



SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Critter is an educational skills-based camp. Throughout the week, campers will explore various learning topics and activities about companion animals, enjoy animal interactions, and participate in guest speaker presentations. Lessons will focus on humane education; teaching kids about animal care, compassion for others, and responsible pet ownership.

Camp Day

The camp day runs from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The schedule for each day varies depending on the activities and guest speakers planned for the day. Campers will start their week with a shelter tour and introduction to Camp Critter. Throughout the week, they will explore various learning topics and activities regarding companion animals, enjoy animal interactions, and take part in guest speaker presentations. Lessons will focus on humane education; teaching campers about animal care, compassion for others, and responsible pet ownership.

Camper Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Camper drop-off runs from 8:15 to 8:30 am at the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire, 545 Route 101, Bedford, NH. Arrive at the **Adoption Center Entrance** and ring the buzzer if a staff member is not there to greet you. Please wait with your camper until their attendance is recorded by camp staff.

Camp pick-up time runs from 12:30 to 12:45 pm at the same location as drop-off. Anyone picking up a camper must be listed on the child's **Authorized Pick-up List and have a valid photo ID.**

Parking Lot and Camp Entrance

When pulling into the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire driveway, please **park in the front lot** located on the left side of the driveway. The **entrance for camp will be the Adoption Center door** located at the front of our building. A Camp Critter sign will be located at this entrance as well indicating the correct pick-up/drop-off location.



Front Entrance and Parking for Camp Drop-off

Authorized Pick-Up List

Your child's safety is important to us. Parents/guardians must provide staff with a **list of authorized individuals** responsible for the pick-up of their child at the time of registration. Written permission must be provided for alternative pick-ups. All individuals must show a valid photo ID at the time of pick-up to verify their identity.

Absences

If your child will not be attending for a day, please notify staff of their absence by calling the Humane Education Line at (603) 472-3647 ext. 109 or by emailing campcritter@rescueleague.org.

Unfortunately, there will be no make-up days available for absences due to the limited camp schedule.

Sick Camper Policy

Please do not send your child to camp if they are sick and/or running a fever. If a child becomes ill at camp, a parent or person authorized to pick up will be contacted to pick up your child immediately.

Children must be symptom-free for at least 24 hours before returning to camp. A doctor's note may be required. Medical reasons for your child to stay at home include but are not limited to:

- A temperature of 100.4 or more
- Any cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms
- Persistent nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Heavy nasal or eye discharge
- Any questionable rash or skin condition: This can include chicken pox, poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, etc.
- Any communicable disease: this can include conjunctivitis, lice, etc.

If a camper becomes ill at camp, the camper's Medical History Form will be reviewed and referred to. If the camper has a history of a specific illness, steps will be taken according to the parent/guardian guidelines that are appropriate for camp staff to handle. In the absence of specific instructions, the camper will be offered rest

and fluids while a call to the parent/guardian is made. The parent/guardian will always be notified immediately about serious illness or injury.

Camper Medications

The Animal Rescue League of NH Staff are not permitted to administer medication to children. Campers should take medications before arrival.

If your child needs to take medication while at camp, *even an over-the-counter medication such as an antihistamine*, you will need to provide a doctor's prescription listing the medication, dosage amount, and dosage frequency. We will also need a signed permission slip from the parent/guardian for staff to supervise the camper's self-administered use of medications. Sunscreen and bug spray must be provided by the parent/guardian.

Campers that require epinephrine/EpiPens and/or asthma inhalers will need to keep these items in their possession. Please label EpiPens and/or inhalers with the camper's full name.

First Aid/ Injury

A first aid kit shall be readily available in the area where Camp participants will be. First aid kit supplies will include, but not be limited to sterile gauze pads, gauze rolls, triangular bandages, adhesive bandages, medical tape, cold compresses, medical scissors, tweezers, examination gloves, alcohol pads, and antiseptic towelettes. Minor injuries will be treated with basic first aid and the parent/guardian will be informed upon pick-up. In case of an emergency or major injury involving a camper, the parent or guardian will be notified immediately. If the Humane Educator or camp staff feel the severity of the situation dictates, they will contact emergency services. The Humane Educator is **First Aid/CPR/AED certified through the American Red Cross**.

Any injury will be reported via the Incident Report form. A copy will be sent home with the child's parent/guardian and a copy will be kept in the camper's file.

What does my camper need each day?

- Appropriate Attire: **Please dress your child appropriately** each day with weather and animal interactions in mind. Your child might benefit from packing an extra change of clothes.
- Camp T-Shirts: **Campers are encouraged to wear their Camp Critter t-shirt** each day so that they are easily identifiable by staff and volunteers.
- Footwear: **Campers are required to wear closed-toed shoes**, preferably sneakers. For safety reasons, crocs and/or sandals are not appropriate footwear. Campers may be sent home or be unable to participate in some activities if they are not wearing appropriate footwear.
- Sunscreen: It is advised that campers **apply sunscreen prior to camp** with the potential for outdoor activities. They are welcome to bring additional sunscreen with them but will need to be able to self-apply.
- Campers should bring a snack and water bottle with them each day. Please see the *Food & Snack Time* section below for more information.
- Please remember to **label all personal items**. *ARLNH is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.* Please do not send campers with stuffed animals, toys, blankets, or other items from home. Electronics are not allowed to be used at camp.

Food & Snack Time

ARLNH will provide campers with a designated mid-morning snack time. **Food will not be provided**, please send your child with a snack they can enjoy. We are unable to heat up and refrigerate food so please make sure they can be stored and eaten at room temperature. We recommend sending your child with a water bottle each day, however **ARLNH will have water bottles onsite**.

Food Allergy Warning: ARLNH can not guarantee that campers will not come into contact with peanut butter. Peanut butter is often used with animals for training and enrichment purposes. Furthermore, ARLNH can not guarantee that other camper's snacks will be nut-free.

Behavioral Policy

The Animal Rescue League of NH camp staff are not trained to handle all emotional and behavioral conditions. **If your child requires a one-on-one teacher or aide at school, then you must provide an aide for them to attend camp with to help them best succeed.** We do not have the staff to provide constant individual attention for each child. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that **provided aides undergo a background check before the start of camp.**

If your child is a danger to themselves, other campers, staff, or animals, the child may be asked to leave. We have a zero-tolerance policy with violence and any child who becomes violent will be asked to leave and not return.

Discipline Policy

Camp staff will attempt to resolve all conflicts or discipline issues quickly so that campers may stay involved in camp activities. Any serious or persistent problems will be brought to the attention of the parent/guardian promptly. Offenses will be documented by camp staff.

- **First Offense:** Camper will receive a verbal warning from camp staff explaining the inappropriate behavior. Depending on the behavior, the parent/guardian may be consulted.
- **Second Offense:** Camper will be removed from the activity and will discuss behavior choices with camp staff. Camper will have the opportunity to return to the activity after processing with staff. The parent/guardian will be consulted about the behavior.
- **Third Offense:** Camper will be removed from the activity and be asked to relocate to an alternative calm-down space for the remainder of the activity. The parent/guardian will be contacted to notify them of this step.
- **More Than Three Offenses:** The parent/guardian will be called and asked to remove their child from camp immediately.

Each day, the camper will begin with a clean slate. However, any step in the discipline policy may be skipped if the incident is considered severe by camp staff. Discipline may include permanent removal from the program.

Camp Critter Background Check Policy

Purpose:

The Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire (ARLNH) Camp Critter background check policy is designed to ensure that no camp staff member or volunteer has a criminal conviction for any offenses for causing or threatening direct physical injury to any individual or causing or threatening harm of any nature to any child.

Background Check:

All Humane Education Camp Staff and volunteers who will be left alone with children will have the following completed annually:

1. A background check completed via Criminal History Record Forms submitted to the New Hampshire State Police.
2. A check of the National Sex Offender Public Registry

Requirements:

For any volunteer or camp staff who is younger than 18 years old who will be left alone with youth, the background check policy shall require the minor to provide a minimum of 2 written references to ARLNH. One reference shall be from a non-relative. The references shall attest to:

1. Their knowledge of the minor's character
2. Whether the minor has caused or threatened to cause direct physical injury to any other individual or harm of any nature to any child or children.

Until the requirements of He-C 40004.05 are met, the Camp Director will ensure that staff members will not be employed or volunteer until the background check has been completed.

ARLNH will prohibit any staff member or volunteer who has not been subject to the required background check from working directly with any youth(s) unless a staff member for whom the background check has been completed is also present.

ARLNH will post the Camp Critter Background Check Policy on the Camp Critter page of its website, www.rescueleague.org.

ARLNH will maintain an up-to-date listing of all staff members who are in a position such that it is possible they could be left alone with children, together with the status of their background checks.

Release of Information Regarding Background Checks

1. All background check information will be confidentially maintained by ARLNH
2. ARLNH will provide information as to whether a background check has been completed on camp staff to any parent or guardian of a youth who requests the information

Contact Information

For questions regarding Camp Critter, please contact Carolyn Silva, Humane Educator by emailing campcritter@rescueleague.org or calling (603) 472-3647. Ext. 109.