

GET POLITICALLY ACTIVE



WORLD SPAY DAY

Adopt a Resolution. As a voter, you have a lot of power! Introducing a resolution is a great way for your legislator to connect with animal-friendly voters in her or his district.

Resolutions (also called “proclamations” or “commendations”) are a great way to educate legislators and bring credibility and visibility to an important issue in your community or state. A

resolution is a formal statement adopted by the state legislature or city or county council recognizing a particular issue and a method of addressing it. A World Spay Day resolution formally recognizes the tragedy of healthy, adoptable pets being put down in shelters and endorses spay/neuter as an effective means of saving pets’ lives. It is generally non-controversial.



Resolutions can also be used to designate a particular time period in honor of a cause. For example, the last Tuesday in February officially becomes “World Spay Day.” The concept is simple, yet goes a long way to putting an issue on the political radar screen. Adopting a World Spay Day (or Spay/Neuter Awareness Month) resolution gives legislators an opportunity to take a humane position with very little risk. World Spay Day resolutions put the tragedy of pet homelessness on the legislative agenda and can pave the way for more substantive legislation in the future.

How to Get a Resolution Passed

First, locate your HSUS state director at humanesociety.org/statedirectors and check with her or him to see if plans to pass a resolution in your state, county or parish, or community are already underway. If so, perhaps you can collaborate! Otherwise, face-to-face meetings are the most effective way to ask your legislators to introduce a resolution. Set up a meeting with the state or local legislators who represent you and ask them to introduce a resolution to declare the last Tuesday in February “World Spay Day.” (You are welcome to customize the sample resolution at right.) Most legislators will at least consider this request, but if not, the next step would be to have friends and family in different districts, meet with their legislators and make the request. Review our [tips and resources](#) to become a better grassroots advocate to help make your meeting as successful as possible.

Once Your Resolution Is Adopted

- **Hold a Press Event**—Invite officials to sign the resolution at a public ceremony at city hall, the county office building or on the steps of the capitol. Coordinate with your official's press office to maximize potential press interest in your event. And inform your [HSUS state director](#)!
- **Show Appreciation**—Be sure to thank your legislator and forward a summary of press attention to his or her office. Build on your new relationships with your local legislators to encourage them to do more for animals.
- **Celebrate**—After the resolution is signed, congratulate yourself for making a big difference for animals!

FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS

Visit hslf.org and click on "Find My Legislators" button.

FIND YOUR HSUS STATE DIRECTOR

Visit humanesociety.org/statedirectors and click on your state!

SAMPLE WORLD SPAY DAY RESOLUTION

For maximum effectiveness, customize this resolution by providing local statistics.

Office of the [Mayor, County/Parish Council or Governor]
Resolution
Designating Tuesday, February 28, 2017, as “World Spay Day”

WHEREAS, pets provide companionship to 65% of U.S. households; and

WHEREAS, 2.4 million healthy and adoptable cats and dogs are put down in animal shelters each year due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of pets living in poverty, and 98% of community (feral and stray) cats are unaltered; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering has been shown to dramatically reduce the number of animals who are put down in animals shelters; and

WHEREAS, programs exist to assist with the cost of spaying or neutering pets living in poverty and community cats; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens worked together to advocate the spaying and neutering of pets and community cats through “World Spay Day” in the United States and throughout the world in 2016; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens have joined together again to advocate the spaying or neutering of pets and community cats on “World Spay Day 2017”:

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the [local or state government body], that February 28, 2017, is designated “World Spay Day.” The [mayor, county/parish council or governor] is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of [city, county/parish or state] to observe the day by having their own pets spayed or neutered or by sponsoring the spaying or neutering of a pet in need.



Signature _____ Date _____

Source: *Pets by the Numbers: U.S. Pet Ownership, Community Cat and Shelter Population Estimates.*
humanesociety.org/petownershipstats