



# HERMITAGE KIDS PROGRAMS

## CAT CAMP FOR KIDS

The Hermitage offers a summer day-camp, Cat Camp for Kids. Designed for children ages 6-12, it serves to educate them on our feline friends. The curriculum includes instruction on feeding, health, first aid, and maintenance of their pet. We also share information with the children about animal-safe products, Trap Neuter Return (TNR), how foster care works, and how to be good citizens. Part of our educational work includes different curricula for the different age groups (6-9 and 10-12 years).

We include a visit to our medical department, where the campers can listen to a kitten's heartbeat, and see our medical team clean kitten's ears, weigh them, or perform other small measurements charting the kitten's growth. Our campers usually love the "Well Kitten" checkups, and fall in love with every cat they meet. We ensure that learning is fun for our campers—even before they get to craft time!

Campers also create several cat-themed crafts and participate in several hours of kitty cuddles!

**In 2018 we had 24 Cat Campers, and offered 3 community-sponsored scholarships for children from low-income families.**

## KIDS' CLUB

During the previous year of Cat Camp, several campers lamented having to wait an entire year for more Cat Camp fun. We listened to their request and created Kids' Club, a mini-camp held on the first Saturday of each month. At Kids' Club, participants tour the shelter, engage in a brief educational activity, create a cat-themed craft, and of course, snuggle lots of kitties!

**In 2018, 68 children participated in 10 sessions of Kids' Club. The program continues to grow in popularity.**

## READ TO A CAT

The Hermitage No Kill Cat Shelter has partnered with Literacy Connects to establish our Children's literacy program. All kids of any age are welcome to drop in during the summer and read to a cat! At the end of their visit they are welcome to take a book home and continue to read throughout the summer.

Our Hermitage kitties will help the children in this program by encouraging the children through snuggles, purrs and listening without judgement. We know that children need to practice reading aloud, but this can be intimidating to some of our beginner readers. Literacy is important, to all of us, and especially to the kitties who like snuggles!

All kids are welcomed from Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 4:30pm.

**In 2018 we had 60 participants in this program, and they read over 75 hours to our Hermitage kitties, strengthening their own literacy skills.**

