

Tips for a Successful Yard Sale

Thank you for considering hosting a yard sale to benefit the Dutchess County SPCA! To ensure a successful and enjoyable event, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Advertising** – Make sure people know about your yard sale! Post colorful, easy-to-read signs on bulletin boards and in other strategic places around your neighborhood. And harness the power of the internet – E-mail, Craigslist.org, your local newspaper’s online classifieds, and pet rescue listserves are all great ways to get the word out. Don’t forget to include the hours of your yard sale and don’t forget to remove signs after the sale!
- **Let people know that all sales benefit the Dutchess County SPCA.**
- **Supplies** – You’ll need tables to set out merchandise, price tags/stickers, plastic bags, and newspaper to wrap fragile items. You’ll also probably need about \$80-100 in cash in all different denominations (both bills and coins).
- **Pricing** – Make sure everything has a price tag and price your items to sell. A good rule of thumb is one-quarter to one-third of what the item would cost new. As the day goes on, offer bargains (e.g., half-price after 2 p.m.).
- **Display** – Neatness counts and will be appreciated by your customers. Make sure all items for sale are clean. Use a rack to display clothing and use wire hangers that people can take with them. An organized yard sale makes people think that you care about your things and makes it easier to sort through them.
- **Ambiance** – Put your customers at ease by playing some nice background music and consider providing lemonade or other refreshments. Greet everyone with a friendly hello and make small talk if they seem receptive.
- **Safety and Security** – Sadly, not everyone is honest. Keep your money in a fanny pack or where you can see it at all times. Lock the doors to your house (but make sure you have a key to get back in!). Don’t leave small, valuable items unattended. Have a cell phone with you.
- **Enjoy yourself and remember – not only are you clearing out your clutter, you’re helping the animals!**
- **Sound like too much work?** Bring your items to the DCSPCA’s annual spring yard sale and let us do the work! (Watch our website for specific dates.) The shelter accepts animal-related items (e.g., leashes) all year round.

Another great way to help is to bring items you want to donate to the DCSPCA's large yard sale held every May. We accept donations starting in April. Watch our website for information on the next DCSPCA yard sale.

Animal-related items can be donated all year long. Please look at our wish list ([LINK](#)) for information about the items we are requesting to help with animal care.