

Pet Talk

WINTER 2023

LincolnAnimalAmbassadors.org / 402.817.1168

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

LAA 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, 27th & Cornhusker Hwy, 27th & Pine Lake St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 S. 24th Street

Arnie's Pet Food, 56th & Hwy 2 Hy-Vee, barrel on rotation at Lincoln stores, excluding N. 27th St., 40th & Old Cheney locations

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

LAA collaborates with Capital Humane Society Pawsitive Impact Project

LAA has always tried to collaborate with others in the community. But when Capital Humane Society announced their Pawsitive Impact Project earlier this year, it seemed like the perfect fit with LAA's mission to address the root causes of animal homelessness.

LAA started being present at the Pawsitive Impact clinic each week to issue spay/neuter vouchers on-site to those participants who had unaltered pets. LAA had been collaborating with CHS for a few years in other ways, but when they let us know they were wanting to start an income-based public canine spay/neuter voucher project, similar to LAA's program, we saw another opportunity to collaborate.

LAA had previously been blessed with a great software program that makes issuing our spay/neuter vouchers much simpler and quicker. LAA offered our software system to CHS for on-line voucher applications and issuance. Now income-qualified applicants can apply for canine spay/neuter vouchers from both LAA and CHS on either of their websites. Applicants can apply for a voucher from BOTH organizations at the same time and use them in unison with any cooperating veterinarian. This will reduce the amount the applicant will be required to pay out of pocket for the surgical procedure, hopefully increasing the number of animals spayed or neutered in the community. CHS is also issuing vouchers for grooming, landlord pet deposits, behavior and obedience training from their website for income-qualified applicants.

"LAA has worked for over 14 years to reduce the number of homeless animals in Lancaster County, altering almost 3,700 pets so far, but working together with others in the community allows us to do so much more. We are thrilled to be able to contribute to this project, which just enhances LAA's efforts"

Mary Douglas, LAA President



Calendar of events

I Love My Dog Expo March 25-26

Lancaster Event Center
\$10 admission
ilovemydogexpo.com

Give to Lincoln Day May 24

Donate to LAA!
givetolincoln.com

Wine & Howl June 11

Deer Springs Winery
LAA fundraiser



DOUBLE your donation

Will your employer match your donation? Some employers offer a match program where they match all or some of your monthly or yearly donations to charitable causes. If they do, it turns your \$50 donation into a \$100 donation. Doubling your gift allows your chosen charity to increase their efforts and means they can continue working toward their goals.

Check with your HR department to find out if your company offers a matching gift program or would be willing to consider implementing one. Every gift we receive is vital to the success of our mission in addressing the root causes of animal homelessness.

Organization Spotlight: 4-H Wonder Cats

The Lancaster 4-H Wonder Cats Club is now in its second year and welcomes new members. The club is for youth ages 8-16 who are interested in learning more about cats. Topics to date have included cat health, cat behavior, cat training, and cat enrichment. The club is co-lead by Kari Schepers and Allison Hunter-Frederick.

Schepers and her son are the reason the Wonder Cats Club got started. In June of 2021, Schepers sent the following email to Lincoln Animal Ambassadors, "My son has a passion for cats and would like to get involved in a group of people who share a love of cats. He sees his sister attend dog 4-H, and there is no cat 4-H club in Lancaster county currently. I'd like to start a cat 4-H club for him, but first I'm hoping to find a network of cat people."

Her email was forwarded to local cat behavior consultant Allison-Hunter Frederick, and a month later a meeting was held at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County with Kristin Geisert and Kate Pulec, both 4-H extension associates, to discuss the start of a new 4-H cat club.

The four decided to distribute info about the potential new club at the July Lancaster County Super Fair and the October 4-H Open House. As a result of advertising, the inaugural meeting of the Wonder Cats club was held on October 21, 2021. Eight youth, and their parents/guardians were in attendance. The meeting was an informal one, designed to gauge interest and to discuss details of when and where to meet.

The two co-leaders both draw on their particular expertise to run the club. Schepers handles the 4-H paperwork, ice-breakers, announcements, snacks, and details related to any cat fairs; Hunter-Frederick prepares and teaches the lesson. They collaborate on setting up tours and guest speakers.

Last year, the club toured behind-the-scenes at All Feline Animal Hospital. This year, members heard pet health expert Arden Moore speak via Zoom, received signed copies of her Kids Guide to Cats, and were invited to be guests on her YouTube show Four-Legged Pets. Her interview with them aired in December.

The club also holds an annual informal Cat Clinic. Owners have the opportunity to compete in showmanship and the best homemade toy. They can show their cats on the basis of appearance, costumes, and

tricks. According to Schepers, the purpose of these clinics is "to educate new and returning members on what they need to do and what they might need to work on with their cat to be able to show their cat at the county fair shows. Cats behave differently in new environments, and it gives the youth a chance to work with their cats in new environments." A clinic is currently being planned for February 2023.

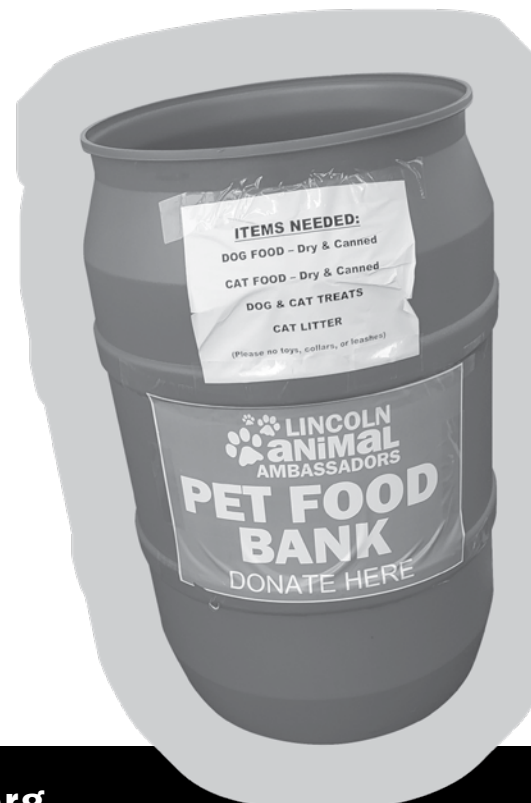
Collin Schepers, who originally inspired the club, is happy with the club. "It gives me a place to learn about cats and be with cats and cat friends. If you like cats you'll want to join."

His two sisters are equally pleased. Eleven-year-old Paige said, "I have a lot of fun at cat club, and I like learning how to teach tricks and then teaching my cat the tricks."

Nine-year-old Ava said, "I like making games for my cat and playing the games with my cats."

Membership in 4-H clubs is free. Wonder Cat meetings are held monthly throughout the school year on the fourth Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The meetings alternate between in-person and virtual. The group also has a private Facebook group where members can post photos and videos of activities.

If your son or daughter is of age 8-16 and is interested in learning more about cats, please register them at 4h.unl.edu/enroll/new-member.





Thank you to our donors!

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 Super Saver
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 Target
 Tom & Karen Bassett

Local organizations hold Holiday Food Drives for LAA's Pet Food Bank

LAA is so appreciative of the groups that put on Holiday Pet Food Drives for our income-based Pet Food Bank.

Special thanks to Nebraska Dept of Agriculture, Food, Dairy, Microbiological and Chemical Laboratory Section, Realty ONE Group Sterling, and Paws 4 Fun – Santa Paws Project.

For over 14 years, this is how LAA's pet food bank has operated. We are forever grateful to our community for helping

us stock the bank with donations in our community donation barrels and pet food drives like these. Everything distributed from our pet food bank is donated. This program assists several hundred families every year to feed and care for their pets when they cannot do it themselves and helps give those pets a better life. It keeps pets in their homes with the people they love and out of our already overloaded local shelter.



Pet Food Bank donation drop-off sites

Permanent donation barrels are located in Lincoln, Nebraska at: page for those dates and times.

- Super Saver, North 27th Street
- Super Saver, South 56th Street
- Super Saver, South 27th Street
- Arnie's Pet Food, 56th & Hwy 2
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2325 South 24th Street

Lincoln Hy-Vee Stores

Rotating donation barrels will be at Lincoln Hy-Vee stores (excluding N. 27th St. and 40th & Old Cheney locations) for two weeks at a time and then move on to another Lincoln Hy-Vee store. Watch our Facebook

Amazon.com

You can order pet food and pet supplies for LAA off Amazon and have it shipped to LAA. Our address is on record for shipment.

Walmart.com/registry/registryforgood

Search for Lincoln Animal Ambassadors as a charity and order pet related items to be shipped to LAA. Our address is on file with them.

Donations in memoriam

Charlie Kampfe, Dog
 Mitzi Graham, Dog
 Macy Clare, Dog
 Xena Nelson, Dog

Spay/neuter numbers

Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program

3,712 total alterations
1,909 Dogs
1,791 Cats
12 Small pets (rabbits, fancy rat)



Join LAA and Hy-Vee for Stuff the Truck pet food drive

Help Lincoln Animal Ambassadors stock their income-based Pet Food Bank. Come out to Williamsburg Hy-Vee on February 25, 2023 and purchase and donate pet food and supplies during the “Stuff the Truck” Pet Food Drive.

LAA is addressing the root causes of animal homelessness. For over 14 years, LAA has been distributing free pet food, litter and pet related items to low-income families to help them care for their pets and keep them in the home with the people they love.

“We distribute 2,000-3,000 pounds of food each month to pets and their people” said Mary Douglas, President of LAA. “We cannot do what we do without the support

of our community, and we appreciate Hy-Vee letting us do this event to get us stocked up for 2023”

February 25, 2023
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Williamsburg Hy-Vee
600 Village Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska

Pet related items needed:

- Dry Cat & Dog Food
- Canned Cat & Dog Food
- Clumping Cat Litter
- Flea & Tick Medications for Cats & Dogs
- Dog & Cat Treats
- New & Gently used leashes, collars, toys, beds

LAA receives \$500 grant from HOME Helps Fund

Lincoln Animal Ambassadors is very grateful to receive a \$500 grant from Home Real Estate - HOME Helps Fund 2022. Each year Home Real Estate realtors donate to this fund. After an application process and meeting certain criteria, LAA was granted \$500 to purchase dog and cat food and cat litter to supplement the community donations that come into our income-based pet food bank. We are thankful that LAA

was one of several recipients to benefit from this fund. Thank you Home Real Estate for supporting LAA and giving back to your community!

HOME
REAL ESTATE

Save the date: **15th Annual Wine & Howl**

LAA is inviting you to their 15th Anniversary Wine & Howl on Sunday June 11, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrating 15 years of this fun, popular event will be a thank you to all our friends, family and supporters who have attended this event over the past 15 years, and to celebrate Lincoln's community for the outstanding support provided to LAA over the past 15 years.

This is one of the great fun events you can attend this 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. Sip on a glass of Deer Springs wine or try one of their fabulous wine slushies. Check out the vendors and meet the adoptable dogs available from the many rescue groups attending. Food will be available to purchase. Drinking water and swimming pools will be available for the dogs.

To ensure this will be one of the most fun events you will attend this year, LAA is pleased to announce our 15th Anniversary Wine & Howl Celebration will be enhanced

with a local popular 80s band, AMFM, Best of Lincoln winner 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021! AMFM will perform three sets between 12 noon and 4 pm.

AMFM began in May 2013 with the goal of bringing audiences all the fun 80s music the guys in the band grew up listening to and playing. AMFM covers all the fantastic genres that made the 80s such an amazing decade for music...rock, pop, new wave.

AMFM has performed at major area music festivals, including the Capital City Ribfest, Celebrate Lincoln and FrogFest as well as Lincoln and Omaha clubs like The Royal Grove and The Waiting Room.

A \$10 donation at the entrance will provide you a day full of fresh air, music, wine, dogs and relaxation! This fundraiser funds LAA's low-cost spay and neuter program. Come join the fun!

June 11, 2023 / 11 am-5 pm
Deer Springs Winery
162nd & E. Adams St.

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.

Volunteer Spotlight: **Gloria Bucco**

My name is Gloria Bucco and I have been working as a volunteer with Lincoln Animal Ambassadors for almost two years. I signed up with LAA to deliver this newsletter. I have 10 stops on my list and I really enjoy interacting with the businesses who are kind enough to carry our newsletter and display our posters.

I had known about Lincoln Animal Ambassadors for a while before I volunteered. I worked in one of Lincoln's high school libraries in 2010 and set up a box for pet food donations. The students responded and whenever the box was full, I'd bring it to LAA.

I moved to Lincoln from Boulder, Colorado, in 2002 to be closer to my daughter and her family. I had been an editor and reporter in Colorado for almost 30 years. Initially, I returned to school and earned a master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from UNL with the intention of teaching college-level journalism courses. Unfortunately, the recession set in right after I graduated and openings at the college level were few and far between. I ended up getting a job with the State as a public information officer in the Department of Natural Resources. I am retired now.

I have two cats at the moment, Teddy and Grendel. I say at the moment because during the past 40+ years I have probably had nearly 30 cats with nine being the most I had at one time. I have also been feeding a stray cat for two years. I have an outdoor house for him but he has never let me touch him. His name is Evel Knievel! I've fed many strays over the years here in Lincoln. In every case, one day they just disappear. That leaves me very sad.

I support LAA's mission 100 percent, especially the spay and neuter program. These are critical undertakings designed to assist our community and its animal population. What LAA does is so important in reducing the numbers of animals that end up euthanized. I would also like to see LAA play a role in helping the stray cat population in Lincoln.

Anyone who loves and cares about animals, and wants to help has a place with LAA and will be warmly welcomed.





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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 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 and 56th & Hwy 2.

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!