

Dog

Description:

The 4-H Dog Project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general care, nutrition housing, training and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Dog Project.

Exhibitor Check list:

- Enroll in 4-H, pay annual program fee, and enter project in V2.4honline by May 15
- Dog Show dates June 5th and 6th, 2026

Exhibit Guidelines:

GENERAL RULES:

- 1) Members must be enrolled in the Dog project by the stated enrollment deadline for the current year.
- 2) Member can show only one dog per class per year. Each dog may only be shown by one child.
- 3) Member is encouraged to attend all dog meetings. This helps ensure safety of all participants.
- 4) If the member mistreats their dog or if the dog shows excessive aggression, the leaders will take the following actions: Assist in correcting the behavior. If behavior continues, member and dog will be excused from ring. Allen County will be following the aggressive dog policy from state which can be found here <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/about/policies-and-procedures/9-risk-management.html> (section 9.14)
- 5) Dogs not being shown must be on leash.
- 6) To participate in training classes or show at the Allen County 4-H Dog Show, you must show proof that the dog has had vaccinations for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis, kennel cough. Refer to Certificate of Vaccination Form.
- 7) Dogs must be spayed or neutered. Unaltered dogs will be allowed in the 4-H Dog Program under the following conditions:
 - a. Dog is being raised as a guide or service dog.
 - b. Dog is a finished Champion with the AKC or equivalent registry if a non-AKC breed.
 - c. Dog is actively being shown in conformation and/or hunting in pursuit of its Championship. If conformation, the member must provide three (3) catalogs from AKC shows or equivalent event if a non-AKC breed, where the dog has been shown in the past year. If hunting, the member must provide documentation provided by AKC or equivalent if a non-AKC breed, where the dog has been shown in the past year.
 - d. Dog is under 9 months old.
 - e. Female dogs in season will not be allowed to compete at the Allen County 4-H Dog Show. If this is the case, see your leader for special arrangements.
- 8) If a dog is sick or in season, the dog should be left at home and the member should attend the training class.
- 9) Dog should be at least four months of age when training begins.
- 10) Dogs switched after May 15 may show for completion only and will not be eligible for awards.
- 11) Appropriate attire by member is required during all dog training sessions and shows.
- 12) Closed toed/heel shoes only.
- 13) Only dogs enrolled in the 4-H training program are allowed on the grounds during training

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times. The only exception will be leaders who use their own dogs for training purposes.
14) All other circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the leaders.

OBEDIENCE

All dogs must use a well fitted slip, buckle or martingale collar made of leather, fabric or chain with NO tags.

Member may not repeat with the same dog in the following sections: 1A, 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A.

LEVELS:

1A - Member with no previous formal dog training experience, with a dog which has received no obedience training prior to January 1 of the current year.

1B - Member with previous dog training experience (4-H or otherwise) coming back with a new dog, or members with no experience whose dogs have had training which disqualifies them for 1A or members and dogs with previous training experience including showing in 1A.

2A - Member and dog that have completed 1A or 1B.

2B - Member and dog that have completed 2A. May repeat until ready for 3A.

3A - Member and dog that have mastered 2B.

3B - Member and dog that have completed 3A. May repeat until ready for 4A.

4A - Member and dog that have mastered 3B.

4B - Member and dog that have completed 4A. May repeat until ready for 5A.

5A - Member and dog that have mastered 4B.

5B - Member and dog that have completed 5A. May repeat until ready for 6A.

6A - Member and dog that have mastered 5B.

6B - Member and dog that have completed 6A. May repeat 6B.

Veteran – For members whose dogs are at least seven (7) years old or are physically challenged. They dog must have completed at least class 2B in previous years. Dogs who are physically challenged must be accompanied by a letter from a veterinarian stating that the dog is unable to perform jumping and/or retrieving exercises.

SHOWMANSHIP

Beginner: Grades 3-4-5

Intermediate: Grades 6-7-8

Advanced: 9-10-11-12

Member will compete in level according to school grade as of January 1 of current exhibition year. Once an exhibitor has won any division at the Indiana State Fair, they must compete in the next higher division the following year.

All dogs must use show lead.

Showmanship Show Proper Attire:

Females - dress, knee length skirt, blouse, capris, or dress pants. Tops must have a capped sleeve or longer. Not allowed: short skirts, short shorts or tank tops.

Males - dress pants, dress shirts (coat and tie are optional).

AGILITY

Beginning A: Neither 4-H member nor dog have previously participated in Agility. 4-Her's must use a 6' leash. Leash faults will be incurred if the exhibitor uses the leash to either place the dog on or remove it from the obstacle. This includes, but not limited to pulling the dog on or remove it from the obstacle. This includes, but not limited to pulling the dog into, onto or off an obstacle. (Not Repeatable)

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Beginning B: 4-H member or dog has participated in Agility before, either with the current dog/handler, or a different dog/handler. Exercises must be off leash. Dog should repeat Beginning B until they can perform intermediate level work.

Intermediate A: 4-H member has not previously participated in Intermediate Agility. (Not Repeatable)

Intermediate B: 4-H member has participated in Intermediate Agility before, either with the current dog, or a different dog. This Intermediate B class should be repeated until the dog can perform advanced level work.

Advanced A: 4-H member has not previously participated in Advanced Agility. (Not Repeatable)

Advanced B: 4-H member has participated in Advanced Agility before, either with current dog or a different dog. This class may be repeated.

Excellent: 4-H member will exhibit more advanced handling skills over the same obstacles as those in the Advanced Classes.

All dogs must have buckle collar with NO tags.

DRILL TEAM

First year Dog Club participant not eligible.

Dog Educational Poster Under Animal Education