

Pet Talk

SUMMER 2019

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of Animal Homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding communities.

Donate

**Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program
Pet Food Bank
General Funds**

Mail to: PO Box 67072,
Lincoln, NE 68506

Or donate through our website
LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Pet Food Bank drop off locations:

Petco 56th & Hwy 2 *(bin in front entry)*

Petco 48th & O Street *(bin in front entry)*

Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2
(barrel at exit door)

Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy
(barrel at Customer Service)

St. Matthews Episcopal Church,
2325 S. 24th Street *(leave near office)*

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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

2445 S. 48th Street

This "boutique for cheap" turns your donations and purchases into cash for animal charities, including LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program.

CauseForPawsLincoln.org

LAA Assists Victory Park Veteran's Residence Pets

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is partnering with Hearts United for Animals to assist local veterans with veterinary care for their animals. The newly renovated and occupied Victory Park Veteran's Residence located on the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System here in Lincoln provides housing for low-income and veterans at risk for homelessness. Many of these veterans have pets and upon approval, are allowed to bring those pets with them.

Victory Park Veteran's Residence was recently the location for veterinarian assistance provided by Hearts United for Animals and Ellis Jensen, DVM of Mobile Vet Clinic. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was there to issue spay/neuter vouchers for veterans whose pets needed to be altered. Lincoln Animal Ambassadors transported one Veteran's cat to the vet clinic and covered the cost of the neuter procedure. It's the least LAA can do to thank all veterans for their service.



FIX 'EM \$50 FOR

February is nationally recognized as "Spay/Neuter Awareness Month," with the purpose of encouraging people to have their pets spayed or neutered before the spring and summer months when there is a rampant overproduction of puppies and kittens.

In honor of "Spay/Neuter Awareness Month," Lincoln Animal Ambassadors offered the Fix 'Em for \$50! Project during the month of February 2019. All dogs were spayed or neutered, no matter 5 pounds or 85 pounds, for \$50. Included with the \$50 was the cost of any vaccinations the dog may have needed.

The Fix 'Em for \$50! project assisted Lancaster County residents with getting 38 dogs spayed and neutered! This project cost LAA about \$2,900, which is paid for by money donated from our community through LAA's fundraisers including Wine & Howl, Meow and Chow, and the Spaghetti & No Balls spaghetti dinner. Donations given through Give to Lincoln Day, and donations sent to LAA throughout the year are what enables our organization to provide the various spay and neuter projects offered throughout the year, along with the assistance we provide in addition to the special projects. In addition to our normal low cost spay/neuter program, LAA has offered several special spay/neuter projects in the past to offer even lower spay/neuter prices to the community when the funds are available.

by the numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program 2019 numbers to far

3,103 total animals

1,572 dogs

1,521 cats

10 rabbits

Food Bank 2019 numbers so far

Dry food

24,009 lbs.

Approximately 3,430 lbs. a month

Since inception: 452,173 lbs.

Canned food

4,050 cans

Approximately 579 cans a month

Since inception: 114,658 cans

Litter

4,715 lbs.

Approximately 674 lbs. a month

Since inception: 73,652 lbs.

Number of families helped

(some numerous times): 234

Don't just take your dog for a walk...take your walk for a dog!

You walk your dog anyway, now you can support Lincoln Animal Ambassadors every time you walk your dog! Go to WoofTrax.com, download the app on your phone, and get walking! This is a completely FREE way to make a donation, just by doing something you already do.

Featured Rescue: SNAFU Rescue

For most of us, summertime is a season filled with barbecues, relaxation and outdoor activities. Spending time around lakes, pools and the parks with our furry four-legged friends. However, for some of us, it also means coordinating rescue missions, saving, transporting & rehabilitating dogs and puppies, sometimes as many as 15-20 at a time from the greater Midwest region of the United States. No matter the circumstances, the volunteers at SNAFU Rescue are always busy finding these precious four-legged souls in need of care, attention and love and help assist placing them in forever homes where they live the rest of their life as a cherished pets.

It truly is amazing how a little love goes a long way, especially when you see how a mature dog feels what it's like to run in the grass for the first time in their lives, play with a toy or cuddle up with their newfound human for a little love-time. The dogs that are rehabilitated through the dedicated efforts of the volunteers of SNAFU rescue are nurtured back into good health and adopted out to loving families all over the country, making a difference one dog at a time.

In order to appreciate the virtuous work done by these kind-hearted, dog lovers, let's look at some of what they have seen in 2019 so far. Through multiple rescue missions, involving more than 30 dogs, SNAFU has seen multiple heart murmurs, positive tests for heartworm, multiple GI issues and incontinence, IVDD, luxating patella and megaesophagus. That brings us to a story of Forest.

Forest was purchased at a commercial breeder auction, where he and 18 other dogs were acquired by SNAFU and forever removed from the commercial breeding system. He was skinny, malnourished and regurgitating nearly everything he was trying to eat and drink. He was suffering from Megaesophagus, which means there was an enlarged pocket in his esophagus

where food and water would get stuck and eventually lead to regurgitation. In order for Forest to digest his food, he would need a Bailey Chair and assistance for the rest of his life to be fed upright for 30 minutes each feeding for him to properly digest his food.

Never fear, one of the SNAFU volunteers, using her handywoman skills, was able to quickly construct a Bailey Chair for little Forest. As a result, Forest was finally able to get up to a healthy weight. After being fostered for nearly 3 months and nurtured back to health, Forest was adopted out to a loving family that embraced his special needs. This is just one example of the selflessness of the SNAFU volunteers and the success that can be achieved for these kind animals who just want a loving home.

Small but Mighty

Now, it may seem like an organization like this would have hundreds of volunteers all doing their part. Think again. The key volunteers at SNAFU often kid around about their size. While they may be small, they are most definitely MIGHTY. In 2017 they brought in nearly 100 dogs and in 2018, they brought in over 140 dogs. This year, they expect to take in significantly more than they did in 2018.

How You Can Help

You may not know this, but you can help in many ways. Clearly, if you want to donate time, you can inquire with SNAFU leadership and find ways to volunteer. Additionally, you can help in small but MIGHTY ways by visiting our website at www.snafurescue.org by donating direct to the rescue, purchase much needed items off their Amazon wish list or becoming a SNAFU foster home.

Continued on page 4.



Volunteer Spotlight: Karly Hernandez

Where did you first learn about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors?

I learned about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors through VolunteerLinc. I was interested in getting more involved in the Lincoln community, and thought the organization sounded like a great choice.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up in Omaha, then moved to Kearney to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney. While in Kearney, I met my husband Jose, and we decided to move to Lincoln after I graduated with my Bachelor's in Social Science with an Emphasis in Political Science. After college, I've worked primarily in human service roles because I have a passion for helping the underserved and vulnerable populations in the Lincoln community and Nebraska in general. Although my husband and I have no children as of yet, we do have two feline fur babies named Olive and Alice.

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

I am a phone volunteer with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, and I've also helped with events such as Wine and Howl and Spaghetti and No Balls.

What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

I find value in assisting pet owners to ensure that their animals are properly cared for and fed. I know that by answering voicemails, completing spay/neuter interviews, and scheduling food pick ups that I am helping the Lincoln community by reducing stray and hungry animals on the streets.

Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I have volunteered for the Red Cross, Matt Talbot, and various athletic events in the Lincoln community. I try to stay involved and give back when my schedule allows.



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

I would recommend that if they are looking to volunteer with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, they should do it! Every volunteer at LAA has a compassionate heart and genuinely cares for the welfare of animals and the community. If you have even a couple hours a week and a huge heart for animals, you've found the right organization!

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

I think it would be fantastic if we had our own full-time office/clinic, where vets, techs, and LAA members could volunteer their time to feed and care for animals.

LAA needs volunteers like you!

See page 4 for our immediate volunteer needs. If you have ever considered volunteering for a worthy cause, we would love to talk to you. You can help pets and their owners by contacting us at info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org or calling 402.817.1168.

Calendar of events

Tractor Supply Store Adoption Day

August 24
Waverly, Nebraska

Streets Alive

September TBD
Cooper Park Area

Dog Bowl

September 1
Pinewood Bowl

Project Homeless Connect

September 20

Meow & Chow

October 19
Center for People in Need
5:00 pm
Fundraiser for LAA and The Cat House

Pet Food Bank donations needed

LAA is running low on dry cat and dog food.

Consider buying a bag or two the next time you are at the store.

Pet Food Bank donation drop off locations:

- Petco 56th & Hwy 2 (bin in front entry)
- Petco 48th & O Street (bin in front entry)
- Super Saver 56th & Hwy 2 (barrel at exit door)
- Super Saver 27th & Cornhusker Hwy (barrel at Customer Service)
- St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street (leave near office)

Donate while you shop!

Look us up at our custom URL:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3018037>

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer and prevent homeless animals

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.

LAA Volunteer needs

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. These are our current openings:

Spay/Neuter Interviewer

These interviews can be done in the comfort of your own home, using your own telephone and the hours are flexible. Calls will be assigned to you to return in a reasonable period of time. Having access to a computer with an internet connection is necessary to communicate with other LAA volunteers via e-mail. Training is provided. You can set the amount of time you would like to give.

Events Team

We are in need of volunteers to work on the events team to put on our three large fundraisers each year. If are creative and

like to plan events, call for donations needed for the same, decorating, coordinating volunteer jobs, and working with a team, we would love to hear from you!

Tabling Events

This volunteer position requires the volunteer to attend shows, fairs, and expos. The volunteer will promote LAA and its programs through interaction with show attendees. We have brochures and other printed material available for distribution. Hours vary and usually consist of a shift during the event.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers with fundraising experience.
- Volunteers willing to contact companies to ask for donations for the Food Bank.
- Self motivated and creative volunteers to promote and supervise pet food/litter drives with organizations, companies and schools in the community.

Continued from page 2: SNAFU Rescue

SNAFU Mission

SNAFU Rescue (Short Noses And Friends United Rescue) is dedicated to raising money to remove dogs from the commercial breeding system and commercial breeder dog auctions, and raising money for those dog's vet bills. We also network as much as possible with commercial and private breeders for breeder releases. We strive to maintain a confidential and professional relationship with all of our breeder contacts.

SNAFU Rescue also takes in many dogs from owner surrender situations and any shelters, as needed.

We do adopt nationwide as long as adopters are willing to come and pick up their adopted dogs and if, for any reason, they can not keep one of our grads for any reason at all, they *must* be willing and able to return their adopted

dog to his/her original foster home, despite distance and any costs that would be required to do so.

SNAFU Rescue is comprised solely of non-paid volunteers who donate their time, and sometimes their homes by fostering, to helping dogs in need. We focus on vetting, rehabilitation and adoptions of the dogs we are able to take into our rescue. Please keep an eye on our Foster Dogs page and Available Dogs Pages! We do a lot of French Bulldog rescue and English Bulldog rescue

but we do take in other short nosed

breeds and sometimes other breeds from time to time, as needed. SNAFU

Rescue is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible non-profit organization!

Please follow us on Facebook for more frequent updates!

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



LAA raises \$6,400 at Wine & Howl

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors extends thanks to all who helped make the 11th annual Wine and Howl a success. An estimated 350-400 attended this fundraising event at Deer Springs Winery. Close to \$6,400 was raised to support Lincoln Animal Ambassadors' spay/neuter and pet food bank.

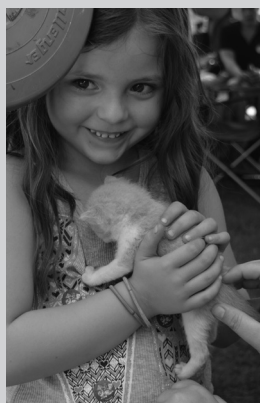
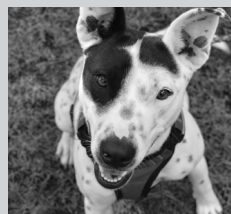
It was a beautiful day on June 8th, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., patrons enjoyed clear skies, live music, and a great food selections. Three bands took their turns entertaining the crowds: Hartford/Focht, KGB Trio, and Skylark. It was a dog friendly event so attendees were invited to bring their dogs. The also had the opportunity to visit with several rescues, local animal welfare groups, and pet-related companies. Hy-Vee once again provided great food options for the event this year. Choices included: burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, salads, fruits, sides, and an assortment of beverages. Deer Springs had the wine pouring with a wide selection of wines and wine slushies.

Over 90 themed gift baskets were raffled off. Popular themes were dog care, cat care, cooking, baking, and kid fun. This year, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors also unveiled

new event-specific t-shirts, available for \$15.

Twenty animal-related vendors attended the event. Many of them are long-time attenders. They return year after year because they believe in LAA's mission. Others were relatively new, but they enjoyed the event enough in previous years that they wanted to return. LAA's fundraiser for them is a great way to meet lots of people. No matter how many years the vendors have been attending Wine & Howl, the majority noted that it's a great way to get the name of their group out and to be part of Lincoln's animal welfare community. The twenty vendors were promoted between bands by emcee, Karl Skinner.

LAA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization funded entirely by donations and fundraisers. It addresses the root causes of animal homelessness in the Lancaster area by helping pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, a low-cost vaccination clinic, and an income-based pet food bank.



Thank you to our Wine & Howl vendors!

Bailing Out Benji

Beatrice Humane Society

Blue River Rescue

Express Life Chiropractic

Goodies for Gremlins

GRRIN (Golden Retriever Rescue In Nebraska)

Hearts United for Animals

HyVee Catering

JKs Pumpkin Patch

Maxine's Munchies

Mazzy Collars

Morgan's Munchies

Nebraska No Kill Canine Rescue

Paws 4 Fun

Pug Partners

Revolution Rescue

Ruff Rescue

SNAFU Rescue

The Paddock

T-Square Movers

Wild Junkie Boutique



Pet food banks help pet owners in need

Written by Allison Hunter-Frederick

An estimated 23 million dogs and cats live in poverty with their families in the United States, says the Humane Society of the United States. No wonder financial hardship accounts for 25% of the pets that are surrendered to shelters.

For families who face the difficult decision of whether to give up their pet, being able to turn to a pet food bank can make all the difference. A pet food bank provides emotional relief to owners who can no longer provide for their pets. Some pet owners will take food from their own mouths to feed their pets or choose homelessness rather than relinquish their pets. Pet food banks exist to help pets stay with their families

Across the United States, there are at least almost 150 pet food banks, including one run by Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. I chatted online this past month with four of them:

Kibbles Kitchen is an offering of Ventura County Animal Services in California.

Pet Food Pantry is an offering of Because Animals Matter (BAM), an animal welfare organization located in Utah. Its primary focus is providing pet services to the community and humane education to school children, but it also does rescue. Because Animals Matter is currently working to alter a program we have called Meika's Medical Fund which was originally designed to help shelter pets.

Because more and more shelters are



placing medically needy animals with rescues, they're changing the focus to assist in providing low-income senior citizens with veterinary financial assistance to help them keep their senior pet healthy.

Critter Cupboard is an offering of Voice for Companion Animals, an animal welfare organization in Nebraska. The nonprofit started in 2011 with the goal of keeping pets in their home with their family. VCA serves 65 pet owners, gives out 70 pounds of food each month, and donates to two food pantries when there are extra donations. When possible, VCA provides kitty litter, soft food, and treats. A holiday gift bag is also given out once a year that includes a pet bed/blanket, toy, and treats.

Kibbles Kitchen is an offering of K9 Rescue in Florida. The pantry started in 2007. It feeds 50 families and gives out 1,500 pounds of food and 500 pounds of litter. The rescue collects information on pets in the home and then gives extra supplies for the needs of those pets, such as collars, leashes, shampoo, grooming supplies, dog beds, cat trees, bowls, toys, treats, litter boxes, and pet sweaters. In addition, the pantry hands out a holiday bonus, and disaster kits are handed out in times of emergency.

All four pet food banks were started to assist those that would otherwise surrender their pet due to inadequate finances. Robyn Mays specified that Voice for Companion Animals started "after working in a shelter and hearing the calls that would come in from people looking for options. They just hit a rough patch and needed a little help to get through it."

Reception has been so positive that all could expand, and two have grown beyond their original offerings. Voice for Companion Animals has grown from assisting 18 people to over 65 monthly, and it works with two food pantries to provide pet food too. It runs an Ani-Meals program, which provides monthly pet food delivered to homes of seniors and veterans.

The group called Because Animals Matter (BAM) offers two pet food services. One is a free pet food bank open to low-income people low-income people who are physically able to come to the food bank. The other is Kibbles on Wheels (KOW), a program that provides free dog/cat food to anyone who receives

Meals on Wheels. "Most of these people are elderly," says Schilling, "and losing a pet for lack of food could be devastating for them." The group is in the process of changing the KOW program to include low-income people who are physically unable to come to the pet food bank.

We have received some very nice thank you notes from folks telling us how important our programs were to their being able to keep their pets.

—J.C. Schilling, Pet Food Pantry

Such an overwhelming reception to pet food banks is bound to result in memorable stories. Schilling said that often when Because Animals Matter volunteers make the first delivery to a new pet food bank recipient, "They come back to me and tell me how the family hugged them and cried on their shoulders and have thanked them profusely." One recipient of the pet food program showed appreciation in a concrete way, by making a wall hanging that depicts her family for the volunteer that delivers her pet food.

Mays also had a story to share from Voice for Companion Animals. "A couple of years ago we gave a holiday gift package to each of the folks on our Ani-Meals program. We asked for more volunteers and they helped deliver the packages. A couple of volunteers returned with tears in their eyes, stories of meeting the people and pets, and the repeated comment was 'Now I get it. Now I understand why you do what you do.' "

Our group tried to think of what was needed in the community that wasn't already there to help keep animals from going to the shelter. The pet food bank was born. —Mary Douglas, LAA

My own interest in pet food banks arose from my involvement with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors. Its pet food bank was started by LAA president, Mary Douglas, who initially drummed up a few donations of pet food and operated services out of her garage. Now the pet food bank is in the Center for People in Need building, where 2,000 pounds of food is given out every week.

In previous interviews, volunteers shared many memorable moments. Ron Stow said that he'll never forget one gentleman: "We had our military ball caps on. He was in the Korean War, and I was in Desert Storm. We were sitting on the loading dock of the old place, relating where each had been, and had been

Thank you to our recent donors!

doing so for about 30 minutes. Mrs. Okra was getting a little impatient with our B.S. session and stepped out of the car and said, 'When are you two gonna quit jack-jawin' and take me home?' His response was priceless: 'Uh-oh, I'm in trouble!' Sadly, Mr. Okra passed away a few months later."

Other volunteers told of dedicated pet owners who take the bus across town to pick up food that they would carry home in a backpack. One client rode a bike 18 blocks in 100-degree heat to pick up supplies. And then there's a lady who from the moment she would walk in to the moment she left, she said thank you.

In previous interviews, I also personally talked to pet food bank recipients. Sharon owns a lovable six-year-old male rat terrier named Buddy. Once a month, she receives a five-pound bag of dog food, canned food, and treats. Sharon is thankful for the support that allows her to continue to care for Buddy. He follows her everywhere, and

the two depend on one another.

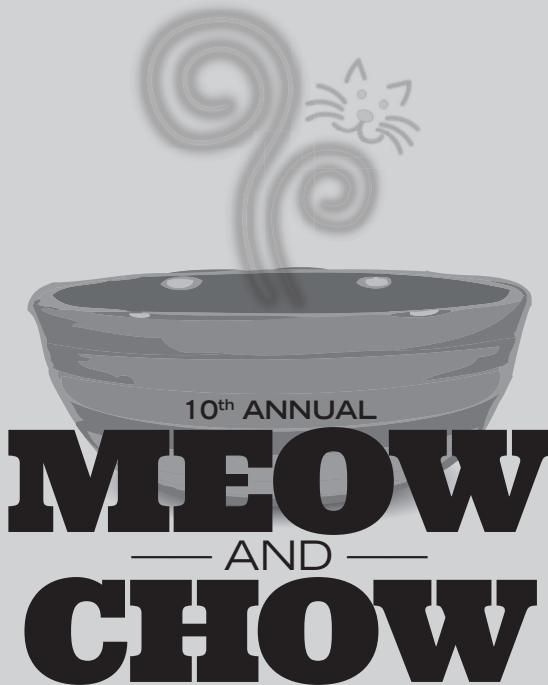
Lynn owns a one-year-old poodle that had been brought to the Capital Humane Society after he had been found wandering the streets of Crete, Nebraska. When Lynn took him to the vet, it was discovered that he had digestive problems that required prescription dog food. Lynn prefers not to depend on government assistance, but she knew something had to be done. "I know Lincoln Animal Ambassadors only has so much money, and is all run by volunteers, but I appreciate that they buy food from the vet office for me," said Lynn.

All the organizations I interviewed depend on volunteers to pick up, package and distribute donated pet food. They also rely on the community for donations of food, litter, and other supplies. Be part of the no-more-homeless-pets solution by supporting your local pet food bank with time and/or donations.

Andrew & Renee Benson
Blue Buffalo
Burke Casari
Capital Humane Society
Christine Neukirch
Dina Barta
Domesti-Pups
G.M. Bucco
Hazel G. Scott Middle School
Jami Nelson
John & Diane Huseman
Karl Skinner
Konnie K Doescher
Linda Gavin
Mandy Kohler
Mary Douglas
Max Rodenburg
Nancy Mocroft
Network for Good
Pauline Balta
Petco
Robyn Mays
Ruthann & Larry Rivers
SueAnn Schwabauer Sheridan & Edmund Sheridan
Target
Walmart

Donations made in memory of:

Lapis Mocroft (Dog)
Sheila Hemke
Toby Otto (Dog)
Vincent Balta



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19

fundraiser for Lincoln Animal
Ambassadors & The Cat House

**BINGO PRIZES
RAFFLE FOOD FUN**

CENTER FOR PEOPLE IN
NEED: 3901 N 27th

5pm DOORS
5:30pm SOUP
6:30pm BINGO

\$25 donation at the door
All you can eat soup and bingo!
Bread, dessert, and beverages
also provided.

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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, 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!