



Dear Campers, Parents, and Guardians,

We are excited to be able to offer our first ever Critter Camp for children.

Our goal of camp is to foster respect for animals through engaging activities intended to develop an understanding of the feelings of others, cultivate knowledge, and encourage compassionate and responsible actions. We have been busy making plans for what will prove to be a fun learning opportunity for children and a positive experience for all.

In order to provide a safe, educational environment for all of our campers, we have enclosed information about camp policies and procedures. Please take a moment to review the information. After your child is registered for camp, you will receive a parent packet which includes the following forms needed in order for your child to attend.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Registration Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Waiver and Release of Liability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgement of Camp Policies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photo Release
- \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Received

Your child will not be allowed to participate in camp activities unless ALL forms are completed and turned in prior to the first day of camp.

Thank you for your cooperation. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Melissa Lyons  
Board Member, Humane Society of Raleigh County  
[Rcpets13@yahoo.com](mailto:Rcpets13@yahoo.com)





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### *Location and Time*

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All camp activities will be held at the Humane Society of Raleigh County located at 325 Grey Flats Road, Beckley, WV 25801 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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### *Camp Activities*

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Campers will enjoy activities and games about pets, learn about all sorts of critters, make crafts and have LOTS of fun!

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### *Pick-up and Drop-off Procedures*

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We don't want you to miss out on anything, so please make sure you arrive at camp on time. Flexible drop-off times are between 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Pick-up times are from 3 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. Please be prompt in picking up your child from camp. Extended care hours are available from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. for an additional fee. If you cannot pick up your child until after 3:15 p.m., you will need to register for extended service and pay the additional charge. **We are unable to accommodate campers in the Extended care program who are not registered for Extended care.**

For safety reasons, parents or guardians will be required to sign their child in and out of camp for the day. They must be signed in and out by an authorized adult who is 18 years or older. This adult **MUST SHOW ID** in order to sign out your child and this person must be listed on the *Child Registration* form. If your child makes arrangements to go home with a friend or individual not listed on the release authorization form, we require a note from you informing the camp staff. No child will be allowed to go home with an unauthorized individual without a signed note from a parent or guardian.

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### *Dress Code*

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Please send your child in comfortable clothes which are okay to get dirty. Campers must wear closed-toe shoes. We recommend sneakers. No sandals or flip-flops, please. Each camper will be given a t-shirt. For identification reasons, this shirt must be worn during camp hours. Please send your child in a light-weight shirt that can remain underneath the camp t-shirt. Please have your child apply sunscreen





to exposed skin before camp, as some of the activities will be outdoors. Please be sure to have your child bring sunscreen with them to apply throughout the day. The camper will be responsible for applying the sunscreen him/herself.

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*Lunch and Snacks*

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Lunch and snacks are the responsibility of each camper. We will have a cooler available at camp. HSRC will provide bottled water throughout the camp.

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*What to Bring*

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We suggest that each child bring their belongings in a backpack. Each camper will need to bring lunch and snacks. Optional items include a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a lunch beverage. Please label all personal items with your child's name. The HSRC is not responsible for stolen items.

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*Cell Phone Policy*

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Your child may bring a cell phone with them, but we require it to be in their pack and turned off during camp hours. Calling or texting during camp activities will not be permitted. If you have an emergency and need to contact your child, please call the HSRC at (304) 253-8921.

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*Camp Staff*

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The Critter Camp counselors are employed by the Board of Education as teachers and educators or have received a background check. At least one counselor will be certified in CPR and First Aid Training.

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*Camp Behavior Guidelines*

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We will expect campers to show respect and kindness toward animals, other campers, camp counselors, and HSRC staff and volunteers at all times. Camp counselors will remind campers of the expectations, if needed, and will attempt to redirect a child's actions or behavior into acceptable standards. If this is not working, brief separation from group activities is generally used and any repeated incidents may require removal from camp activities. We will not tolerate disrespectful behavior that may endanger or cause injury to other children, staff, or animals, whether verbal abuse or threatening demeanor. Such actions will be cause for immediate removal from camp. We will not make up any activities missed and NO refunds or credits will be given if your child is absent for any portion of camp, regardless of the reason.

1. Critter Camp is a NO BULLY ZONE!
2. Campers will not pet or touch any animal until invited to do so by the instructor.
3. Campers are expected to help keep the animals and people safe by following instructions given by the Camp Counselors.
4. Campers should ask if they do not understand something or if they need help.
5. Campers are expected to stay with the group at all times and notify a Camp Counselor if they need to use the restroom.
6. Campers should tell a Camp Counselor if they are hurt in any way.

Please discuss these behavior guidelines with your child before coming to camp so he or she is ready to participate upon arrival.

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### *Camp Discipline Policy*

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Disciplinary action may be taken if a camper displays undesirable behavior that interferes with or disrupts the camp program. Examples of this behavior include inappropriate language, making fun or insulting others, bullying, using profanity, harming or frightening the animals, physically harming others, not following directions, or unwelcome actions that make other campers feel uncomfortable.

Consequences to undesirable behavior are as follows:

- First offense: Verbal warning from staff
- Second offense: 10-minute time out; follow-up call to parent/guardian
- Third offense: Removal from camp; no refund will be given in this occurrence.
- In the event of extreme infractions, the HSRC reserves the right to remove a camper from the program immediately without prior warnings.

Every effort is made to accommodate campers with special needs, including campers with behavioral challenges. Parents/guardians of children who need special attention or have behavioral challenges must notify us of the issue in the "additional notes" section of the registration form. Camp staff is trained to manage many common health and behavioral disorders; however, campers with severe behavioral disorders that may continuously interfere with or disrupt the camp program must have an aide present.





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### *Camp Curriculum*

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The camp curriculum emphasizes collaboration, critical thinking, and the exchange of ideas with fellow campers. Campers are encouraged to find solutions to many of the challenges animals face in our society today. All sessions include age-appropriate animal care and behavior learning activities, team projects, games, physical activities, and crafts. The collaborative activities offered at Critter Camp are designed to encourage respect for all living things. Age-appropriate material and modified lesson plans have been created to tailor the curriculum for each grade level.

