

Elkhart County 4-H Dog Club Manual

I. Behavioral Expectations:

When participating or acting on behalf of the 4-H program, 4-H members and parents/guardians are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the accepted standards of social behavior, to respect the rights of others, and to refrain from any conduct which may be injurious to the 4-H program. The following actions constitute misconduct for which disciplinary penalties may be given by the Advisory Board, adult leaders and trainers:

- Dishonesty in connection with any 4-H activity by cheating or knowingly furnishing false information.
- Alteration or the unauthorized use of 4-H records.
- Obstruction or disruption of any 4-H activity by cheating or knowingly encouraging other persons to engage in such conduct.
- Failure to comply with directions of 4-H officials acting in the proper performance of their duties.
- Physical abuse of any person, or dog, or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any other person or dog.
- Theft of, or malicious damage to property.
- Lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct.
- Any conduct which threatens or interferes with the maintenance of appropriate order and discipline or invades the rights of others.
- Smoking or vaping by anyone in any barn or showing area is prohibited per fire safety regulations set by the Fair board.
- If a dog shows signs of aggression, the trainer may ask the handler to leave the training class or exhibition in the interest of safety to others associated with the training or show. The trainers will communicate with the board in aggression cases. Please see the Aggressive Dog Policy.
- *If a dog shows signs of questionable health, the trainer may ask the handler to leave the training class or exhibition in the interest of health and safety to others associated with the training or show.*

II. Dog Ownership Guidelines:

- A. Dogs in the 4-H training program shall be owned by the 4-H member and his/her immediate family; (i.e. father, mother, brother, sister, grandparents)
- B. Dogs must be 6 months of age when training begins unless approved by the advisory board.
- C. It is expected that only the 4-H member is to do the actual training and provide daily care (brushing, combing, feeding and exercising) for their dog at all times possible.

III. Dog on Fair Grounds:

- A. All 4-H dogs on the fairgrounds must be accompanied by the 4-H 671 Certificate of Vaccination, signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian indicating the dog is current on Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Virus, Leptospirosis, and Bordetella (Kennel Cough). This includes 4-H dogs and companion dogs.

- B. The 4-H 671 Certificate along with a signed Certificate of Vaccination for any dog that will be on the fair grounds must be turned into the Adult leaders before or at the first training session. If this document is not turned in to your leader, your dog may not participate until the proper veterinarian record is received. Forms can be found on our Website, Facebook Page, or from a Leader.
- C. The Elkhart County 4-H Dog Club prohibits any type of group training or showing of pregnant or lactating dogs.

IV. Training Rules & Information:

- A. Training equipment may include:
 - 6 foot lead
 - training collar or flat collar (no tags on collars)
 - show lead for showmanship
 - advanced classes may require additional equipment
- B. Equipment will be made available for purchase through the 4-H Dog Club at cost. If this creates a hardship, please contact the adult leader or trainer.
- C. All training equipment not purchased through the club must be approved by the adult trainers.
- D. Head halters, halters, and prong collars may be used in training but MAY NOT be used when showing the dog. Please consult with your trainer before using any of this equipment.
- E. All 4-H members are required to clean up after their dog and are strongly encouraged to use the "potty area".
- F. 4-H members are responsible for their own dog and actions at all times.
- G. Female dogs in season are not allowed on the fairgrounds to exhibit at the county or state fair. During training, when a female dog is in season (heat), the 4-H member is encouraged to attend the training without the dog.

V. Training Attendance Policy:

For training levels 1A through 2B (regardless of member's age), member and dog is expected to attend a minimum of 50% of the training sessions. If member is unable to make this commitment, they must notify their trainer and a leader immediately. Prior to fair, this member and dog will then be evaluated by 2 neutral trainers and a leader to determine if they may show. The factors for determination will include but are not limited to:

- A. The dog's behavior
- B. The ability to demonstrate/perform all the exercises required for their training level
- C. The amount of control the member has over the dog
- D. How dog performs in a group of other dogs.

It is the belief of the leaders and trainers of the Elkhart County 4-H Dog Club that attending 50% or more of the training sessions is beneficial to not only the member and dog in question but also creates a safer environment for other members, dogs, and trainers.

The safety of all members of the Elkhart County 4-H Dog Club at fair judging and training is the club's top priority as well as that of Purdue University and the State of Indiana (see Aggressive Dog Policy). If at any time a leader or trainer feels a dog may jeopardize the safety of an individual or another dog, the Aggressive Dog Policy protocol will be enforced.

If it is determined the member may not show his/her dog, the member has the option to complete the dog project with paperwork/bookwork and a poster.

VI. Fair Rules & Regulations

- A. A 4-H'er may be disqualified if coached or assisted from ringside by a trainer, parent/guardian, helper or spectator during the actual exhibition. Exception: 4-H'ers with disabilities, upon permission by the Advisory Board, may be assisted in the ring.
- B. A 4-H dog shown in showmanship, agility and/or drill team classes must also be shown in an obedience class by the same exhibitor. Exceptions are covered under the Substitution Section.
- C. If the 4-H member chooses not to show in the required and/or elective categories and is eligible for a trophy, the trophy will be forfeited. Exception: If the 4-H'er has been given an excused absence by the Advisory Board prior to the county fair. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the board.
- D. No 4-H member may show more than one dog in the same obedience class.
- E. All 4-H members (handlers) are expected to clean up after their own dog.
- F. The 4-H arm band must be worn by the 4-H exhibitor (handler) on the upper left arm while their class is being judged.

VII. Dogs on the Fairgrounds During Fair Time:

- A. All 4-H dogs are required to stay in the designated "dog location" by the dog barn to comply with policies set forth by the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Board.
- B. Families or other dependable persons must stay with the dog on the fairgrounds at all times.
- C. See separate rules and regulation during fair week.

VIII. Substitution:

In the case of accident or sickness of a 4-H dog (including a female dog in season), when verified in writing by a veterinarian, the 4-H'er may substitute another dog for showmanship and costume classes, but not for obedience, agility, and trick classes. The substitute dog must meet all the criteria for health and ownership plus be approved by an Adult Leader. The project may also be considered complete if the required paperwork is completed and turned in to the adult leader after approval by the Advisory Board.

IX. Activities in the 4-H Dog Program:

- Obedience
- Showmanship
- Agility
- 4-H Dog Poster
- Action demo (not an option at this time)

Drill team (not an option at this time)
Costume (not an option at this time)
Tricks (not an option at this time)

A. Obedience:

The 4-H Dog obedience project instructs the 4-H'er how to teach his/her dog obedience and produce dogs that have been trained and conditioned always to behave in the home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect credit on the sport of obedience. Each class may have up to a total of 200 points without penalties for a perfect score.

Class 1A (Not repeatable)

For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experience and dog with no prior obedience training prior to January 1 of the current year. Exercises are Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit for Exam on Leash, Sit Stay on Leash (30 second individually) and Recall on Leash (no finish).

Class 1B (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)

For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience (including showing in 1A) or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dog has had prior training, disqualifying them for 1A. Exercises are Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash (with finish), Down Stay (walk around ring) and Sit Stay (get your leash).

Class 2A (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)

Exercises are Heel & Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Recall off Leash, Sit Stay Get Your Leash. Group exercises on leash: Sit Stay 1 minute and Down Stay 1 minute.

Class 2B (May repeat with same dog until obtaining qualifying score)

Exercises are Heel & Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Drop on Recall (command **and/or** signal to drop), Sit Stay Sit Stay Get Your Leash. Group exercises on leash: Sit Stay 1 minute and Down Stay 1 minute.

Class 3A (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)

Exercises are Heel Free and Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Dumbbell Recall (dog takes dumbbell from handler while in heel position), Drop on Recall and Stand Stay Get Your Leash.

Class 3B (May repeat with same dog until obtaining qualifying score)

Exercises are Heel Free and Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Drop on Recall and Stand Stay Get Your Leash.

Class 4A (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)

Exercises are Heel Free and Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump (Handler must go 8 ft beyond jump to call dog), Recall Over Broad Jump (Handler must go 8 ft beyond jump to call dog) and Command Discrimination: Stand, Sit and Down.

Class 4B (May repeat with same dog until obtaining qualifying score)
Exercises are Heel Free and Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump and Command Discrimination: Stand, Sit and Down.

Class 5A (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)
Exercises are *Hand Signals (May use voice and signal for stand, stay, down, sit, come, finish, 10-20 ft), *Directed Retrieve (no center glove used), Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump and *Moving Stand & Examination (May pause when giving command **and/or** signal to stand).

Class 5B (May repeat with same dog until obtaining qualifying score)
Exercises are Hand Signals, Directed Retrieve, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump and Moving Stand & Examination.

Class 6A (Not repeatable with the same dog, except for exhibition only)
Exercises are Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination (4 articles used, 1 retrieved handlers choice metal, leather or wood – team faces articles), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, *Go Out (handler returns to dog) and *Directed Jumping (no go out, only one jump).

Class 6B (May repeat)
Exercises are Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination (sit or direct - leather metal or wood), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, Directed Jumping.

Veterans (Repeatable)
For 4-H members whose dogs are at least seven years old or are physically challenged. The 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. A dog may not be shown in any other obedience class at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show, once competing in the Veteran's Class. Exercises are Heel & Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Recall off Leash, Sit Stay, Stand Stay Get Your Leash.

*See Showing Your Dog in 4-H Obedience or AKC Graduate class description.

B. Showmanship:

Showmanship Classes:

Junior - grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediate - grades 6, 7, and 8

Senior - grades 9 and above

"A"– all first-year members

"B" – members 2nd year and above

C. Agility:

The 4-H Dog agility program is based on the guidelines from the United Kennel Club (UKC). Some modifications to the UKC rules have been made to provide a program suitable for all ages of 4-H handlers. Dogs showing in agility are required to have had 1 year of 4-H obedience training and are required to also show in obedience. Agility is similar to an obstacle course and depending on the club or level of competition the following items might be included:

A-Frame	Weave Poles	Triple Hurdle
Open Tunnel	Pause Table	Swing Plank
Dog Walk	Bar Hurdle	Barrell
Closed Tunnel	Bush Hurdle	Pause Box
Teeter Totter	Broad Jump	Bridge
Tire Jump	Double Hurdle	

Levels of Competition include:

Beginner A	Beginner B
Intermediate A	Intermediate B
Advanced A	Advanced B
Excellence	

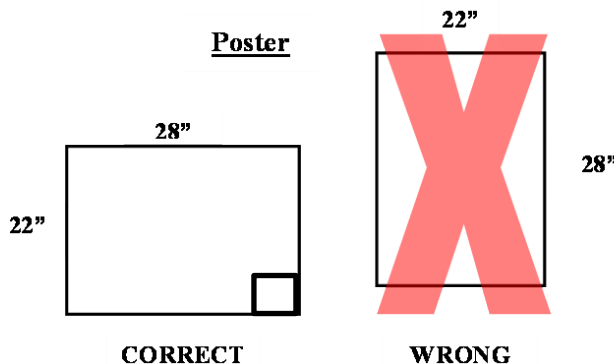
D. 4-H Dog Poster (Educational Exhibits):

Exhibit Classes:

- Level 1 Grades 3, 4, and 5 on January 1 of the current year
- Level 2 Grades 6, 7 and 8 on January 1 of the current year
- Level 3 Grades 9 thru 12 on January 1 of the current year

POSTER CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES:

Poster Board - use white when required; experiment with other colors when not required. Example: use earthy colors (light brown, natural, greens, rust) for wildlife or photography. All posters 22" x 28" unless otherwise specified. See diagram for proper horizontal position.



Mounting Adhesives - the best is rubber cement, as it leaves no marks and will not wrinkle paper; double stick tape works best for leaves; white glue should be used only in cases where wrinkling or damage will not occur.

Colored Pencils - the best are soft leaded and are easy to color and blend easily. Strokes will not show if handled properly. Hard leaded pencils are less expensive but are more difficult to use.

Labels - plain 3" x 4" file cards work exceptionally well, and should be placed in the lower right corner. Include your name, grade and project.

Stiff Backing - any material that will keep the poster from bending forward will work. The backing must be the same size as poster board. Foam board is available for purchase in the Extension Office. Must be 22" x 28" size.

Acetate or Clear Plastic Covering - this is required for all posters to keep them clean before judging and during fair. Comes in various sizes and in rolls or sheets. Poster sleeves are available for purchase in the Extension Office.

Lettering - purchased at discount and art stores as stencils, self adhesive, or press type, etc.

Reference List — Posters must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed.

Copyrighted characters or material are prohibited.

Example Exhibit topics:

Dog Care, Dog Breeds, Me and My Dog, Helping the Handicapped

Purposes of Dogs, Responsible Dog Ownership, Uses of Dogs,
Disease/Parasite Prevention, Careers with Dogs

Your Dog and the Law, Food, A Dog's Sense of Smell, Dog Over-Population
Problems, Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Learning Life-Skills with the Dog
Project

Additional Ideas and Topics:

- Your dog's breed or the most prevalent breed showing in your mixed-breed dog

- First Aid Kit for a dog (what is involved, why and how each item is used)
- Diet and Nutrition
- Groups of Dogs
- General History of the dog family, canis lupis
- A disease of dogs
- A vocation involving dogs
- Some phase of dog training: novice, open, utility, tracking, guard, narcotic, blind people's guide dogs, herding
- A parasite of dogs
- Diagram of the dog and label parts of the body and explain function of each
- Kennel clubs, obedience clubs, local and national, etc.
- Explain breed "standards", their purpose and how set up
- Junior Handling

E. Action Demo (not an option at this time):

An action demo lets the audience get involved.

Can be given anywhere there are a lot of people such as a county or state fair, shopping mall, street fair or other county 4-H event.

A least 3-5 minutes and be repeated several times in a given time period (i.e. 15 minutes, 30 minutes or 1 hour).

Be enthusiastic about your action demo. Topic suggestions might include:

- Grooming a dog
- Comparing different dog foods to select a nutritious diet
- Playing a match game (match breed names with a picture)
- Showing a dog (Showmanship)
- Placing parts of the dog on the proper location on a poster
- How to train a dog

Divisions:

Junior B Grades 3, 4 and 5

Intermediate B Grades 7 and 8

Senior B Grades 9-12

F. Drill Team (not an option at this time):

Teams must have a minimum of 4 units and a maximum of 20 units. A unit consists of the 4-H handler and dog. Obedience and showmanship training equipment may be used and choreographed with music.

Performances are limited to 5 minutes. There are two classes of competition: Limited and Unlimited. For more information, see the current year state fair catalog.

G. Costume (not an option at this time):

A costume theme is selected by the club each year. Both the handler and the dog participate in this competition as a team.

Each 4-H member participating in the costume class shall complete a card with the description of the costume. The costume description card must be turned in prior to judging on the designated date and will be read during the exhibition.

Class placement is determined by the age of the 4-Her.

Costumes will be judged on:

- how well the costume theme is carried out, and
- how well the 4-H member has constructed the costume.

H. Tricks (not an option at this time):

Each 4-H member participating in the tricks class shall complete a card explaining the tricks to be attempted. The tricks description card must be turned in prior to judging on the designated date and will be read during the exhibition.

Each participating 4-H member will be given only two (2) tries to get the dog to do the trick(s).

Class placement is determined by the number of years the dog has participated in the 4-H Dog Club.

First year members may perform only one (1) trick.

Second year members may perform only two (2) tricks.

Advanced members may perform only three (3) tricks - two (2) of which may be combined from previous years - with one (1) new trick each year.

Approved 12/1998

R 01/01

R 01/02

R 01/09

R 12/12

R 02/23