inmates make their way down to the state certified kennel facility inside the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln Nebraska.

Waiting there with tails wagging and pent up energy are the dogs in the Second Chance Pups program.

Second Chance Pups, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer program which oversees the canine obedience program inside the penitentiary. The canine obedience program began in September 2004, the goal being to provide obedience training for shelter/rescue dogs while giving carefully selected inmate handlers an opportunity to learn accountability, responsibility and a new skill while giving back to society by helping to alleviate the "unwanted" pet population problem. The SCP program follows the AKC/CGC training format and each rotation lasts for 9 weeks. During those 9 weeks the dogs are available for adoption and the goal is to have homes awaiting them upon completion of the rotation. Those not adopted during the training rotation either go into foster care or are returned to their shelter and remain up for adoption. A class for the adopters is provided at another location on penitentiary property the last day of the rotation so our

outside trainer, Paul Stromsberg can give them a quick review of the commands and how they're utilized. All of the dogs chosen to participate are spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccinations and some are microchipped if their shelter provides that service.

We feel the Second Chance Pups program is a win/win for all involved. It provides an incentive for the inmate handlers to remain in good standing, the dogs who spend approximately 12 hours a day with their inmate handlers love the one on one attention they receive and it provides another outlet for shelters and rescues who are always full to the brim.

While our rotations are generally available for adoption to the general public, our rotation which just ended on March 14th 2014 was dedicated to Patriot Assistance Dogs out of Minnesota. All of the dogs which completed that rotation were donated at no cost to the Veteran. Second Chance Pups was honored to partner with their organization for this special project and hopes to do so again in the future.

For more information about us please visit our website www.secondchancepups.com.



Volunteer Spotlight: Bobbi Pettinger



*Top: Bobbi's grandson, Trevor, has a bowl of cereal that is being intently focused on by Tucker, who most likely is hoping for Trevor to share!
 Bottom: Bobbi's Beagle, Tucker, is chilling out with his stuffed toy.*

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

A: I have been a phone person since I started volunteering with LAA, although I have also helped with pickup nights (at the Pet Food Bank), which I enjoyed very much. It is nice to put faces to the people I speak with on the phone. It has been awhile, but I have also helped with unloading donations and doing inventory.

Q: What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

A: For me, the most rewarding part is being able to help people make sure their pets are able to be well fed and taken care of. I have a huge soft spot for animals and knowing that I am doing something that helps them is really as much a gift to me as it is to them.

Q: Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

A: I don't do any other volunteer work strictly in Lincoln; however, I do volunteer as a moderator on a horse sim game, with players that are from Lincoln as well as around the world. My main duty there is to help players with questions they have about playing the game so they are able to make the most of their game as well as making sure players are following the rules of the game.

Q: What would you recommend to anyone looking to volunteer for LAA?

A: If anyone has a love of animals and is looking for some way to give back to the community, LAA is a great place to get started. Everyone I have met has been more than friendly and helpful, and it is a rewarding experience to make the lives of others better.

Q: If you could add one thing to the LAA "wish list," what would it be?

A: Ah, if I had one wish, it would be that we had enough donations, both in food and funds, that we could help everyone in the community who needs it and that everyone who needs help knew about us.

If you'd like to become a volunteer with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, please contact us at 402-817-1168 or fill out a volunteer application on our website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org.



LAA WANTS YOU

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer organization. As such, we do not pay any staff and therefore have need of volunteers who possess the following skills:

- Marketing
- Working with the media and social networking
- Writing/blogging
- Organizing events and fundraisers
- Picking up donations
- Stocking our pet food bank
- Taking inventory of pet food bank donations
- Returning calls made to our hot line for assistance

Many of our volunteer needs require minimal time requirement, and some can be done from your own home. Other events require volunteers to staff events or help behind the scenes. If you love animals and helping others, we have an opportunity for you. You can fill out a volunteer application on our website, www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org. We'd love to have you join us!

from the community

LAA would like to share some of the “thank you’s” and notes of encouragement we have received from program recipients and community partners:

I have received the voucher and was able to print it. Thanks so much for your speedy reply and helping me accomplish this for my dog. This was such a big help!
Sincerely, Melissa

Thank you for your help and support at such a difficult time. Harley is very grateful.
Anita

Hi Lincoln Animal Ambassadors! I just wanted to take a moment and say thank you. About 18 months ago, your organization assisted me financially so I could get my therapeutic companion animals altered. Without your financial assistance, this wouldn't have been possible. And without having them altered, I might not have been able to keep them in my home, which would've had catastrophic effects on my health and well-being and theirs, also. Especially since I've had two of the four since birth. Again, thank you so much for all you do. I appreciate each of your efforts.
Much love, Elle

Myth vs. fact in spay/neuter debate

Used by permission of Lincoln Journal Star, written by Gwyneth Roberts

Myth: It is better for a female to have one litter before being spayed.

Fact: Medical evidence supports the opposite. Females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier.

Myth: My children will learn a lot by witnessing “the miracle of birth.”

Fact: “The miracle of birth is quickly overshadowed by the thousands of animals euthanized in shelters across the country,” the Humane Society of the United States said. “Teach children that all life is precious by spaying and neutering your pets.”

Myth: My pet is a purebred.

Fact: One of every four pets at animal shelters is purebred. Half of all animals brought to shelters are euthanized for lack of homes.

Myth: My dog/cat will feel emasculated by neutering.

Fact: Pets don't have a concept of sexual identity or ego.

“Dogs reproduce solely to ensure the survival of their species. They do not raise a puppy for 18 years. They do not dream of their puppy's wedding. They do not hope

for the comfort of grandchildren in their old age,” said Cesar Millan, aka The Dog Whisperer. “Female dogs nurse for a few weeks, teach the puppies rules, boundaries and limitations and send them off to join the pack. Male dogs are not ‘fathers’ in the human sense of the word; they do not even recognize puppies as their own.”

Myth: My pet will get fat and lazy.

Fact: Fifty-four percent of American cats and dogs are overweight or obese – not because they were spayed or neutered but because they are fed too much and not given enough exercise, according to the Association of Pet Obesity Prevention.

Myth: My dog/cat is wonderful, and I want a puppy/kitten just like him or her.

Fact: Just as with humans, it is unlikely their offspring – or yours – will be a carbon copy.

Myth: I will be able to find good homes for all the puppies/kittens.

Fact: Shelters are full of these cats and dogs. The truth is you cannot control what other people do with their pets or their pets' offspring.

Sources: Humane Society of the United States; Lincoln Animal Ambassadors; Cesar Millan, cesarsway.com.

Dogs of Sochi highlight worldwide problem of pet overpopulation

Used by permission of Lincoln Journal Star, written by Erin Andersen

The 2014 Winter Olympics brought worldwide attention to the overwhelming stray dog population in Sochi, Russia, with numerous athletes working to bring these unwanted pooches back home. The story is heart-warming and heart-wrenching. More importantly, it gives a real-life, vivid lesson of what happens if unaltered dogs (as well as cats) are left to their own instincts.

Yes, Sochi has a pet problem. But so does nearly every community in America. Overpopulation is the No. 1 killer of pets in the United States. Annually 2.7 million dogs and cats—about half of those brought into animal shelters each year—are euthanized, according to the Humane Society of the United States. Every 11 seconds in America, one healthy, homeless pet is killed—usually to make room for another unwanted pet whose odds of adoption are 50-50 at best and far worse if it just happens to be older, larger, black in color or feline, statistics show.

Locally, the Capital Humane Society euthanized 380 dogs and 2,020 cats in 2013—roughly the population of Kimball. Most of those animals died because space was running out and nobody adopted them. Of the millions of animals euthanized every year, many are surrendered for behavior issues that could've been prevented by early spay and neuter, said Dr. Megan Ehlers, a Lincoln veterinarian.

While the animals pay the ultimate price, the cost to taxpayers is hefty—local and state governments shell out \$2 billion a year just to shelter and destroy unwanted pets, HSUS said. The toll could be far far less if people just spayed and neutered their pets, said Bob Downey, director of the Capital Humane Society.

Tuesday is World Spay Day. Now in its 20th year, the day is designed to educate and promote the benefits of spaying—or neutering—your pet. It falls at the end of Spay/Neuter Month.

Simply put, there are not enough humans to adopt all these pets. Each day 10,000 humans are born in the United States—and each day 70,000 puppies and kittens are born, according to Spay USA, a national organization promoting spaying and neutering. “As long as these rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals,” Spay USA wrote on its website. It is estimated that one unspayed female and one unneutered male can result in 67,000

puppies over a seven-year period, according to a study by Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. The numbers are six times higher for unaltered cats—with an estimated 420,000 kittens resulting, the study found.

People have funny views about spaying and neutering. Pauline Balta, coordinator of Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program, has heard every excuse in the book for not spaying or neutering their dogs and cats. Nearly every one of them is misguided or flat-out wrong, she said.

Dogs and cats do not mourn the loss of their ability to reproduce. Their personalities do not change, nor do they turn fat and lazy after being spayed or neutered, Balta said. In fact, spaying and neutering improves an animal's quality of life and longevity; significantly reduces health risks such as reproductive cancers and pyometra, a deadly uterine infection; and diminishes animal aggression and roaming, Balta said. While it is true that spaying and neutering can be expensive—prices range from \$80 to \$600 depending on the size and gender of the animal—there are lower cost options offered by many veterinarians and pet groups. And even at full price, spay/neuter surgery is a minor expense compared to costs of raising, vaccinating and taking care of medical complications caused by unplanned pet pregnancies, Balta said.

Every animal at the Capital Humane Society is spayed or neutered before it is placed up for adoption. Last year, of the 2,400 dogs and cats finding new homes through the Humane Society, 1,733 needed to be altered before leaving. Most pet rescues also spay/neuter animals before they are placed with families. And since starting its low-cost spay/neuter program in June 2010, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has helped fund the procedure for 655 dogs and 631 cats. LAA works with eight Lincoln area veterinary offices to provide the surgery at reduced cost, issuing vouchers to assist pet owners in covering the bill.

For Ehlers, who donates part of her services to the program, it is conviction of compassion. “I think animals are the only source of happiness for some people, and if we can help improve that bond and help control the population of pets in our area, we are happy to help,” Ehlers said. She also has seen what happens when intact pets wander or stray to be closer to another intact animal.

Continued on page 5...

Calendar of events

Cause for Paws Grand Opening

April 4 - 6
NEW LOCATION! 2445 S 48th St

Catsino Night April 5

The Cat House fundraiser with poker, black jack, roulette, craps and trivia!
Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St
Doors 6:30pm
Gambling 7-10:00pm

Tails 'n Trails

May 17
Fallbrook Town Center
Capital Humane Society fundraiser

LAA Fundraiser

May 17
Karma

Give to Lincoln Day May 29

Sponsored by Lincoln Community Foundation. www.lcf.org

Animal Blessing

June 1
First Plymouth, 20th & D

Wine & Howl

June 7
Deer Springs Winery
11am - 5pm

Dog Days of Summer Adoption Event

June 14
Verizon Wireless Call Center
10:00am - 1:00 pm

Meow & Chow October 11

Scottish Rite Temple, 16th & L St



6th annual

wine & howl

fund raising event

Saturday, June 7

11am-5pm

Deer Springs Winery • 162nd & E Adams

www.deerspringswinery.com

Bring your dog, a blanket, lawn chairs, and enjoy the country air! Please have your dog on a leash.

Vendor Exhibits • Wine Tasting • Gift Raffle • Food • Live Music

Suggested \$5 Donation per person





Top 10 reasons people give up pets

Used by permission of Lincoln Journal Star, written by Gwyneth Roberts

Dogs

1. Moving
2. Landlord issues
3. Cost of pet maintenance
4. No time for pet
5. Inadequate facilities
6. Too many pets in the home
7. Pet illness
8. Personal problems
9. Biting
10. No homes for litter mates

Cats

1. Too many in the house
2. Allergies
3. Moving
4. Cost of pet maintenance
5. Landlord issues
6. No homes for litter mates
7. House soiling
8. Personal problems
9. Pet illness
10. Inadequate facilities

Source: Survey by the National Council on Pet Population. Survey participants could list up to five reasons for relinquishing pets. Survey was not given to people relinquishing pets for euthanasia because of illness or age, nor did it include strays.

A life changing event continued from page 1...

Both Aaron and Jordan called Aurora to express their interest Fontane. Soon Fontane was traveling to central Nebraska to meet Jordan. It was love at first sight for them both. After a short foster period, Jordan gave Fontane his forever home.

So many people had a part in Fontane's fate. Aurora Adopt A Pet, Second Chance Pups, Shelly Clark, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, Rod Johnson, Aaron Boucher

and Jordan. After all, that is what rescue is all about. Working together for the best outcome for the pet. Congratulations Fontane and Jordan!

Thank you to all the people and groups who worked diligently and collaboratively to make this possible!

Dogs of Sochi continued from page 5...

"We have grieved with many clients whose pets have run away or been injured after running away because of this," Ehlers said. Bottom line, according to Balta and Downey—everyone benefits when pets are spayed and neutered.

"It does the community of Lincoln as a whole—pet owners and non-pet owners alike—a huge favor," Downey said. "If you have a community where you have strays running all over the place, the cost of animal control programs can get very, very high. If Lincoln did not have the level of spaying and neutering that it does, animal control would

probably have a budget double what they do—and that affects everybody.

"Spaying and neutering helps with aggression issues and the desire to roam, and that affects public safety, which is important for everybody," Downey said. "Not only does spaying and neutering prevent pet over-population—which to me is the most important—but it helps create a safe environment for the entire community and helps with tax dollars."

Reach Erin Andersen at 402-473-7217 or eandersen@journalstar.com.



You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop on Amazon, why not support LAA while shopping? Shop AmazonSmile and choose LAA as your charity of choice. Just log into your Amazon account and select LAA as your charity. This is definitely an easy way to donate a little extra

to LAA, which in turn helps us provide funds for pets in need in our community. Our custom URL is: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>. Thank you!

Help keep our pet food bank stocked!

Our pet food bank is low on canned cat food and canned dog food. Any brand will do!

We rely on donations to keep our pet food cupboard full, so we are asking for help in supplying Lincoln's needy pet population with these items.

LAA, and Lincoln's at-risk pets, thank you for your generosity! Help us turn empty shelves into full shelves and empty tummies into full tummies!

If you can help, donations can be dropped off at any of the following sites:

PETCO North (bin in front entryway)
48th & O Street, Lincoln, NE

PETCO South (bin near cash registers)
56th & Highway 2, Lincoln, NE

Super Saver (bin at exit doors)
56th & Highway 2, Lincoln, NE

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



My Furry Valentine: A "Spay-ghetti and No Balls" Dinner



Karl Skinner, Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue President and Mary Douglas, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors President.



Guest speaker, Warren Cox



On February 15, 2014 this inaugural dinner was held at Warehouse #4 in downtown Lincoln benefiting Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue.

Over 150 people enjoyed a Valentine-themed plated spaghetti dinner complete with featured speaker Warren Cox, former director of the Houston SPCA, and a dessert

auction with lovely desserts auctioned off by Tom Bassett. Providing music for the evening were Heather Pedersen and Michaela Urbauer.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible, and to all the volunteers who work hard to improve the lives of companion animals. Approximately \$6500 was raised to benefit Lincoln Animal Ambassador's low-cost spay and neuter program and Nebraska No-Kill Canine Rescue's adoption program. These funds will greatly assist our programs in meeting the needs of Lincoln's pet population.

How to understand cat emotions through body language

By Jennifer Howenstine

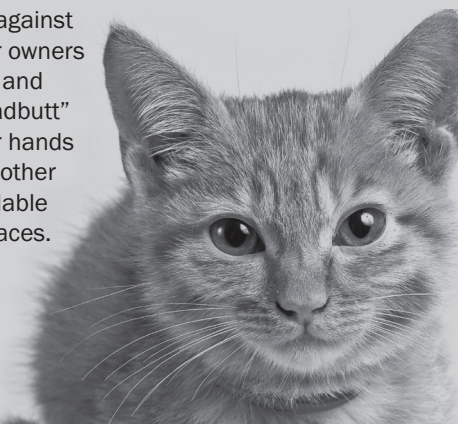
Although individual cats vary widely in how much they vocalize with their human owners, all cats display emotions in their body language. Contrary to the stereotype that cats are aloof and emotionless, cats display a wide range of emotions through their postures and gestures.

Most cat owners will be familiar with "happy" expression displayed when they return home and their cat greets them at the end of the day. The tail is held erect, the ears are straight forward, and the whiskers are perky. Alternately, an annoyed cat will flick its tail, pull its ears back, and narrow it's eyes.

Indeed, a cat's tail is a great window into its current emotions. Although a cat's tail is very expressive, it is important to remember that cats are not dogs; in particular, a "wagging" tail in cat is not a sign of friendliness. In cats, a wagging tail thrashed back and forth is a sign of annoyance, and a cat that swishes its tail while being petted may soon lash out by biting or scratching. A lashing tail is a sign that cat would prefer to be left alone. A scared or intimidated cat will hold it's tail erect and body puffed out

in a "Halloween cat" stance in an attempt to make itself look bigger to a perceived threat. Like the tail, a cat's ears are an important indicator of their emotional state. A cat with ears forward and held alert is easy to understand: this cat is playful and ready for interaction. A cat with its ears turned back or sideways may be indicating annoyance or may be nervous or anxious. Having the ears pinned all the way down and held back against the head is a sign the cat is feeling defensive and threatened. At cat with ears in this position is likely to lash out if it is threatened further.

A cat in a more affectionate mood will roll over to allow its belly to be rubbed and petted. Cats in need of attention will also rub against their owners legs and "headbutt" their hands and other available surfaces.



Thank you!

My Furry Valentine sponsors and donors...

LAA would like to thank our wonderful sponsors and donors without whom we would not have been able to hold this event:

- US Property
- Cornerstone Print & Marketing
- Belmont Veterinary Center
- The Cure, Inc.
- Deer Springs Winery
- Domesti-Pups
- Duteau Subaru
- Ehlers Animal Care
- Eidos
- Greater Lincoln Obedience Club
- The Groom Room
- Larry Pankoke
- Nature's Logic
- Sadie Dog Fund
- Sarah Rivers, Woods Bros. Realty
- Second Chance Pups
- Solution One
- South Ridge Animal Clinic
- Superior Veterinary Clinic
- The Stem Works
- Wachal Pet Health Center

Dinner provided by:
The Olive Garden
Whole Foods Market

Desserts provided by the following sponsors and donors:

- Butterfly Bakery
- Cheesecake Diva
- Donna Kavanagh
- Edible Arrangements
- Florio's Italian Steakhouse & Lounge
- Katie Brown
- Le Quartier Baking Company
- Pan Dulce Bakery
- The Parthenon Greek Grill
- Stauffer's Café and Pie Shoppe
- Village Inn
- The Lodge at Wilderness Ridge

Thanks to our student wait staff.

And special thanks to Frances Hayes, Susan Lien, and Erik Rivers.



402.817.1168
PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



Banfield
Charitable Trust



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, Super Saver, 56th & Hwy 2, 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!