

Street Stalls

A street stall is an important campaigning tool and many groups use it as a fundraiser too. However, stalls do not have to be confined to the streets. A stall can be set up wherever there is a large group of people in one place. Approach local events, such as fayres and concerts, to ask if you can set up a stall. Some places will charge, but depending on the cost, you could cover this with donations made on the day.

What do you need for a street stall?

The basics are a pasting table (or other light, portable table); some petitions on clipboards, (secured with rubber bands, pens attached to the clipboards with string long enough for people to sign the bottom of the page); and lots of leaflets (secured by rubber bands so that they don't fly away). A plastic cover for the table in case it starts raining might also be a good idea. Some large boards with Animal Aid posters on will look good. If the group has enough funds, have the posters laminated to avoid them getting wet and then they can be re-used. And, of course, you need some confident and enthusiastic people to staff the stall. If you stand there in silence or chatting to each other, you will get very few people taking an interest. You need to catch people's attention and ask them to sign the petitions.

Do I need permission for a street stall?

You need permission to set up a stall in the street from your local Council, or from the owner or

manager of private land. In practice, many people do stalls in the street without getting permission, and as long as the police do not think they are causing an obstruction and they do not get any complaints (e.g. from shop owners close to the stall) they may be OK. If you are going to collect money using tins, you need a street collection permit (phone the Fundraising department on 01732 364546 for details). But merely accepting donations, when offered, is more of grey area. If the police do ask you to move on, then be polite and move if you have to.

Where is the best place for a stall?

Clearly, you want somewhere with lots of people and, ideally, some shelter. Pedestrianised streets are more pleasant and you are less likely to cause an obstruction. However, if the street is very wide and not busy, it is easy for people to ignore you. Anywhere near Marks and Spencer, McDonald's or Bodyshop or a major supermarket tends to be very busy. Standing outside businesses that are closed (e.g. many banks are closed on Saturdays) is a good way of avoiding complaints.

Can I do a stall on my own?

We would not recommend it. Apart from being a bit lonely, it makes it tricky if you want to buy a drink or go to the toilet. It is also better to have at least two of you in case you get any abuse or other trouble (most people are either very supportive or just ignore you). Having support also makes transporting all the materials to and from the bus stop or car park a lot easier.

