



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 if my child is younger or in a lower grade level that recommended?

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 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The earliest campers will be able to be dropped off and signed in for camp is 7:45 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.

How much is a week of camp?

Camps are \$250.00 per child per week 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 ; 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.

Animal Adventures: This camp is a general introduction to companion animals, perfect for kids who want to get some experience with our most common pets. Campers will learn about the needs of our pets, everyday pet care, pet body language, dog bite prevention and kindness for all living creatures. We will focus on how to care for and communicate with the many pets that are part of our very own families.

Junior Vets: Do you have what it takes to become a veterinarian? Learn practical tips for pet interactions. Explore the many challenges our pets face. Investigate mysterious pet behaviors. And hunt for patient zero. Games and crafts will explore common veterinary services and the prevention and treatment of common ailments that affect our animals and humans.

Pet Sitting 101: So your neighbor asks you to care for their pet cat, Moe. Are you up to the task? Kids will assess their skills while considering the needs of the most common companion animals. We will cover types of pets, daily pet care duties, body language, safe animal handling, common pet emergencies and the role of a pet sitter. Kids will get practical experience walking dogs, feeding animals and waste disposal. Special focus will be given to the actions kids can take to keep pets and kids safe when caring for our furry 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?

We select the animals our campers meet based on the recommendations of our senior shelter animal staff. 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. Yet it is possible that a child may be frightened or uncomfortable around certain animals. 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 by staff and volunteers who have all passed a required background check. Children removed from camp will be in the care of a CAP administrative 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. Camps are also limited in size. 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
- Cell phones to be used only when directed
- Never go anywhere without a Camp Counselor / Volunteer
- 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:

- First offense: Verbal warning from Camp Counselor
- Second offense: Age-appropriate time out; follow-up note sent home to parent/guardian
- Third offense: Removal from camp; parent called to pick up child and 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 and or cause harm to any animal or camper 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 Jeep 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 may be allowed to walk dogs that may jump and scratch your child's legs if left unprotected. 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 as 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, but 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
- Shorts or pants that do not cover the upper leg
- Personal pets, toys, games or books including electronic games
- Knives or weapons of any size or variety

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!