

## A Day with Trifon

For many of us, the chance to get up close with a living, breathing horse is a rare event in our urbanized environment. But over the course of a few weeks, over 80 kids enjoyed a magical experience when Trifon and his owner decided to swing by the local YMCA for a visit.

The visit was one of three that occurred through the month of July as Trifon visited three Edmonton YMCAs to meet with kids. Participating in YMCA Summer Day Camps, the children were shocked and elated when they heard about their surprise guest. For many of them, it was their first ever experience with a real horse. "I loved petting the horse and seeing it run," said ten-year-old Emily.

Besides getting to pet and talk to the horse, the kids also got the chance to colour and make horse masks during arts and crafts. By the end of the afternoon, all they could talk about was their horsey experience. "My child was so thrilled after meeting Trifon." wrote one parent on Facebook. "It took ages for her to finally take her mask off!"

In partnership with the YMCA of Edmonton, the Arabian Horse Reading Literacy Project (AHRLP) arranged the visits in an effort to spread awareness of the Arabian horse to an audience unfamiliar with the breed. After touching and petting Trifon, the group of children learned about grooming, feeding and a horse's anatomy.

[Check out a video of Trifon in action! \("YMCA Animal Friends Horse Visit"\)](#)

