

Summer Critter Camp FAQ

The Guelph Humane Society's Summer Critter Camp happens each summer in July and August. Each week campers will learn all about the Humane Society, proper animal care and how they can help animals in our community, all while developing compassion and empathy for all living things! Children will have the opportunity to meet animals, make crafts, participate in animal-themed activities, and connect with new friends!

How old does my child have to be to attend camp?

To attend our Summer Critter Camp, campers must be entering Grades 1-8 in September 2020, and attend the camp week designated for their age group.

Where is camp located?

Camp is located at the Guelph Humane Society at 500 Wellington Street West, in Guelph, ON. In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, **2020 Summer Critter Camp will be held primarily outdoors** in the green space surrounding our facility. For certain activities and if weather is extreme, we will be moving camp indoors to our Humane Education room.

How much is one week of camp?

The cost for this program is \$283.00 (tax included) per full week and \$226.00 for short weeks (i.e. 4-day weeks - there will be no camp on Canada Day or Civic Holiday).

What are the camp hours? Do you offer before or after care?

Camp runs from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Our camp doors will open at 8:55 am for regular drop-off, and pick-up must be promptly at 4:00 pm. Before and after care is available **at a cost of \$5 per half hour, per child, per day** and can be purchased online. Before care runs from 8:00 am-9:00 am, and after care from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm.

How many weeks can my child attend?

There are no restrictions to how many weeks a child may attend camp. However, it is important to note, that while we attempt to change curriculum from week-to-week, children returning for several weeks should be prepared to repeat some activities and lessons.

The camp I want to get my child into is full, is there a waiting list?

Absolutely! If any of our programs or camps are full and you wish to register, please email programs@guelphhumane.ca to join our wait list. Please be aware that our programs are extremely popular and we do not frequently have movement on our wait list.

My child is entering Grade 8 this year, will they be in the same group as Grade 1's?

Our Summer Critter Camp runs every week in July and August, alternating each week between our two different age groups (Grades 1-4 & Grades 5-8). During short weeks and the last week of summer, we do however offer registration to all age groups (Grades 1-8).

What will my child be doing at camp?

A typical camp day begins with sign in, and a quick overview of the camp rules and proper hygiene! If it is the first day of camp, campers will be led through a fun icebreaker activity to get to know their fellow campers.

The morning normally involves a short lesson related to the animal-theme for the day (e.g. dogs, cats, wildlife, reptiles, etc.), then campers will break into small groups and care for the small animals here at the shelter (e.g. clean, water, feed). Following a mid-morning snack break, campers will then embark on a tour of our facility and participate in some animal-themed activities including outdoor games (weather permitting) and crafts!

Afternoons are similar in structure with outdoor activities (weather permitting), a snack break, as well as a chance for some animal interactions! Throughout the week, campers can also look forward to presentations from Guest Speakers and an animal-themed field trip.

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

Campers will have the opportunity to interact up-close with a variety of animals here at the shelter. Each interaction, however, will be different depending on the temperament and likes of that animal. Some animals may not like being picked up, so interactions will be limited to gentle petting while that animal is on the ground. Furthermore, while 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. We select animal interactions that will provide a quality experience for our campers while keeping our animal's well-being in mind.

My child is frightened by certain animals, will those be at camp?

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. Through our educational programming, our Humane Educators do however address fear of animals by providing education about animal species.

What does my child need to bring to camp?

Every day, your child needs to bring the following items with them:

- A full **reusable water bottle**
- Indoor & Outdoor closed-toe shoes. Please note, sandals of any kind are **not** permitted at Critter Camp.
- Outdoor clothing (appropriate for the weather).
- A full lunch with snacks. Food is not provided at Critter Camp. Please note, we are **not** a nut-free facility.
- Hand sanitizer, if possible
- Face Mask
- Sunscreen (non-spray only)
- An extra pair of socks
- Any medication needed (please notify Jenelle White, Volunteer & Education Coordinator, if your camper is bringing medication).
- A backpack with the above and anything else they need in it!

Campers are not to bring:

- Phones, iPods, iPads, gaming devices, cameras or electronic devices. We cannot guarantee the safety of these belongings.
- Toys that could be misplaced or lost.
- Fidget spinners or fidget cubes. These are not safe for use around animals.

What precautions are being taken with respect to COVID-19?

Rest assured we are taking all necessary precautions here at the Guelph Humane Society to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, members of the public and especially our campers who will be joining us this summer. This includes:

- Encouraging regular handwashing among staff, volunteers, guests and campers. The Guelph Humane Society has handwashing stations available in our 2 public washrooms, the Cat Adoption room, as well as in the Humane Education room where our campers will be gathered.
- Encouraging proper hygiene, including proper and frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and discouraging face touching.
- Disinfecting surfaces frequently. During this time, the Guelph Humane Society will be disinfecting all work areas on a daily basis. Public use areas will be disinfected on a more frequent basis, including the Humane Education room where camp will be run. Parents can be assured that the Humane Education Room will be disinfected each day before campers arrive.

- Prioritizing outdoor and low contact activities in order to maintain physical distancing. In instances when physical distancing is not possible, campers will be asked to wear face coverings. **We are asking all campers to pack their own face mask, if possible.**
- Minimizing sharing of high touch materials, such as art supplies. At the beginning of each week, each camper will be provided with an individually labelled storage container with their own set of supplies to use for the week (e.g. safety scissor, paint brush, glue stick, etc.) and where they can keep their belongings.
- If you or your child feel sick, or if there is a chance that you or your child may have been exposed to the virus, **please stay home.** The Guelph Humane Society will accommodate all refunds following our Refund Policy which can be found online here: <https://guelphhumane.ca/education/camp/>.
- The Guelph Humane Society reserves the right to send children home from camp who are exhibiting any signs of illness in order to protect the health and safety of other campers, volunteers and staff.
- Due to a limited supply, **we are asking all campers to pack their own hand sanitizer, if possible.**

What happens if camp is cancelled due to COVID-19?

As the COVID-19 pandemic develops, the Guelph Humane Society is staying on top of recommendations made by public health and all levels of government. If the situation requires GHS to cancel Summer Critter Camp, we will waive the 20% administration fee and all cancelled registrations will be refunded in full.

If you have any further questions regarding camp, please feel free to contact our Volunteer & Education Coordinator, Jenelle White, at programs@guelphhumane.ca.