



10-1-2006

## Animal Art Adventure Camp

Kathy Kruger  
*University of Pennsylvania*

# Animal Art Adventure Camp

The Animal Art Adventure Camp, which premiered June 21, 2006, is a collaboration between the School's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society (CIAS) and the University City Arts League (UCAL, [www.ucartsleague.org](http://www.ucartsleague.org)), a nonprofit community arts center located just a few blocks from the Vet School. The eight-day camp hosted 23 children aged 6 to 10. Each day, the children were immersed in a different animal-related topic (e.g., animal welfare, responsible pet care, sea life, wildlife, birds, reptiles, farm animals, butterflies, dogs with jobs and veterinary

medicine) and were able to interact with animal ambassadors from many different species. Guest speakers and walking trips were complemented by animal-centric arts and crafts projects taught by UCAL faculty. Support for this program, provided by the ASPCA, enabled needs-based full and partial scholarships to be granted to eight local children from low-income families. More pictures and details are available at [www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/events/artadventurecamp.htm](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/newsandevents/events/artadventurecamp.htm).

—KATHY KRUGER



▲ All eyes (and sometimes ears!) were on the macaws, cockatoos and conures that traveled to the camp with representatives of the Chester County Bird Club and the Bailey Foundation. Camp participants left with a realistic understanding of both the joys and challenges of sharing life with these beautiful, intelligent birds.

▼ Baby pygmy goats proved irresistible to children and adults while encouraging camp participants to think and talk about how food is produced.



▶ Officer Lawrence Love and his canine partner "Zeus," of the Philadelphia Police Department's K-9 Unit, taught camp participants about the invaluable role dogs play in law enforcement.



▲ Dr. Cindy Otto, DVM, Dip. ACVECC, Ph.D., associate professor of emergency medicine and critical care, coordinated a dynamic outdoor demonstration of canine athletics, search-and-rescue dogs and sled dogs.

▼ A live sea star and horseshoe crab from the New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences were captivating animal ambassadors.



▲ The camp culminated in a full-day program at the Ryan Veterinary Hospital, where Dr. Reid Groman, staff veterinarian, described the variety of fascinating work opportunities that exist in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinary students helped campers learn about what pets need to be happy and healthy, and how to stay safe around dogs.