A three-legged cat, pit bulls and a multitude of other cats and dogs have found refuge under the care of Kevin Hyatt. “That’s my passion,” Hyatt said. It’s a passion that Hyatt wants to continue to nurture and that is why he has established the **Hyatt Fund for Animals** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The donor-advised fund will direct its effort to a local or national organization that provides care to animals in need. “My main goal is to help homeless or hurt or injured animals,” Hyatt said. “It will go to what organization is a good steward and is doing a good job.”

Hyatt is heavily involved in local animal efforts, serving as president of the Sangamon County Animal Protective League for the 10 years. The Morgan County native has always had pets and a fondness for helping animals. “I grew up with animals. We always had rescue animals and took in a lot of strays,” said Hyatt, who has also lived in Springfield and Rochester. His association with Animal Protective League began in 1995. He served as comptroller before becoming President. The APL puts approximately 98 cents of every dollar raised toward animal care. The Fund allows Hyatt the flexibility to distribute money to other organizations if the need arises, such as the animals left behind in Hurricane Katrina, or if the philosophy of the APL would change.

Hyatt currently has several animals under his care, including a black terrier named Macy and a pit bull named Scrappy. He previously had a pit bull named Dakota. “(Scrappy’s) my big baby. I really like pit bulls,” Hyatt said. “They get a pretty bad rap. Pit bulls are my pet project.” The household also includes six cats. The majority of the animals that Hyatt has taken in are ones that would have difficulty being adopted from a shelter. They require special needs, medicines and care. Hyatt also serves as a licensed humane investigator for the State of Illinois. He strongly believes in providing assistance to animals that others may look past. “Most of mine are ones that aren’t going to get adopted,” Hyatt said. “That’s my passion.”

Hyatt became familiar with the Community Foundation when the APL set up a fund. The fund’s popularity and the ease with which funds can be established led him to create his own fund. “It’s been one of the more popular funds for people to donate to,” Hyatt said. “I’ve been really happy. It’s growing.”