



# UNITED ANIMAL NATIONS

*A not-for-profit, charitable organization.*

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## Animal Advocacy and Letter-Writing Tips for Kids

- What is advocacy?
  - Advocacy is active support of an idea or cause.
- Why would I want to advocate for an issue?
  - Advocating for an issue makes your voice and opinions heard. Making a difference in your community can be rewarding and beneficial to those around you.
- How can one person make a difference?
  - Sometimes, one person is all it takes to make a world of a difference. As long as you feel passionate about an issue, try your best to lead by example and others will follow.
- Read on to learn how to be an effective advocate.
  - Choose an issue you feel strongly about. Some examples include:
    - [Puppy mills and hoarding](#)
    - [Pets and protective orders](#)
    - [Animals in disasters](#)
  - Discuss! Research the issue online, at the library, and by asking people around you.
  - Write a letter to your governmental representatives to express your thoughts and position on the issue.
    - Find your federal and/or state legislators by going to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) and typing your zip code in the left-hand column.
    - In your letter, make sure to include the issue and why you think it matters.
    - Make the letter clear and concise and be sure to be respectful.
    - Check your spelling!
    - See next page for a sample letter.

*Bringing animals out of crisis and into care.*

August 7, 2008

Representative Tommy Waters  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Fax: (808) 586-9456

**RE: Support for SB 3203, making it a misdemeanor to hoard pet animals.**

Dear Representative Waters,

On behalf of United Animal Nations (UAN), I am writing in strong support of SB 3203, a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to hoard pet animals.

UAN is particularly sensitive to issues surrounding animal cruelty and neglect, and we have seen a surge in news and concern about animal hoarding, which directly affects humans as well as animals. Hoarders cannot provide the basic needs for animals and they typically live in unsanitary conditions that are a threat to the animals, the hoarders themselves and the community. Hoarders will continue to collect additional animals until law enforcement or another agency intervenes and relocates the large number of animals in the hoarder's possession.

Animal hoarding endangers animals and people alike and burdens local and state agencies and animal welfare organizations; it is imperative that hoarding situations are resolved before they grow to emergency proportions. SB 3203 will help to reduce animal hoarding cases and animal abuse in Hawaii by holding residents accountable for the animals in their care. On behalf of UAN and our members in Hawaii, we strongly urge you to vote "yes" on SB 3203.

Sincerely,

Nicole Forsyth  
President and CEO  
United Animal Nations

- Some examples of effective sentences in this letter are:
  - "On behalf of United Animal Nations (UAN), I am writing in strong support of SB 3203, a bill that would make it a misdemeanor to hoard pet animals."
    - This sentence clearly states what the bill does and the writer's stance on the issue.
  - "Animal hoarding endangers animals and people alike and burdens local and state agencies and animal welfare organizations"
    - This sentence supports the writer's position because it describes the negative effects of the particular issue.
  - "On behalf of UAN and our members in Hawaii, we strongly urge you to vote "yes" on SB 3203."
    - This last sentence reiterates the writer's position on the issue.
- This [bill](#) was actually a success! Refer to it for inspiration or a reference to start your letter.
- Don't expect an immediate response. Be patient and give your letter enough time to reach the designated people.
- Know that your voice makes a difference!

*Bringing animals out of crisis and into care.*