

Humane Society Summer Camp

FAQ's

What is the Humane Society's Summer Camp All About?

HS Summer Camp is a place where children can come together to connect with new friends and animals. Games, crafts, activities as well as visits from special animal guests encourage children to develop skills including compassion and empathy. We do this by encouraging your child to have fun and explore through hands-on learning opportunities, some of which involve animals.

Our Kitchener summer camp is held primarily outdoors, in all temperatures. Our Stratford camp is held primarily indoors.

How old does my child have to be?

We offer day camps for children aged 6 – 12. Your child will need to have turned 6 prior to the start of camp

Will my 12-year-old be in a group with a 6-year-old?

Not always – children are split into different groups by their age, and the curriculum differs depending on your child's age. All age groups will be together during presentations, bussing to field trips, breaks, and some camp-wide games.

*If you would like two campers to be in the same group, it MUST be requested prior to the camp start date by contacting the Community Programs Manager. Please note, we are not able to accommodate fitting more than 3 requested campers in together in the same group. Once camp begins, group changes will not be made.

How much is one week of camp?

Our camp rates are as follow:

\$300/week for 5 day weeks

\$240/week for 4 day weeks (There will be no camp on the Civic Holiday)

Refund Guidelines:

15 days or more prior to camp start – 10% program fee deducted, per participant.

14 days' notice or less for refund – 50%

Once program has begun – no refund

Where is the camp located?

Kitchener Camp is located at 250 Riverbend Dr, in Kitchener, ON. This camp is entirely outdoors in our park-like setting (we do have an event tent for shelter).

Stratford Camp is located at 125 Griffith road, Stratford, ON.

What are the hours of camp? Do you have before and after care?

Camp begins at 9:00am and ends at 4:00pm. Early drop off begins at 8:40am. Late pickup is from 4:00pm until 4:30pm. Campers picked up between 4:30pm and 5:00pm will be charged an “extended care” for a fee of \$10. This fee is due at the time of service and should be given directly to the Camp staff.

How can I prepare for camp?

If your child does not have closed toed shoes, they must be purchased prior to camp. Send your child with one or two water bottles (one frozen is a good idea) and a hat, and teach your children to apply sunscreen/bug spray. Go over the rules of camp (found in parent handbook), and make sure that they understand the behaviour that is expected at camp. Educate your camper on COVID-19 regulations, how to be safe around others, and that we keep our hands to ourselves at all time.

What will my child do all day?

A typical camp day begins with sign in, and the children break into their groups for a day of fun. Morning normally involves a tour of the centre, physical activity, an animal visit, time for playing games, educational activities as well as a mid-morning snack break. Afternoons are similar in structure with a craft, educational activities, a second snack break, and time for fun and games. Throughout the week, campers can also look forward to presentations by other organizations and the opportunity to engage in special activities with animals. Due to the nature of the Humane Society operations and the animals we receive, availability of appropriate animals for campers to visit varies from day to day. We strive to provide every child with a positive experience around a variety of animals, however, stress on our centre animals is also closely monitored by our staff and volunteers.

What is an animal interaction? Does my child get to pet, hold or feed the animals?

Most children who come to HS Summer Camp are very good with animals and passionate about caring for them. We completely understand your child’s desire to hold an animal or to interact with a specific animal in the shelter. Unfortunately, not all animals have a temperament that makes them a good candidate for camp. Also, asking an animal to be held by so many campers is not a fair demand to make of many of the animals in our care. Please keep in mind when considering animal interactions that we must carefully balance the experience of our campers with the best interests of our animals. We select animal interactions that will provide a quality experience for our campers while keeping our animal’s well-being in mind. Some days, we may not interact with animals at all, if none are appropriate. We aim to always have guest presenters that have animals to interact with.

How many weeks can my child attend?

There is no restriction on how many weeks any child may attend and enjoy camp. While we attempt to change curriculum and theme from week to week, children returning for several weeks should be prepared to repeat some activities and presentations.

My child has some special needs – can you accommodate?

Our camp is able to accommodate many different needs. That being said, for safety reasons, due to the location of the camp (outdoors, close to main roads and the Grand River), as well staff ratios and the needs of our animals, there are certain behaviours and needs which we cannot accommodate. In addition, we do not have the ability to dedicate the attention of a single staff member to an individual camper. If a camper required supervision because of behaviour, or other concerns, our ability to properly care for other campers becomes compromised. Please contact the Community Programs Manager before registering to make sure that our camp is the right fit for your child.

My child is frightened of certain animals; will those be at camp?

It is possible that a child may be frightened or uncomfortable around a certain animal. We recognize that not all children are comfortable around every animal, and at no point will a camper be forced to interact with an animal. The Humane Society team addresses fear of animals by providing education about that animal species. In many cases, children have overcome fears at our camp, even petting or holding the animals they were once frightened of!

Is Animaniacs a nut-free camp?

Campers are asked not to bring nut products to camp, however, our staff are not in a position to inspect lunches or take food away from our campers if a parent does pack nut products. We also cannot guarantee that the food used at the Humane Society for our animals is nut free.

Will my child come home begging for a pet?

It is possible that your child will meet an animal at camp that they would like as a pet, however, we do not push pet ownership on anyone, nor do we ask campers to adopt. The Humane Society promotes responsible pet ownership and our program focuses not just on exposing children to animals, but also showing them how much work caring for an animal can be.

If you have any questions regarding camp, please feel free to contact our Community Programs Manager, Kathleen McCaughey, at kathleen.mccaughey@kwsphumane.ca, or by calling 519-745-5615 ext 233