

Tabling Tips

Thank you for your interest in tabling to benefit the Dutchess County SPCA! Hosting a table in a heavily-trafficked area can be a great way to raise money for the animals and educate people about animal adoption, spaying/neutering, and other humane issues. To ensure a successful and enjoyable tabling event, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Visibility** – After securing permission from store management, set up a table outside your local supermarket, school cafeteria, campus center, or other heavily-trafficked area. Display an eye-catching, professional-looking sign that states concisely what your purpose is, e.g., raising money for the DCSPCA. Ideally, two people should work the table.
- **Getting People’s Attention** – Smile! You should actively and politely engage passers-by, but get to your point quickly. Ask them, “Would you like to find out how you can help homeless animals today?” Then have some facts ready – for example:
 - Did you know that each year millions of healthy, adoptable dogs and cats wait in shelters for a home? (The DCSPCA is a no-kill shelter.)
 - The DCSPCA takes in 1,500 animals per year.
 - The DCSPCA was founded in 1871.
- **Donation Jar** – Decorate a coffee can or glass jar to make an attractive and appealing place for people to place their donations.
- **Information** – Stock your table with DCSPCA brochures and information sheets (available from the shelter or on our website).
- **Sign-up Sheets** – Always have a sign-up sheet available to take the name, contact information, and interests of people who would like to become more involved with the DCSPCA. Never put out a blank sheet, though; if necessary, put your name and information on the top line.
- **Don’t Argue** – Don’t engage a clearly hostile person. If someone is not interested in helping, respectfully end the conversation: “Thanks for listening/sharing your viewpoint. Enjoy the rest of the day.” Also, avoid seeming to preach or be judgmental. You’re there to share a positive message of how we can help the animals.
- **Tell Your Friends** – Let people know where and when you’ll be running a table to help the DCSPCA and ask them to spread the word!