Pets now and in the future have a best friend in the Animal Protective League of Sangamon County.

It’s an organization dedicated to caring and providing for homeless pets. It’s an organization that is planning for pets in the future through the establishment of the Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“The APL endowment fund has been created to give further financial underpinning to all of the organization’s programs to achieve the goals of the mission in good times as well as hard times,” APL President Kevin Hyatt said.

The APL’s mission is to provide care to ill, injured or abused homeless animals and coordinate the adoption of the animals to caring pet owners. APL services include a shelter for homeless animals. The shelter provides short-term foster care to dogs, cats, puppies and kittens awaiting adoption. Several hundred pets are adopted from APL’s shelter each year.

The work though isn’t limited to the shelter and adoptions. The organization runs the APL Spay/Neuter Clinic and Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Program in an effort to end companion animal overpopulation. The APL also runs a Pet Foster Homes Program, which provides temporary homecare to pets awaiting adoption.

The Fund will be utilized to support a variety of these programs. The APL will funnel a portion of monetary donations into the endowment. The total contribution will vary depending on the immediate needs of the organization. The Fund will provide a boost if a downturn in the economy forces an increase in homeless pets.

“Animals may be in even more need if owners must surrender them in less economically favored times or recession,” Hyatt said.

The APL also has a variety of volunteer opportunities for the public, including walking dogs, working in the office, providing landscaping maintenance, taking animals to off-site adoptions or to visit nursing homes and providing educational presentations to groups.

The endowment fund’s creation is in part to further inform the public about the APL’s services and the need for assistance from the public.