

Kindergarten

MINI 4-H DOG



Hi! Welcome to Mini 4-H and the Mini 4-H Dog Project. You are going to have a great time this year as you learn about choosing 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. Exhibit a scrapbook containing information and pictures on dogs. 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 made available 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.

Should You Get A Dog?

Your dog will depend on you throughout its life, and with proper care may live 10 to 15 years. Are you willing and able to care properly for it and provide a stable home for that long? You need to think about how much time you have to spend with a dog and how much space you have. A big dog needs lots of space. Can you afford a dog? A high number of dogs change owners at least once in their lifetimes.

What Kind of Dog?

Many people are attracted to dogs or puppies because of their looks. Consider their characteristics as well, since the puppy you choose today may be a member of your family for 10-15 years. Are you looking for a very active, playful dog? Do you need a dog that will be especially gentle with children or elderly people? Or a calm, affectionate dog that will sleep on your bed at night?

Consider adopting an adult dog. An adult dog already has a fully developed personality, so you know what you're getting. Adult dogs generally adapt just fine to new homes, and "bond" just as strongly with new owners as puppies do.

Also, adult dogs are much less likely to be adopted -- most people want to adopt cute little puppies. But remember, puppies require more care and watching over. If you decide to get a puppy, try not to get one that is too young.

Another thing you must decide is purebred or mixed breed? With a purebred animal there are certain things that you know about the animal based upon that breed.

Where to get a Dog

Animal Shelters

An animal shelter is a good place to pick up a dog and save it. Look for a clean, healthy dog. Look for signs of friendliness and liveliness. Talk with the people caring for the animals for any information on a particular animal they can give you; they can often tell you a lot about a dog's personality. Don't overlook the adult dogs.

At the animal shelter, be prepared to pay a fee, answer some questions about the home you will give the dog, and perhaps give some references. This is normal. The fee covers some of the costs of operating the animal shelter. The questions are meant to ensure that adopted dogs go to good, stable homes.

Most will require that you have the dog neutered. Some will do it prior to adoption, others will require you to do so within a month or two of adoption. This is also normal and is intended to reduce the population of puppies returning to the shelter.

Newspaper Ads, Friends, Bulletin Boards

People who have to find homes for adult dogs will sometimes advertise in the paper (or on bulletin boards at local stores or schools). These dogs are usually well cared for and you can meet them in a home environment.

You will also see puppies advertised in the paper. Make sure you are getting a healthy, well socialized puppy, don't get a puppy that is too young.

Breeders

If you want a purebred dog or puppy, you will need to look for a good, responsible breeder. Try to talk to more than one breeder before buying a puppy. Look for honest breeders who care about their dogs' welfare, and who have good-natured dogs. Talk to breeders about inherited health problems. Ask about how the dogs are raised. If possible, visit the kennel before buying

a puppy. A good breeder asks you questions, too, to find out if you are a good home for a puppy. The breeder may also ask that you sign a contract requiring you to care properly for this puppy. This is normal, and is a sign of a responsible breeder. Expect to pay \$50 - \$1500 or more for a puppy, depending on the breed and your area.

Your Dog Project Exhibit

Your dog project exhibit will be to complete a scrapbook containing information and pictures on dogs. Possible items you could include are (1) pictures of you and your favorite dogs with captions, (2) pictures of dogs from magazines, books, etc. with cute or funny captions, and (3) include any booklet or magazine articles you have found.

Making Your Scrapbook

Follow these instructions:

1. Title your scrapbook "Mini 4-H Dog" and have fun decorating the cover.
2. Remember to include pictures of dogs with captions and any information that you have found.

Remember the scrapbook is to be fun, so use your imagination and creativeness. However, don't spend a lot of money preparing the exhibit.

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 scrapbook entitled "Mini 4-H Dog"? | | |
| 2. Are there pictures of dogs? | ___ | ___ |
| 3. Are there any booklets or magazine articles? | ___ | ___ |
| 4. Do the pictures include captions? | ___ | ___ |
| 5. Is the scrapbook clean and neat looking? | ___ | ___ |
| 6. Is the scrapbook creative? | ___ | ___ |

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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