

Pet Talk

SUMMER 2011

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Our mission

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.

Donate

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program
Pet Food Bank
General Funds
Mail to: PO Box 67072, Lincoln, NE 68506. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street. LAA is a 501(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible.



Don't forget to shop at Cause for Paws, located at 57th & Old Cheney Road. This "boutique for cheap" turns your donations and purchases into cash for animal charities, including LAA's low-cost spay/neuter program. Watch for the major expansion at Cause for Paws coming this summer. CauseForPawsLincoln.org.

Program surpasses 300 mark

By Karl Skinner

By the time this article publishes, the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors will have issued more than 500 vouchers through its low-cost spay/neuter program, which started in June of 2010. In that time, nearly 70 percent of the vouchers have been redeemed and used to spay or neuter nearly 350 cats and dogs. Most of the clients who request assistance from LAA would not otherwise be able to afford spay/neuter services, so this program is one of the biggest keys to helping limit the numbers of unwanted kittens and puppies in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Fewer litters result in fewer pets being surrendered to shelters and more homeless pets being adopted from shelters and rescue agencies. This ultimately leads to a reduction in the euthanasia rate of healthy, adoptable animals.

In addition to spay and neuter, many vaccinations are given as a part of this program because LAA's participating veterinarians each require proof of immunization prior to undergoing surgery. More pets also become licensed as a result of the program since many had never previously been vaccinated for rabies, etc. In the end, companion animals

live longer and healthier lives. And Lincoln is a safer community for pets and people alike.

Help us thank those who support spay/neuter!

A total of seven vet offices are participating in the program, including All Feline Hospital, Animal Haven Pet Hospital, Belmont Veterinary Center, Jacobson Veterinary Clinic, Nebraska Animal Medical Center, Vintage Heights Veterinary Hospital and Wachal Pet Health Center.

A generous monetary donation is received every month from Cause for Paws. This program is a wonderful example of community collaboration.



A few of our furry spay/neuter clients:
Ebby, 4 years
Mimi, 11 months
Tiffany, 1 year

Please join us!

Public meeting

Thursday, August 4
7:00pm

St. Matthews Episcopal Church
2325 S. 24th Street

LAA will be collecting pet food and cat litter for the Pet Food Bank.

Guest Speaker: Kim Oesterman of Second Chance Pups



It's too hot in the car!

Because many states allow only assistance dogs to be brought into stores or malls, some people take their dogs along on errands but leave them in the car. This can be deadly.

A little heat outside a car can quickly make it very hot inside. On a summer's day of only 85 degrees Fahrenheit, for example, even keeping the windows slightly open won't stop the inside temperature from climbing to 102 degrees in just 10 minutes. A dog whose body temperature rises to 107-108 degrees will within a very short time suffer irreparable brain damage—or even death.

Learn more at
MyDogsCool.com



By Mary Douglas

The Pet Food bank always has a big wish list and since our beginnings in September of 2009, at the bottom of the list was written in all capitals **"BIG DREAM—a storefront where recipients can pick up food where it is stored."** We always thought it would be years down the line. BUT OUR WISH HAS COME TRUE!

A few months ago, Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was approached by The Cat House asking if we would be interested in sharing space with them.

The LAA Pet Food Bank has moved to a new location: 1935 Q Street, inside The Cat House building, enter through the south alley door.

We jumped at the chance to have a climate controlled space to store our pet food. And now the pet food does not need to be transported by a volunteer to a pick up site twice a week. Our pet food bank recipients can come directly to our site and pick up their pet food.

The Pet Food Bank has grown by leaps and bounds in the last year. An average of 2,200 pounds of dry pet food per month is distributed to needy companion animals and their people. That is over 2 ton of dry food a month! Plus almost 300 cans of canned food and 160 pounds of kitty litter each month. 22,000 ton of dry pet food has been distributed since the program started.

Unfortunately in this struggling economy there are more and more people who just need a little hand up. In these stressful times, animals and their people rely on each other for their mental and physical well being. This program helps relieve and prevent the trauma that results when people cannot afford to feed or keep their pets.

The Pet Food Bank is supplied completely by donations. With these large disbursements each month, the Pet Food Bank is always looking for pet food and litter donations to be able to continue to help Lincoln's companion animals and their people. If you would like to become a "Friend of the LAA Pet Food Bank" you can leave your donations at **St. Matthews Episcopal Church 2325 S. 24th Street Lincoln, Nebraska**

Or mail your financial donation to:
Lincoln Animal Ambassadors
P.O. Box 67072
Lincoln, NE 68506

We only ask that you leave your name and address (and e-mail address too) with your donation so that we can send you an appropriate receipt for your tax deductible donation. If you would like to volunteer please contact us at (402) 817-1168.



LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org

Wine & Howl celebrates 3rd year

By Pauline Balta

All one had to do was be near the parking lot at Deer Springs Winery to feel the excitement of LAA's 3rd Annual Wine & Howl! As cars arrived, volunteers managing the parking were treated to the excited barking and squealing of all the dogs excited for a day away from home. A scruffy Schnauzer, a tiny Dachshund, an adoptee from Second Chance Pups were just a few of the happy dogs seen with their pet guardians.

This year was another howling success. Event organizers know they can plan on the supportive, generous people who attend but the weather is not something that cannot be planned on. With temperatures in the 50s, and a wind blowing, about 400 guests came to check out the more than 25 vendors, listen to three great local bands, sample wine and taste delicious food. Music was provided throughout the day by the Coolpoppas, Tom & Wes, and The Resonators.

Baton twirler, Steffany Lien, also provided entertainment. Steffany competes nationally and internationally and will be an eighth grade student at Irving Middle School this fall. She is quite the animal lover and valuable young animal advocate.

The Wine & Howl recognized three major sponsors this year. The sponsors included Cause for Paws, Boutique for Cheap who has been a long time, regular contributor to LAA's Low Cost Spay/



Neuter Program; bk Pet Necessities who donated the large cat tree included in the cat package grand prize and all the smaller cat trees, scratching posts and toys included in our raffle; and KZUM, who contributed two weeks' worth of on-air advertising for the event.

Three rescued dogs who currently call Hearts United for Animals their home demonstrated their agility talents for the crowd. Eartha, a 7 year-old mixed breed black dog rescued in New Orleans during the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and a star agility performer with dozens of purple ribbons; Princess, a Terrier/Min Pin mix "thrown away" because her previous owners were too busy for her; and Enchilada, an 11 year-old Chihuahua and puppy mill survivor all showed off their agility abilities.

Deer Springs Winery was a wonderful, gracious host and contributed greatly to the event. The setting was perfect and lent itself to creating a relaxing country atmosphere.

LAA wishes to thank the donors, guests and all the volunteers who made the 3rd Annual Wine & Howl a howling success!



Calendar of events

Petco Spay/Neuter Drive

June 26-July 30*

5450 South 56th Street
4701 O Street

LAA will be one of the local benefactors of this drive. Please donate or be a patron of Petco and give in support of LAA.

*LAA volunteers will staff informational booths at Petco on select Saturdays and Sundays, but exact booth dates/locations are still to be determined.

LAA Public Meeting

August 4, 7:00pm

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

Guest Speaker: Kim Oesterman of Second Chance Pups

LAA will be collecting pet food and cat litter.

Benefit Concert

August 20, 6:00pm

Antelope Park Bandshell

Enjoy music by Tom & Wes, Chris Sayre, Ralph & Greg. Admission

will be pet food, cat litter, or a gift certificate to your favorite vet as a donation to LAA and The Cat House.

Meow & Chow BINGO Night

October 15, 6:00pm

Scottish Rite Temple

16th & L Streets

Annual fundraiser for LAA and The Cat House

Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month

November

Student community action project supports LAA

By Molly Hoffmann

At Irving Middle School this was the third year in a row that the seventh graders had a very successful "Dash's Donation Drive." This annual community service project named for "Dash" the therapy dog at Irving, benefits a local animal rescue organization. This year, the Lincoln Animal Ambassadors was the lucky recipient of the generosity of approximately 270 students. Two years ago the drive was for the Capital Humane Society and last year The Cat House.

The fundraiser kicked off with a power point presentation highlighting LAA's two main programs—the pet food bank and the low-cost spay/neuter program. The students learned the importance of spay/neuter in preventing homeless cats and dogs in the community as well as how the surgical procedure benefits the individual animal. In addition, the students learned how the pet food bank operates and how many people and animals it serves monthly.

For three weeks during this donation drive, students were asked to make a monetary donation or bring in pet food,

leashes and collars, or cat and dog toys. The class that donated the most money was promised a "pawty" of donuts and juice for their contributions. In addition, each day during the drive the students learned a trivia fact about cats, dogs, or responsible pet guardianship. Every once in awhile the students were even "treated" to a silly dog or cat themed joke.

Dash, the Domesti-PUP therapy dog at Irving who was herself adopted from a humane society, served as inspiration for the donation drive. At the end of the three weeks, the students donated over \$1400 and three boxes of food and supplies for the pet food bank. This community action project taught the students about giving to a good cause but also raised their compassion and empathy for companion animals in their community. The students shared many stories about the importance of having pets in their lives. As for LAA... we say a big "Thank You" to these students and greatly appreciate their generosity.



Petco Spay/Neuter Drive

Every year in the United States, 3 to 4 million homeless dogs and cats are needlessly put to death. The PETCO Foundation raises millions of dollars every year to benefit homeless pets. But it's not enough. It's never enough. No matter how hard we work, no matter how much money we raise, no matter how many charitable partners we assist, there are just not enough resources to save them all.

Millions of pets die needlessly each year because people didn't take the time to spay or neuter their pets. Spaying and neutering is the #1 way to prevent pet euthanasia and reduce pet overpopulation.

LAA will be one of the local benefactors of this drive. Please donate or be a patron of Petco and give in support of LAA from June 26-July 30.

We need your support!

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors needs your support so we can continue assisting pets in need and their owners. Please consider a monetary donation and mail this form back to LAA. Contributions can also be made with a credit card at www.LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org through PayPal. Pet Food Bank donation items can be dropped off at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street.

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

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

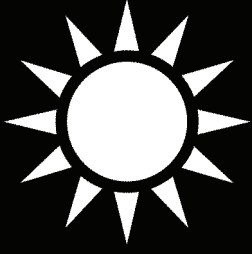
Lincoln, NE 68506

Thank you!



PO Box 67072
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506





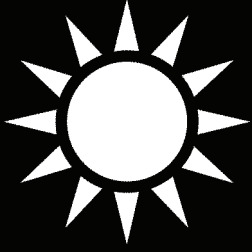
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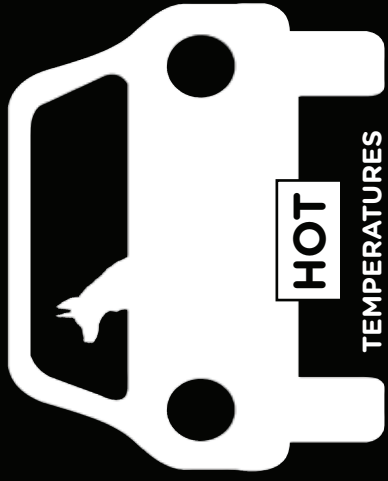
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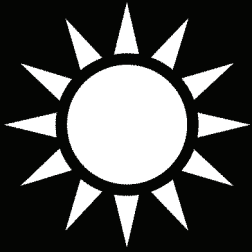
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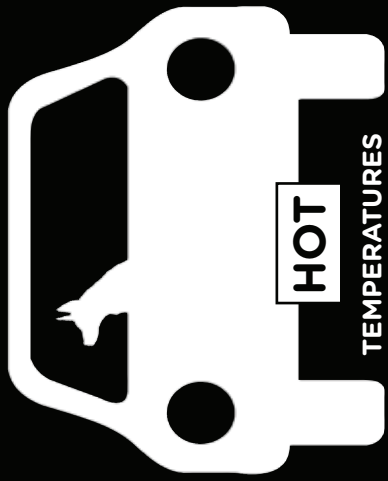
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“Is it too hot to take my dog along today?”

We need to ask ourselves this question every time we drive with a dog.

Warm weather can literally be a killer for a dog left inside a car. On warm days, the inside of a car heats up very quickly. When it's 85 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car — even with the windows cracked — can soar to 102 degrees in 10 minutes and 120 degrees in just half an hour. On hotter days, the temperature will climb even higher. Outside temperatures in the 70s can be dangerous, as well.

Leaving your dog for “just a minute” may be too long. Because they rely on panting and aren't able to sweat, dogs can't cool themselves like people can and their body temperature can rise quickly. Dogs can withstand high temperatures for a short time before suffering severe illness, organ damage — or even death.

It's not cool to leave a dog in a hot car.

For more information, visit:
MyDogIsCool.com

If your dog is overcome by heat, soak him/her with water and seek vet care.

Please share this filer with other pet owners.



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