



Lexington Humane Society

2026 Critter Camp Handbook

ABOUT LEXINGTON HUMANE SOCIETY

Founded in 1889 by J. William Sayre, the Lexington Humane Society (LHS) is a 501(c)3 organization solely dependent on private donations, grants and community support. We receive no operating support from the government or national animal welfare groups, including Humane World for Animals (formerly HSUS) or the ASPCA.

Among other things, LHS is the largest pet adoption agency in Central Kentucky, we educate the community on responsible pet care and the compassionate treatment of all animals, and we spay/neuter the pets of qualifying families at a low cost.

Simply stated, we Give Love, Teach Love, and Adopt Love.

For more information, visit www.lexingtonhumanesociety.org

EDUCATION CONTACT

- ❖ Allison Hall
- ❖ ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org
- ❖ 859-233-0044 (ext.265)





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LOCATION

Camps will be held at Lexington Humane Society, located at 1600 Old Frankfort Pike in Lexington. Since camp begins before the shelter opens to the public, the camp entrance will differ from the main entrance to adoptions. Please enter through the double doors on the back side of the building. See photo below.



TIME

Camp begins at 9am and ends at 12pm, Monday through Friday. Doors will open no more than 15 minutes prior to the start of camp each day and close 15 minutes after camp. If campers need drop off and/or pick up at 8:30AM to 12:30PM, please see the Late Pick Up and/or Early Drop Off Package. If camper is not enrolled in that package and is not picked up/dropped off within designated hours, the extended care fee (\$10) will be applied for each day.



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DROP OFF AND PICK UP

To ensure the safety of our campers, identification is required for camper pick up. All individuals authorized to pick up must be indicated in the registration form filled out prior to the start of camp. We appreciate your patience when completing the drop-off and pick-up process.

Camp doors will open at 8:45am. Pick-up ends at 12:15pm. If campers are not picked up within designated hours, the extended care fee (\$10) will be applied.

DRESS CODE

To prevent accidental scratches during animal interactions, all campers must wear closed-toe shoes and long, thick pants. Leggings and yoga pants are not permitted. Since campers spend time outdoors each day, we also encourage the application of sunscreen and bug spray prior to camp each morning.

CAMP REFUND POLICY

- 75% refund 20 days or more prior to the first day of camp.
- 50% refund 15 days prior to the first day of camp.
- 25% refund 8 days prior to the first day of camp.
- No refunds will be issued 7 days or fewer prior to the first day of camp.



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LUNCH AND SNACK

Lunch is not provided by Lexington Humane Society. With camp only being from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Campers are permitted to bring their own snack if one is needed within that timeframe.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

Completion of camp registration includes an agreement to our program waiver that gives Lexington Humane Society permission to take and use, without limitation or obligation, photographs, video/audio recordings that include your child's image/voice for marketing purposes.

CAMERAS/PHONES

Phones are permitted at camp but must remain on silent mode and put away unless given permission from a camp counselor to use for an activity.

Cameras (or phones that may be used as cameras) may be carried, but can only be used when instructed by a staff member. Behind-the-scenes photos are not permitted to be taken or shared as they could interfere with ongoing animal investigations. If at any time the camera or phone becomes a distraction or is not being used appropriately, campers will be asked to put it away and not use it for the remainder of the day. If the item continues to cause a problem, camp counselors reserve the right to remove access to the item until the end of the day.

Lexington Humane Society is not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged.



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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ALLERGIES

Lexington Humane Society strives for inclusivity with all programming. Upon registration, parents are asked to report any special considerations a camper may have. This information helps camp staff understand the needs of your child and allows them to prepare accordingly.

Safety is our number one priority; so please consider the following:

- The Lexington Humane Society campus houses around 250-500 animals with partner organization, LFACC. Our camps incorporate animals in a variety of activities daily. If your child is uncomfortable with loud noises, strong smells, or has a severe allergy to animals this may not be the recommended camp for them.
- The animals in our care are provided daily enrichment that includes peanut butter. We cannot ensure that campers will not come in contact with surfaces that have trace amounts. For this reason, we do not recommend that children with severe peanut allergies attend camp.
- We try our best to accommodate special considerations, but we are unable to provide one-on-one instruction to campers. If this is something that your child needs, we ask that you provide an aide to assist during the camp day. In these situations, please notify us in advance.
- Lexington Humane Society encourages parents with specific questions about the campus or facility to schedule a tour with a staff member. You can do this by contacting Allison Hall at ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org.



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ANIMAL SAFETY PROTOCOL

Campers will have the ability to interact with animals during each camp day. While Lexington Humane Society does its best to provide a calm environment for the animals in our care, we recognize that shelters may cause elevated stress in some animals. If a camper is acting in a way that is unsafe or adds additional stress to the animals in our care, we may reduce their animal interaction time, or in extreme cases, prohibit such interactions altogether. Campers will be addressed using positive behavior management techniques; however, if inappropriate behavior continues, parents may be asked to pick up the camper early. A camper may be asked not to return to camp if the behavior does not improve. In these situations, Lexington Humane Society will not issue a refund for camp time missed.

Animals in our care are provided with consistent veterinary care, including receiving vaccinations upon arrival. However, due to incubation periods, not all diseases are able to be detected immediately. For this reason, we ask that all campers change out of camp clothes and wash hands prior to interacting with personal pets to reduce the risk of disease transfer.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: My child has allergies. Will that affect their attendance in your programs?

A: Lexington Humane Society houses a wide variety of domesticated animals. The species interacted with during a program constantly changes based upon shelter population. If your child has a severe allergy to any domesticated animals, it is recommended that they do not visit the shelter. If your child has mild allergies, they are more than welcome to participate in a program, and choose to sit out/observe from afar during specific animal interactions. The animals in our care receive daily enrichment that includes peanut butter. We cannot guarantee that participants will not come into contact with surfaces or animals that may have trace amounts of peanut butter. For this reason, we do not recommend that children with severe peanut allergies participate in our programs. For any other allergy concerns, please contact us in advance of the program date.

Q: Do all programs include animal interactions?

A: Excluding the Virtual Field Trip program, all other education participants will have the ability to have hands-on interactions with animals. However, please note that if a participant is acting in a way that is unsafe or adds additional stress to the animals in our care, we may reduce their animal interaction time, or in extreme cases, prohibit such interactions altogether.

Q: My child is under 5. What programs can they participate in?

A: For safety and liability reasons, our education programs are designed exclusively for children ages 5 and up. We always welcome family visits to our adoption center during our business hours.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: What is your refund policy for programs?

A: Our refund policies are slightly different for each individual program.

- For our camp refund policy:
 - 75% refund 20 days or more prior to the first day of the program.
 - 50% refund 15 days prior to the first day of the program.
 - 25% refund 8 days prior to the first day of the program.
 - No refunds will be issued 7 days or fewer prior to the first day of camp.
- For classroom visits, field trips, and tours no refunds will be issued for cancellations within 7 days of the program's start date.

Q: What types of animals will my children be interacting with when participating in your programs?

A: Each year, Lexington Humane Society impacts the lives of thousands of animals. As such, our animal population is constantly changing. Animals chosen for education program interactions will be selected based upon health and temperament, and primarily consist of dogs, cats, and small exotics.

Q: The program I am interested in is full. Will you be adding more sessions?

A: Yes! We are constantly updating the website with new program opportunities. You can also always add your name to [the waitlist](#) for Critter Camp, in the event of any cancellations.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: What should I wear to attend a LHS education program?

A: In order to prevent accidental scratches during animal interactions, all participants must wear closed-toe shoes and long, thick pants. We ask that you do not wear flip flops/sandals, shorts, and yoga pants/leggings. Due to the nature of program activities and animal interactions, we advise wearing clothes that you do not mind getting dirty.

Q: What if my child/student needs alternative accommodations?

A: Lexington Humane Society aims for inclusivity in all programming. To ensure your child/student has an enjoyable experience, please notify Allison Hall at ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org of any considerations such as accessibility, anxiety, sound/smell sensitivities, etc. This information helps our staff understand the needs of your child and allows them to prepare accordingly. We try our best to accommodate all considerations, provided that they do not have a negative impact upon our animal residents and fellow program participants.

Q: How will I know my registration is complete?

A: When your registration is complete, you will receive an automated confirmation email. If you have any questions after filling out the registration form you can reach out directly to Allison Hall at ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: My child is attending the same camp as a friend or sibling. Will they be together during camp?

A: If you would like your child to be grouped with a friend or sibling during camp, please be sure to notify us. We will do our best to provide opportunities where they will be grouped together, but we cannot guarantee that for every activity.

Q: Am I allowed to bring my personal pet to camp when picking up my child?

A: Lexington Humane Society is home to several small animals that can be easily startled. For this reason, we do not permit visiting pets at camp; but feel free to bring pictures!

Q: My child needs medications while at camp. What do I need to do?

A: If your child needs special accommodations during camp please notify our team. All medications must be clearly labeled, including non-prescription medication. Please contact Allison Hall directly at ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org to go over the accommodation details. Campers will be required to self-administer all medication under staff supervision.

Additional Questions?

Contact Allison Hall at ahall@lexingtonhumanesociety.org