



Parent Information Handout

Thank you so much for having your child(ren) join us in our Animal Allies Club at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. We are very excited about this year's program and the many great activities your child(ren) will participate in to help with our organization's mission. Our goal is to educate your child(ren) how to best live harmoniously with animals through a variety of activities that encourage collaboration, creative thinking, and a fun learning environment.

Below are the dates of the clubs meeting throughout the year. Note: All meetings are subject to change due to inclement weather or unforeseeable events. Due to the unpredictable circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will cancel classes when necessary and use the scheduled backup date. If we have to move more than one meeting, we will consider a virtual option, however in-person activities are our priority. All meetings will last from **5:30pm to 7:00pm in our Education Room** on your scheduled meeting dates. On meeting dates, you will drop off/pick up your child at our Education Room Entrance (door on the side of our building nearest Arlington Mill Drive). We will place signs out front for you to follow to our classroom location. One of our staff members will be there to sign your child in and direct them to their station.

Dates:

January 28th

February 18th

March 18th

April 22nd

May 13th

Backup Date: May 20th

Topics & Activities:

Your child(ren) will be involved in many different educational opportunities to learn about the actions at Animal Welfare League of Arlington, and the many departments under our roof. Topics throughout the five sessions include animal behavior, proper care and handling of our animals, enrichment, wildlife and more. We may even change topics based on what animals come into the shelter each month. For example, if we have a ton of reptiles at one time, we might learn more about them and interact with them. To go along with each of the topics, we will incorporate a variety of educational games, interactive presentations, animal interactions, and fun learning experiences for your child(ren).

Participant Behavior:

While at AWLA, all camp participants are expected to treat others with respect and compassion. This includes other campers, AWLA staff, and animals. Behavior guidelines and facility rules will be reviewed with campers on the first day of each camp session. Campers who are consistently unable to follow these guidelines may be asked to leave camp for the day or may be dismissed for the remainder of the session. No refunds will be available to campers who are dismissed for behavioral reasons.

We have zero tolerance regarding fighting, bullying, or using an object as a weapon. Likewise, the use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Violation of these policies is grounds for immediate dismissal from camp. No refunds will be available to campers who are dismissed for a violation of these policies.

Participant Cell Phone Use:

Children who bring cell phones with them to camp may only use their phones to contact parents in the case of an emergency. Calling or texting during camp activities will not be permitted.

What to Wear and What to Bring:

Please dress your child in close-toed shoes and long pants. Because we are interacting with a variety of animals that can have sharp claws, we ask that you follow this dress code to prevent any scratches or minor injuries. Although not required, it is also recommended to wear long sleeves. Please have your child bring a water bottle as well.

Allergy Alert: *Our shelter uses a lot of peanut butter for treats for some of our animals. If your child has a severe allergy to peanut spores in the air, we highly recommend reconsidering their participation in our program.*

If your child has allergies to cats, dogs, or small companion animals of any kind (bunnies, ferrets, guinea pigs, birds, etc.), in-person camps might not be the best option for your child. Activities often include contact with all of these animals and substances. If your child would still like to participate, we ask that you speak with our Youth Programs Coordinator after you register for the program. Additionally, for animal allergies, we ask that you administer antihistamines prior to the start of the program.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

AWLA will refund the registration fee (not including the service charge) up to 3 weeks prior to the start of the session for which you have registered your child. Within three weeks of the start of the program, refunds are given only if the child has a medical emergency and a doctor's written verification is submitted BEFORE the program begins. Transfers are not permitted

In Case of Emergency:

In the event of an emergency or unforeseeable event, AWLA staff or the Manager on Duty will contact you using the information provided with your registration. If we cannot reach a parent or guardian, we will leave messages and attempt to reach the person(s) listed as emergency contacts. In the event that you need to reach your child, please contact one of the following: Director of Community Resources, Cliff Ballena at (703)931-9241 ext 213, our Youth Programs Coordinator, Madi Radford at (703)931-9241 ext 277, or the manager on duty at (703)379-6949.

If you have any further questions about the program, please feel free to reach out to our Youth Programs Coordinator, Madi Radford at mrادford@awla.org or our Director of Community Resources, Cliff Ballena at cballena@awla.org.