



Tips for Talking with Legislators

- Introduce yourself, the organization you're representing, and your role within the organization
- Provide brief background about your organization
 - History - how long you've been operating, how you've grown over the years
 - Size - how many animals do you serve each year, how many volunteers do you have, how many donors do you have, how big is your budget
 - Services - adoption, fostering, pet food pantries, free or low-cost vet care, free or low-cost spay/neuter surgeries, behavior training, animal control, TNR, etc
 - Accomplishments - how many animals have found permanent homes, how much food you've given out, how many animals you've provided low-cost vet care and spay/neuter surgeries to
 - Role in the community - municipal contracts, freeing up space in another shelter, coordinating care
 - What would happen if you ceased operations?
 - **Solving public problems with private dollars**
- Talk a bit about the challenges you face
 - Pet overpopulation - more animals, less adopters
 - Lack of funds
 - Lack of space
 - Lack of volunteers
 - Increased costs
 - Increased regulations
- Hot topics
 - Sales tax exemption for nonprofit shelters and rescues
 - Overregulation
 - Transfer of sick animals
 - Transfer of unaltered animals
 - Business days for the stray holding period