



PROJECT TITLE: DOG

Description:

The educational 4-H Dog program and related activities (such as workshops) provide youth with a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both dog subject skills (such as health care, obedience, showmanship and agility) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications). Training is completed using all rewards and science-based methods. No aversive or punishment methods are used in this program.

The purpose of the Parke County 4-H Project Club and Show is to provide 4-H'ers with an educational and enjoyable learning experience that will provide them with a valuable life skill. The show shall not be considered as a professional show and all 4-H'ers should treat each other with the utmost respect and sportsmanship.

Superintendent: Susan Seitz – **Trainer**

Superintendent Assistant: Shelby Marsolf

Training Volunteer: Connie Swaim – KPA-CTP

State Fair Entries:

Entry may be made by 4-H members at <https://exhibitorscorner.indianastatefair.com/>.

Exhibit Guidelines:

4-H Dog Enrollment Procedures:

1. 4-H Dog Exhibitors are required to complete a copy of form 4-H-671 “Certification of Vaccination” for the 4-H Dog Project before bringing their dog to a practice. First year members or a member with a new dog will be required to have their vaccination form on file with the leader prior to attending a practice and/or training session with their dog or puppy. May 30th (for new members and new dogs with returning member) is the final date that a member may present their vaccination form for the dog to participate in the dog project. Dogs shown the prior year in the 4-H program, have a waiver and may bring their vaccination form by June 30th of the current program year. An explanation of this form and the Dog Record Sheet will be explained at the first Organization Meeting, which is held prior to any practice and/or training meetings.
2. Any 4-H Dog Members can complete their project by exhibiting a poster or an interactive demonstration. See “*Animal Education*” project requirements.
3. Eligible dogs must be 6 months of age prior to May 15th of the program year to participate in the 4-H Dog program. Dogs under 6 months of age may still participate in the training program as long as a vaccination record is presented to the 4-H Leader. Dogs under 6 months can complete the project the night of the Mock Show, with the 4-H Leader or designee as the official OR they may complete during the Dog Show. In either case the Puppy Score sheet (county level) will be used.

Meeting attendance is not required however for members and their dogs to be successful in the program it is necessary for members to attend at least 50% of training meetings. If a member cannot attend 50% of the meetings they will need to meet with the leader and show proficiency of their current obedience level. Those who cannot show proficiency in their current obedience level can complete either using the Beginner's Novice score sheet at the Mock Show or the Beginner's Novice score sheet at the regular show. Beginner's Novice is not eligible for the Obedience Show run-off as it is a county level class only.

4. Any additional attendance recommendations/requirements will be provided at the

organizational meeting.

5. Reactive/aggressive dogs. Dogs that are not appropriately acclimated to the building may show signs of stress and be reactive or aggressive towards other dogs or persons. Dogs that are deemed reactive or aggressive by the training leader and at least 1 additional non-biased person should not be in the building with other dogs. This includes regular training/practice sessions and the Dog Show. In this case member and their dog can work with the leader individually to complete the project to create and complete a training plan that would allow the member to complete the project.
6. All members must notify the leader by May 30th as to their intention for the project if they have not attended any meetings.
7. If circumstances arise that would prevent the 4-H'er or dog from participating in the Parke County 4-H Dog Show, the project leader and assistant superintendent will address each issue separately.
8. Dog Workbooks. All members in the dog project showing a dog or completing a poster are required to complete 3-5 activities annually in the Dog Workbook. Dog Workbooks are distributed by grade level:
 - a. Workbook 1 – Wiggles and Wags: grades 3, 4 and 5
 - b. Workbook 2 – Canine Connection: grades 6, 7 and 8
 - c. Workbook 3 – Leader of the Pack: grades 9 to 12
 - d. Dog Record Sheet – Grades 9 to 12 (if they have previously completed the Workbook 3

Please be sure to verify you have the correct book for the appropriate grade level.

Judging Classes and Divisions

Rules for all classes and divisions within Obedience, Showmanship and Agility, will be those which have been approved and accepted by the State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee. Any conflict with State and County 4-H Dog Program rules will be reviewed using AKC rules for Obedience/Showmanship and Agility Trials. Exceptions, additions and changes for the Parke County 4-H Dog Program are listed below.

Obedience

Members advancing to next class level will need to score a minimum of 150 points out of the

200. Decisions are also based upon Leader recommendation and member's prior training experience. Current score sheets will be used as approved by the State Dog Advisory Committee as of January of each program year. Any questions concerning rules will refer to county handbook, state guidelines or AKC rules for Obedience. This also applies for Showmanship. AKC guidelines apply to Agility and Rally.

1. Class 1A – For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experiences with a dog which has received no obedience training prior to January 1 of the current year. (not repeatable).
1. Class 1B – For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience, (including showing in 1A), or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dogs have had training which disqualifies them for 1-A. (not repeatable with the same dog).
2. Class Leader Dog A – For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experience with a leader dog.
3. Class Leader Dog B – For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience (4-H or otherwise) coming back with a leader dog.
4. Class 2A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have completed 1-A or 1-B. (not repeatable with the same dog). Class 2A Div. 2 (county level only), member may repeat once with same dog.
5. Class 2B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered class 2 work. (repeatable with the same dog until the dog is ready). Determination of "readiness" will be determined by the leader in consultation with the member.
6. Class 3A – For 4-Hers and dogs which have mastered class 2 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).

7. Class 3B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have been in 3-A, but are not ready for Class 4 work. (may repeat – 2B County Readiness applies).
8. Class 4A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 3 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
9. Class 4B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have been in 4A, but are not ready for Class 5 work. (may repeat – 2B County Readiness applies).
10. Class 5A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 4 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
11. Class 5B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have been in 5A, but are not ready for Class 6 work. (may repeat – 2B County Readiness applies).
12. Class 6A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 5 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
13. Class 6B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have been in 6A. (may repeat - 2B County Readiness applies).
14. Veteran's – 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 at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show, once they have competed in Veteran's Class.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES – Total points possible in each class/division 200.

Showmanship

There has been limited interest in completion of Showmanship. A decision to offer showmanship as a part of the Dog Show will be determined by the club members at a club meeting no later than June 1st of the current program year. Should the club decided not to offer Showmanship as part of the Dog Show, members may decide to hold a Fun Match during the Mock Show. In order for members to participate in Showmanship they must complete the obedience portion of the program.

Classes

1. Junior Showmanship – grades 3 through 5
2. Intermediate Showmanship – grades 6 through 8
3. Senior Showmanship – grades 9 and above
4. Open Showmanship – county only class. Members may compete in open showmanship after winning senior division or if they have received Reserve Grand or Grand Champion Handler in Showmanship Note: Novice and Open Showmanship is only available at the County level in the dog program.
5. Those members who compete in showmanship at the State Fair will compete in their appropriate age category. Once an exhibitor has received Champion in his/her division regardless of age, they automatically move into the next division for the next program year – Showmanship Only.

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES – Total points possible in each class 200.

Costume Class

A fun class for 4-H'ers and their dogs. All exhibitors compete in one class together.

Competition will be held after all other classes and divisions have concluded. Judge makes selection of winner from entered contestants. All decisions are final. To be awarded day of Regular Dog Show.

Members must complete in obedience at the Dog Show in order to participate in the Costume Class.

Agility and/or Rally Obedience

Agility: Fun-match trial. Leaders and members will determine if there is interest to host a fun match in agility during fair week. This will be decided prior to June 1st of the current program year.

All State 4-H Dog Rules for agility will apply with the exception of the following:

1. Height Division – as the height divisions used by the County will begin with 4” to 24” (in 4” increments).
2. Group Awards will be given based on times. Blue, Red and White.
3. Members will determine if they will require dues should be paid for the use of the Agility equipment. Dues collected would be used to repair, replace and maintain agility equipment. All fees MUST be paid prior to beginning agility classes. Leaders may waive the fee in the event that there are not a minimum of three agility practice classes.
4. Members MUST present their 4-H 671 when registering the day of the Agility Fun Trial. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. Members who are competing in sponsored 4-H events need to notify project leader so time can be allowed for them to complete the course when available.
6. First year members must provide proof their dogs are capable of obedient instruction prior to beginning agility classes.

Rally: Obedience Fun Match can be added to the dog show if the club members request by June 1st of the current program year. Rally Obedience is county only. Members will compete in Rally based upon their current obedience class. AKC rules will apply to the

Rally Obedience. The Fun Match is for participation only. Blue, Red and White awards will be presented based on times and scoresheet completion for Rally.

Group awards for Agility and Rally based on times (Blue, Red and White Ribbons and participation). Breakdown for Group awards will be posted morning of Agility Trial. 200-150 points – Blue Ribbon
149-100 points –
Red Ribbon 99 points and below – White Ribbon

Alternatives for Project Completion

The alternatives listed below allow individuals to participate in the Dog Project and complete in a non-traditional way the project. Learning about dogs and building relationships, life long skills that members will benefit.

1. Dog Poster or Educational Exhibit

See “Animal Education” project requirements. Animal Education projects should be checked in with all other static exhibits at the appointed time that are to be displayed in the 4-H Building. Posters will be judged by the Dog Show judge using the appropriate Dog Poster Project Score sheet. Levels will be Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

2. AKC Programs, Support and Testing

Members can complete the CGC testing, or advanced levels by June 30th to complete the project for the program year. Only one CGC can be earned by a dog. Advanced testing can be added in subsequent years by June 30th. Leader can complete the testing or the member may be tested by an AKC evaluator and bring the completed AKC testing form to the leader no later than 30 days after the completed test.

AKC CGC & Advanced Levels

- **Canine Good Citizen (CGC):** The foundational 10-step test covering basic manners like accepting

strangers, walking on a loose leash, staying, and responding to cues.

- **AKC Urban CGC (GCGU):** Tests skills in a city setting with traffic, crowds, and noises, focusing on public access.
- **AKC Community Canine (CGCA):** An advanced public access test where dogs demonstrate good manners in busy public places, often without food rewards during the test.

AKC Junior Program

Members who choose to complete the dog project as part of the AKC Junior Program must follow all AKC Junior Program guidelines. Each member is required to complete a minimum of two AKC-approved events by the end of the current program year. Members must submit their AKC Junior number and the registered event information as verification of completion of the dog project.

- The AKC Junior Program requires handlers to be 9 to under 18 years old, have an AKC Junior Handler Number, and be able to control their dog, which must be at least 6 months old and AKC-eligible. Participants are divided by age (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) and experience (Novice for beginners, Open for those with 3+ first-place wins). The program focuses on the handler's skill in presenting the dog, not the dog's breed conformity, with classes in Junior Showmanship and other AKC sports like Agility, Rally, and FastCAT.

General Requirements:

- Age: 9 years old to under 18 years old on the day of the show.
- AKC Junior Handler Number: Must obtain this number from the AKC before competing to track wins and points.
- Dog Eligibility: Dog must be at least 6 months old, physically sound, up-to-date on vaccinations, and have an AKC number (registration, PAL, or FSS).
- Handling: Juniors must be able to control their dogs at all times.

Junior Showmanship Classes (Conformation)

- Novice: For beginners, those with fewer than three 1st-place wins in Novice.
 - Open: For more experienced handlers with three or more 1st-place wins in Novice classes.
 - Master: For top handlers with 10 Best Junior wins with competition.
- Age Divisions (within Novice/Open)
- Junior: 9 years to under 12 years.
 - Intermediate: 12 years to under 15 years.
 - Senior: 15 years to under 18 years.

Other AKC Junior Activities

- Juniors can also participate in other events like Agility, Obedience, Rally, FastCAT, Scent Work, and more, with specific rules and age/experience classes

3. Shelter Training

Members who wish to complete the project but do not have a dog of their own may participate through shelter-based training. Participation will take place through the Shelter Saturday program. Members are required to complete a minimum of 15 hours working with shelter dogs during the program year.

Members who have not previously participated in the dog project must attend a Training and Behavior Seminar prior to working with the Shelter Dog Program. In addition, members must complete a shelter volunteer form signed by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are also required to attend Shelter Saturdays alongside the member.

Top Dog Program

The Top Dog Program allows members to earn points through active participation in the dog club throughout the program year. Points are awarded for involvement, commitment, and achievement in a variety of dog-related activities.

How Members Earn Points

Members may earn points through the following activities:

- **Meeting Attendance**
 - Attending dog club meetings
 - Participating in training sessions
- **Program Participation**
 - Competing in the Dog Show
 - Participating in the Shelter Saturday Program
 - Completing AKC testing events
- **AKC Junior Program Participation**
 - Members enrolled in the AKC Junior Program earn points for:
 - Participation in AKC events
 - Attendance at regular dog club meetings and training sessions
- **Additional Opportunities**
 - Completing the Dog Record Sheet
 - Participating in the FIT Dog Program

Top Dog Test

Members who wish to take the Top Dog test must notify the dog club leader **by May 15**. Study materials and program resources for the test will be provided in advance.

- The **Top Dog test** will be administered on the evening of the **Mock Dog Show**.

Recognition

- The **Top Dog Award** will be presented during the **Awards Ceremony at the County Fair**.

OBEDIENCE, SHOWMANSHIP AND Other Class AWARDS

Obedience

1. Dog Obedience Divisions Novice 1A and higher will receive awards based on total points

received on score sheet out of a possible 200 points. Placings will be for 1st through 5th. Champions and Reserve Champions will be awarded in all divisions including 1A.

2. Leader Dog and Companion Dogs in the program will use group awards for their divisions – they are eligible for Champion in their division but will not compete in the Run-off for Grand Champion.

200-150 points – Blue Ribbon 149-

100 points – Red Ribbon

99 points and below – White Ribbon

3. Obedience “Run-off” for Obedience Grand Champion – Champion and Res. Champion of each Obedience Division represents their division in the “Run-off” for Obedience Grand Champion. Division Champions MUST have a qualifying score of 150 points to represent their division in the run-off.

a. 1A score sheet is used

b. Judge decides which portion thereof to use of score sheet or can use entire score sheet.

c. Any ties within “Run-off” are broken by the judge using the method outlined within the State Fair rules for 4-H Dog Show.

d. Judge’s decision is final.

Showmanship

Winners of each Showmanship Class compete in the “Master Handler” Run-off. Judges makes selection using Showmanship Score sheet, for Grand Champion Showman and Reserve Champion Showman.

Agility/Rally Obedience

1. Can be either actual classes or Fun Match
2. Regular classes - Group awards based on times (Blue, Red and White
3. Fun Match – participation only
4. Competition will be based on entry division and score sheets.

Costume Class

A fun class for 4-H’ers and their dogs. All exhibitors compete in one class together. Competition will be held after all other classes and divisions have concluded. Judge makes selection of winner from entered contestants. All decisions are final. To be awarded day of Regular Dog Show. Members must complete in obedience at the Dog Show in order to participate in the Costume Class.