



ARLGP Birthday Party FAQs

How much time will my party guests get to spend with animals?

We typically plan for about 30-35 minutes total spent with our adoptable shelter animals. This time is split between dogs, cats, and critters as available. Our ever-changing shelter population makes it impossible to know ahead of time which animals we will meet with, but we almost always have animals of every species to meet. On a busy adoption day, the number of animals available to interact with could be limited. Meet and greets will be conducted in our shelter adoption areas/large community space. Animals we meet with are chosen by our animal care teams based on gathered information and their appropriateness to meet with children.

Will there be puppies and kittens?

Because of our changing shelter population, we will not know ahead of time what animals will be in our care for your party. If there are puppies and kittens available for adoption on the day of your party, we will do our best to try and meet some of them (as appropriate). However, most puppies and kittens are adopted quickly, so if your party time slot is in the afternoon, it is unlikely that they will still be available.

Why are parties for kiddos over the age of 7?

Our party agendas are best suited for children ages 7-12. Every party includes a lesson about animal body language (age appropriate). Our focus is to make sure all interactions with our shelter animals come from a place of kindness and compassion. Being aware that the shelter can be a stressful place, as can meetings with a large group of people, we want to ensure that all party guests are able to adhere to our safety guidelines while interacting with our shelter pets to keep them and our animals safe. Younger siblings that attend should be at least 4 years old and have an adult present with them at all times during animal meet and greets.

Is there a dress code?

Not specifically, however, we **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that all party guests wear closed-toe shoes. Also, please be mindful of wearing dresses/skirts as we are often sitting on the floor during animal meet and greets.

Will we be able to pick up or hold any of the animals?

Unfortunately, no. Your educator will go over our policies for meeting animals in the shelter and how best to approach and pet them. But due to safety reasons (for both humans and our shelter pets), we will not be picking up or holding any animals.

Can we play with the animals?

It depends on the animal. In our cat adoption area, most of the cats have toys in their kennels or rooms. You are welcome to try and engage a cat in play if it is done in a safe and respectful way. For our dog friends, we will **not** be playing with them. Your educator may initiate play while a dog is present in our large community space, but we will ask that no one in the group attempts to grab a toy, as some dogs can get very protective over toys.

Why can we only have 20 party guests?

Shelters can be a very stressful place for many animals, as can meeting large groups of people. We are a certified Fear Free Shelter, meaning our mission is to prevent and alleviate fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) in our shelter pets. Groups larger than 20 can be a lot for the animals in our care. Additionally, our shelter adoption spaces are not large enough to accommodate larger groups.

How early can we arrive for our party time slot?

You can arrive up to 30 minutes prior to your scheduled party slot. For example, for a 10am party, you can arrive starting at 9:30am. Upon arrival, you will find the shelter classroom set up and ready to go. If you do not have a lot of items to set up, you are not required to show up early. Please advise your guests not to arrive more than 10 minutes before your scheduled party time. We have built in about 10 minutes at the beginning of your party for everyone to arrive before we begin activities.