

1st Grade

MINI 4-H DOGS



Hi! Welcome to Mini 4-H and the Mini 4-H Dogs Project. You are going to have a great time this year as you learn about caring for a dog.

Before you begin this project, please read the helpful information listed on the next two pages.

Good luck on your project and, most of all, have fun!

INSTRUCTIONS

Before you start working on this project, please read these instructions with an adult or 4-H member who will be helping you.

1. Read the Exhibit Requirements, Note to Parents, Helpful Hints, and Project Goals.
2. You should begin working on your project when you get this manual.
3. Be proud of your project if you have done the best you can do.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

1. Read this project book.
2. Your dog project exhibit will be to add to your previous year (if applicable) scrapbook a 40 word story you have written on caring for a dog. You may include pictures or drawings of yourself caring for the dog. Title your scrapbook "Mini 4-H Dog" and have fun decorating the cover. Bring the scrapbook to the 4-H Fair and turn it in as your dog exhibit.

NOTE TO PARENTS

4-H is proud to be considered a "family affair." While it is expected that the 4-H member will actively complete his or her own project, please offer encouragement and guidance to your child throughout the project. Keep in mind that your child's exhibit is to be an exhibit of his or her best effort. Most importantly, take time to enjoy 4-H with your child.

HELPFUL HINTS

Each 4-H family should view a current copy of the Washington County 4-H Handbook. This book contains information on 4-H activities, rules and projects. Whenever you have 4-H related questions, please consult this information book.

Monthly 4-H Newsletters will be mailed to families. Please read these Newsletters. They will contain information on upcoming 4-H activities, rule or project updates, and 4-H fair information.

Mini 4-H members are encouraged to attend 4-H Club meetings. At these meetings, you will learn more about 4-H, make new friends, and have fun.

PROJECT GOALS

Given the information in this manual and the help of an adult or older 4-H member you will complete an exhibit in the Mini Dog Project.

Dog Nutrition



Types of Dog Foods

Dry - Dry dog foods contains 6-10% moisture. Dry dog food is nice because it's lower in cost and stays fresh all day.

Semimoist - Semimoist dog food contains between 23-40% moisture.

Canned - Canned dog food is between 68-80% moisture. Dogs may like canned food the best, but it doesn't stay as fresh as long as semimoist. It also tends to be the most expensive.

What should I feed my dog?

Ask your veterinarian what kind of food to feed your dog and how much. You should always measure how much food you give based on your veterinarian's instructions. Set mealtimes for your dog. Don't feed your pet table scraps, and limit food rewards. These things may help the chance of your dog becoming overweight. Overweight dogs can develop heart and respiratory problems, diabetes, skeletal stress, and gastrointestinal disorders.

First Aid For Dogs

Whenever an animal is hurt including your own dog, get an adult to help you out immediately. Sometimes a hurt or sick animal may not act the same as they normally do. If they are in pain, they may try to bite you if you try to touch them. You can help the adult by getting your pet's first aid kit.

Just For Fun: Make a first aid kit for a dog. Below are the things you need to keep in your dog's first aid box.

1. Veterinarian's Phone Number
 - Put this on a 3 x 5 index card.
2. Gauze
 - To wrap wounds
3. Adhesive tape
 - To hold bandages on
4. Nonstick Bandages
 - To protect wounds or control bleeding.
5. Hydrogen peroxide
 - 3%
6. Kaopectate tablets maximum strength
7. Triple antibiotic ointment

Health Care

To keep your dog healthy, you need to remember these key things to ensure a healthy dog.

1. Pet Proof your home and yard.

Wherever your dog is sure to be, you need to make sure that it's safe. Certain plants are poisonous - dieffenbachia, philodendron, hyacinth, and mistletoe. You also need to keep your pet away from pesticides and medications. Make sure electrical cords are put away so that your dog can't play with or chew on them. Also watch out for chocolate and antifreeze. Both are toxic to dogs.

2. Make sure your pet receives a complete check-up.

Make sure your dog receives a yearly check up and keep their vaccinations up to date. Early detection of diseases is very important to the health of your dog.

3. Watch your dog's diet and exercise.

Overweight dogs can have serious health problems. That's why it's important not to feed table scraps or too many doggy treats. These are high in fat and calories.

Your Dog Project Exhibit

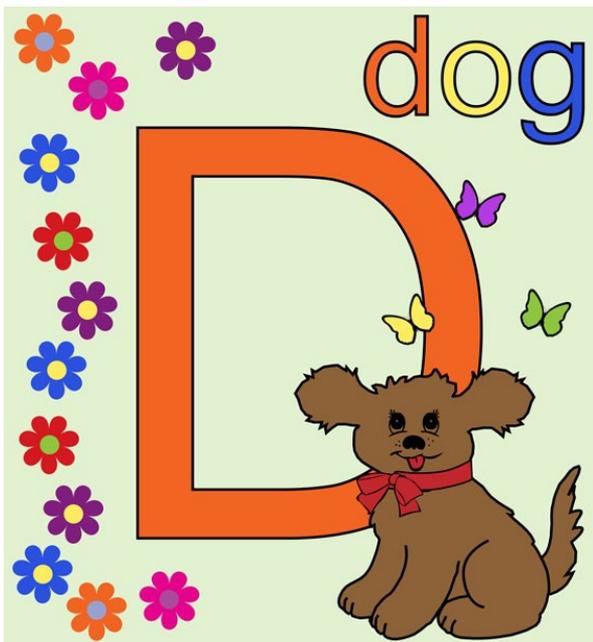
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Check List for Your Dog Project Exhibit

The judge will consider these things when they look at your exhibit. Can you answer "yes" to each question?

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. Is your story at least 40 words? | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Is your story about caring for a dog? | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Did you give your story a title? | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Is your story neatly written? | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Did you include pictures or drawings? | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Are the pictures or drawings labeled? | _____ | _____ |

It is important that you get your exhibit to the fair on time. Check your 4-H Newsletter or ask your 4-H Club leader when your Mini Dog project exhibit needs to be checked-in at the 4-H Fair. Write that information here and on your family calendar.



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