

Dog Agility and Dog Showmanship

Members must take Dog Obedience in order to take Dog Agility and/or Dog Showmanship. Members may take both Agility and Showmanship if they desire, or they may take one or the other, as long as they take Dog Obedience also.

Dog Agility

1. To participate in this project, you must complete the Dog Obedience project with the same dog by competing in the Dog Obedience show at the 4-H Fair.
2. Agility events are fast-paced exercises in which the handler directs the dog through a course involving, tunnels, a sway bridge, jumps and other obstacles in a race against the clock. You will have to run through the obstacle course with your dog.
3. Speed is important, but control and accuracy are as well.
4. The dogs are scored on the manner in which they negotiate these obstacles and the time elapsed to complete the course.
5. To participate in Dog Agility, you will need the following items:
 - 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.
 - Flat, buckle collar – no tags allowed.

Dog Showmanship

1. To participate in this project, you must complete the Dog Obedience project with the same dog by competing in the Dog Obedience show at the 4-H Fair.
2. In the Dog Showmanship project, you will learn how to show your dog based on its breed. This project is similar to what you would see at an AKC show.
3. Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is shown by the handler.
4. The dog's conformation or its being purebred is of no importance. The emphasis is on the handler's presentation of the dog standing still and in motion.
5. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog's breed, or the breed chosen as that which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard.
6. The handler and dog appear to be part of a team. They work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit.
7. If a dog moves out of place or makes an error, a good handler is aware of this. The handler quickly and efficiently adjusts for the fault and resumes his/her presentation of the dog.
8. Judges examine and evaluate the handler in four basic areas:
 - Proper breed presentation and gait.
 - Skill in presenting the dog.
 - Execution of ring procedure.
 - Appearance and conduct of both dog and handler.
9. To participate in Dog Showmanship, you will need the following items:
 - Slip or martingale collar.
 - Lightweight, small leash. You will want something that matches your dog; nothing that stands out. This also goes for the collar.

(Rev 10/13)
