



## DONATING TO CHARITY

## FINANCIAL HEALTH OF ORGANIZATION

### ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

### RESULTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Look up or request the Federal Tax Identification Number for the organization you are researching or considering making a charitable gift to. This is the first step needed to continue on a path to the formation of a nonprofit and in filing for 501(c)(3) Status with the government. No tax number - then look no further into this organization.

Charities that follow good governance and transparency practices are less likely to engage in unethical or irresponsible activities. The risk that such charities misuse donations is lower than for charities that do not adopt such practices. The most efficient charities spend 75% or more of their budget on their programs and services. Does the charity file yearly income tax returns and report all activity and business. Or do they claim \$0 for their income and assets? A charity that operates in the red would not be utilizing your contribution wisely.

View the charity's accomplishments, mission and goals and body of work. Are they fulfilling rescue work and always active and busy and is this evident on their Website and/or Facebook Page? Are the stories and rescues current and ongoing on their Website?

For an animal rescue, some of the key items to look for include:

*Detailed information given about each animal, their history and what veterinary services and medical attention was afforded to each.*

*Where is the animal housed or fostered and what care is given to each.*

*What happened to the animal? Was it adopted, and to who and where did they go and an Adoption Story given and posted on the organization's Website and/or Facebook Page.*

*Special Funds and Donations for a particular animal - is there transparency on how much was collected, what were the medical costs and expenses incurred and how overage is handled.*

*Are Tax Receipts for Donations sent and is there a list of Contributors published on their Website yearly.*

*Visit Charity Navigator at [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org) to learn more about a particular charity, their guide to donating, tips and tax benefits.*