



Proactive Involved Progressive Compassionate

[www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org)

# Lincoln Animal Ambassadors News to You

Break the Link, d/b/a Lincoln Animal Ambassadors  
501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Volume 2, Issue 1  
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## SAVE THE DATE!

Want to support good causes, get some of your Christmas shopping out of the way while enjoying a fun evening of food and drink with fellow animal lovers?!?! I know it sounds too good to be true, but you can do all three on Saturday evening, Dec. 12th. Karl Skinner and Larry Pankoke are hosting a fundraiser for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors to support LAA's efforts, including the spay/neuter program. You'll be able to buy Cause for Paws gift certificates for your friends and family, fleece rope chew toys for the pets in your life, and a free will donation will be taken at the door. All the food and drinks, including several varieties of wine, are being donated by the hosts. More details, including exact time and directions to their home will be shared via email at a later date and posted on the LAA web site. Questions or offers of assistance can be directed to Karl at 890-7306 or via email to: [ks53959@windstream.net](mailto:ks53959@windstream.net).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/5/09 6:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 2325 S. 24th Street
Guest Speaker:	Jutta Stewart
12/12/09	Monthly Meeting: LAA Fundraiser Time, Location and Date TBA
1/7/10 6:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 2325 S. 24th Street
Guest Speaker:	TBA

## LAA gets INK!



**April, 2009**

**CHANNEL 10/11 Noon news**

Interview promoting the LAA Wine and Howl fundraiser to be held on May 2, 2009.

**May/June, 2009**

**Pet Enthusiast Magazine**

"Lincoln Animal Organizations - Voices for Abandoned Pets"  
Article about LAA's mission and purpose and promoting the May, 2009 fundraiser "Wine and Howl" at Prime Country Winery.

**September 5, 2009**

**Lincoln Journal Star Neighborhood Extra**

"Lincoln Animal Ambassadors organization faces busy agenda"  
Article promoting the September 8<sup>th</sup> presentation from Melody Kelso with The Pet Connection out of Mission, KS and the newly formed pet food bank; LAA also sponsored a cat up for adoption in that issue from The Cat House.

**October 20, 2009**

**Lincoln Kids!**

"Big Dogs Have Some Good Friends Out There"  
Article promoting the LAA Pet Food Bank and promoting their mission.

**September/October, 2009**

**Pet Enthusiast Magazine**

"Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Establishes Pet Food Bank"  
Article promoting the LAA Pet Food Bank and our mission.





## Cat Spay/Neuter Connection Meeting Update

~by Pauline Balta, Advocacy Committee Chairperson

Several Lincoln Animal Ambassador members met with two founders of The Cat Spay/Neuter Connection on Sunday, October 25.

The Cat Spay/Neuter Connection was formed in 2007. Their mission is to prevent the births of unwanted kittens in the Omaha metro area through public education and low-cost sterilization of tame cats. The Cat Spay/Neuter Connection is an all-volunteer organization with five directors and two additional volunteers. Support for the organization comes primarily from donations and grants.

The program involves utilizing several veterinarians in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area. The cat's owner is asked to pay as much of the cost of the spay or neuter surgery as possible and the Cat Spay/Neuter Connection pays the remainder of the cost of the surgery. The co-pay assigned to the cat owner is determined on a case-by-case basis. Spay/Neuter vouchers are issued to the cat owner and it is the cat owner's responsibility to make the appointment at one of the veterinarians involved in the program.

This organization primarily assists cat owners in lower-income areas. This is accomplished by making people in the low-income areas aware of the spay/neuter vouchers, educating the public regarding the need to spay/neuter their cats, and by utilizing veterinarians that are easily accessible by the cat owners. The Cat Spay Neuter Connection does not assist with other medical procedures and they only assist with spaying or neutering of owned cats.

## Nebraska Voters for Companion Animals

~by Pauline Balta, Advocacy Committee Chairperson



The grassroots group, Nebraska Voters for Companion Animals, will be announcing the release of its website during the first part of November. Included on the website will be the opportunity for you to add your name to a list so you can be updated or notified of legislative action. We must be the voices for the companion animals in Nebraska and the more voices that are heard, the more powerful we become.

## LAA Pet Food Bank - Helping in our Community

~by Mary Douglas, Community Outreach Chairperson



The Lincoln Animal Ambassadors (LAA) Pet Food Bank began in July, 2009. The first pet food was distributed to an animal in need on September 13, 2009. In early October, LAA received a very large donation of pet food. We received 10 pallets of cat, kitten, puppy, and dog food. It was a days job just to get the large donation transported in the newly acquired storage unit that we needed to acquire to house and organize it.

Our thanks go out to Bob Stephens and Stephens & Smith Construction for the use of their forklift, Infinity Storage, for the storage unit discount, and Beki Ferguson for her assistance in arranging it all. Huge thanks to Bruce and Pam Hoffman, David Scoby, Randy Douglas, Maddy McAllister, Molly Hoffmann, and Cindy Consbruck for their time and energy in transporting and organizing the donation.

Since September 13<sup>th</sup>, we have donated to several individuals in the community to help them get through a difficult time in their life, but still enable them to keep their family pet in their home and be able to care for them properly. We have also donated to The Cat House and have made working relationships with Matt Talbot Kitchen, The Pet Coalition, The Good Neighbor Community Center, The Food Bank of Lincoln and The Center for People in Need. Through October, 2009, we have distributed over 700 pounds of pet food since that first distribution. There are still many places in town we would like to supply our application to make it available to those in need. If you are interested in helping with that effort, please contact us through our website. Or if you have ideas for the Pet Food Bank, we are always open to suggestions.

It is the Lincoln Animal Ambassador's goal to assist individuals and their family pets, rescue groups and other animal related organizations by contributing to those animals in need within our community so fewer animals are at risk of being turned into a shelter.

Application can be made by contacting our website at [www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org](http://www.lincolnanimalambassadors.org) or calling (402) 540-7017. We also accept donations of animal related items, such as collars, leashes, cat litter, flea collars, beds, etc., as well as canned pet food.



## Lincoln's Ray of Hope?

~by Mary Douglas, Community Outreach Chairperson



Melody Kelso, Founder and Executive Director of The Pet Connection in Mission, Kansas traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska on September 8, 2009 to speak to members of the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors about the "Ray of Hope" program in Kansas City. The Ray of Hope program reduced the euthanasia rate in Kansas City from 54% to 4% in a 6 month period. It is a program where rescue groups work together to take animals from the local shelters that would normally be euthanized, and find them foster and forever homes. The Pet Connection was a big part of that project.

Melody suggested that there is not an overpopulation of pets in this country, but really a lack of marketing at the shelters. Only 10% to 20% of pets are adopted from shelters. She suggested marketing to niches and travel into the communities, rather than having adopters having to come to the shelter. Create flyers and distribute within the communities and participate in as many off site adoption events as possible, or create your own off site adoption events. Work with rescue groups and use foster homes as much as possible. Work with the animals to train and rehabilitate them so they are more adoptable. And definitely have a website that is working and up to date for people to learn about your organization at their fingertips in this age of technology.

Her suggestions for the Ambassadors were to concentrate on projects and programs that are needed in our community, but that our local shelter is not providing. The majority of animals are turned into the shelter because people are moving and cannot take their pet, cannot afford to take care of them, or behavioral problems. Programs such as low cost spay and neuter, free or low cost obedience training and animal behavior advice, and a pet food bank are all things that will have a direct effect on whether people keep their pets in their home or turn them into a shelter. The Lincoln Animal Ambassador's goal is to reduce the number of animals euthanized in Lincoln, Nebraska and the surrounding areas. These type of programs will be a proactive and preventative way to prevent animals ending up at the shelter where their fate is uncertain.

### LINCOLN ANIMAL AMBASSADORS MISSION STATEMENT

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.

### FIND US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!

### DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED!

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations can be sent to: P.O. Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506. A receipt for your generous contribution is available as well.



**LOOKING FOR SOME GUEST SPEAKER IDEAS FOR 2010!** Please contact [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org) if you have a suggestion.



## **Pet Food Bank Information**

To Donate pet food, please contact us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org) or call (402) 540-7017 for pick up of donation. Cash donations are also accepted. You can mail your donation to:

**Lincoln Animal Ambassadors  
P.O. Box 67072  
Lincoln, NE 68506**

Please make a notation on the memo line “Pet Food Bank”.

**Requirements to accept pet food from this program:**

**You must complete the required application. (following this information sheet and agreement).**

**You must present your drivers license or ID when you are accepting pet food.**

**Pet food can only be received by an individual one (1) time a month. You may apply for more than one (1) pet at that time, however.**

**Please bring a picture of you and your pet, if possible, when accepting pet food.**

**When you accept pet food from this program, you will be asked to sign the following agreement.**

### **Pet Food Bank Recipient Agreement**

**I agree to complete the LAA Pet Food Bank application completely and honestly.**

**I agree that all pet food I receive from the LAA program is for my pets as listed in my application.**

**I agree that my pets are not used for breeding purposes or illegal acts.**

**I agree that I will supply my pets with food and fresh water every day.**

**I agree that if my pets are not spayed or neutered, I will work toward getting them altered as soon as possible.**

**I agree that if my pets are not current on their vaccinations, I will work toward getting them current as soon as possible.**

**I agree to attend to my pets’ medical needs in a timely manner if they are in need of the same.**

**I agree, when I am financially able to help, I will donate back to the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Food Bank so others can benefit from this program.**

**I agree to tell my friends and neighbors about the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors Pet Food Bank Program so they can assist with donations if they wish to and they can spread the word about this program to others.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**





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## Pet Food Bank Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you employed? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Temporary lay off

If Employed, where: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of pet or pets do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list pet or pets name, breed, weight and age below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a veterinarian that your pet or pets normally see? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If so, who is your veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your pet or pets spayed or neutered? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Is your pet or pets current on its vaccinations? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Is your pet licensed with Lincoln Animal Control? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When application is completed please call (402) 540-7017 and reference the Pet Food Bank.

