

# Pet Talk

**SPRING 2022**

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

## Our mission

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is addressing the root causes of animal homelessness in Lincoln and the surrounding area.

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors assist pets and their people through a voucher-based low cost spay/neuter program, an income-based temporary assistance pet food bank and teaching people about being responsible pet guardians at community events.

## 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:**

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.*

## Celebrating 3,500!

3,500 spays and neuters that is! That is the number of spays and neuters Lincoln Animal Ambassadors has financially assisted with since the beginning of their program in 2010. For Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, that number makes our mission of addressing the root causes of animal homelessness a reality! 3,500 adds up to an even larger number—practically an infinite number—the number of unwanted, potentially homeless cats and dogs which result from unaltered animals and who are subjected to the cruel realities of homelessness.

An often-shared statistic is that one unaltered female cat, her unaltered mate and all their offspring, producing just two litters per year, can produce 11,606,066 cats in nine years. One unaltered dog, her unaltered mate and their puppies and their puppies' puppies can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. *Source: [www.lucypetfoundation.org/animal-statistics/](http://www.lucypetfoundation.org/animal-statistics/)*

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is celebrating 3,500 today. Today and every day, they will continue to issue spay/neuter vouchers and assist with feeding pets of our community members whose income does not allow them to consistently have funds to purchase pet food and pet related items.

Along with the pet food and spay neuter assistance, LAA provides education as the need arises. Once the client has applied for the pet food bank, the client is discouraged from obtaining new pets until they can afford to feed their pets themselves. To obtain food, all clients' pets must be altered, with LAA's assistance if necessary, and for those

who are resistant to altering their pets, the facts of unwanted, homeless pets and the cost of raising litters of kittens and puppies is provided through one-on-one education.

In the last year, LAA moved into the largest warehouse space we have ever had, allowing us to have more impact in our community. Another service recently added to LAA's programs is paying for any vaccinations needed for spay/neuter procedures for the pets issued vouchers. And recently the amount that LAA provides on the spay/neuter vouchers has increased significantly to help the recipients be able to afford the procedure even more.

The Lincoln community is responsible for LAA's fabulous accomplishments. LAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run completely by donations. Our income-based pet food bank is stocked completely by donations. In 2021 we received over \$75,000 in pet food and pet supplies from the community and local businesses. And since our pet food bank program started, we have received over 500,000 pounds of pet food from the community. Our programs are run completely by caring volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without our AMAZING volunteers, and the many participants who attend our fundraising events that allow us to continue doing our important community work. Thank you to everyone for being a great partner to address the root causes of animal homelessness! And thank you for your continued support!

# Thank you to our donors!

Ameriprise Distribution  
Arnie's Pet Food  
Tom & Karen Bassett  
Canine Consultants & Pet Supply  
Capital Humane Society  
Burke Casari  
Cybergrants  
(US Bank Foundation)  
Julie Felzien  
Heather Ferguson  
Food Bank of Lincoln  
John & Diane Huseman  
Hy-Vee, N. 84th St.  
Dale & Kimberly Johnson  
Kent & Shelley Mattson  
Barbara Michael  
Kristin Packett  
Max Rodenburg  
Charles & Lela Sayward  
Super Saver donation barrels  
Target  
Jennifer Y.

## Donations in MEMORIAM

Larry Miller Family  
Luann Kathol  
The Kurpgeweit Kids  
Sara Bradley (dog)  
Simon Einemann (dog)



## Join the fun at Wine & Howl on June 12

LAA would like to invite you to the 14th Annual Wine & Howl on Sunday June 12, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is one of the great fun events you can attend each year! It is dog friendly, so leash up your dogs, grab a lawn chair or a blanket and relax on the lawn of shady Deer Springs Winery (162nd & E. Adams St.). Sip on a glass of Deer Springs wine or try their fabulous wine slushys! Listen to the music

stylings of Skylark and the Cool Papas! Check out the vendors and meet the dogs up for adoption from the many rescue groups attending with adoptable dogs. Food is available. Water and swimming pools are available for the dogs. A \$10 donation at the door gets you a day full of fresh air, music, wine, dogs and relaxation! This fundraiser funds LAA's low-cost spay and neuter program. COME ON...JOIN THE FUN!

FOOD • VENDORS • RAFFLE • WINE TASTING

# Wine & Howl

SUNDAY  
JUNE 12

LIVE MUSIC from  
Skylark and Cool Papas!





## Volunteer Spotlight: Kristina Alas

### Where did you first learn about LAA?

I discovered Lincoln Animal Ambassadors when I researched places to volunteer that involves working with and helping animals!

### Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am a graduate research assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln pursuing a master's degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in plant breeding and genetics. Currently, I am working on completing my thesis and, with luck, will graduate this summer. I plan to return to UNL in the fall to begin the journey of obtaining a Ph.D. in Agronomy.

I genuinely enjoy and appreciate animals, which is why I live with nine of them! I have two wonderful dogs named Lucy and Margot. Three curious cats: Ernie, Elliott, and Eleanor. Four talkative cochin bantam hens: Millie Ann, Wynona, Nancy, and Trixie. I would love to have more animals, but sadly I don't have time to care for more. Also, the animals I have now would be upset and jealous if I brought a new one home.

### What are your LAA volunteer duties?

Currently, I volunteer on a phone line shift!

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

It's rewarding to help people care for the animals they love.

### Do you do other volunteer work in Lincoln?

Yes, my dog, Lucy, who is a certified therapy dog through Uplifting Paws, volunteer at Willard Community Center. Lucy and I spend time helping with the preschool and afterschool children. I love the bond that volunteering with Lucy has created between us.

### What would I recommend for someone wanting to volunteer?

The phone line shifts are a great way to stay home and help the community! If you love talking about your animals as much as I do, it's a great opportunity to do so!

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

I'm not sure what I would add to the "wish list." I just wish every animal has a safe, loving, and happy home!



Pictured left to right: Wynonna and Margot; Kristina and Lucy; Lucy and Margot; Ernie, Elliot and Eleanor

## Calendar of events

# give To Lincoln Day

### Give To Lincoln Day May 26

Donate online all month long at [GiveToLincoln.com](http://GiveToLincoln.com)

### Wine & Howl June 12

LAA fundraiser

### Spay-ghetti & No Balls Dinner October 8

LAA fundraiser



# WE NEED YOU!

**Volunteer and prevent homeless animals.  
See page 5 for open positions.**

We are currently in need of volunteers. Training is provided. If you have a desire to volunteer and help others in the community, reach out to us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org), call the hotline at 402.817.1168, or fill out a Volunteer Questionnaire on our website.

# By the numbers

## Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

3,506 total animals  
1,810 dogs  
1,685 cats  
11 other small critters

## Pet food distributed so far in 2022

**Dry food**  
7,042 lbs.  
Approximately 1,760 lbs. per month  
Since inception: 542,071 lbs.

**Canned food**  
5,545 cans  
Approximately 1,386 cans per month  
Since inception: 25,130 cans

**Litter**  
93,871 lbs.  
Approximately 593 lbs. per month  
Since inception: 93,871 lbs.

## 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.



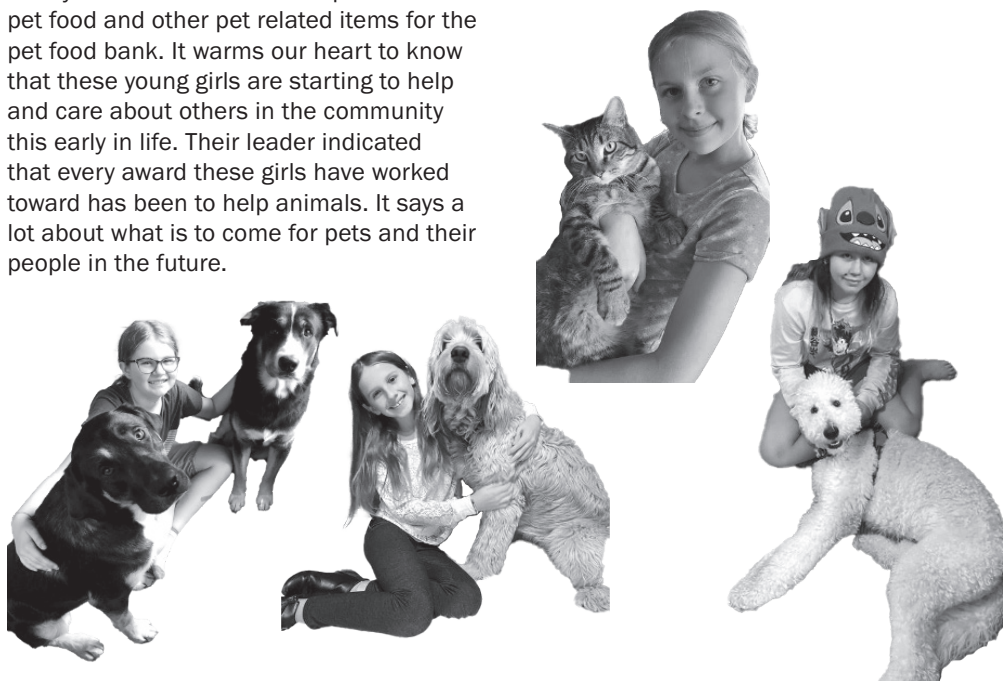
## Girl Scouts achieve Bronze Award while benefiting LAA

LAA would like to recognize and thank the Juniors of Girl Scout Troop 20821 for their community service! These five girls worked the whole month of March running a pet food drive for LAA's pet food bank. They were extremely organized. They created flyers and Facebook posts to market their drive. They placed collection boxes around town and on March 26th, they set up a pet food donation site at Petco at 48th & O Streets to promote the donations. We would also like to thank Petco for allowing them to set up at their store for this event.

These community minded girls collected nearly \$400 in cash and 344 pounds of pet food and other pet related items for the pet food bank. It warms our heart to know that these young girls are starting to help and care about others in the community this early in life. Their leader indicated that every award these girls have worked toward has been to help animals. It says a lot about what is to come for pets and their people in the future.

We are told that the Bronze Award is the highest Girl Scout honor for their age group. LAA is honored to be a part of their efforts and are appreciative of the donation. Scouts that were involved with this project were Laree, Kennedy, Ellena, Ady and Jayla. A huge thank you to their scout leaders for their help and guidance.

If you are interested in putting on a pet food drive for LAA's pet food bank, reach out to us at [info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org](mailto:info@lincolnanimalambassadors.org)





# Welcoming a new cat

Written by Allison Hunter-Frederick for Lakes Animal Friendship Society.  
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Congratulations on adopting a new cat into your family! To give your cat a happy start in their new home, here are some tips:

**1) GET THE BASICS** and have them ready. Food, water, at least one litter box, scratching post, and bed. Toys are also important. Your cat might not use them on the first day. If they still haven't used them after a couple of days, talk with your vet.

**2) PROVIDE SAFE SPACE.** When you first bring your cat home, house them in a small room. This will allow your cat to get used to their new environment. When your cat is ready, let them explore one room at a time. A new cat can take a few days to a few weeks to adjust.

**3) PROVIDE HIDING SPOTS.** Make sure they fit the size of your cat. They should be able to tuck themselves away but still see what's going on. Provide a mix of high and low spots.

Always give your cat the choice if they want to hang out with you. But try these next tips to help them get to know you better:

**4) PUT A PIECE OF YOUR CLOTHING IN THEIR SPACE.** Your cat can get used to your scent.

**5) HAVE LOTS OF QUICK LITTLE VISITS.** At the start, you might play classical music or nature videos, or read to your cat. As they get more relaxed, offer food from your finger, lure them with a toy, and pet them gently.

**6) DEVELOP A ROUTINE.** Set aside specific times for meals, play, and other activities like hanging out and reading to them. Don't forget grooming! Keeping them clean, with fur and teeth brushed and claws trimmed helps keep everyone happy.

Have fun and relax, knowing that you are getting started on the "right paw"!

# Open LAA volunteer positions

## Phone Line Volunteer

LAA requires a 6 mo.-1 year commitment for this position. This can be done from your own home picking up voicemail messages and returning calls. Telephone and internet is required. Training is provided to enter information into our software program. Depending on the phone shift the amount of time required to fulfill this is from 30 minutes to 1 hour weekly.

## Wine & Howl Volunteers

LAA is looking for one time volunteers to help at our annual Wine & Howl event at Deer Springs Winery on June 12th. Helping to set up vendors, set up tents, helping vendors unload and load, set up and monitor sound system, keep water pools filled for dogs, sell raffle tickets to attendees, help with admission, parking attendants. Full day or partial days shifts accepted.

## Grant Writer

Looking for volunteers who have some grant writing experience to research grants and write grants for LAA's needs. Spay and Neuter and Pet Food Bank specifically. This could eventually become a board position.

## Social Media Volunteer

LAA is looking for volunteers who have knowledge of social media and can help keep LAA's Facebook page active and up to date with current events, etc. This could eventually become a board position.

## Marketing

LAA is looking for volunteers with marketing experience to help LAA with any marketing endeavors. This could become a board position.

# To be a volunteer, it takes...

**GENEROSITY**, a willingness to give your time to others.

**UNDERSTANDING**, because their lives might be very different from your own.

**EMPATHY**, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel.

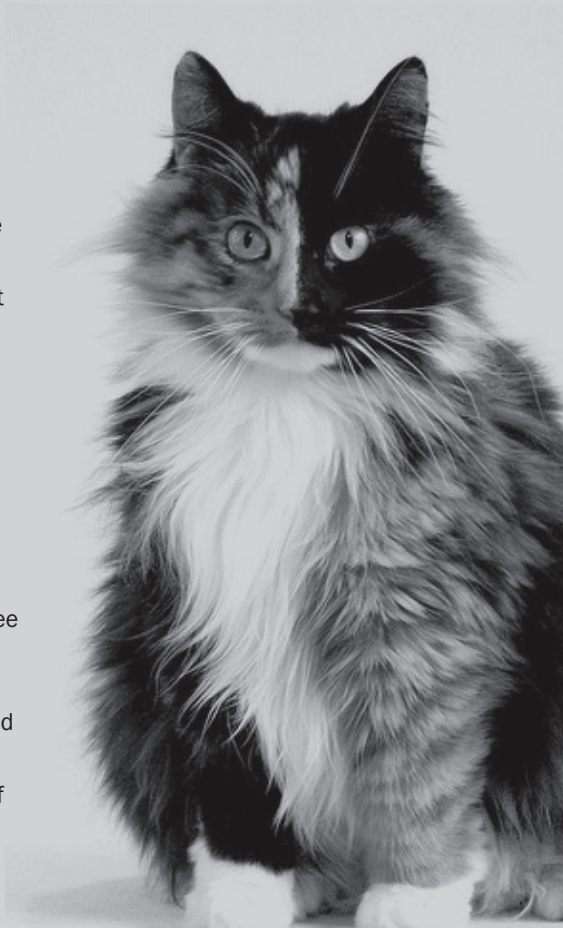
**COMPASSION**, to truly care about making someone else's life better (and their pets).

**PATIENCE**, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might.

**DEDICATION**, to stick with the project and see it through.

We appreciate our volunteers so much because they have shown these qualities and so much more.

Thank you LAA Volunteers for being a part of the solution!





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US POSTAGE  
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LINCOLN, NE  
PERMIT 1147

402.817.1168  
PO Box 67072  
Lincoln, NE 68506



LINCOLN COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



# 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, 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!

