



CAP Kids & Kritters summer camp

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration and Wait List

How will I know if my child is registered for CAP Kids & Kritters Camp?

Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited. You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is accepted and paid in full. Registration for a particular session is not guaranteed until confirmed by CAP staff. CAP Kids & Kritters Camp does keep a wait list to fill potential vacancies. Check the wait list option on the registration form to be notified if any spaces become available for one of our camps.

Grade Levels and Ages

Can I enroll my child in a camp for a higher grade level?

No. Sometimes parents would like to keep their child in the same camp as an older sibling or friend. Activities in our camps are tailored to the grade levels and expected ages of the children in the group. To maintain the best camp experience for everyone, we recommend that children attend a camp intended for their age / grade level. CAP believes that part of the fun of camp is making new friends through shared experiences and common interests.

Hours and Fees

How early or late can I have my child at the CAP Animal Shelter for CAP Kids & Kritters Camp?

Each week-long session takes place Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The earliest campers will be able to be dropped off and signed in for camp is 8:15 a.m. All campers should be picked up and signed out from camp at 12:00 noon each week day. **If you are late picking up your child, a late fee of \$1.00 per minute beginning at 12:10 p.m. will be charged and due at the time you pick up your child.** CAP Kids & Kritters camp does not offer extended childcare options at this time. Each week of camp is \$250.00 and payable upon registration of each child for each week of camp.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be made in writing (email or fax) to the CAP Humane Education Coordinator. If you cancel your registration more than 14 days prior to the start of the camp session, your registration fee will be refunded minus a \$25 administrative fee. **If you cancel your registration less than 14 days prior to the start of the camp session, no refund will be available.** Canceled registrations cannot be applied to registrations for the following year. Campers unable to attend camp due to illness and/or disciplinary actions during the camp session will not be eligible for a refund. **If a camp session is canceled by CAP, all registration fees will be refunded in full.** Refunds will be given when cancellation is confirmed by Kids & Kritters Camp staff. (CAP Humane Education Coordinator email: arodriguez@cap4pets.org ; fax# 281-497-1537)

Camp Activities & Themes

What is included in CAP Kids & Kritters Camp? Is it an educational program?

YES! Your camp registration fee includes a day of informative and fun lessons with several hands-on animal interactions throughout the day. Games, crafts and animals make each day FUN and help children develop a positive attitude toward all living beings. Each day's lessons will always seek to:

- Foster curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.
- Encourage compassion, fairness and problem solving.
- Inspire respect and responsibility.

What is the focus of the various camp themes?

Rescue Reptiles: The truth will be revealed about some of nature's most misunderstood creatures in this introduction to the wonderful world of reptiles. We will explore common myths and discover basic reptile facts through safe interactions with a few of our slithery friends and reptile themed games and crafts. Featured animals may include snakes, tortoise, lizards and other amazing animals including many native species.

Wild for Animals: Animal lovers will appreciate the variety of wonderful creatures both wild & domestic we might encounter right here in our own backyards. Let's strive to understand and protect our thriving ecosystems for all our animal friends.

VET Adventures: Do you have what it takes to become a veterinarian? Learn practical first aid tips for pets. Investigate mysterious pet behaviors. And hunt for patient zero. This camp will introduce kids to veterinary science and the prevention & treatment of common medical ailments that affect our animals and each other.

Pet Photography: Getting the best photo takes planning and practice. Using their own digital camera, cell phone and or tablet, kids will be given expert tips and daily photo assignments challenging them to try new ideas that will also help our homeless pets get some much needed attention.

Fur-Ever Friends: This camp celebrates our relationship with animals. Young campers will learn about best pet care practices, physical and mental animal needs, dog bite prevention and kindness for all living creatures. We will make connections between our furry friends and our own similar life experiences.

Animal Interactions

What is an animal interaction?

An "animal interaction" describes the act of physically meeting an animal(s) introduced to the camp group. What an animal interaction looks like largely depends on the species and temperament of the animal the child/children are meeting. Animal interactions may involve going right into the animal's living space to play (cats/kittens), making a fun and interactive foraging toy and delivering it to an animal (rabbits/guinea pigs), taking an animal outside for some fun (dogs) or getting a chance to gently pet a fragile creature (reptile). All of the animal interactions at CAP Kids & Kritters Camp are designed with the utmost respect and care for our animals in mind. We understand many children wish to hug and hold animals. Our goal however, is to teach children how to interact with animals in a way that is respectful of the animal's physical and mental well-being and of minimal stress to the animal. For example, many animals, such as rabbits, do not enjoy being held and passed around. In line with our values of respect and compassion for all living things a rabbit interaction would involve letting the rabbit approach and sniff and gentle petting of the rabbit while the rabbit is on the floor.

My child is frightened of certain animals. Will those animals be at camp?

It is possible that a child may be frightened or uncomfortable around certain animals. We select the animals our campers meet based on the recommendations of our senior shelter animal staff and our guest animal experts. Each animal is screened for health, behavior and personality. We want both the animal and the campers to enjoy the experience of meeting each other. At no point will any camper be "forced" to interact with an animal that scares them. However, our lessons are often so engaging that many children have overcome their fears, even reaching out to pet an animal that previously frightened them.

Staff, Volunteers and Parents

Who is in charge? How are campers supervised? Is my child safe?

Campers are supervised at all times. Counselor to camper ratios are at least 1:10 including Kids & Kritters Camp volunteers. Depending on the number of campers as well as the scheduled activities of each day, we may have an additional 2 - 3 volunteers and/or camp counselors supervising and interacting with the campers. Kids & Kritters Camp counselors and staff are supervised by the CAP Humane Education Coordinator. Children removed from camp will be in the care of a CAP staff member until a parent/guardian arrives or they are able to return to camp activities. Kids & Kritters Camp counselors and volunteers must pass a criminal background check. Our dedicated camp staff, together with volunteers, work together to provide your child with a memorable, safe and educational experience!

Can I stay and attend camp with my child?

No. CAP Kids & Kritters Camp is designed for children who can remain in a group setting without parental involvement. If a parent or other relative of a camper is a CAP volunteer, special permission must be given by the CAP Humane Education Coordinator for that particular volunteer to assist during the camp sessions his/her relative is enrolled in.

Camp Rules and Consequences

What are the rules at camp?

- Listen and follow instructions
- Participate in camp activities
- Hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Cell phone use only allowed when directed by staff
- Never go anywhere without asking your Camp Counselor
- Show respect for others – All CAP staff, volunteers, fellow campers and animals
- Respect all property and show responsibility for yourself and your actions
- Have FUN!

What is the CAP Kids & Kritters Camp discipline policy?

Rules are posted in the education center and are reviewed with the campers each morning. In the event a child is disruptive, a time-out may be used. If disruptive behavior continues or is severe, the parent will be called to help find a solution. If improvement is not realized, parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the camper. Examples of unacceptable behavior include inappropriate language, making fun of or insulting others, bullying, using profanity, harming or frightening the animals, physically harming others, not following directions or unwelcome actions that make other campers feel uncomfortable.

CAP staff and volunteers will make efforts to accommodate campers with special needs, including campers with behavioral challenges. Parents/guardians of children who need special attention or have behavioral challenges must notify us of the issue in the "Health Information and Special Needs" section of the registration form. Campers with behavioral disorders that may continuously interfere with or disrupt the camp program may not be suitable campers.

In the event of extreme infractions, the CAP reserves the right to remove a camper from the program immediately without prior warnings. In the event of a termination from the program, the parent/guardian will be notified personally. The day of such action will be the last date the child is allowed to attend. There will be no refunds.

Check-in and Check-out

Where do I bring my child on the first day of camp?

17555 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77094. Parents/Guardians should drive up to side gate located on west side of the CAP Animal Shelter and sign in your child with the Kids & Kritters Camp staff each morning. Please do not drive up and let your child/children walk into the facility alone. Campers will be ready to be picked up at the same side gate at 3 p.m. each day. Your child/children need to be signed in and out by the parent/guardian or the persons who have been designated on the program registration form.

The CAP Animal Shelter is located on the south side of the I-10 Katy Freeway at Barker-Cypress. If you are traveling west on I-10, exit Barker-Cypress and take the U-turn. If you are traveling East on I-10, exit Barker-Cypress and go through the light.

Make a RIGHT on to **Barker Clodine Rd.** (A tile business is located on the corner.) Make a LEFT into the side parking lot of the CAP Animal Shelter and pull up to back gate 🌟 to drop-off or pick-up your child/children for CAP Kids & Kritters Camp. Exit through the front entrance of the CAP Animal Shelter on the feeder road.



May I pick up my child early?

In the case of an emergency or scheduling conflict that requires you to pick-up your child early or late, you will need to come through the west gate to the CAP Education Center to see a Kids & Kritters Camp staff member. In this event, you must still provide a photo ID and sign-out your child. Please notify the CAP Kids & Kritters Camp staff ahead of time if possible whenever you learn that your child is going to be absent, late or being picked up early from camp.

Clothing, Snacks, Prohibited Items

What items should campers wear to camp?

All campers are asked to wear a full coverage T-shirt, name badge, closed-toe shoes with rubber, non-slip soles and pants or shorts of at least knee-length. Campers will receive their camp T-shirt and badge on the first day of camp and will be allowed to change into their shirts in the bathrooms. Please keep in mind that activities throughout the day may cause damage to your child's clothing. We suggest sending your child in clothes that you do not mind getting damaged. Additional T-shirts can be purchased. Contact arodriguez@cap4pets.org to inquire about cost and availability. You may also want to consider sunscreen and/or a hat for your child's protection during the summer months. Some camp activities are outside.

Should my child bring food, snack, lunch or any drinks?

CAP Kids & Kritters Camp is a half day camp and we do not schedule a lunch. However, we do schedule a snack break during the morning. It would be appropriate to send a healthy snack and a juice drink with your child that you know your child will enjoy. We ask that you not bring peanut products to camp, but our staff is not in the position to inspect food or take away food brought to CAP by campers. Because of allergies that many children might suffer from, **CAP asks that children not share or pass any food or snacks.** A microwave, oven or refrigerator may not be available for use. Due to

heat and humidity we recommend that you pack clear liquids or juices only for drinking in a close top bottle or container. CAP does make water available throughout the day. There are also three vending machines with a variety of juice drinks, soda and snacks also available for purchase by your child ranging from \$0.50 to \$1.50. If your child has food allergies, be sure to note them specifically on the registration form.

CAP Kids & Kritters Camp is a high-energy active camp. We strongly recommend that all campers enjoy a healthy and hearty breakfast before camp.

What items should NOT be brought to CAP Kids & Kritters Camp?

Heely's (shoes with wheels), open-toed or slip on shoes and or sandals, personal pets, stuffed toys, AND knives or weapons of any size or variety are PROHIBITED.

CELL PHONES and other electronic devices **ARE ALLOWED and in some camps REQUIRED** to be used by children during the camp at **specific intervals designated by camp staff**. Many children want to take pictures of the awesome pets they get to meet and we do not mind as long as doing so is safe and done with respect to the others present. We will also expect campers to put up their phones and other electronic devices when asked during some of our camp activities.



Citizens for Animal Protection, CAP, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Net proceeds generated from CAP Kids & Kritters Camp go directly to the dogs, cats, and other small animals in our care. This includes the purchase of food, medical supplies, heartworm and medical treatments and other items needed to care for the animals we receive every day. We closely monitor our camp expenses and seek sponsorships for camp supplies and expenses so that we may contribute even more to the animals cared for at our shelter. CAP is also dedicated to providing humane education and community outreach programs to encourage love and respect for all animals. To learn more about how you can help support educational programs and animal services like ours, contact our CAP Humane Education Coordinator at arodriguez@cap4pets.org. We would love to discuss sponsorship and recognition opportunities!