



KIDS CAMP

2025 HANDBOOK



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General Information

What to Expect

Our day camps are designed for children that love animals and have an interest in becoming a veterinarian or veterinary technician. Our staff and volunteers work with the kids throughout the day on different projects and with different patients. In previous summers these camps were super fun for everybody and we are looking forward to enhancing that experience this summer for our campers.

We will be seeing regular and emergency appointments during the day so the campers get to experience real-life veterinary practice. All of our clients that schedule camp days will have already given authorization for the children to participate in the care of their pets.

This year: we are taking up to four campers each day and they will be seeing appointments, procedures, and surgery throughout the day right alongside our veterinarians and technicians. We bring in rescues and community pets as some of our patients and the kids will learn how to examine our patients, write a medical record and then present their case in Grand Rounds with Dr. Karen. The kids will learn about the basic care, traits, common diseases and healthcare requirements of the different species we see that day.

If we have spare time in between patients you'll find us in the library working with bones and teeth, x-rays, and working on hands on activities, like learning how to suture. We also get the kids involved in the care of our current rescue animals to teach them about appropriate animal care.

Each day of camp is different and the activities we do are based on what animals are coming in for appointments and what animals are in rescue during the camp days. Time permitting the kids may also visit Dr. Allen's farm on the adjacent property to learn about our farm pets.



Learning how to suture



Practicing feline physical exams with Kimchi



Meeting our camp counsellor's horse



Helping with a hoof trim for Peppa the Pig



Assisting in Surgical Prep



Learning to use the microscope

General Information

Sample Schedule

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 10:30-11:00am | Campers Arrival & Orientation |
| 11:00am-12:00pm | Shadow Dr. Allen During Elective Procedures |
| 12:00-12:30pm | Practice Suturing on Practice Pads |
| 12:30 - 1:00pm | Lunch Break |
| 1:00 - 1:30pm | How to Use a Microscope & Viewing Specimens |
| 1:30 - 2:00pm | X-Ray and Imaging Basics |
| 2:00 - 2:30pm | Practice Canine Physical Exams |
| 2:30-3:00pm | Practice Feline Physical Exams |
| 3:00pm | Campers Depart |

General Information

What We Expect

Timely Pick-up and Drop-offs

Our campers must be picked up and dropped off on time. This ensures that our clinic can best serve our clients and patients. This year:

The drop off is 10:30 am

The pick up is 3:00 pm



Prepared & Enthusiastic Campers

Campers should review the attached packing list to ensure they have the right attire to fully and safely participate. Campers should also be prepared to follow the rules outlined in this handbook.



General Information - Packing List



Attire

Our campers will be interacting with clients and animals at the clinic so they need to be dressed in a tidy manner. Please note that their clothes could be damaged or stained during camp. They will need:

- ☐ Close-toed indoor shoes.
- ☐ Rubber boots (for when we work on farm pets)
- ☐ Weather-appropriate outerwear (expect that they will be outside)
- ☐ Hair ties if they have long hair



Food & Drink

During our camp days, there will be a break for lunch and breaks where campers can eat at leisure. Please pack:

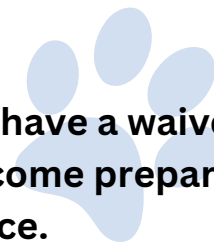
- ☐ Lunch (we have a fridge and microwaves available)
- ☐ Snacks to eat during breaks (we let our campers decide when they need breaks)
- ☐ Water in a close-topped water bottle



Forms

In order to participate each camper must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please have your camper come prepared with a signed waiver or email a copy to Amelia in advance.

- ☐ Waiver signed by legal guardian



Frequently Asked Questions



What is the process for application and registration for camp?

1. Read through the camp handbook to see if our kids camp is a good fit for your child.
2. Fill out the 2025 Kids Camp Application Form that is linked on our website.
3. Wait to hear confirmation of registration from our camp counsellor
4. If your registration has been confirmed the information about payment will be sent to you via email - Camp fees this year are 35\$ and are due by **June 30th**.
5. After you have sent your camp fees your registration is confirmed.



What is the cancellation policy?

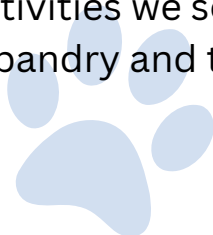
We will fully refund your camp fees up until the week before camp. One week before camp the the camp fees are no longer refundable.

Do we make exceptions to the age limit?

We do not many any exceptions for children below the age of 9, under any circumstances. If your child is above the age of 14 (but under the age of 16) and feels they would enjoy the camp activities they may register with our 12-14 group.

I have children who fall between the age groupings but I would like to schedule them on the same day. How should I register?

If your campers fall between the age categories and they would like to attend together please select the dates that work best for you. However, please understand that activities we schedule for the 9-11 group tend to focus on more animal husbandry and the activities for 12-14 focus more on our clinical cases.



Frequently Asked Questions



Is it a tree-nut/allergen free environment?

No, our clinic is not tree-nut or allergen free. Staff are advised to not bring tree-nut containing lunches on kids camp days. However, it is always a possibility that a client may bring treats for their pet containing peanut butter or other allergens. If your child has an allergy please indicate so in the application and reach out to our camp counsellor to ensure we can accommodate them safely.



Will my child see surgery, blood collection, or deceased animals?

Due to the nature of the work we do in the clinic there is always a possibility of an emergency or circumstances where a child may witness blood, needles, distressed, or deceased animals.

We work incredibly hard ensure our campers do not see deceased or distressed animals - we do this by having a dedicated Kids Camp room, minimizing time the kids spend at the front of the clinic, and we try to schedule our sick patients outside of kids camp hours. Campers are not permitted in appointments where euthanasia is being discussed or in appointments with animals experiencing distress.

We do permit our campers, if they are interested, to watch blood collection and parts of routine surgery. There is always alternative activity options for campers who do not wish to see these procedures. However, we cannot guarantee based on the nature of the work done at the clinic that a child will not see blood or surgery as this is a fully functional veterinary hospital with many staff working with patients.



Meet your Camp Counsellor

About Amelia

Amelia is a University of Alberta student joining us for the summer at the clinic. One of her duties, this summer is to be our designated Kids Camp Counsellor - her other duties are cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning. LOL!



She is super excited about doing this since she was an avid Kid's Camper for many years! Amelia shares her life with a senior rescue Pug named Andy who has many behavioural and health issues but he's living his best life with her, as well as a senior rescue cat named Splat who has feline leukemia, and her horse D'Art.

Amelia is thinking about a career in either pediatrics or veterinary medicine - she is undecided as of yet - so Kids Camp Counsellor is the perfect fit for her.

Camp Rules

No Phones

No smartphones or Apple watches are allowed in the hospital or exam rooms. If a device is brought it must be stored in the break room on silent.

No Photos or Social Media

Absolutely no pictures, stories, or information about patients or clients can be stored on devices or shared on social media without the express permission of the hospital and our clients.

Confidentiality

Client confidentiality means our campers are not allowed to discuss patients or clients by name or identifying characteristics outside of the hospital. We will debrief the campers on this but please do not press them at home for information they are not allowed to share.

Professionalism

The clinic is a professional environment and our campers need to conduct themselves appropriately. This includes:

- No personal discussions within earshot of clients
- No swearing or inappropriate language
- Hands and face must always be clean; teeth brushed
- Hair needs to be neat and tidy; long hair needs to be tied back
- No gum chewing
- Not interrupting a client while they are speaking

Listen to & Follow Instructions

Campers must listen to and follow instructions from their camp counsellor and all other staff or volunteers at the clinic.



Camp Rules

Cleanliness

Cleanliness is extremely important in a vet clinic. Campers are expected to:

- Wear indoor shoes only in the hospital
- Wash hands with disinfectant soap after touching any patients.
- Keep their work areas clean and tidy
- No food in the hospital; eating in the staff room only
- Only use water bottles that are spill-proof on the treatment floor
- Wear caps and masks at all times in the operating room
- Keep doors closed at all times (to prevent any animals from getting loose)

Hands to Yourself

Campers must keep their hands to themselves at all times. They may not touch any equipment or animals without permission from a staff member. This is incredibly important for the safety of our campers.

Three Strike Rule

We review the hospital conduct rules with our campers and we have a three-strike rule: we will correct a camper three times and then the parents will be called and will be expected to pick up their camper immediately.

The hospital rules are for the safety of our patients, campers, staff and volunteers and it is imperative the campers follow these rules.



HLAH CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE

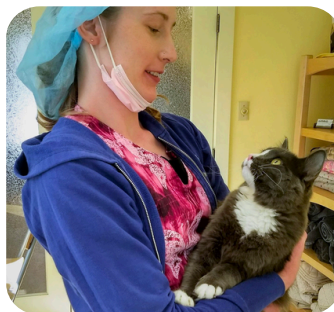
The purpose of our code of conduct is to provide an outline for how we conduct ourselves in our practice. Our practice culture encompasses how we practise medicine, how we care for pets, how we care for clients, how we maintain our facility and how we treat one another. We expect our kid's campers to help uphold the ideals of our clinic during their time in camp.

Gratitude

- We are grateful for the opportunity to have work that is important to us, brings us joy and allows us to serve our communities and pet owners
- We are grateful for every single client that connects with us about caring for their pet whether that be over the phone, over social media or in person
- We are grateful for the opportunity to share our passion and knowledge about veterinary medicine

Respect

- We respect ourselves first and foremost which is reflected in our appearance and our conduct
- We respect the value of each and every life that we are entrusted to care for
- We respect one another, our clients and our community
- We respect the facility, our equipment and our space



HLAH CODE OF CONDUCT



Dignity

- Our goal is to ensure each and every pet and client is treated with dignity throughout each interaction
- We conduct ourselves with dignity



Compassion

- The compassion we feel for our patients is extended to our clients, coworkers and ourselves
- Self compassion is practised daily and supported and encouraged by our coworkers



Professionalism

- We present the ideal treatment plan to each and every client as the first step, modifying the treatment plan to accommodate clients and pets with a wide variety of needs
- We never judge a pet, client or coworker for their actions
- We can say how their actions made us feel but we will not judge
- We do not discuss our clients, patients or coworkers in a negative or judgemental manner in or out of the clinic.





Additional Resources

Veterinary Partner

veterinarypartner.com

Veterinary Partner is a powerful free online resource developed by VIN (Veterinary Information Network) and has an abundance of information and articles on medical topics, care, and behaviour.

Fear Free Happy Homes

fearfreehappyhomes.com

Fear Free Happy Homes is a free online resource with information about alleviating anxiety, fear, and stress in pets.

Alberta Animal Health Source

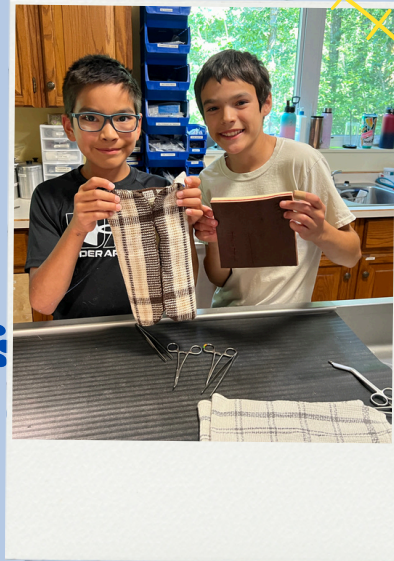
albertaanimalhealthsource.ca

A public resource created by The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA). They have a variety of resources on animal health and provide information about careers available within veterinary medicine.

Purina Farms

purina.com/purina-farms/pet-education-resources

A children's pet education resource designed by Purina focusing on the basics of pet care.



Can't wait for more
exciting days with
our campers!

