

## **DOG OBEDIENCE**

**PROJECT SUPERINTENDENT:** Candy McKing, c.mcking@aol.com

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE FAIR ENTRIES:** All livestock for STATE FAIR must be properly identified and enrolled. Refer to [indianastatefair.com](http://indianastatefair.com) for entry information

**Project Description:**

Members in the Dog project learn about puppy and dog care, training, nutrition, and health. Members will have the opportunity to train and show his/her dog. Training classes meet weekly beginning in the spring and run through the summer.

**Levels:**

**Junior Grades 3-5**

**Intermediate Grades 6-8**

**Senior Grades 9-12**

***If there is a Severe Weather Warning or Watch (Storm or Tornado) in effect anytime during the time frame of 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM for Floyd County, then class is cancelled. If there are storms but no Severe Warning or Watch then class will be held.***

**4-H Dogs:**

**Ownership Deadline: May 15, 2025**

All 4-H dogs must have their inoculations up to date and have completed “2025 Certificate of Completion of Indiana Requirements for Exhibition of Dogs” form 4-H-671W to participate in the 4-H Dog Project. **This form must be completed by a veterinarian and turned into the dog project leader no later than March 1, 2025. Dogs will not be allowed at 4-H Dog Project workshops/activities after March 1st if the completed form has not been turned into the dog project leader.**

PLEASE NOTE: Certain required vaccinations have not been proven effective in wolf-hybrids; therefore, because wolf-hybrids cannot meet the vaccination requirements of Indiana Board of Animal Health, wolf-hybrids **cannot** be shown in the 4-H Dog Program.

**Changes to classes and rules may occur based on 2025 IN 4-H State Dog and State Fair changes.**

**Project Guidelines:**

- It is recommended to complete a record sheet (front and back sides) and manual to be turned into dog project leaders.

**Exhibit Requirements:**

Animal exhibitors also have the option of completing an action demonstration or exhibiting a poster in place of or in addition to exhibiting an animal. The posters and demonstrations should cover a topic of one of the activities or learning experiences in the completed grade level of the project manual. Posters must follow poster rules, page 30, #14. A Champion poster will be chosen in each level (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) for each animal

specie (example: dog, cat, goat, sheep etc.) A Grand Champion animal poster will be selected from all eligible Champion animal posters.

If a 4-H'er opts to show a dog, Obedience is required, Agility and Showmanship are optional activities that a 4-H'er can train and compete in. If a dog is not shown in Obedience, then they will not qualify for ribbons and/or placing in Agility and/or Showmanship.

A 4-H participant can show only one dog and only in one obedience class in a given year. A 4-H dog shown in Showmanship and/or Agility must also be shown in a 4-H obedience class by the same exhibitor.

A dog may only be shown by one 4-H'er.

**County Fair Rule** - All 4-H'ers must enter and show their own animals unless authorized by Project Superintendent.

All show persons must be Floyd County 4-H members.

Decisions of the judge are final. Video cameras may be used for personal use but will not be used to dispute a judge's decision or score.

Excessive and/or inhumane treatment of a 4-H dog by handler and/or family will be grounds for disqualification.

Physical or verbal disciplining of a dog is not permitted at any time, inside or outside class or the show ring, except to a reasonable extent in case of an attack on either a dog or person.

For everyone's protection, a dog that is aggressive toward people and/or other dogs will be asked to leave the program. Indiana 4-H Aggressive Dog Policy will be followed. 4-H members are responsible for the actions of their dogs.

4-H dogs must wear a well fitted slip, buckle, or martingale training collar made of chain, nylon, or leather in obedience class. A six-foot nylon or leather leash must be used. No pinch, prong or electronic training collars are allowed in the Dog Project. No tags are allowed on training collars. No other collars are allowed during training or showing.

Additional collars and leashes are required for Agility and Showmanship. Head halters are useful training tools and are acceptable in the 4-H training program; however, a dog may not be shown in a head halter.

All 4-H'ers or a family member are required to clean up after their dog. Plastic bags and paper towels are available; this applies to all training sessions and shows. Failure to clean up after your dog may result in disqualification for the county dog show.

A 4-H dog may not attend training session or show if they are exhibiting symptoms of any communicable disease. (Including ticks and fleas).

Female dogs in any stage of in season (heat) will not be allowed at training sessions or shows.

A dog being shown in the Dog Obedience project must belong to the exhibitor or to a member of his/her immediate family or household. All exhibitors must have been enrolled by May 15 in the county 4-H Dog Project to be eligible to compete at the Floyd County 4-H Dog Show and/or Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Dogs may only be shown by the 4-H member, their sibling, or their parent from May 15 through the Dog Show. Exhibition by any

other individual makes the dog ineligible for showing in 4-H.

**It is highly recommended that a parent stays to observe training classes.**

Appropriate attire is required in training and showing. At the judge's discretion a 10-point deduction can be taken for inappropriate attire. Examples of inappropriate attire include the following:

- Torn, tattered or dirty clothing
- Excessively baggy or tight clothing, including short skirts or shorts
- Tank tops, halter tops or tops with spaghetti straps
- Clothing with commercial advertisements or insignia (except 4-H clover) is prohibited, except for dogs being raised for the handicapped.
- Smooth soled boots, high heels, loose fitting shoes, floppy sandals or other unsafe footwear.
- No clothing may be worn during judging that identifies a farm, breeder, or specific breed. No double handling is allowed. Persons outside the ring are prohibited from any intentional actions designed to affect the performance of a handler or dog being judged. This applies to persons attempting to improve or impair a performance. This includes verbal or non-verbal actions.

The divisions listed below will be used at the County and State level of competition, except for those noted as "County Level Competition Only". Any dog exhibited at the County Show is eligible to compete at the State Fair regardless of County placing. Pre-registration is required for State Fair. Dog entry forms will be due to the State Fair Entry Department by July 1, 2025.

A 4-H member may not repeat Obedience class 1A.

A 4-H member may not repeat the following Obedience classes with the same dog: 1B, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A.

A 4-H member may not move back to a lower class than the one they were entered in previous years with the same dog.

**Obedience Divisions:**

**Class 1A** - For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experiences with a dog that has received no obedience training prior to October 1. Not repeatable. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash-no Finish, Sit Stay on Leash-30 seconds.

**Class 1B** - For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience with a new untrained dog; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dog has had training; or for 4-H'ers and dogs with previous training experience, including showing in 1A; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dogs have had training that disqualifies them for 1A. Not repeatable with the same dog. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash with Finish, Down Stay (Walk Around Ring), Sit Stay (Get Your Leash).

**Class 2A** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 1B. Not repeatable with the same dog. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free,

Recall off Leash, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.

**Class 2B** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 2A; may repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Drop on Recall, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.

**Class 3A** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 2B. Not repeatable with the same dog.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Dumbbell Recall, Drop on Recall, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash).

**Class 3B** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 3A. May repeat until ready to move up.

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

**Class 4A** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 3B. Not repeatable with the same dog.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Recall Over Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Sit-Down).

**Class 4B** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 4A. May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit).

**Class 5A** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 4B. Not repeatable with the same dog.

Exercises are: Hand Signals (+ voice), Directed Retrieve (2 gloves), Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.

**Class 5B** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 5A. May repeat until ready to move up.

Exercises are: Hand Signals, Directed Retrieve, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.

**Class 6A** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 5B. Not repeatable with the same dog.

Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination (1 retrieve), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, Go Out, Directed Jumping (1 jump).

**Class 6B** – For 4-H'ers who have completed 6A. May repeat. Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping, Moving Stand and Exam.

**Veterans** - Repeatable. For 4-H members whose dogs are at least seven (7) 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 once they have competed in the Veteran's Class. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Recall off Leash, Stand Stay Get Your Leash.

Tie scores in obedience competition will be broken as follows: a) scores will be compared beginning with the first exercise on the score sheet, the exhibitor with the highest score in that exercise will win, if first exercise is tied then we proceed down the score sheet through the successive exercises until a higher score prevails; b) if the scores are tied in each exercise, the first exercise on the score sheet will be repeated in its entirety, in order to determine a winner.

**Agility Levels:**

**1A Obedience members are not allowed to show Agility. Dogs must be one year old at the start of training to participate in Agility.**

A dog may be entered in only one agility class. Awards are granted by agility class regardless of dog size.

**Beginning** Open to dogs that have completed 1A or 1B Obedience.

Beginning A is for teams in which neither the 4-H member nor dog have previously participated in agility. The course is run on leash. The team must use a 6-foot leash. This class is not repeatable.

Beginning B is for teams in which either the 4-H member or dog has previously participated in agility. The 4-H member may have participated with another dog, or the dog may have participated with another 4-H member. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Beginning B until it can perform Intermediate-level work.

**Intermediate** Open to those completing Beginning Agility.

Intermediate A is for 4-H members who have not participated in Intermediate agility in a previous year. The course is run off leash. This class is not repeatable.

Intermediate B is for 4-H members who have participated in Intermediate agility with the current or a different dog in a previous year. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Intermediate B until it can perform Advanced-level work.

**Advanced** Open to members completing Intermediate Agility.

Advanced A is for 4-H members who have not participated in Advanced agility in a previous year. The course is run off leash. This class is not repeatable.

Advanced B is for 4-H members who have participated in Advanced agility with the current or a different dog in a previous year. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Advanced B until it can perform Excellent-level work.

**Excellent** Open to members demonstrating proficiency in Advanced.

Class Excellent is for 4-H members and dogs exhibiting more advanced handling skills over the same obstacles as those in the Advanced classes. The course is run off leash.

A dog may be designated as Veteran Agility if it is at least 7 years old. A dog must always compete as a Veteran Agility once it has competed with that designation. A Veteran Agility Dog will compete at the next jump height lower than their actual height, in the appropriate Agility Level. Veteran Agility can be designated by the dog project leader due to a dog's health.

A flat quick release collar is required for agility, no tags are allowed on the agility collar. Tab leads are allowed during training sessions but must not have a loop or handle on it; the tab lead must not be longer than 6" and cannot drag on the ground.

Attire for agility follows the 4-H standard for appropriateness. Clothing should be comfortable for running and bending. Exposing cleavage, a bare midriff or buttocks is inappropriate. It is highly recommended that the handler wear shoes that will permit quick movement without slipping. Typically, this means the handler will wear athletic shoes or other flexible rubber-soled shoes. Boots with smooth soles, high heels, loose fitting shoes, sandals or flip flops and other unsafe footwear will not be allowed either at practice or shows.

**For the safety of the 4-Her and dogs' access to agility equipment will be limited if appropriate footwear is not worn or if appropriate collar and lead are not used.**

Jump height is based upon the height of the dog as measured at the withers. Jump Height divisions are:

- 4" – For dogs 11" and under at the withers
- 8" – For dogs 14" and under at the withers
- 12" – For dogs 18" and under at the withers
- 16" – For dogs 22" and under at the withers
- 20" – For dogs over 22" at the withers

The pause table is set at the jump height.

Tie scores in agility competition will be broken by time.

## **SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS: Grade in school on January 1 of the current year.

Junior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 3-5 are eligible.

Intermediate Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in grades 6-8 are eligible.

Senior Showmanship - All 4-H exhibitors in the 9th grade or above are eligible.

A Master Showman of each specie is determined through a final round of showmanship which the Champion of each class will compete.

Attire for Showmanship: The handler should appear neat and well groomed. Girls must wear dresses, culottes, skirts (of knee length or longer) or dress pants. Tops must maintain an appropriate neckline and not show any skin at the lower edge. Boys must wear dress pants or slacks, and dress shirts. Jacket and tie are optional. Blue jeans are not considered appropriate attire for the Showmanship ring. Clothing color should complement the dog but not necessarily match the dog. Recommended shoes include tennis shoes or soft sole shoes. Loose fitting shoes, flip flops, sandals, high heels, smooth soled boots, or other unsafe footwear is inappropriate. Inappropriate attire includes hat, gloves, and clothing with commercial advertising, or jewelry that might distract other competitors or dogs.

Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the team. Handlers are to use good judgment concerning any makeup or accessories, and in styling hair away from their face.

Tie scores in showmanship competition will be broken by a runoff in the ring with the original judge. Handlers and their dogs should be scored on set up and gaiting.