

DOG OBEDIENCE

Any Dog Obedience member may exhibit at the State Fair if he or she has completed the county requirements.

Manual Information

1. The Dog Obedience manuals are divided into three levels according to the following breakdown:

Level 1	Grades 3, 4, & 5
Level 2	Grades 6, 7, & 8
Level 3	Grades 9 and Above
2. Manuals may be purchased, if desired. Members will use the same manual for more than one year.
3. Members are strongly encouraged to attend activities and participate in the learning experiences offered for their level each year.
4. The Dog Record Sheet, signed by your leader, must be checked at the time of Dog Show registration. (Vaccination Certification will be checked at first training session).
5. Record sheets will then be placed in your green folder and turned in at the county fair. 4-H leaders may grade record sheets.

Exhibit Requirements: Do one or more of the following:

1. Exhibit your dog in the 4-H Dog Obedience Show
2. Exhibit a dog educational poster. (Refer to page 44 in this handbook for details.)
3. Do an Interactive Demonstration.



Dog Show General Rules

1. Dogs may be purebred or mixed breeds.
2. A dog being shown in dog obedience must belong to the exhibitor or a member of his immediate family by the beginning of the county workshops, which usually begin in April.
3. Dogs should be 6 months of age or older by first training session.
4. All dogs 6 months of age and older must have the required vaccinations and procedures listed on the Certificate of Vaccination for the 4-H Dog Project (4-H 671). This form, signed by your veterinarian, must be presented at the first training class.
5. All dogs are to be fed, trained, and cared for by the 4-H trainer.
6. Each trainer is to keep a complete record of his dog, including feeding costs, health care costs, training record and time spent grooming.
7. All dogs must be kept on leash while on the Fairgrounds, unless required to be off leash during the Dog Obedience Show.
8. Any questions or situations not covered in this handbook will be ruled upon by the superintendent.

Indiana 4-H Aggressive Dog Policy

The safety and well-being of 4-H members and volunteers is a primary concern with all Indiana 4-H Program opportunities. Families should err on the side of caution in selecting a dog for the 4-H member to exhibit. A dog that has a known history of aggression or biting is not appropriate for involvement in the 4-H Program. On occasion, the 4-H member may have difficulty managing their dog within the 4-H Program. The following guidance has been provided for the Indiana 4-H Dog Program as the owner/exhibitor of the dog bears responsibility of the dog's actions. In the subsequent policy the term "4-H Dog Personnel" will include County 4-H Volunteers, County Extension Educators, State 4-H Staff and appropriate County and State Fair Directors.

A dog that bites a human or another dog at any 4-H Dog Event must be immediately removed from that event by the 4-H member and will subsequently be excused for the 4-H Program. The member should be directed by 4-H Dog Personnel on-site to remove the dog if the member does not do so willingly. If at determination is made by the 4-H Dog Personnel that a dog bit in self-defense, it may be allowed to remain at the 4-H Dog Event.

Dogs that display other signs of aggression, including but not limited to barking and standing ground, growling, lunging and snapping will be given one verbal warning. They will be removed from the event after the second violation at the same event. To be removed from a 4-H Dog Event, there must be two violations at the same event.

Any dog that is removed from a 4-H Dog Event due to aggressive behavior will be placed on probation for 2 weeks. Written notification of the probation will be given to the 4-H member, asking the 4-H member to use a different dog or having the 4-H member attend events without their dog. At the end of the designated probation period, 4-H Dog Personnel will make a determination regarding the dog's return to 4-H Dog Events.

Dogs that are removed from a 4-H Dog Event twice will be immediately excused from the 4-H program and will not be allowed to re-enter. Excusing a dog from the 4-H Program is rare but can be necessary for the safety of 4-H members, volunteers and other participating dogs. Should a dog be excused from the program, it must be remembered that the action is against the dog and not the 4-H member. 4-H Dog Personnel should look at many solutions and encourage the 4-H member to attend classes without their dog while training it at home or potentially bringing another dog to 4-H events. 4-H members will always be welcome in every other part of the dog project.

In the event that a dog is removed from a 4-H Dog Event or excused from the 4-H Program, 4-H Dog Personnel should report such to the State 4-H Office so that the information is available to all county 4-H Dog Programs and the Indiana State Fair.

Training Program

1. All members should attend 2/3 of all training classes. More than two meetings **missed in succession** should be made up with the assistance of one of the leaders.
2. Members must equip their dogs with the following:
 - A 6-foot leash made of "quiet" construction, meaning it does not make noise when being used. Leash could be made of nylon or leather, for example. The fastener should be made of metal so it doesn't break.
 - A choker chain properly fitted to your dog. Long-haired dogs will do better with a larger chain link size, while short haired dogs can have a smaller chain link size. The length of chain you need depends on the size of your dog.
3. Each member should train his dog 30 minutes each day. This may be broken into two 15-minute periods.
4. Female dogs in season must be left at home, but member must attend class and continue to work his dog at home.
5. Female dogs in season may be shown at the county level separate from the other dogs. They cannot be shown at the State Fair. All other dogs shown at the county level may be shown at the state level.
6. A participant may show only one dog.
7. All judging classes and judging exercises will comply with State Fair rules.

Judging Classes

First Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experience, with a dog which has received no obedience training prior to January 1 of the current year.

Section B: For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience (4-H or otherwise), coming back with a new dog; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dogs have had training which disqualifies them for section 1A.

Second Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have completed sections 1A or 1B.

Section B: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have spent a year in section 2A, but are not ready for third year work.

Third Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have completed second year work.

Section B: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have spent a year in 3A, but are not ready for fourth year work.

Fourth Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have completed third year work.

Section B: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have spent a year in section 4A, but are not ready for fifth year work.

Fifth Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have completed fourth year work.

Section B: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have spent a year in section 5A, but are not ready for sixth year work.

Sixth Year Dog Obedience

Section A: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have completed fifth year work.

Section B: For 4-H'ers and dogs that have spent a year in section 6A, and may repeat.

Veteran's Class

For 4-H members whose dogs are at least 7 years old or are physically challenged. The dog must have completed at least section 2B in previous years.

General Rules for Dog Educational Poster

1. Poster is to be 22" x 28", exhibited horizontally, with a firm backing and a transparent plastic covering. Place a small label in lower right hand corner with the following information: Name, Grade/Age, Club, Project and Level.
2. Posters should be educational in nature and may be on any topic related to dogs.
3. Suggested topics include:
 - Level 1:** Dog Care, Dog Breeds, Me and My Dog, Helping the Handicapped
 - Level 2:** Purposes of Dogs, Responsible Dog Ownership, Uses of Dogs, Disease/Parasite Prevention, Careers with Dogs
 - Level 3:** Learning Life Skills with the Dog Project, Your Dog and the Law, Food, A Dog's Sense of Smell, Dog Over-Population Problems, Animal Health, Animal Welfare
 - Additional Ideas and Topics:** Your Dog's Breed, First Aid for a Dog, Dogs Belong to Groups, General History of the Dog Family, A Disease of Dogs, A Vocation Involving Dogs, Some Phase of Dog Training, A Parasite of Dogs, Diagram of the Dog's Body, Kennel Clubs, Explain Breed Standards, and Junior Handling
4. Refer to "How To Prepare A Poster Project" in this handbook for details on preparing posters.
5. Posters will be entered on the day of building project check-in on Friday morning.

General Rules For Interactive Demonstrations

1. Interactive Demonstrations may be given on any topic related to dogs and will be presented at an appointed time during the 4-H Fair.
2. Refer to "Verbal Communication Events and Activities" in this handbook for details.

Manuals:

Level 1: *Wiggles and Wags* BU-6150
Level 2: *Canine Connection* BU-6151
Level 3: *Leading the Pack* BU-6152

References:

Common Dog Disease and Health Problems 4-H 852
Training Tips for Dog Club Members 4-H 357

Dog Record Sheet: 4-H 390

Certificate of Vaccination: 4-H 671-W

(Rev 01/09)