



No Kill
South Carolina
2024

CHARLESTON ANIMAL SOCIETY 2022 B.A.R.K. CAMP HANDBOOK

ABOUT CHARLESTON ANIMAL SOCIETY

Since 1874, the mission of Charleston Animal Society has always been the prevention of cruelty to animals. Over 15,000 animals will turn to Charleston Animal Society for caring, compassion, and hope this year alone. In addition to caring for homeless animals, adopting them into new homes, and reuniting lost pets with their families, the organization responds to animals in crisis as a result of both man-made and natural disasters. The comprehensive shelter medicine program not only provides direct services for as many as 1,200 animals in our system of care at one time, but the shelter veterinarians also spay or neuter upwards of 10,000 dogs and cats each year and they provide emergency medical services to critically ill and injured animals arriving at the shelter daily. For more information, visit www.CharlestonAnimalSociety.org.

EDUCATION CONTACT

- **Email:** ddaltorio@charlestonanimalsociety.org
- **Phone:** 843-329-1548





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LOCATION

Camps are held at Charleston Animal Society, located at 2455 Remount Road in North Charleston. Since camp begins before the shelter opens to the public, the camp entrance will be different from the main entrance. Please enter through the gate to the right of the building. See photo below.



TIME

Camp begins at **8:30am** and ends at **3:30pm**, Monday through Thursday. This does not include Animal Care Camp which is 8:30am-1:30pm. Doors will open no more than 10 minutes prior to the start of camp each day.

Charleston Animal Society also offers extended care hours, with early drop-off at 8:00 am and late pick-up at 4:00 pm daily. Please note that the activities during these times will be self-guided (i.e. watching a movie, coloring, etc.). We request that campers pre-register for extended care hours. To register or learn more go to

<https://charlestonanimalsociety.org/early-drop-off-late-pick-up/>



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DROP OFF AND PICK UP

To ensure the safety of our campers, identification is required for camper pick up. All individuals authorized to pick up must be included in the Camper Information Form provided via email prior to the start of camp. We appreciate your patience when completing the drop-off and pick-up process.

Camp doors will open at 8:20am. Pick-up ends at 3:40pm. If campers are not picked up within designated hours, the extended care fee will be applied.

DRESS CODE

Campers will be provided a camp t-shirt on the first day of camp. For safety and identification purposes, we ask that campers wear their camp t-shirt for the remainder of the week.

To prevent accidental scratches during animal interactions, all campers must wear closed-toe shoes and long, thick pants. Leggings and yoga pants are not permitted. Since campers spend time outdoors each day, we also encourage the application of sunscreen and bug spray prior to camp each morning.

COVID-19 Update:

At this time, masks are optional for all campers, staff, and members of the public. Please note, that this is subject to change based on CDC guidelines.





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LUNCH, SNACK, AND CANTEEN

Lunch is not provided by Charleston Animal Society. Campers must bring their own non-microwavable and nonperishable lunch and water bottle. Water will be provided for refills throughout the day.

Campers will also have a designated snack time each day. Please provide your child with a snack from home, or money to purchase a snack from our **Critter Canteen**.

Our popular **Critter Canteen** is loaded with snacks, drinks, and trinket items that campers can purchase multiple times per day. Funds sent will be spent at the discretion of the camper. Parents should please speak to their children prior to camp to discuss spending limits.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

Completion of camp registration includes an agreement to our program waiver that gives Charleston Animal Society permission to take and use, without limitation or obligation, photographs, video/audio recordings that include your child's image/voice for marketing purposes.

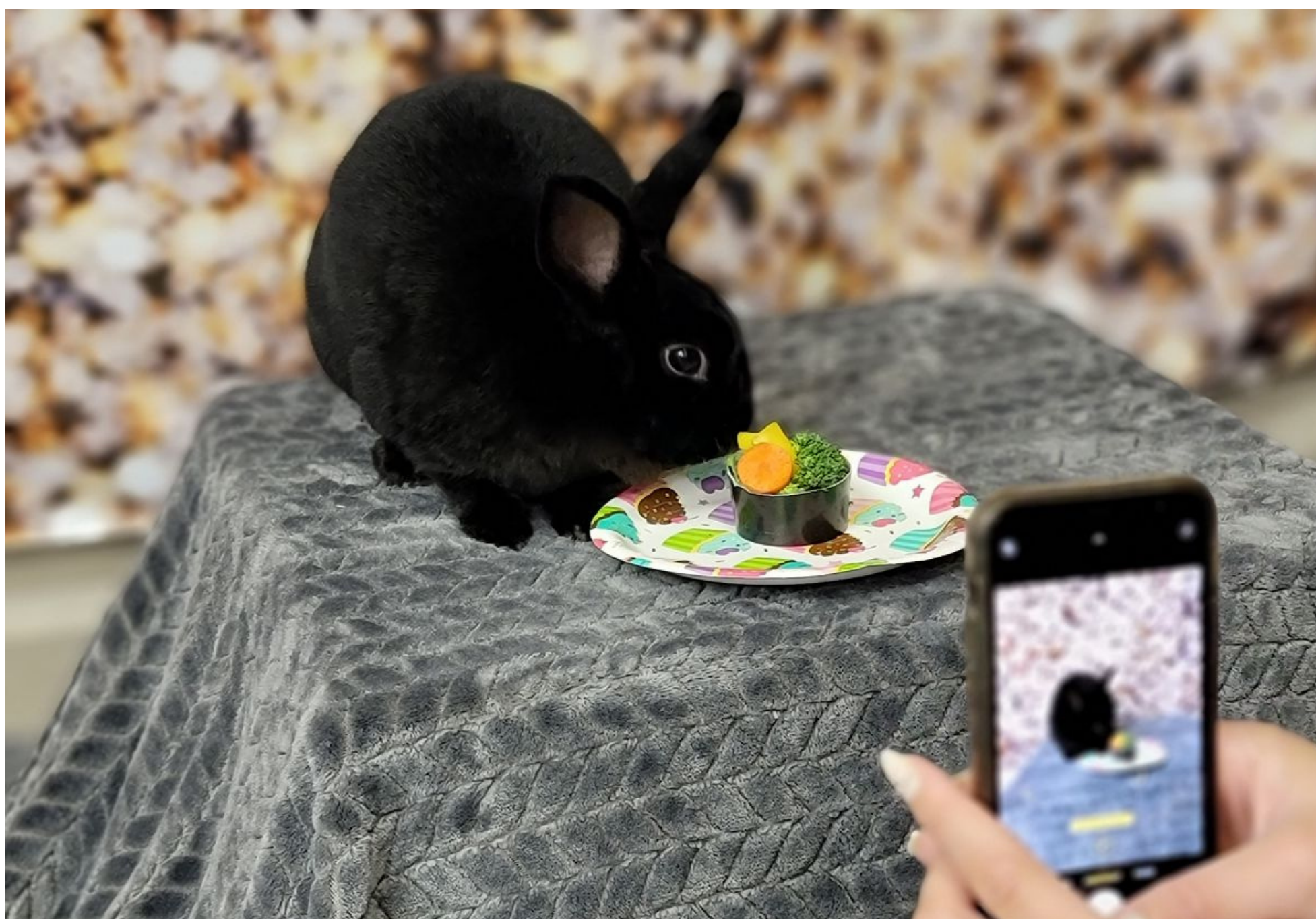




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CAMERAS/PHONES

Phones are permitted at camp but must remain on silent mode and put away unless given permission from a camp counselor to use for an activity. Campers may be permitted to use their phones during lunch, snack, and extended care hours. Cameras (or phones that may be used as cameras) may be carried, but can only be used when instructed by a staff member. Behind-the-scenes photos are not permitted to be taken or shared as they could interfere with ongoing animal investigations. 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, camp counselors reserve the right to remove access to the item until the end of the day.



Charleston Animal Society is not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged.



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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ALLERGIES

Charleston Animal Society strives for inclusivity with all programming. Upon registration, parents are asked to report any special considerations a camper may have. This information helps camp staff understand the needs of your child and allows them to prepare accordingly.

Safety is our number one priority; so please consider the following:

- The Charleston Animal Society campus houses nearly 250 animals. Our camps incorporate animals in a variety of activities daily. If your child is uncomfortable with loud noises, strong smells, or has a severe allergy to animals this may not be the recommended camp for them.
- The animals in our care are provided daily enrichment that includes peanut butter. We cannot ensure that campers will not come in contact with surfaces that have trace amounts. **For this reason, we do not recommend that children with severe peanut allergies attend camp.**
- We try our best to accommodate special considerations, but we are unable to provide one-on-one instruction to campers. If this is something that your child needs, we ask that you provide an aide to assist during the camp day. In these situations, please notify us in advance.
- Charleston Animal Society encourages parents with specific questions about the campus or facility to schedule a tour with a staff member. You can do this by contacting De Daltorio at ddaltorio@charlestonanimalsociety.org.





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ANIMAL SAFETY PROTOCOL

Campers will have the ability to interact with animals during each camp day. While Charleston Animal Society does its best to provide a calm environment for the animals in our care, we recognize that shelters may cause elevated stress in some animals. If a camper is acting in a way that is unsafe or adds additional stress to the animals in our care, we may reduce their animal interaction time, or in extreme cases, prohibit such interactions altogether. Campers will be addressed using positive behavior management techniques; however, if inappropriate behavior continues, parents may be asked to pick up the camper early. A camper may be asked not to return to camp if the behavior does not improve. In these situations, Charleston Animal Society will not issue a refund for camp time missed.

Animals in our care are provided with consistent veterinary care, including receiving vaccinations upon arrival. However, due to incubation periods, not all diseases are able to be detected immediately. For this reason, we ask that all campers change out of camp clothes and wash hands prior to interacting with personal pets to reduce the risk of disease transfer.





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SCHOLARSHIPS

Charleston Animal Society offers partial scholarships for all educational programming. For more information on scholarships, contact De Daltorio at ddaltorio@charlestonanimalsociety.org.

CAMP REFUND POLICY

- 75% refund 20 days or more prior to the first day of camp.
- 50% refund 15 days prior to the first day of camp.
- 25% refund 8 days prior to the first day of camp.
- No refunds will be issued 7 days or fewer prior to the first day of camp, unless proof of positive COVID-19 test can be provided.





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CAMP FAQs

Q: All of your camps are full! Are there any other opportunities for my child?

- **A:** Yes! First, you can add your child's name to our [camp waitlist](#) in the event that any spots become available. We also offer a bunch of other youth programs throughout the year, including single volunteer sessions, birthday parties, recurring youth engagement programs, and more. To read more about our other program offerings, visit <https://charlestonanimalsociety.org/humane-education/>.
- We also send out a monthly education e-newsletter to announce new program offerings. This is often the best way to hear about a new program before it fills. To be added to our mailing list, [click here](#).

Q: How will I know my registration is complete?

- **A:** When your registration is complete, you will receive an automated confirmation email. In this email, you will be asked to fill out a Camper Information Form that will include a list of people approved for camper pick-up and medical information. . Please fill this out **PRIOR** to the first day of camp.

Q: My child is attending the same camp as a friend or sibling. Will they be together during camp?

- **A:** If you would like your child to be grouped with a friend or sibling during camp, please be sure to notify us. We will do our best to provide opportunities where they will be grouped together, but we cannot guarantee that for every activity.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: Am I allowed to bring my personal pet to camp when picking up my child?

- **A:** Our education center is home to several small animals that can be easily startled. For this reason, we do not permit visiting pets at camp; but feel free to bring pictures!

Q: My child needs medications while at camp. What do I need to do?

- **A:** When you register your child for camp, you will receive an email with the link to a Camper Information Form that will include providing information on medications. This form must be filled out PRIOR to the first day of camp. All medications must be clearly labeled, including non-prescription medication. Campers that need to take prescription medications while at camp will also be required to fill out an additional form that includes a doctor's signature. Please contact us directly at ddaltorio@charlestonanimalsociety.org to be given this form. Campers will be required to self-administer all medication under staff supervision.

Q: Do campers get to interact with animals?

- **A:** Of course! Since we are a shelter with a constantly evolving population, we cannot predict what animals we will have at any given time (e.g. puppies, kittens, etc.), but we can ensure animal time each day at camp. The length and frequency of animal time each will depend on a variety of factors such as animal inventory and scheduled activities.



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CAMP FAQs

Q: Will my child get to watch a surgery while at camp?

- **A:** All vet camp participants will get the opportunity to visit our AAHA-accredited animal hospital and watch a surgery. However, campers that feel uncomfortable watching are not required to participate. Alternative activities are planned during this time to reduce any camper discomfort.

Q: When does registration open for the next year's summer camp sessions?

- **A:** Camp registration opens on February 1st each year.

