



generosity breeds joy.

# Camp Handbook

Jacksonville Humane Society  
Adoption, Education and Pet Help Center  
8464 Beach Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
904-725-8766  
[jaxhumane.org](http://jaxhumane.org)

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The Jacksonville Humane Society (JHS) finds loving homes for over 7,000 cats and dogs annually. However, pet adoptions are just one of the many services we offer our community. JHS strives to act as a resource on all companion animal-related issues by providing a range of services including: pet adoptions, low-cost veterinary care at the JHS Animal Hospital, spay/neuter services, a pet foster program for underage or injured cats and dogs, behavior assistance, humane education and a multifaceted resource program to provide community resources aimed at helping individuals facing financial or other crises to keep their pets.

In 2017, the brand new JHS Adoption, Education and Pet Help Center opened. Thanks to generous funding from The Jim Moran Foundation, we are proud to present our many children's education programs including Pawsitive Reading and a variety of day and week camps throughout the year.

If you would like to schedule a one-on-one, behind-the-scenes tour of the JHS facility with our Director of Development during camp drop-off and pick-up times, please contact Theresa Scordo at [tscordo@jaxhumane.org](mailto:tscordo@jaxhumane.org).



**THE**  
**JIM MORAN** FOUNDATION  
 "THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT."

### Education Office Contact

Phone	904.725.8766 ext. 4573
Email	<a href="mailto:events@jaxhumane.org">events@jaxhumane.org</a>

## Camp Hours

Unless otherwise stated, camp hours are as follows:

Half-Day: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Full Day: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop off and pick up begin 10 minutes before and after camp hours.

Extended care is from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

## Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

Camp will begin and end each day in the multi-purpose room (MPR) of the JHS Adoption, Education and Pet Help Center. Parents must park and walk their children to and from the MPR, located on the second floor. Please use the Adoption and Education entrance. There will be signage to guide you. We ask that you go straight upstairs, as our Adoption Center will be closed to the public at the time of drop-off.

To ensure the safety of our campers, an authorized person must sign their child IN and OUT before and after each session.

Anyone picking up a camper must show a photo ID **and** be listed on the registration form, for every day of camp. When registering, please list all approved persons including yourself. Photo ID is not necessary at the time of drop off. We appreciate your patience.

If you need to add a name to the list, the person who originally completed the form must send the name in writing to [events@jaxhumane.org](mailto:events@jaxhumane.org) or call 904.493.4560.

Drop off and pick up begin 10 minutes before and after camp hours. Those who routinely pick up and/or drop off outside of extended care hours will be charged for Extended Care.

Parents who do not pick up by the end of Extended Care (5:15 p.m.) will be charged an additional fee of \$10 up to 15 minutes late, and \$1/minute afterwards.

## Emergency Authorization

In the event of an emergency that requires you to pick up your child early from camp, please call 904.493.4560, 904.493.4606, or 904.493.4566 if possible prior to pick up.

## Dress Code

The best clothes for children to wear are clothes that are comfortable and can get messy. Whether interacting with animals, playing games or completing crafts, children might get dirty. Please send raincoats instead of umbrellas.

**Shoes must cover the foot completely.** This helps to ensure the safety of your child as we encounter many different landscapes on our campus, both indoor and out, and interact with animals. Shoes that expose any skin of the bare foot (Crocs, sandals, flip-flops) or shoes that interfere with walking (heelines) will not be permitted and children will not be allowed to participate.

We encourage campers to wear sunscreen.

## Photography and Recording

The registration form states that you give permission to the Jacksonville Humane Society to use, without limitation or obligation, photographs, film footage, or audio/video recordings that include your child's image or voice for purpose of promoting or interpreting Jacksonville Humane Society programs.

## Water, Snack and Lunches

- Campers are encouraged to bring water bottles (preferably reusable and with straps) to camp.
- Snacks may or may not be provided. Information will be made available at the time of registration.
- Lunch is not provided – all lunches must be brought from home. If a camper forgets a lunch, it should be brought to the camper prior to noon.

## Camp Policies

We ask that all campers adhere to JHS Camp policies and rules at all times so that camp can be an enjoyable and educational experience for all.

Our camps promote compassion for both pets and people, and campers are expected to show kindness and compassion to animals, staff members, fellow campers, volunteers, customers and themselves at JHS. JHS will help campers understand the appropriate ways to behave at JHS and how to appropriately interact with animals.

## JHS Camp Rules

All campers must agree to the following:

As a kid who cares about animals, my community and myself, I will always:

- Be kind to pets and the people who love them
- Listen to and follow directions
- Stay with my group
- Remain calm and quiet in the presence of animals
- Wait my turn
- Speak calmly
- Show respect for the JHS campus and help keep it clean
- Stay safe, learn and have fun!

## Behavior Management

Our staff uses positive behavior management, however, if a camper cannot show appropriate behavior or breaks camp rules, a time-out and removal from the group may occur. If negative or disruptive behavior continues, our staff will contact a parent/guardian to help remedy the situation. We may ask for a child to be picked up early and, in some cases, the child may be asked not to return if behavior does not improve. JHS will not issue refunds for any days missed.

## Interacting with Pets in the Shelter

Campers may have the opportunity to interact with dogs and cats at JHS, depending on factors that would permit an appropriate pet to be available. While JHS does our best to provide a calm, stress-free environment for homeless pets, there are several factors that we are unable to control. This can cause animals in the shelter to experience levels of stress unlike pets who are in homes.

We encourage you to have this discussion with your child prior to camp:

*Cats and dogs at JHS are waiting for their new families. They are in an unfamiliar place. Sometimes when we go to a new place, it can be scary and overwhelming. The staff and volunteers at JHS do a great job at helping them feel more comfortable, and as a camper, that is part of your job, too. Remember that the dogs and cats at JHS might be scared, so you should not run up to them, put your face or hands close to their heads or make a lot of noise. Please listen to your counselors when they tell you how to interact with a dog or cat you are meeting for the first time. They may not act like our pets at home but that is okay, because with your help, they are going to find new homes where they can relax and be comfortable.*

## Camp Checklist

### What to Bring:

- Snack (if not provided)
- Lunch
- Reusable water bottle (with strap)
- Sunscreen/bug spray (please apply before camp)
- Raincoat/poncho (no umbrellas)
- Any medication including epi-pens and inhalers that your child may need. Please see following FAQ section.
- Books are permitted to be used in extended care or during reading to animals.

### What Not to Bring:

- Money or objects of monetary/sentimental value
- See section about phones/cameras below

JHS is not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen or damaged.

### Cameras/Phones:

Phones are permitted at parent's discretion, but phones must remain silent and put away during camp.

Cameras (or phones that may be used as cameras) may be carried, but can only be used when instructed by a staff member. Photos taken behind the scenes may not be posted on social media, websites, blogs, etc.

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, JHS counselors reserve the right to collect the item and return it at the end of the day.

### About the Jacksonville Humane Society

The Jacksonville Humane Society provides care, comfort and compassion to animals in need while engaging the hearts, hands and minds of our community to bring about an end to the killing of abandoned and orphaned shelter animals. More information about the Jacksonville Humane Society is available at [www.jaxhumane.org](http://www.jaxhumane.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### How do I register for JHS Camp?

- You must register online at [jaxhumane.org/kidscamp](http://jaxhumane.org/kidscamp)
- Payment is due at the time of registration
- Registration closes approximately 1 week prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of camp

### What if I need to cancel?

- Cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the camp start date and must be received in writing via email or fax to qualify for a 50% refund. A processing fee may occur for refunds. A charge may occur to change dates after registration is complete.
- The Jacksonville Humane Society will not issue refunds if registered students miss camp dates. The Jacksonville Humane Society reserves the right to cancel camp due to insufficient enrollment. In that case, refunds will be issued.
- JHS will not refund for severe weather unless JHS cancels camp.

### What happens if I need to change my child's camp date?

- A request for a date change must be made at least three weeks prior to the camp start date and must be received in writing via email or fax.
- Date change requests can only be made if space is available.
- JHS reserves the right to charge a date change fee of \$25/camper.

### I only need extended care in the morning or afternoon, not both. Do you pro-rate?

- Extended care is charged per day. At this time, JHS is unable to pro-rate or discount extended care.

### Can I drop off my child late or pick them up early?

- JHS camp has activities all day.
- If you must pick up your child early, or if your child is going to be late, please be sure to tell the counselor/staff in advance of at least one day.

### What's a typical day at camp?

Camp is different each day, but some activities may include:

- Indoor and outdoor games
- Crafts or making toys/items for the animals
- Lessons relating to kids and pets
- Q&A with JHS staff including veterinarians
- Observing medical or surgical procedures in our animal hospital
- Learning to care for pets of all ages, including neo-natal puppies and kittens
- Yoga lead by a certified instructor
- Providing compassionate care to dogs and cats at JHS
- G- or PG-rated videos during a lesson or lunch/extended care

### Who designs your camp curriculum?

- JHS' camp curriculum is written by our in-house education team, composed of Florida state and National Board certified educators with experience in camp directing. We also use a variety of materials available from several nation-wide animal welfare organizations including the ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society and Maddie's Fund. Our camp curriculum is designed to empower children to care for pets not just in their homes, but in our community. Camp is designed to help children have fun while they learn about caring for dogs and cats.

### Who will work with my child at JHS camp?

- All staff or volunteers who work directly with campers will receive a background check from the Department of Children and Families.
- Your child may also interact with JHS staff or volunteers during Q&A sessions, behind-the-scenes tours, etc.
- All counselors and camp employees are interviewed and selected by JHS .

### Will my child get to pet dogs and cats?

- Attempts will be made for campers to work with dogs and cats while attending camp. Due to the nature of our mission, a dog or cat who is suitable to interact with children may not be available on a given day. Not every activity will include animals. The goal of camp is to provide an engaging and exciting educational experience by using a variety of methods.

### How are campers grouped?

- Campers should be registered for the grade they are entering in the fall.
- For summer camps, groups are as follows by grade: K-2, 3-5, 6-8
- For spring and winter break camps, groups are as follows by grade: K-4, 5-8 (this may vary depending upon the number of campers in each grade level)
- For single-day camps, we do not use a grouping system.
- Age grouping may differ due to low enrollment at JHS' discretion.

### Can my child be grouped with a sibling or friend?

- If they are the same age, they will be grouped together.
- If they are different ages, they will be in different groups.
- We reserve the right to cancel the registration of a child registered in a session that doesn't match their age/grade.

### Can you accommodate children with special needs?

- Please complete the space on the registration form to indicate any special needs. The more information you can give us, the better.
- If your child has an IEP, 504b or behavioral plan, please let us know.
- JHS will accommodate physical, academic and social needs to the best of our ability.

- Camps take place in a group setting. Please consider if your child is able to function in a group setting without one-on-one attention prior to registering for camp.
- *Special note about allergies: Camp is not recommended for children with allergies to pets, pet dander or nuts. Camp is held on a campus that houses more than 200 dogs and cats. Dogs are given peanut butter daily and many treats contain nut allergens. For this reason, we do not recommend that children with these allergies attend camps at JHS.*

### **What do I do with my child's medication?**

- If your child has a medical condition that requires medication to be available or taken, you must complete an Allergy Form with doctor's signature and return it prior to the first day of camp.
- All medication must be clearly labeled with the child's name and dosage and brought to camp every day.
- Parents must hand medication to counselor at the time of drop-off and counselors will return medication at the time of pick-up.
- The camp counselor will carry necessary medication with them. Staff will supervise your child taking medication but cannot assist.
- JHS cannot provide any non-prescription medication to your child. If you would like to send non-prescription medication, clearly label it with your child's name, dosage, and timing.
- If your child is sick and at risk of spreading illness to others, we ask that your child stay home.

### **If my child goes to JHS and interacts with dogs and cats, should I worry about my pets at home?**

- JHS takes safety protocol very seriously in order to provide a safe and clean environment for our animals, staff, volunteers and customers. While it is not likely that your child will purposefully encounter sick animals at JHS, we do recommend that children wash hands and change clothing before interacting with pets at home after a day of camp. If you need to update your pet's vaccines, services are available at JHS. Please call 904-493-4611 to make an appointment or visit [jaxhumane.org/hospital](http://jaxhumane.org/hospital) for more information.

### **Is JHS a no-kill shelter? Will you talk about euthanasia?**

- JHS is a non-profit, 501c3 no-kill shelter. This means that we do not receive any government funding and we do not euthanize for space reasons. We work in partnership with the city shelter and provide a variety of community resources to help keep Jacksonville a no-kill city.
- JHS camp curriculum aims to teach children how to provide compassionate care to animals in their homes and communities. It does not focus on euthanasia, although for older children, it may be included in discussion. It may

also be brought up by another camper. JHS staff is trained to handle this discussion in a thoughtful and sensitive manner.

- If you would like help discussing animal welfare to your children, please check the website [education.muttigrees.org/muttigrees-at-home](https://education.muttigrees.org/muttigrees-at-home) for an at-home guide that will pair with camp curriculum.