

Lobby Day: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Lobby Day?

Humane Lobby Day is an event sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States where citizen animal advocates like you gather to learn and practice lobbying for animal protection laws at the state level. It is a full-day event including a lobbying workshop and an overview of relevant bills in your state legislature. Appointments are made for you with the legislators that represent you so you can visit with the legislators (or their staff) face to face and ask for animal-friendly votes.

Will I be talking to lawmakers face to face?

Yes, every attempt will be made to schedule a meeting with the legislators that represent you at the state capitol. In the event that your legislator cannot meet with you personally, you will get a chance to talk with one of his or her key staffers. Your meeting will generally only last a few minutes and you'll be given specific talking points and training on what to cover during the meeting.

Will I be escorted or alone?

There may be other attendees from your same district. If so, meetings are consolidated so that each lawmaker only has one meeting. If no one else from your district attends the event you will meet with your legislators alone. The event organizers will provide helpful information regarding finding the meeting place and will be stationed at a check-in point so that you always know where to go for support or questions.

Can I partner with a friend so I'm not alone?

It's a great idea to recruit friends and family to attend Humane Lobby Day. A large turnout creates a powerful voice for animals. Legislators are primarily interested in hearing from their own constituents so only attendees from your same legislative district should attend legislator meetings with you.

What legislation will we be discussing?

There are many, many animal bills filed each year during the legislative session. We choose our priority bills for Humane Lobby Day based upon several factors, including their impact and chance of passage. There may be other animal protection topics/issues that are important to you, but focusing on the HLD selected bills we've chosen will make the most impact during your visit to the Capitol.

What should I wear?

Dress professionally to meet with legislators. A business suit or slacks/skirt and a jacket are appropriate for lobby day. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Also, bring an umbrella and a picture I.D.

I can only make it for part of the day, is that ok?

The event is designed to build throughout the day. The workshop in the morning prepares attendees for legislator meetings and legislator meetings are the true purpose of the day. It's important to plan to attend the entire event.

Is there anything I can do to prepare?

It's helpful to know your legislators before going into a meeting with them. Most elected officials have a website. Some states have humane voting leagues that keep track of legislator voting records on animal issues. Do some investigating online to learn some background on your legislators.

HSUS State Legislation page:

http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/legislation/state_legislation.html

Look-up link: <http://www.humanesociety.org/leglookup>

Can I bring my child? dog?

Children often have important impact on legislators and their opinion matters even if they can't vote. Bring whatever family members you believe will enjoy the day and be able to remain focused for the entire schedule, but please leave the four-legged family members at home.