



# CAP Kids & Kritters

summer camp

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### Registration and Wait List

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

You will receive a letter of confirmation via email when your application for camp registration is accepted. Registration for a particular session is not guaranteed until confirmed by CAP staff. Camps are limited in size, and we do expect each camp to have all slots filled. 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 8:20 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.

#### How much is a week of camp?

Camps vary in price from \$200.00 to \$250.00 and are 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](mailto: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 CAP Kids & Kritters Camp T-shirt and a week of informative and fun lessons with a daily animal interaction for each child. Games, crafts and animals make each day FUN and help children develop a positive attitude toward all living beings. Every year CAP will energize our camp with new programs. However, each day's lessons will always seek to:

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

**VET Adventures:** Do you have what it takes to become a veterinarian? Learn to detect, prevent and treat pet ailments. Investigate mysterious pet behaviors. And hunt for patient zero. This camp will cover standard veterinary services and the prevention and treatment of common medical ailments that affect our animals and each other.

**Operation Wildlife:** Cats and dogs are not the only animals that live here in Texas. We will take an opportunity to learn about some of the many types of wildlife we encounter right here in our own backyards. Camps will also feature a few special guests from our local wildlife rescues.

**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.

**Fur-Ever Friends:** This camp celebrates our relationship with animals. Campers will learn about proper pet care, animal needs, dog bite prevention and kindness for all living creatures. We will focus on how our companion animals are part of our families. We will make connections between animals and our own life experiences and learn how to care for and communicate with many of our favorite furry friends.

**Humane Heroes:** Explore the challenges animals face in our world today and learn how to help. Games and activities teach training tips, proper animal handling and give kids tool they can use now to help pets and the many people who love them. CAP strives to empower the next humane generation to make better choices for themselves and our animal friends.

## 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 generally 1:10 not 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 are CPR and First-Aid certified and 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. Only CAP staff, CAP Camp Counselors and camp volunteers may stay during CAP Kids & Kritters Camp. This is for the comfort and safety of our campers and staff/volunteers. If a parent or other relative of a camper is a CAP volunteer, special permission must be given by the CAP Community Outreach office 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?

Campers are expected to behave appropriately. Rules are posted in the classrooms 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. At our discretion, your child may be allowed to return to camp the following day.

- Listen and follow instructions
- Participate in camp activities
- Hands, feet and objects to yourself
- No cell phone use during camp unless directed by staff
- Never go anywhere without 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?

For the safety and wellness of campers, staff, volunteers, animals and the general public, disciplinary action may be taken if a camper displays undesirable behavior that interferes with or disrupts the camp program. Examples of this 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.

#### Consequences to undesirable behavior are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Verbal warning from Camp Counselor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Age-appropriate time out; follow-up note sent home to parent/guardian
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Repeat time-out; a follow-up call and/or meeting with parent/guardian
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Removal from camp; no refund will be given in this occurrence

**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.

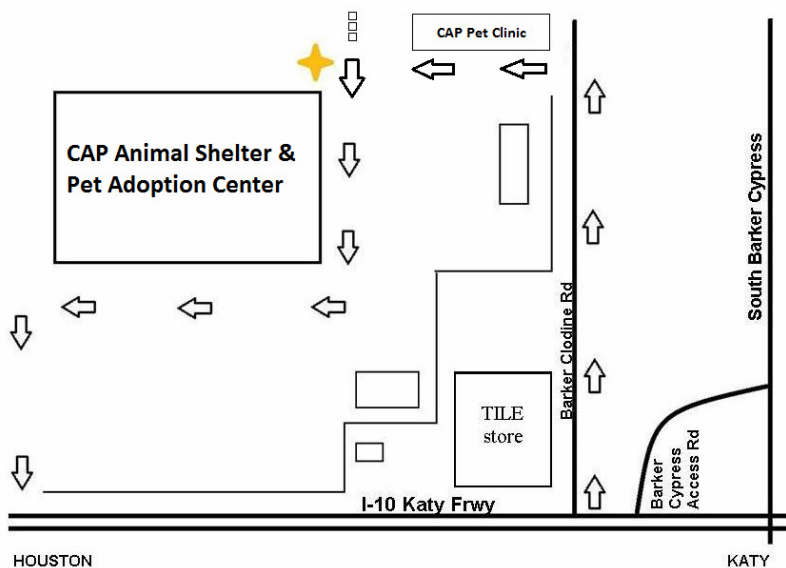
Every effort is made to accommodate campers with special needs, including campers with behavioral challenges. Parents/guardians of children who need special attention or have behavioral challenges must notify us of the issue in the "Health Information and Special Needs" section of the registration form.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

## 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. CAP will not be responsible for any child/children not signed in to CAP Kids & Kritters Camp. 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 noon each weekday. 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?

Since early/late drop-offs and pick-ups can cause disruptions from scheduled activities and lessons, please adhere to the scheduled drop-off and pick-up times. In the case of an emergency 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 must wear their CAP Kids & Kritters Camp 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](mailto: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.

### Can 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 and it would be appropriate to send a healthy snack and a juice drink with your child to camp. 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 is not 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 arrival to 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, games or books
- Knives or weapons of any size or variety

**CELL PHONES** and other electronic devices are allowed 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 during the majority 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](mailto:arodriguez@cap4pets.org). We would love to discuss sponsorship and recognition opportunities!*