

# March Break Critter Camp FAQ

The Guelph Humane Society's March Break Critter Camp runs daily March 14<sup>th</sup>-March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Through games, crafts, presentations, guest speakers, and with the help of some furry 4-legged friends, children will learn all about the important work we do here at GHS, proper animal care, how to be a responsible pet owner, animal behaviour, and so much more!

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

To attend our Critter Camp, campers must be in Grades 1-8, and attend the camp day designated for their age group.

## Where is camp located?

Camp is located at the Guelph Humane Society's brand-new facility at **190 Hanlon Creek Boulevard, in Guelph, ON**. In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, we will be running our 2022 March Break Critter Camp at a **reduced capacity** to ensure ample space for physical distancing in our Community Room.

## How much is one week of camp?

The cost for this program is **\$75.00 (tax included) per day**.

## 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 8:50 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 days can my child attend?

There are no restrictions to how many days a child may attend our March Break Critter Camp. However, it is important to note, that while we attempt to change curriculum from day-to-day, children returning for several days should be prepared to repeat some activities (ex. Introduction to GHS, shelter tour).

## 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](mailto: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.



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

Our March Break Critter Camp runs every day over March Break, alternating each day between our two different age groups (Grades 1-4 & Grades 5-8).

## **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! Campers will then be led through a fun icebreaker activity to get to know their fellow campers.

The morning normally involves a brief overview of the important work we do here at GHS, before embarking on a tour of our facility. Following a mid-morning snack break, campers will then participate in activities, games, and crafts related to the animal-theme for the day (e.g. dogs, cats, wildlife, reptiles, etc.).

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

## **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.



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## 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**.
- 3-layer Face Mask
- 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:

- Requiring proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for all campers, staff, and volunteers. Upon arrival to the GHS for all camp programs, a parent/guardian must present the child or youth participant's valid COVID-19 vaccine certificate.
- Requiring all campers, staff, and volunteers, to complete daily pre-screening before arrival at camp.
- Encouraging regular handwashing among staff, volunteers, guests and campers. The Guelph Humane Society has handwashing stations available in our 4 public washrooms, animal adoption rooms, as well as in the Community Room where our campers will be gathered.
- Encouraging proper hygiene, including proper and frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and discouraging face touching.



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- 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 Community Room where camp will be run. Parents can be assured that the Community Room will be disinfected each day before campers arrive.
- Prioritizing low contact activities in order to maintain physical distancing. When indoors and in instances when physical distancing is not possible outdoors, campers will be required 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 day, campers will be provided with an individually labelled storage container with their own set of supplies to use for the day's activities (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.

## 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 our camp program, 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](mailto:programs@guelphhumane.ca).**