



# Pet Talk

FALL 2018

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](http://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](http://CauseForPawsLincoln.org)

## Giving thanks for 10 years!

Thanks to you, nearly 3,000 animals have spayed or neutered and nearly 1,500 families have received the pet food needed to keep their pets out of the shelter. On behalf of these many, many individuals, thank you for helping to save their lives and preventing unwanted litters! The impact of these preventative measures is making a difference!

As we continue to work toward the goal of no more homeless pets, your help and support has never been more important! As you consider the organization that you will support as we approach #givingtuesday, the holiday season and the looming end-of-the-year tax deduction deadline—we hope that you remember the importance of prevention in the world of rescue. It's not always the most glamorous topic, but every surgery completed exponentially reduces the numbers of animals that end up in shelters or rescues. Every animal that stays in a home leaves room in a rescue to save a different life.

As a 501(c)3 organization, your donations are tax deductible. As a small local organization that is 100% volunteer supported, your donation goes to support people and animals right here in your community. Even the smallest donation makes a difference! Thank you for your continued support and 10 years of making a difference!

**November 27, 2018**

**#GIVING  
TUESDAY**

## LAA and The Cat House raises \$9,000 at Meow & Chow

The ninth annual Meow and Chow, which took place on Saturday, October 27, raised \$9,000 for Lincoln Animal Ambassador and The Cat House.

We are grateful to the numerous businesses and individuals that donated food and prizes. Twenty kinds of soup as well as numerous kinds of bread and dessert were available to attendees. After bingo and raffles were finished, we had given away more than 100 prizes, in addition to an almost ridiculous number of M&M's candy.

Appreciation goes to Nature's Variety for sponsoring the fundraiser and The Center for People in Need for offering the venue space. The 50 volunteers working behind the scenes were also invaluable. We'd also like to express thanks to the 200+ diners who made the event a success by attending and buying raffle tickets. The amazing support of this community is absolutely invaluable in helping homeless animals!

By 5:30 p.m., energy ran high among diners as each table awaited their turn for the food line. Sharon, who has attended for several years, comes to support a good cause and to reconnect with people in animal welfare. She always looks forward to trying a variety of soups. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for changes implemented to create a shorter line!

After the meal, TCH volunteers Wayne and April Skoda called several games of bingo.

*Continued on page 6*

# by the numbers

## Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

2,937 total animals  
1,473 dogs  
1,454 cats  
10 rabbits

## Food Bank Numbers

**Dry food**  
30,915 lbs. so far in 2018  
Approximately 3,020 lbs. a month  
Since inception: 418,290 lbs.

**Canned food**  
5,830 cans so far in 2018  
Approximately 583 cans a month  
Since inception: 109,302 cans

**Litter**  
5,892 lbs.  
Approximately 589 lbs. a month  
Since inception: 66,677 lbs.

**Number of families helped in 2018 (some numerous times):**  
276

## 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](http://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 Organization: Shepherd's Rest Sheep and Goat Rescue

Rounding the corner near Pickrell, the road stretches along an avenue of native Nebraska prairie to the right, and corn to the left. In the distance, a white house emerges from behind a copse of trees, and upon nearing, goats of all shapes begin to dot the landscape. Juniper trots along on three legs. Sven, a white buck, is wrapped near the waist in a black apron. "He's in rut," Jen explains. (That's "in heat" for non-ruminant mammals.)

Jen Schurman put her heart, mind, and soul behind Shepherd's Rest Sheep and Goat Rescue. She started caring for goats in 2008. A black-and-white doe— aptly-named "Oreo"— joined her family. Oreo, who was an unintentional breeding by a neighbor, was offered to Jen's daughter, Sierra as a pet.

Upon learning that goats are very social, however, the Schurmans picked up a companion for Oreo from her friend and now goat mentor, Jody Workman. When the companion had a hard time leaving her brother, they took him in too.

Shelby Steinberg, co founder of the rescue has brought her expertise in dairy goats, as well as her passion, commitment and energy. Shelby's husband Darick provides brawn to help keep the gears moving. Millie, Jezzy, Frosty and Cinders are among her rescues.

"Goats are just as clever as dogs," says Jen, who has Great Pyrenees on the farm and has been active in Pyr Rescue . "They're just as sensitive too. They have distinct personalities, and they have quirks." Those quirks can amplify the already-daunting task of running a rescue. Fences that can help group goats with similar sizes may not be as adept at sorting them by their differences in temperament, and organization is complicated even more by mating season, due to the

fact that wethering (neutering) a male goat too early can inhibit the maturing of their urinary tract, which can turn deadly if a goat develops urinary calculi.

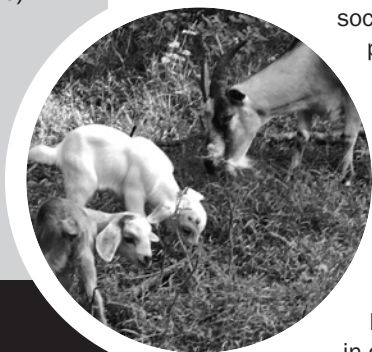
But Jen, Shelby and the team at Shepherd's Rest find a way. They know their goats like old friends, and the rescue's expansive grasses and woodlands provide a near-perfect terrain for the playful and peculiar animals. Fencing is one of the primary needs for the rescue.

One of the main principles of the rescue is that goats that have been pets should stay pets, and not become livestock. It's not that they're opposed to eating meat; they simply ask goat owners to recognize that their pet has developed relationships with them, and to know that there are alternatives to sending them to market.

In addition to rescue, Shepherd's Rest hopes to educate people about goats and sheep, and to correct the many misconceptions surrounding them. For example, Shelby, challenges the notion that in order to keep dairy goats in milk, they must be kept pregnant constantly. She asserts that a once-a-year pregnancy is enough to continue to produce milk. Continuous breeding is hard on the does and creates a large number of unwanted bucks.

The goats at Shepherd's Rest rescue give back to their community, too. Putting People and Animals Together in a Way That is Healing for Both is part of the mission statement of Shepherd's Rest. Jen has brought her rescues in to help residents at area nursing homes, where they are able to break through to patients for whom therapy dogs sometimes can't. Jen says. "Most people have never seen or interacted with a goat, so it's the unique feeling of making a connection with something living, that you've never connected with before. It changes you."

Learn more about Shepherd's Rest Sheep and Goat Rescue on Facebook.



# Volunteer Spotlight: Skeeter Schwisow

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

I was shopping at Petco and a LAA representative was there, I stopped to talk with her and the organization sounded wonderful.

## Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I live with a cat named Leo and a dog named Brodie. They both are very precious to me and I consider them both as family. I work part time at Union Bank and when not at work I am usually hugging my sofa or just hanging around. I love going to the gym and watching movies and of course walking Brodie.

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

At LAA I answer calls from our clients 2 days a week and I also interview people who are needing to alter their pets.

## What do you find rewarding in your volunteer activities?

Working with LAA is very rewarding since I love pets and like to help them get the food they need and spay and neutering which is so very important.

## Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

I also transport pets crossing Nebraska on their way to their forever home.

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

I would highly recommend someone to volunteer for our wonderful organization, it is extremely rewarding knowing you are helping pets.

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

My wish list for LAA is more contributions



and for more people to help pets who cannot speak for themselves.

## 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](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org) or calling 402.817.1168.

## Notes from our Pet Food Bank recipients

"It's been an amazing blessing and has really been helpful for us."

"It really helps me keep them fed the whole month as I only get paid once a month. When I'm short money I rely on the pet food bank"

"Because of the generosity of the pet food bank we have been able to keep our 3 babies (dogs) fed on a fixed income. Because of you we can keep our dogs healthy. Thank you!"

"Good Job. The people are always nice and extremely helpful. I really appreciate this service."

"Huge.... my animals are healthier and always have food."

"Without the pet food bank I wouldn't have been able to rescue Diesel & Tucker! We owe LAA forever for giving me those blessings."

"Thank you for all your help. My animals are spayed thanks to you. I can afford to do shots because of you. God bless you all."



## Donate while you shop!

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

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.



## We're running on E!

### LAA is running low on canned cat food.

Consider buying some extra cans the next time you are at the store. Donation drop-off locations are listed on the front cover.



# 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](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org).

## LAA Volunteer needs

### Pet Food Bank

We have an opening for Monday and Thursday evening pet food bank distributions. This position requires a dependable volunteer who can work one or both evenings each week. You will be responsible for assisting our recipients with their pet food distribution and helping them load it into their cars. You would need to be on site from approximately 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm. Reliable transportation is required, and you must be able to lift 50 pounds and work on your feet during your shift.

### Phone Line Shifts - Returning Voicemail Inquiries - Training provided

LAA has a couple 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. You will return a call from a voicemail message system at your convenience. Having access to a computer with an internet connection is necessary to communicate with the other LAA volunteers via email and call tracking using a shared spreadsheet. Some experience in viewing and entering small amounts of data on a Google Docs spreadsheet is helpful, although training is provided if you are not

familiar with Google Docs. This position consists of approximately two hours per week or less, depending on your shift.

### 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. Training provided.

### Additional needs:

- Volunteers with a truck, van, or trailer to periodically transport large donations of food.
- Volunteers to occasionally assist with the loading/unloading of food donations or re-organization at the warehouse.
- Volunteers who have computer and spreadsheet experience.
- Volunteers with fundraising and event experience.
- Volunteers to deliver event posters or quarterly newsletters on a specified route.
- Volunteers willing to contact companies to ask for donations for the Food Bank and events.
- Self motivated and creative volunteers to promote and supervise pet food/litter drives with organizations, companies and schools in the community.



Ivanna Cone

## Thank you to Ivanna Cone's Community Cones Program

Ivanna Cone's Community Cone's program supported LAA for the month of August with a super delicious custom Ice Cream flavor! Proceeds from their special puppy chow flavor and donation day added up to a \$228 donation! We'd like to thank everyone who tried out the Animal Chow flavor for their support of LAA and Ivanna Cone! Your support and participation in events like this make a difference!



## Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner

March 2019  
Unitarian Church

## Wine & Howl

June 8, 2019  
Deer Springs Winery

## Ensuring your dog is a good neighbor

Dog etiquette is important. As of 2012, 36 percent of U.S. households owned dogs. That's 43 million households, with a grand total of 69.9 million dogs. So, there's a strong likelihood that you own a dog or have a neighbor who owns a dog. If that's the case, here some etiquette tips for all the dog owners who are also trying to be good neighbors.

### Installing a Fence

A good first step is to install a fence around your yard. According to Home Advisor, the average cost of installing a fence runs between \$1,643 and \$3,857. However, you'll probably find that it's worth the money. A good fence ensures that your dog won't run away or trample through your neighbors' lawns. Additionally, it gives your dog a sense of order and place, allowing it to roam while also keeping it safe from thieves, or (especially for small dogs) predators like hawks or coyotes. Make sure to install a doggie door to let your pooch access the backyard whenever it wants. Just like us, dogs need exercise to lose weight and not feel cooped up or depressed.

### Picking Up After Your Dog

Another etiquette tip is to pick up after your dog. Leaving your dog's waste on the sidewalk or the grass is unsightly. Of course, this courtesy is more than just cosmetic. Feces can attract rats or drop into the sewer system, contaminating the waterways. Some of the diseases that fester in dog poop include E. coli, giardia, salmonella, and roundworms. Left out in the open, they have a way of getting into the digestive tracts of other animals, or other people's dogs, and then into their homes. So keep a doggie bag handy whenever you and your dog pop out for a stroll.

### Keep It Down!

For centuries, people have kept dogs

because they act as our sentries, pricking up their ears and barking if a trespasser approaches. They can also bay at the moon, howl for no reason, or yap at other dogs. Try to keep the decibel level down, especially at night. Maintain a household schedule to minimize the chance that your dog will yowl out of confusion. Then keep that schedule going into the evening hours, which will calm it down because it's used to your bedtime pattern. Pet it and play with it throughout the day so that it doesn't feel like it has to raise a ruckus to get your attention—and wake the whole neighborhood in the process.

### Public Places

Perhaps the cornerstone of being a good dog-owning neighbor is teaching your dog how to behave in public. A lot of that education starts with you. Be a considerate dog walker. Always keep your dog on a leash, and pay attention to where you're going so that your dog doesn't bump into a child or dash across someone's yard. Also, be mindful of where you let it urinate. (Avoid parked cars or someone's lawn or mailbox.) Regularly visit the vet, keep your vaccinations current, and make sure your address and phone number are engraved onto your dog's collar. Finally, introduce it to the dog park, so it can play with other dogs.

Balancing the roles of good neighbor and good dog-owner isn't impossible. Just make sure your dog is as well-mannered in public as it is in your house. You'll know you've done a good job if your neighbors bend down and ruffle your dog's ears when they pass you on the sidewalk.

*Written by Aurora James for LAA Pet Talk. Aurora believes there are no bad dogs. She created [DogEtiquette.info](http://DogEtiquette.info) to share her dog training tips and advice to dog owners everywhere. DogEtiquette.info welcomes and encourages anyone to use its infographics in their writing. It simply asks that you please cite and link to them as the source.*



# Thank you to our Meow & Chow donors!

9 South Char Grill  
A Novel Idea Bookstore  
Billy's Restaurant  
Butterfly Bakery  
Church Pie Ladies  
City Clock  
Cookie Company  
Cornhusker Marriot  
Distinctive Impressions  
Don & Millie's  
Eileen's Bakery  
Granite City  
Greenfield's  
JML Jewelry Appraisals  
La Paz  
McAlister's Deli  
Nature's Variety  
Open Harvest  
Patty's Pub  
Runza  
Schillingbridge  
Salon MohVi  
Tico's  
Yankee Candle Southpoint

Pauline Balta  
Kyndall Bedell  
Katie Brown  
Cathy Cecava  
Deb Dahlin  
Blake Gilmore  
Karen Hardesty  
Bill Harms  
Cheryl Johnson  
Sara Laney  
June Niemann  
Jane Nelson  
Deb Pearson  
Lacey Reha  
Brady Rivers  
John Skalak  
Clancy Smith  
Heather Swartz  
Alma Vlasak  
Jim Volkmer



## Continued: LAA and The Cat House raises \$9,000 at Meow & Chow

Another long-time attendee, Lauren, appreciates that the services of LAA and TCH benefit the whole Lincoln community. Prior to attending Meow & Chow she hadn't ever played bingo, and she finds it an enjoyable game.

The evening culminated in a raffle that featured a 9.7-inch iPad, a \$250 Target Gift Card, and Husker Football tickets for the November 11th Illinois game, and two Cat House embroidered red fleece jackets. Another long-time attendee, Mickey, declared the whole evening is fun. She particularly likes all the opportunities to win.

New this year, 12 diners celebrated

Halloween by dressing in a costume. The three top winners received raffle tickets and an assortment of other prizes. The winning couple dressed as superman and wonder women. Unfortunately, superman himself joked that "his kryptonite necklace may have caused them some advanced aging."

Both Lincoln Animal Ambassadors and The Cat House are volunteer-run, and proceeds from Meow & Chow go towards their operating expenses. The Cat House is a no-kill shelter and adoption facility for cats in the Lincoln area. The group also runs a Trap/Neuter/Return program for feral cats.





# Thank you to our recent donors!

Holli Artz  
Kyndall Bedell & Haberfeld  
Andrew & Renee Benson  
Diane & Randy Bohling  
GM Bucco  
Heather Crockett  
Mary Douglas  
Sinda Dux  
Mary Jo Dykes  
James Hewitt  
Diane Huseman  
Jeanie Imler  
Nancy Mocrift  
Christine Neukirch  
Brady Rivers  
Ruthann Rivers  
Larry Rivers  
Charles & Lela Sayward  
Carol Siefkes  
JoAnn Workman  
Friends of Variya Ruenprom  
Capital Humane Society  
Community Services Fund  
Cotner Pet Care  
Food Bank of Lincoln  
Frauenshuh Hospitality Group  
Ivanna Cone, LLC  
Nature's Variety  
Network for Good  
Petco  
Petco - South  
Superior Vet Care  
Target  
Walmart

## Donations in memoriam

In memory of Jasper  
In memory of Molly  
In memory of Tigger  
In memory of Oscar  
In memory of Bonnie Sue

A donation made in honor of Warren Nelson's 70th Birthday! Happy Birthday Warren!

In Memory of Variya Ruenprom

LAA recently received a memorial donation from the friends of Variya Ruenprom. Variya cared deeply for animals, including her many dogs. She was passionate about helping animals and they felt it was a fitting tribute to her to donate to an organization focused on improving the the lives of companion animals. Contributions were made by her many friends, family and past co-workers.

## When you surrender a cat

A beautiful young cat with some Siamese in her lineage, light blue eyes, and unique patterning, Bitsy was a "desirable" kitten to adopt. Trapped in a colony of 30 cats, she was tiny and immediately tame. She was spayed, put up for adoption, and went to a wonderful home.

Two years later, the rescuer gets a call: "I'm so sorry. We're moving across country and cannot take Bitsy, and I remembered you said you'd always take her back." The problem was a prolonged road trip, too hard on a cat who would be confined to a carrier for most of six weeks. The rescuer offered to not only foster for the 6 weeks, but to PAY THE AIRFARE to reunite Bitsy with her family, but her family said, "It's just not going to work, but it just kills us to give her up."

In recent years, the majority of responsible shelters and rescues have adopted a policy of a return guarantee: "If anything in your life forces you to give up your cat, we'll always take her back". This happened because too many times owners couldn't keep their cats, and so the cats were either simply abandoned, left at "kill" shelters, or handed over to strangers with no assurance there would be a home for that cat to land in.

The whole goal is to make sure the cats we rescue are truly rescued, not simply treated like merchandise to discard when it's no longer new. But have we made it TOO easy? One potential adopter was overheard to say, "I'm moving in a year, but it's okay. They'll take them back if you can't keep them". NO! This wasn't the point of the guarantee. The return is only meant to be a safety net, not a convenience tool for the adopter.

How do shelters and rescues help foster responsible pet ownership in rescue, while ensuring a good outcome for the cats? In spite of stories like this, we'll continue

to advocate for "return guarantees" because in the end what matters is the cat. There are some times when an owner is desperate and has tried other avenues and the return is appropriate.

But a change in attitude in any society is a slow process, and it depends on all of us. Let's all work to promote responsible pet ownership by educating our communities. Help people understand that when one adopts, one is making a lifetime commitment. This should not be a casual, spur of the moment "oh isn't she cute, I'll take that one" decision.

You're now family to this cat, and family should not be abandoned. When adopting, everyone should be thinking ahead "if something happens to me, who will take care of my cat?" If you're anticipating big changes in your life, wait! If you're having marital problems, DON'T bring home a cute kitten to take your mind off your troubles!

Cats aren't disposable commodities; they're living creatures with feelings. To lose their home and their family is traumatic. Cats do grieve, and it's heartbreaking to watch. Think ahead, and please, work to protect the life you brought home.

Bitsy will be okay. She's sad now, confused and scared, but she's safe. She'll be given time to adjust, and care will be taken to find a home that suits her personality. Hopefully, this time it'll truly be forever.

*Reprinted with permission from Nancy Wahl, Community Cats Coalition. This article is original in content and not to be reproduced. Copyright April 6, 2015.*

*The mission of Community Cats Coalition, located in the Pacific Northwest, is to enhance the lives of community cats by promoting spay and neuter and providing training and mentorship in Trap-Neuter-Return. Education is their number one goal and to that end it publishes a variety of posts on Facebook related to community cats. A Best of Facebook can be found at [www.communitycatcoalitionwa.org](http://www.communitycatcoalitionwa.org)*



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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, [LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org](http://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!