



Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Summer Camp FAQs

What should my child bring each day?

- Lunch, two light snacks, and plenty to drink—all packed with an icepack
- Sweatshirt (our air-conditioning can be very cool)
- Sunblock and sunhat
- Label everything with your child's name

Please leave all electronics at home. If your child brings a cell phone, it will need to be turned off during camp.

What should my child wear each day?

Please make sure your child wears comfortable, washable clothing. We will be inside and outside, handling different animals and doing craft activities which may be messy. Shelter staff members often wear jeans and T-shirts. Closed-toe shoes are a must. We strongly recommend long pants for those in Dog Days camp.

Will my child spend most of the day working directly with animals?

We hope to teach children about animal care, safe animal handling, and all aspects of animal welfare. We want our campers to have a safe, fun experience while preventing any undue stress to our resident animals. We will handle different animals every day, depending on the current population of adoptable animals. Some animals simply cannot handle the attention of multiple children at a time, and we endeavor to teach the children to respect the needs of each individual animal. Some staff pets or “Shelter Graduates” may also join us for certain camp activities.

What if my child has allergies?

Please indicate any allergies your child has on page 2 of the registration form. Contact us if you have concerns. Children will come into contact with:

- cats
- dogs
- hay
- peanut butter
- and other common allergens.

Can my child attend more than one camp this summer?

This summer, children in 5th/6th grade can enroll in both Shelter Buddies II and Dog Days. Of course, we hope to see repeat campers next summer as well!

Can my child bring our pet to camp?

No. We ask that you leave your family's pet(s) at home.

What if our home has a different viewpoint than the League?

The League handles more than 3,500 stray and owned animals every year. As a shelter, we hope to explain the best way to care for companion animals and to keep animals in their homes. For example, we recommend that all dogs and cats wear collars with identification tags. We encourage adopting pets rather than purchasing them. We support spaying and neutering of most companion cats, dogs and rabbits and generally believe that breeding of companion animals should be practiced only by those who practice sound breeding practices. We advise that pets should only be outdoors under the immediate supervision of their owner. Each family may have different feelings about pets and their care. While we respect each family's decision, part of our goal is to promote what proactive, informed shelters agree is best for most companion animals.

Can my children stay after camp each day?

Children under adult supervision can visit the Adoption Department after camp has ended. Interaction with the animals will follow any policies established by the Adoption Department for the welfare of our animals. We are closed for animal viewing on Wednesdays.

Can my child bring a camera?

Flash photography can be unsettling to our shelter residents. In an effort to limit stress on shelter animals, we ask that you leave cameras at home.

What can my child do to help the shelter? Can my child volunteer?

Our website has a list of items used at the shelter, and you can contact us for a list of project ideas for kids/scouting troops. We are currently working to establish more youth programs. Keep watch on our website for new opportunities for kids!

What if my child wants to be in the same session as his/ her friend?

Although we will try to accommodate such requests, we cannot guarantee that friends will be in the same session.

Do you have other questions? Please contact Suzanne D'Alonzo at 703.838.4774, ext. 249 or sdalonzo@alexandriaanimals.org. She is happy to help!