

- **Supporter**
- **Spotlight**
- bkpetnecessities

- **Events**
- Cut-out ad for
- Wine & Howl.
- Help us promote!

- **Program Updates**
- Pet Food Bank success
- and Low Cost Spay/Neuter
- Program takes off.



# PET TALK

VOLUME 3 / ISSUE 1 / SPRING 2010

## calendar of events

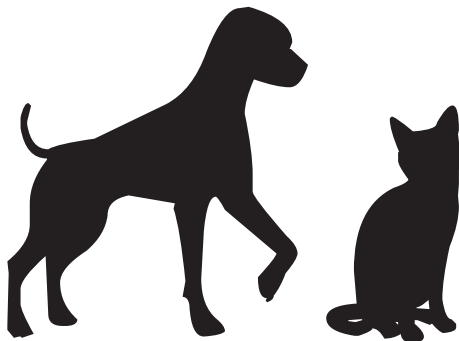
**05/08 & 05/16** Community Outreach Tabling Event @ Petco, 56th & Hwy 2, 1:00-3:00pm

**05/06** Wine & Howl Volunteer Meeting @ St Matthews Episcopal Church, 24th & Sewell, 6:00pm

**05/22** 2nd Annual Wine & Howl, 11:00am-5:00pm

## 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!

**General Funds, Pet Food Bank, Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program**  
PO Box 67072  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

## LAA launches low-cost spay/neuter program

# Animals of Lincoln need your help

Board members of the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) believe the majority of our fellow citizens care deeply about their companion animals, but like many of you, we struggle to cope with the thought of how many cats and dogs are being euthanized in our city each day.

### Would you like to join us in being part of the solution?

This month LAA launched a low-cost spay/neuter program that will reduce the number of healthy companion animals that are being euthanized in Lincoln. The program accomplishes this by decreasing the number of cats and dogs being born; fewer pets needing homes will mean increased adoptions from shelters and fewer animals being killed.

The voucher system we have established enables pet owners without the financial means to make the responsible choice when deciding whether or not to spay or neuter their animals. Similar programs in other cities have been successful, but we need YOUR help! The program will only be as strong as we make it.

### Here are four ways YOU can help:

- Spread the word about our program to anyone in need as well as persons who may have contact with those in need. We have a spay/neuter brochure that you can use to help educate your friends and neighbors, but we need everyone's help to boost community awareness of this new program.

*continued on inside*

**Proactive / Involved / Progressive / Compassionate**

# supporter spotlight

# bk pet necessities

It's not about the humans. It's about the "fuzzy little creatures" that own us. That's our bottom line and it's why we don't capitalize our name. Our business was started and is still planted among humble roots locally owned and locally involved in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In the sticky month of July, 2007, Kendra, Karl, and Wesley Detweiler, along with Becky Clark, decided that our family cats needed exercise. Since the cats were the amply endowed type we were not able to find cat furniture that suited the size of the cats. After some discussions we discovered this to be not only a problem for us, but for a lot of people. We built some high quality cat furniture for our cats, and found many other people wanted this same, larger, quality product for their cats.

Becky has a lot of woodworking savvy and a go getter attitude. She has designed many of the pieces of our furniture, and does most of the construction work.

Kendra has the drive to keep the business going, does all the office work and bookkeeping, and has the business experience that has guided bk into a business covering several states. She is also involved with much of the carpeting and finish work. Kendra is the communicator. She LOVES to visit, and it serves her well when she visits with the local pet related businesses, or shows guests around the show room located at 401 Knox Street in Lincoln.

Karl has been involved in the growth of the business. He and Becky have remodeled a large shop, built a wonderful warehouse for the largest rolls of carpet and lots of wood to be stored safely. Karl is also involved with most of our sales and marketing.

Wesley has been our web master. He created the beautiful and user friendly web site, [www.bkpetnecessities.com](http://www.bkpetnecessities.com). He's been the jack of all trades that has helped us move furniture, sisal, and design some special tooling for the shop.

The business first started in the garage of our home, which was not the greatest of workshops. Becky recalls fondly climbing in and out of a convertible TR-6 using it as a ladder while we assembled our first products. We rapidly outgrew the double car garage, and moved into a larger workshop. Before long, we needed storage space, and built the warehouse. The business now occupies the workshop, warehouse, garage, one floor of

the house, and every other corner of the house as we build products sold throughout the United States.

This family effort has now completed two very successful years of business custom designing pet furniture. Our specialty is creating the play equipment that a pet needs and using the space that the pet parent has available. Our specialized designs, built in toys, colors, and quality are unique and can't be found in other stores.

Thanks to The Cat House, we have been introduced to and accepted by the great animal loving community in the Lincoln area.

We attend the Farmer's Market at the Hay Market in Lincoln each Saturday from May to October. In between we manage to squeeze cat and other pet oriented events into our vendor calendar throughout the rest of the year.

Come visit our show room located at 401 Knox Street in Lincoln, talk to Kendra, and see our wide variety of cat products. Most of the bk products are on display in the show room, and can be seen on Saturdays from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. Bk pet necessities gladly makes special appointments available if guests can come at other times through the week.

If you don't have time to drop by, give us a call at 402-432-1812, or email us at [contact@bkpetnecessities.com](mailto:contact@bkpetnecessities.com). We always have time for pet lovers and customers.

It isn't work if you love what you do as much as we do. Sharing our time, energy, and money with other people who volunteer so many hours with the animals we all cherish is a great way to pass the time in life.

**view their products at**  
**[www.bkpetnecessities.com](http://www.bkpetnecessities.com)**

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**Would you like to be featured  
as a Spotlight Supporter?**

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

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# volunteer

## We're looking for some dedicated people!

- To help continue to make the LAA Pet Food Bank successful, we are in need of volunteers to help man the pick up locations for those needing food.
- Volunteers are needed for our Wine & Howl event. Tasks include; advertising & PR, donation and count at the gate, dog sitters, parking, etc. There will be a volunteer meeting on May 6th at 6:00pm at St Matthews Episcopal Church, 24th & Sewell.

If you can help with any of these things, please call the voice mail line (402) 817-1168. We appreciate your support!

# ideas?

## We'd love to hear from you!

Questions, comments, information about getting involved.  
info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org



find us on **twitter** **facebook**



2nd annual

wine & howl

fund raising event



**Saturday, May 22**  
**11am-5pm**

rain date May 29

**Bring your dog\*, a blanket,  
and enjoy the country air!**

\*Please have your dog on a leash.

@ Prime Country Winery  
12120 SW 142nd St  
Denton, NE

**Suggested \$1 Donation**

**Vendor Exhibits**

**Wine Tasting ◦ Gift Raffle**

**Food ◦ Live Music**

For more information: [www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org)  
To sign up for a vendor booth (\$100, non-profits \$50), or to donate a raffle ticket item,  
please email [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org)

# tips: severe weather

In honor of the National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day, held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, we have developed this Pet Emergency Plan to help you keep your pet safe during an emergency.

## Be informed

- Know what emergencies can happen in your area (tornado, flood, fire) and know how those emergencies could impact your pet.
- Investigate where you will take your pets ahead of time.
- Talk to your vet about boarding kennels and other facilities.
- Identify which hotels or motels accept pets.
- Know what emergency shelters are closest to you and if they accept pets.
- Discover which neighbors, friends, or relatives will help provide a safe haven for your pets in an emergency.

## Prepare

- Get Rescue Alert Stickers for your home so that rescue workers will know what type and how many pets you have in your home. It is best to have one of these stickers on each of your home's exterior doors. If you don't have Rescue Alert Stickers, LAA has them available for purchase.
- Even if your pet is micro chipped, keep a collar and ID tag on your pet at all times. The ID tag should contain the pet's name, your phone number, and any urgent medical needs the pet may have.
- Prepare your Pet Emergency Kit that is specific to your pet and always keep it ready to go. These are some of the items that you should consider for your Emergency Kit:
  - :: Pet first-aid kit and guide book.
  - :: Three to seven days worth of food in a waterproof container (rotate the food every couple of months so it is always fresh).
  - :: Seven days worth of bottled water (rotate the water every couple of months so it is always fresh).
  - :: If your pet is taking medication, include two weeks worth of medication (rotate the medication frequently so it is always fresh). If your pet's medication has to be refrigerated, include a small waterproof cooler within your Emergency Kit and keep ice packs in your freezer at all times.
  - :: Photocopy of your pet's medical records and a list of important phone numbers, such as your vet and emergency contacts, in a waterproof bag.
  - :: Pet feeding dishes (disposable bowls/plates).
  - :: Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans work very well) and kitty litter or paper towels.
  - :: Liquid dish soap and disinfectant.

- :: Garbage bags.
- :: A crate or carrier for each pet.
- :: Flashlight and spare batteries.
- :: Blanket and towels.
- :: Recent photos of your pets.
- :: Toys, chew bones, treats, etc.

For birds, include a water spray bottle, blanket to cover the cage, and have your bird's leg banded for identification.

For reptiles or snakes, include a sturdy bowl large enough for your pet to soak in and pack a heating pad or hot water bottle.

For small animals such as hamsters, gerbils, mice, and guinea pigs, include a salt lick, water bottle, small hide box or tube, and a week's worth of bedding.

## Plan

- Develop your plan on what you will do with your pets in the event of different emergencies.
- Discuss your arrangements with your trusted neighbor or friend, who is comfortable with your pet and knows where your Pet Emergency Kit is located so if an emergency strikes while you are not at home, your trusted neighbor or friend can keep your pet safe.
- If you use a pet sitting service, discuss the possibilities of emergencies with your service provider.
- Consider all possible evacuation routes. You can also consider calling ahead to make arrangements for boarding your pet outside of the danger area at the first sign of disaster.
- Plan to leave as early as possible if you suspect an emergency is imminent.
- If you are able to wait out a storm or other disaster at home, take your Pet Emergency Kit to your safest room and keep your pet under your direct control by keeping your dog on a leash or your cat in their carrier. Of course, ensure they are wearing their collar and ID tag. After the storm or other disaster has passed, do not allow your pets to roam around until after you have assessed your home's damages to ensure the home is still safe for your pet.
- Be patient with your pet. The anxiety of an emergency situation can cause pets to act irrationally.

## Practice

- Keep your Emergency Kit, crates, carriers, and leashes as close to an exit as possible.
- Practice your evacuation plan to ensure you have everything you need in your Emergency Kit and that your pet will enter their crate or carrier easily.

# in the community

The LAA have been asked to participate in Hy-Vee's 80th anniversary celebration during the week of April 26th - May 3rd at the 70th and Pioneers store. LAA will be at the store at various times during the week to meet with the public and provide information on our pet food bank, low-cost spay/neuter program, our upcoming Wine and Howl fundraiser and the other services we can provide to the community.

As a result of participating in the week-long event, LAA benefits by receiving a large pet food donation and a monetary donation from Hy-Vee. Please come see us that week!

Also look for us at Petco on 56th & Hwy 2 on May 8th and 16th from 1:00-3:00pm.



## thank you

Kelle Brandt, Pam Lander, bk pet necessities, Cause for Paws, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, First Plymouth Congregational Church, Infinity Storage, Stephens and Smith Construction, Sue Sturgis, Kaywin Sohl, Larry Panko, Renee and Erik Runge, Lester Electric, Dave Scoby and Donita Consbruck, and Mark Beck.

## education

As the director of the education committee for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, I have had the opportunity to do a total of three presentations for the Friendship Home. The Friendship Home provides services to the victims of domestic abuse in the Lincoln area. The staff at Friendship Home recognizes the correlation between domestic abuse and animal abuse. In over half of all domestic abuse cases, the victim delays leaving the abusive situation in fear of what will happen to the pets in the home. One real service lacking in domestic abuse shelters is the need for temporary housing for pets of the abuse victims. In an effort to better understand "The Link", Molly Hoffmann did presentations to the full-time staff and the on-call staff at Friendship Home as well as presenting to a class on domestic abuse at Southeast Community College taught by a staff member of the Friendship Home.

If you have a need for a companion animal-related presentation please contact LAA to request a speaker. The list of topics for presentations can be found on our website but include how to be a responsible pet guardian, the importance of spay/neuter, and the need to adopt.



## low-cost spay/neuter program continued

- Alert any LAA board member if you have connections we could tap into as we work to generate free or low-cost publicity for our program.
- Attend and tell your friends about our Wine & Howl fundraising event coming up on May 22. Admission costs only \$1 per person and Cause for Paws has offered to match donations made at the gate.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors.

Our board invested many volunteer hours working with local veterinarians on a reduced pricing structure so we can maximize the impact of each and every dollar you donate. Any amount you can give will make a difference! Checks should be made payable to: "Lincoln Animal Ambassadors" with "spay/neuter" noted in the memo line.

If you know of others who may be interested in helping us financially or as a volunteer, please share this newsletter with them. You can also call or email us directly with their contact information and we will ask them to join our cause.

The clock is ticking for thousands of Lincoln's companion animals; cats and dogs all over our city are depending on us and running out of time with each passing day. Please don't delay; **SAVE LIVES TODAY!**



# reaching out into the community

Community Outreach Committee Update  
By Mary Douglas

In early February, the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) Pet Food Bank phone line received a message from Beagle and Basset Rescue (BBR) in Omaha. Blue Buffalo Pet Food Company was donating five semi-loads of pet food and BBR was in charge of getting it distributed to rescue groups in need throughout the country. Blue Buffalo had offered to ship semi-loads to Lincoln and Kansas City. But, we needed to do it within 4 days!

So, LAA took on the task of finding someone to donate their dock and forklift for unloading the truck! The LAA volunteers came through and made a connection with Lester Electric, who not only offered their dock and forklift, but offered to hold the pet food overnight on their indoor dock. LAA and BBR took on the task of notifying as many rescue groups as possible about the free pet food and scheduled a "first come, first serve" pick up for the semi-truck load that was being shipped to Lincoln. On Saturday, February 6, 2010, LAA volunteers and Lester Electric volunteers opened the doors for free pet food to rescue groups from all over the state of Nebraska and Kansas as well as some individuals in need. Within 2 hours, all the pet food had been disbursed. The LAA Pet Food Bank also benefitted by re-stocking its warehouse of some badly needed items.

We could not have done this without the assistance of Lester Electric and Infinity Storage. And we also want to thank all the Lester Electric volunteers and LAA volunteers who helped load and unload approximately 36,000 pounds of food that day! As they say "It takes a village!" The animals of Nebraska are very grateful!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors have also been busy in the Lincoln community, as well as surrounding areas. Since the Pet Food Bank's first distribution in September, 2009, we have distributed just over 10,000 pounds of dry pet food, 490 cans of pet food and 545 pounds of cat litter, and other pet necessities, such as collars, food bowls, leashes, etc., to people in need in the Lincoln community, as well as Seward, Roca, Beatrice, Waverly, Omaha, Sioux City, Iowa, and other small towns. We have also distributed food to many rescue groups in Lincoln and beyond. It is important to LAA to work together with rescue groups to further our mission of improving the lives of animals and alleviating cruelty.



A huge thank you goes out to Cause for Paws and St. Matthews Episcopal Church for allowing us to use them as a pick up site for pet food and a drop off site for donations. And again, thank you to those LAA volunteers who help deliver pet food, pick up pet food bank calls, and help with organization of the storage units.

The big news is that LAA is very close to starting their low-cost spay/neuter program. Watch for information on this program coming soon.

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## pet food bank wish list

- store front location to store pet food and provide a pickup site all at one location (at least 20'x20')
- dry cat and dog food
- canned cat and dog food
- cat litter (small 10lb bags are best)
- flea collars for medium to large dogs
- flea collars for cats
- unopened dog and cat shampoo
- dog and cat brushes
- Frontline for cats and dogs

Donated items can be left at Cause for Paws, 5700 Old Cheney Road, and St Matthews Episcopal Church at 24th & Sewell in Lincoln.

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