

Pet Talk

FALL 2014

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
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



Cause 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

Our pet food bank has moved

When LAA learned they would need to find a new location for the Pet Food Bank to be housed, we put the word out to the community and asked for their help finding a new location. Dr. Otto at Superior Veterinary Care saw the request in our newsletter and contacted us about donating some space he had available. Thanks to Dr. Otto's generosity, LAA recently moved into the space at 4640 Bair Avenue, around 32nd & Superior Streets, right next to Superior Veterinary Care, and held our first pet food distribution the first week in October.



New Pet Food Bank Location:
4640 Bair Ave.
32nd & Superior

LAA would like to thank Dr. Otto and all the staff at Superior Veterinary Care for allowing us to share their space and for joining us in helping Lincoln's pets and their people. Their partnership with LAA and their generosity help us continue to help "at risk" pets in Lancaster County.

Another HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to move to the new site. A special thank you to LAA's warehouse manager, Ron Stow for his commitment to making the new site the best it could be. And a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who lent trucks, trailers, equipment, tools, lumber, hardware, physical labor and most of all, their time, to help with the transition. We could not have done it without each and every one of you!

Thank you to all who helped!

Pet Food Donation 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

Super Saver (NEW LOCATION)
27th & Cornhusker, Lincoln, NE

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

Pet Food Wish List:

- Cat litter
- Cat treats
- Dry cat food
- Canned cat food
- Dry dog food
- Canned dog food
- Flea medication—cat/dog
- Collars, leashes, food bowls
- Gently used items accepted



The numbers

LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has altered 1,556 pets since the beginning of its low cost spay/neuter program in June 2010. The 1,556 number includes 793 dogs (417 females, 376 males) and 763 cats (428 females and 333 males). Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, through donations and fundraisers, has spent \$85,000 assisting Lancaster County residents with altering their pets.

1,556

spayed/neutered dogs and cats



Spotlight Donation



Lincoln Animal Ambassadors wants to offer an especially big thank you to the employees of Nature's Variety who contributed to a donation of \$460. In addition, Nature's Variety donated several raffle and bingo prizes to the Meow and Chow Fundraiser and are regular supporters of our pet food bank. Thank you for your support of LAA and its mission to improve the lives of animals in Lincoln and the surrounding area!



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, but retrieve it from a voicemail system at your convenience. Having access to a computer is necessary to communicate with the other LAA volunteers via e-mail. Some experience in viewing and entering a small amount 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.

Spay/Neuter Voucher Interviewer

This volunteer position requires the volunteer to have a phone, computer with use of email. The volunteer will do a phone call interviews with pet guardians to obtain information needed for the vouchers. One hour of training is provided before the volunteer is provided with names. Volunteers can make the calls at their convenience.

If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. LAA has no paid employees and relies on volunteers to accomplish its mission. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or calling 402.817.1168.

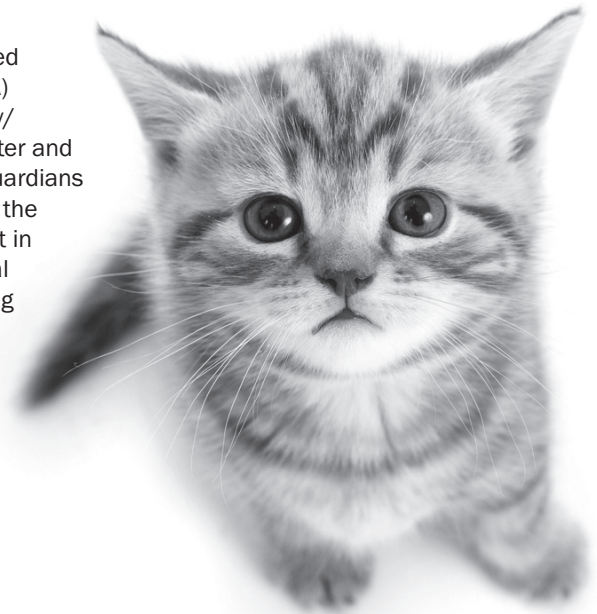


If you shop on Amazon, why not support LAA while shopping? Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase when you use smile.amazon.com while shopping. You can easily add LAA as your Charity of choice from the account settings page by clicking on the Change Your Charity link. Search for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors under pick your own charitable organization. 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!



Beat the Heat Cat Spay/Neuter Project

Early in 2014, Nebraska Animal Medical Center (NAMC) approached Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) with an offer for a special cat spay/neuter project. The offer was to alter and vaccinate each cat for \$25. Pet guardians had to call LAA's number and use the words "Beat the Heat" to take part in the offer and to receive the special voucher. The Beat-the-Heat spaying and neutering took place during one week, May 12-16, 2014. Thirty-one cats were altered by NAMC with financial assistance from LAA during that week, thus preventing literally hundreds of litters of kittens.



Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Scoby



Dave with his dog, Tuck.

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

A friend, Molly Hoffmann, was one of the founders of LAA. She got me involved almost from the start of LAA doing a variety of things as they looked for ways to be an effective organization that filled a local need.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Born and raised in Indiana, graduated from Purdue, came to Nebraska for graduate school to work on my master's degree in Agronomy (Crop Physiology), have worked as a research technologist in Agronomy for over 30 years, my research deals with leaf and soil surface carbon dioxide exchange and fluxes of greenhouse gases (way more than you wanted to know I'm sure!), married to Donita Consbruck (who also gets conned into helping LAA frequently, or doing things that free me up to help!), we have a border collie mix named Tuck we adopted from HUA in Feb of 2013—Tuck is a bundle of energy who keeps us busy as well as entertained.

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

I just help out where needed, pet food bank facility and acquisition of food, special events like Wine and Howl, Meow and Chow, etc. I've done some flyer design, promotion, and literature distribution and a number of other things in the past.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

Knowing that the work you do can directly affect the quality of life of animals' right here, today, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The low cost spay/neuter program is progressive

and addresses the root cause of many of the issues critical to companion animals as well as their owners. The pet food bank is innovative and unique in Lincoln. It can potentially keep animals in homes that might otherwise end up in the humane society system, or worse. Since companion animals can't speak for themselves they need organizations like LAA to advocate for them—volunteering directly or indirectly helps to provide them that voice.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I serve on the board of directors of the Great Plains Trails Network and past-president of the Nebraska Trails Foundation.

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

There is a wide range of opportunities that cover a broad spectrum of commitment levels from helping with a one-day event to more long-term positions. LAA has a variety of volunteer needs just as every person has a unique skill set. Try something and if it's a good fit, great, if not, don't give up—try a different opportunity. There is almost certainly something that matches your abilities and desires.

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

Of course every non-profit needs more money, but even more than money it needs a committed group of volunteers who can be counted on to pitch in and do whatever it is that needs to be done. These volunteers can make a good organization outstanding and create incredible change. People's circumstances and situations change with time and so you need to constantly be adding new volunteers as an organization grows and to replace others who can no longer assist.

Is there anything else you would like to tell people?

The problems facing companion animals can seem overwhelming and too large to ever be solved simply by helping one small organization in one city. But, by volunteering some time, you CAN make a difference. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."—Margaret Mead

For more information on having a presentation for your group, please email LAA at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org.

Are you ready?

As soon as you enter an animal shelter, the temptation to adopt will be very great. That's why it's so important to consider whether bringing an animal into your life is right for you before any adorable faces find their way into your heart.

Far too many animals in this country are initially loved and then neglected or abandoned over time because owners decide—too late—that caring for pets is more responsibility than they actually want.

The truth is, adopting a companion animal is a big step—one that will affect your lifestyle for many years. Have you thought about how a pet will be completely dependent on you for his or her entire life? What will happen if you decide to move? And have you considered whether your lifestyle and personality would make you a better dog or cat owner?

With good care, most dogs can live 12 to 15 years and most cats can live 15 to 20 years, so it is critical that you consider what is likely to be happening in your own life over the next 15 to 20 years—before you adopt a pet.



Pet food bank New drop-off location

Super Saver
27th & Cornhusker



Paws and remember

Mary Hewitt, in memory of
Morley—dog

Mary Douglas, in memory of
Sam—dog at Deer Springs
Winery

Leno Alvarez, in memory of
Michael Eisenhower's dog

2014 Donor survey

In order to better understand our donors and improve how we deliver on our mission of improving the lives of animals in our area, we are conducting a donor survey.

We want to know why you donate and if there is anything we can do to better serve that mission.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/9SNKDBJ

You lost me after Jess... and other multi-syllable words

By Jenni Monroe

I still remember it vividly, driving home just over seven years ago with a brand new puppy sleeping in my husband's arms. We were just going to look (people just go look at puppies without buying, right?), so we were a little unprepared when we had an actual living thing coming home with us. Right after going through the to-do list of purchasing food, dishes and a kennel, the discussion quickly changed to "what in the heck are we going to name him?" Our new puppy, a yellow Labrador retriever, was going to be the next great hunting dog and needed a stately name to go along with that upcoming title. Reading the books and researching online like every new dog parent does, we bought into the idea that dogs can only hear (or at least pay attention to) the first sound of their name. With that, we landed on Max.

Fast forward to today, Max is a fabulous dog. We've been diligent in sticking with one-syllable commands throughout his training and have even made sure his nicknames maintain the one-syllable sound. We still have a shelf ready for his first great hunting dog trophy; it's collected some dust, but I'm hopeful. Now, along with Max, we have a second dog; an adult dog (six, going on two) that we adopted from a local rescue. She came with her own name that I didn't feel comfortable changing. Although it went against everything my husband and I had

engrained in our minds, her name was multi-syllable. Enter Jessie.

Jessie, also a fabulous dog, is a bit more high energy than Max. She has very selective listening and a short term memory. I wouldn't trade her for the world, but I got to thinking, does her elongated name prohibit her from hearing any command said afterwards? It was time to do some research.

Looking online, the experts all agree that dogs respond better to one syllable commands. Pairing that with the fact that most dogs names are one to two syllables, shortened commands are easier to pick out. Dogs learn to listen for single syllable words and can comprehend them more easily than a complex sentence. Reflecting on this, perhaps this is why some of my communication with my dogs goes, literally, in one ear and out the other (i.e. "seriously, stay down," and "alright, that is enough"). Reading further, I learned dogs hear high frequency sounds well, so words starting with s, sh, ch, k, etc. work well to catch a dog's attention. Further, vowels are easier for dogs to pick up on; especially words that end with a short 'a' or long 'e' sound.

While I wasn't able to truly link Jessie's longer name with her questionable listening habits, my theory of one-syllable commands was reinforced (as I'm writing this saying "no," "no bark," "stop messing with your brother;" OK, that last one might have been a bit long).

Super Saver sandwich fundraiser



Lincoln Animal
Ambassadors
thanks Super

Saver in Edgewood for their assistance with our Sub Sandwich Fundraiser on October 4th. Several Volunteers created sub sandwiches made to order for customers with fresh ingredients provided by Super Saver. The store donated several hundred dollars of sandwich ingredients. Cash donations and proceeds from the sandwiches gave us a profit of more than \$500.

Many cats and dogs can be spayed or neutered with the funds that were raised. Both the Edgewood Super Saver at 56th & Hwy 2 and the Super Saver at 27th & Cornhusker serve as drop-off locations for the Pet Food Bank.

You can drop-off donations of pet food, toys and litter in the entryways of either store. The volunteers had fun interacting with the customers and store employees. We look forward to doing it again next year!



Double your donation with Employee Gift Matching

By Brady Rivers

Worthy charitable organizations are as diverse as the passions and causes they promote, and, if you're like most people, you want to contribute as much as you can to as many as possible. Then again, if you're like most people, you don't have a bottomless wallet filled with self-replicating \$20 bills—deciding who gets your dollars takes as much budgeting and prioritizing as anything else in life. (Editor's note: if you have a bottomless wallet or self-replicating device, we remind you that Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is a 501(c)3 organization, and all your donations are tax-deductible.) Why not let your employer boost your giving power?

Many large corporations, and an increasing number of smaller companies, participate in some kind of employee matching gift programs. These are charitable programs in which a business or company matches financial donations made to an eligible nonprofit organization. For example, if you write a check for \$50 to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, your employer may double that donation by also writing a check for \$50. Most corporations give on a 1:1 ratio, although some contribute double or even triple the amount of an employee donation. While the details vary from company to company, matching gift programs typically follow a similar process:

- Determine if your employer or spouse/partner's employer offers matching gift programs.
- Make a donation to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors.
- Complete and submit a gift matching form, usually found on your company's intranet.

If your workplace participates with the United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County or the Community Services fund of Nebraska, you can also support LAA by designating us as a charity on the donor form.

Are you already a volunteer with LAA, or do you just prefer to roll up your sleeves and get to work? Some companies provide employees with paid time off for volunteering, or make financial donations to nonprofits as a way to recognize employees who volunteer. For example, your employer might donate \$10 per hour spent volunteering, or offer a grant of \$500 for 40 volunteer hours.

Corporate giving allows donors to give more without straining their checkbooks, and helps LAA to better support Lincoln's underserved pets and their families. We encourage you to take a few minutes and see if your workplace offers employee giving grants—grants that could equal hundreds, or even thousands, of extra dollars for our public support programs.

This is what Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) looks like...

By Brad Quimby

Maybe you aren't a Pit Bull advocate like me, but surely you have a good heart and a solid understanding of the difference between right and wrong. Maybe you don't have a Pit Bull. Maybe your friends don't either, and maybe you've never met one. Even if this is the case this issue matters to you and here's why.

Consider your dog, whatever his or her breed might be. Consider how much you love your dog, and how much your dog loves you. Now consider if someone who has never met your dog tried to threaten your dog's life; because in their opinion your dog doesn't deserve to live. Consider this person's opinion was based solely on the actions of another dog of a similar breed. Consider the other dog had been severely starved, neglected, fought, bred,

and beaten all their life and yet the dog was punished for those crimes. Consider that your dog has been sentenced to death along with every other dog that bears his or her resemblance based on nothing more than the actions of another dog. Consider the emotions you would have; the anger, the fear, the pain. Consider how you would stand up and yell, "This is completely wrong! You can't do this! Somebody stop them! Help!" Consider what this would do to your heart and your faith in humanity if this were your reality. Consider the pain in your dog's eyes and the fear in their heart as he or she is ripped away from the only family it has ever known and loved. Consider the confusion, the heartbreak, and the terror your dog will feel at the moment he or she is killed. This is what Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) looks like.

Continued on page 6

Calendar of events

The Cat House Garage Sale November 14 & 15

Friday, 9am - 5pm
Saturday, 9am - 3pm
The Cat House, 1935 Q Street

Ruff Rescue First Fundraiser November 15

4 - 8pm
Labor Temple, 4625 Y Street
Microchip clinic, pictures with Santa, raffle, plus a delicious variety of soup.

I Love My Dog Expo February 28 & March 1, 2015

Lancaster Event Center
Benefit for DomestiPups

Dog House Rock March 28, 2015

Towers Event Center
70th & A Streets
Benefit for Sadie Dog Fund

Wine & Howl June 6

Deer Springs Winery



Thank you!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors would like to thank the following Meow & Chow contributors...

AkÁla Jewelry
Bradleys Bodyworks
Bread & Cup
Brix & Stone Gastropub
Bryan LGH
Butterfly Bakery
Buzzard Billy's
The Canine Consultant
Carmela's Bistro & Wine Bar
Cause for Paws
Chocolatier Blue
City Clock
The Cookie Company
Cupcakes & More
Distinctive Impressions
Don & Millies
The Egg & I
Eileen's Cookies
Grain Bin
Granite City
Greenfield's Caf e
Hyatt Place Omaha
JML Jewelry Appraisals
Jimmy John's
La Paz Mexican Fare & Cantina
Le Quartier Baking Company
Licorice International
Lincoln Espresso
Lincoln Race Course
LinPepCo
Misty's Steakhouse & Lounge
Nature's Variety
Nebraska Animal Medical Center
Nothing Bundt Cakes
9 South CharGrill
Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
Open Harvest
Oskar & Klaus
Paws & Claws Grooming
Petsakes
Rodizio Grill
Runza
Simply A-MAIZE-N Popcorn
St. James United Methodist Church Pie Ladies
SugarRush Cupcakery
The Still
Tico's
Urban Legends Artisans & Art Classes
Venue
WunderRosa Winery
Clancy Smith
Pauline Balta
Brady Rivers
Ruthann and Larry Rivers
Blake Gilmore

Breed Specific Legislation

Continued from page 5

Here's the basic premise behind Breed Specific Legislation (BSL): When a dog of a certain breed harms or bites a human, ban every dog of that breed from existence—just in case.

Regardless of whether or not you love, hate, or feel completely indifferent to Pit Bulls surely you feel a special connection with your dog. Surely you realize that your dog is unique in personality, behavior, and spirit. Surely you look at him or her and see an individual who is so incredibly deserving of life. Well, that's how I see my Pit Bulls.

Maybe you figure "my dog is safe" and maybe you're right, but maybe you're wrong. In our own backyard the following Nebraska cities have full or partial BSL ordinances; Omaha, Auburn, Ceresco, Miden, Osceola, and Rushville. Many cities in western Iowa have BSL as well, including Council Bluffs. In the United States there are around 75 different breeds and mixes of those breeds that have full or partial BSL ordinances against them in some part of the country. It's not just Pit Bulls either; Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Boxers, and Great Danes have bans. If you think small dogs are excluded, they aren't. Breeds like Pugs, Boston Terriers, and French Bulldogs have bans as well.

This isn't the work of some random Joe Blow who put together a list all of the breeds he doesn't like. Nope. This is legislation; it's the law which has been passed by elected officials. Discriminating against dog owners because of what their dog looks like will never make for a safer community. Holding reckless owners accountable will. BSL is real, it's happening, and it won't end until we end it. Even if you don't own a Pit Bull, your dog's breed could be the next on the list in your city or county.

My advocacy for the breed stems from my desire to fight injustice, to right the wrongs and stand up for the victims. It's the fact that 2 of the most incredible dogs I have ever known are my children, Maggie and Lacey, both rescued Pit Bulls. I would do anything for my children, because my children would do anything for me. They had no reason to trust me, or anyone for that matter, and yet they did. They had no reason to forgive, and yet they have. My love for them is a reflection of their love for me. I could go on for days about how incredible this breed is, but don't take my word for it. Instead, go to a shelter or rescue group and meet a Pit Bull. Seriously, go freaking love on a Pit Bull. Trust me, it just takes one, and that one "Pit Bull" just may change your life.

Featured Pit Bulls available for adoption

If you are interested in Korra or Jade, please send Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue an email at Info@nebraskanokill.org. View other dogs available for adoption at nebraskanokill.org



Korra

Korra is a two year old spayed female, found as a stray in Central Nebraska. Thanks to social media and people sharing her story, Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue

was able to locate a foster home just hours prior to her being euthanized.

Korra loves everyone she meets. A perfect day for her includes playing in the backyard, going for a walk/run, and then taking a nap next to you. Korra's favorite things are going for car rides, playing fetch and getting belly rubs. Korra is micro-chipped, and up to date on all vaccinations. Korra is 60 pounds of playful energy who is looking for a home she can call her own.



Jade

Jade is a five year old spayed female. She is looking for a family that will incorporate her into their lifestyle as the only pet

in the house initially. Jade loves to play, run and will never turn you down for a game of fetch. She is currently with a foster and improving each day adjusting from a shelter to home environment. She came to NNKCR via Council Bluffs Animal Shelter. Council Bluffs has BSL so the only way Jade could leave the shelter was to be released to a rescue and that is where Nebraska No Kill was able to help. Jade is around 50 pounds, micro-chipped and current on all vaccinations.

Photos courtesy DogBone Photo - db/facebook

5th Annual Meow & Chow

The 5th Annual Meow & Chow Soup Supper and Bingo Fundraiser was held on Sunday, October 12th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln, Nebraska. Around 175 guests gathered to support and raise more than \$7500 for the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors & The Cat House. Attendees enjoyed soup, bread and desserts donated by 42 different local restaurants. After dinner, Brad Anderson, meteorologist at 10/11 News, called several games of Bingo. Bingo and Raffle prizes were donated by more than 80 companies and friends of the two organizations. More than 35 volunteers were there to ensure the evening was a big success.

Raffle tickets were sold before and during the event for grand prizes; including Husker Football Tickets; a \$150 target gift card and an iPad. Grand Prize winners did not have to be present to win. Many other raffle prizes were available to those who were present at the event.

The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors provides a low-cost spay and neuter program for companion animals and a temporary assistance pet food bank in Lincoln and the surrounding areas. They are committed to improve the lives of animals. The Cat House is a safe no-kill shelter and adoption facility for cats in the Lincoln area. They also have a Trap/Neuter/Return program for feral cats. Both are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations; volunteer run and entirely funded by donation and/or adoption feeds.

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





402.817.1168
PO Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506



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 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!