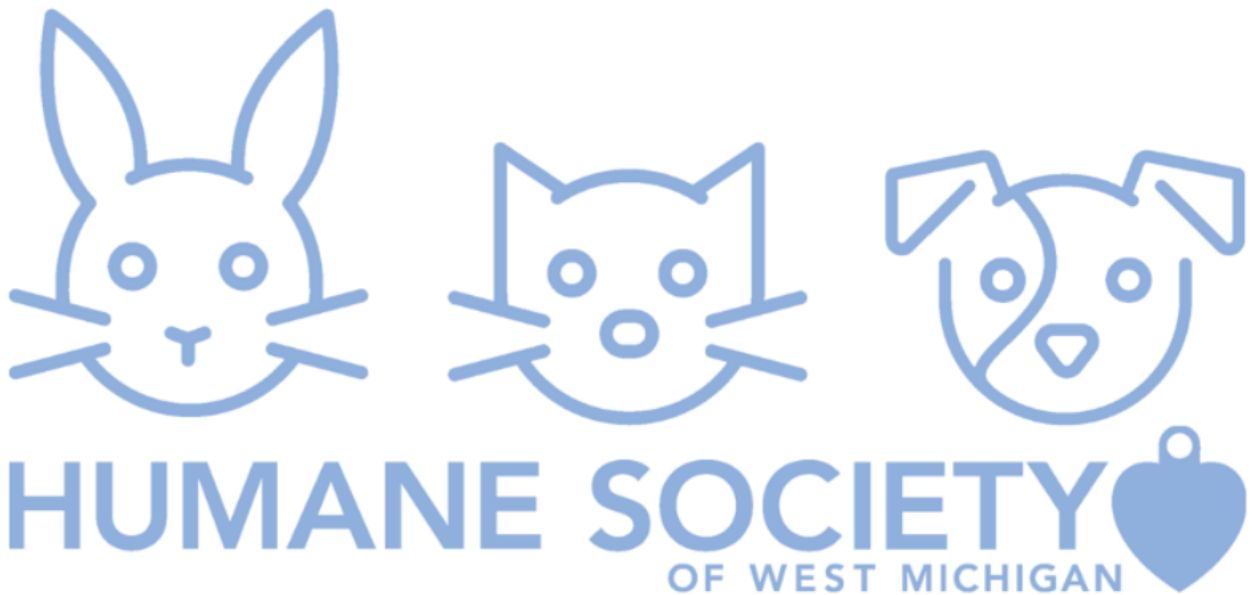


Humane Society of West Michigan
2024 Summer Camp
Information and Policies Handbook



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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49534
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Camp	Dates	Age Range	Description	Cost
Preview Week: Animal Planet	Monday June 3rd 9am-4pm	5-12	*families with multi aged campers *first time and returning campers *individual and group activities	\$50
Preview Week: Media Mutts	Tuesday June 4th 9am-4pm	8-13	*great for extrovert and outgoing campers *small and large groups, mixed media *lots of noise, lights and other stimuli	\$50
Preview Week: Vet Camp	Wednesday June 5th 9am-4pm	11-15	*great for returning campers *sharp tools may be used *surgeries are viewed	\$50
Preview Week: 'Fun'draising	Thursday June 6th 9am-4pm	8-15	*great for new or returning campers *creative kids will love this *individual and group activities	\$50
Kids Week Out	Mon-Thurs June 10-13 9am-4pm	5-15	*can sign up for one or more days *families with multi aged campers *individual and group activities	Day: \$50 Week: \$200
Animal Academy	Mon-Thurs June 17-20 9am-4pm	9-15	*animal training and behavior *lots of hands on activities *individual and group activities.	\$200
Media Mutts	Mon-Thurs June 24-27 9am-4pm	8-12	*great for extrovert and outgoing campers *small and large groups, music video made *lots of noise, lights and other stimuli	\$200
Holiday Kids Week Out	Mon-Wed July 1-3 9am-4pm	5-15	*can sign up for one or more days *good for families with multi-aged campers *individual and group activities	Day: \$50 Week: \$150
Animal Planet Camp	Mon-Thurs July 8-11 9am-4pm	5-12	*activities surrounding animals of our region *good for the more introverted camper *different skill level activities for age gap	\$200
'Fun'draising	Mon-Thurs July 15-18 9am-4pm	8-15	*good for new and returning campers *creative and artistic kids will love this *public marketplace on last day (at hswm)	\$200
Junior Vet Camp	Mon-Thurs July 22-25 9am-4pm	5-10	*STEM junior vet activities *great for the camper who wants to go to vet camp but is not old enough!!	\$200
Vet Camp	Mon-Thurs Jul 29-Aug 1 9am-4pm	11-15	*great for returning campers *sharp tools used for dissection *surgeries viewed	\$200
HSWM101	Mon-Thurs August 5-8 9am-4pm	5-12	*great for new and returning campers *great for introverted campers *activities inspired by jobs at hswm	\$200
Kids Week Out	Mon-Thurs August 12-15 9am-4pm	5-15	*can sign up for one or more days *good for families with multi-aged campers *individual and group activities	Day: \$50 Week: \$200

Fun Fridays 9-4pm	June 28 July 26 August 16	5-15	*must be registered for a 2024 camp *can attend as many as you would like *lots of stimuli, sounds and activities	\$25 each
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Aftercare:

Aftercare is offered to any campers who are attending that day of camp. It runs from 4-5pm and costs \$10 per day. We do not hang out with animals during aftercare. We will set out art supplies and a snack each day. Snacks will be items like goldfish crackers, Welch's fruit snacks, etc. We will have options available for campers with dietary restrictions or allergies.

Cancellation Policies:

Cancellations made 21 or more days before the start of a camp session will be refunded, less a \$50 administration fee per registration. Cancellations made less than 21 days before camp starts will not be refunded. Ex; if you are registered for a camp that starts Monday, June 24th; the cut-off time for a refund would be 11:59pm on Sunday June 2nd.

Registrations can be transferred from one camp to another, if the camp has availability, and the age criteria is met. Registrations can't be transferred between campers.

Drop off and pick up policies:

Camp doors open at 8:50 am and camp activities are under way by 9:10.

Pick up is at 4pm daily (or 5pm if you have registered for aftercare).

When you arrive at the HSWM; follow the driveway to the right near the pond. You will keep following the sidewalk to the right for the camp doors.

You must walk your camper to the doors and wait for check in. Campers will only be released to those names you have added to our registration. If any pick-up information needs to be altered (early pick up, add aftercare, new name on list) make sure to tell the camp director when you drop your camper off.

Camp Capacity:

Each camp has a capacity of 45 campers and Fun Fridays has a capacity of 25 campers. We will have a waiting list for our more popular camps this year.

Counselors and junior counselors:

All camps are overseen daily by the Humane Education Coordinator joined by three full time counselors. All counselors receive training with the animals. Junior Counselors are past campers 12-15 years of age who volunteer to assist with crafts, games, and animal time. They go through a certification process where they receive animal training as well as best practices to create the best experience for your camper.

Every camp has activities, animal time, crafts, games, guest speakers:

Every camp will have a whole morning or afternoon with as many different kinds of shelter animals we have. This may include dogs, cats, rabbits and other small animals. We will also have a guest speaker, crafts for all age levels, games inside and outside and activities promoting the theme of the camp. We will have these items on the itinerary daily. If for some reason we are limited with animals in the shelter, we have education ambassador dogs and cats that can hang out with campers!

Health Policy:

If your camper is not feeling well, has a temperature, is showing signs of gastrointestinal distress, coughing or other signs of illness; please keep them home. If they show signs of illness at camp, we will contact the parent or guardian for pick up.

We are not allowed to distribute medications. If your child takes medication during camp hours, it will have to be self-administered. You will need to

inform us prior to the start of camp that your camper will be taking medications and at what time. We can offer reminders and support.

Behavior disclaimer:

While campers may choose not to participate in each activity we offer, campers are expected to be engaged with the group while at camp. In order to make the experience of our programs a positive one for all campers and staff, we have adopted the following policy (from Animal Humane Society) to manage chronic behavior incidents, camp disruptions, and/or safety issues:

- Camp staff will document chronic behavioral or disruptive incidents during the camp day. If staff document multiple incidents involving disruption of the whole group, including ongoing verbal abuse or inappropriate language, the camper leaving the group, or refusal to follow a camp counselor's directions, a parent or guardian will be contacted.

- If camp staff notes one behavior incident in which a camper endangers themselves, other campers, or staff, a parent or guardian will be contacted. Any incidence of fighting or physical violence, including using an object as a weapon, will result in immediate dismissal.

- We will support your child the best we can to make camp as successful as possible. However, campers who are consistently unable to follow our behavior guidelines after parent/guardian contact has been made, may be asked to leave for the day or dismissed for the remainder of the camp session.

- No refunds will be available to campers who are dismissed for behavioral reasons.

Inclusion:

(verbiage from American Humane Society)

We strive to include as many people as possible in our mission to strengthen the bond between animals and the humans who love them. We understand

that our campers have different needs, and we try to help every camper have the best experience possible in our programs. During registration, please include as much information as possible regarding helpful information, strategies, or accommodation requests you may have for your child. While we have the desire to accommodate every need, it is important for us to be upfront about our limitations as a staff: we do not currently have the capacity to offer 1:1 camper-staff support. Also, while our staff includes many skilled youth workers, we are not mental health professionals, nor are we licensed in special education.

Lunch, snacks, water bottle:

Camper(s) will need to bring lunch. (Due to our limited resources please pack a cold lunch as we do not always have a way to heat things up). We will also have an afternoon break if you choose to send your camper with a snack. Please also send along a water bottle and provide the utensils your child will need for their lunch. If you have registered for aftercare, we will provide a light snack.

Your camper will have access to a filtered water cooler to refill water bottles.

What to wear:

Please have your camper(s) wear closed-toed shoes. They may also want to bring or wear long pants and full-length shirts for animal time. Sometimes kittens and puppies may accidentally scratch when playing with the campers. We will not go outside if it is raining or in extreme heat. Please do not send your camper with a ball cap as they scare some dogs.

Valuables/Cell phone policy:

Please do not send your camper with valuables (ipads, video games) as we are not responsible for their loss or destruction. Campers will not be allowed to use electronic devices during camp hours. We have counselors who take

pictures for the camp page; if your camper wants a picture of, or with, a particular animal. If you send your camper with a cell phone or smart watch; we will ask that they remain in their bags during camp hours. Any accommodations to be made for this must be approved by the camp director.

Privately owned animals:

Please leave your furry family members in the car or at home, for their safety and the safety of our shelter animals.

Animal time policy/education dogs:

We know animal time is the highlight of camp! Animal time will occur each day. Some days animal time may be limited based on the animals we have in the shelter at the time of camp. Animals chosen for animal time are assessed and safe to be used. We also have camp dogs and cats and guest speakers who will also be bringing along animals that the campers can interact with. Throughout the camp there will be plenty of animal interaction.

Photo release:

Photos of your camper may be used on social media, our website or other promotion and communication. If you would like your camper to be excluded from this, please let us know, in writing, prior to the first day of camp. Campers participating in Media Mutts and Fundraising camp will be participating in music videos and short promos to be used on our social media pages and website.

Facebook page:

We have a Facebook page to share camp photos. It is private and only parents/guardians are allowed to join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hswmcamp/>

Please list who your camper is when the question prompt appears. If you do not answer the questions and we can't verify that your camper is registered, your request will not be approved.

Donations:

We encourage campers to bring in donations of pet food, supplies, toys or monetary gifts. We will celebrate the donations brought in with a special appreciation prize on Thursday. We run on donations and the campers are always happy to hear how many animals their donations feed, how many vaccinations they provided, and how they have impacted the future of the shelter animals' lives.