

DOG PROJECT

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).

Superintendent: Susan Seitz Superintendent Assistant: Sally Hardman

State Fair Entries: Check with the IN State Fair for sign up deadlines without penalties. (web: <http://www.in.gov/statefair/>)

Project Requirements and Guidelines

MISSION: 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.

4-H DOG ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES:

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. Dogs shown the prior year in the 4-H program, have a waiver and may bring their vaccination form any time prior to the Thursday before the Dog Show. 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. July 1st of the current program year is the last date the form may be presented for first year members and/or members with a new dog. After this date, all dogs will not be allowed to attend practices until the vaccination form is received and the member and dog will only be allowed to complete the project for completion at the Mock Show and not during the day of the Dog Show. Any 4-H Dog Members can complete their project by exhibiting a poster or an interactive demonstration. 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.

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 will complete the project the night of the Mock Show, with the 4-H Leader or designee as the official.

Attendance recommendations/requirements will be provided at the organizational meeting.

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.

4-H Dog Members may exhibit a second dog in an obedience class for a non-premium placing. All dogs exhibited must meet the established vaccination criteria. In addition, the 4-H Dog Member must declare which dog will be shown for non-premium by May 15th.

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. UKC and AKC guidelines apply to Agility only.

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).
2. 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).
3. Class Leader Dog A – For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experience with a leader dog.
4. Class Leader Dog B – For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience (4-H or otherwise) coming back with a leader dog.
5. Class 2A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have completed 1-A or 1-B. (not repeatable with the same dog).
6. 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.
7. Class 3A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered class 2 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
8. 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).
9. Class 4A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 3 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
10. 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).
11. Class 5A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 4 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
12. 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).
13. Class 6A – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have mastered Class 5 work. (not repeatable with the same dog).
14. Class 6B – For 4-H'ers and dogs which have been in 6A. (may repeat - 2B County Readiness applies).
15. 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

In the past two years 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.

CLASSES

Novice Showmanship – all first year dog members Junior Showmanship – grades 3 through 5 Intermediate

Showmanship – grades 6 through 8 Senior Showmanship – grades 9 and above

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.

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.

AGILITY AND/OR RALLY

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. There is a \$5 per member usage fee of the agility equipment. This money is 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 (State Dog Advisory Committee has not approved for the state level). Members will compete in Rally based upon their current obedience class. AKC rules will apply to the Rally Obedience. The Fun Match is non premium and is for participation only.

DOG POSTER OR INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATION

Members may exhibit a 4-H Dog Poster or conduct an Interactive Demonstration in addition to or in place of the obedience portion of the 4-H Dog project. Members who plan to complete a poster or action demonstration in lieu of completing the obedience training program MUST advise the Project Leader.

Action Demonstration Guidelines:

Juniors – 4-H Members in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade on January 1 of the current year. Intermediate – 4-H Members in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade on January 1 of the current year. Senior – 4-H Members in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade on January 1 of the current year.

Interactive Demonstrations shall be presented the day of the scheduled dog show. Leader needs to be notified by July 1st that there will be an Interactive Demonstration, topic to be demonstrated and length of demonstration. If a dog is used in the demonstration the 4-H 671, Vaccination Form must accompany the member the day of the Action Demonstration.

Poster Project Guidelines:

To promote an educational, creative, dog related 4-H exhibit. A dog poster should be designed to teach those who view it, about the selected topic. 4-H'ers are encouraged to seek assistance from their 4-H Dog program leaders, the County Extension Office staff, the Internet, and the Public Library.

All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include website links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended that this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the manner in which references are listed.

Poster should be 22" x 28" educational poster displayed horizontally with a stiff backing and a clear protective covering. Posters are to be submitted the night of the Mock Dog Show. Date of Mock show will be announced at least 1 month prior to the end of the training sessions.

Level 1 – 4-H Members in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade on January 1 of the current year. Level 2 – 4-H Members in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade on January 1 of the current year.

Level 3 – 4-H Members in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade on January 1 of the current year.

OBEDIENCE, SHOWMANSHIP AND AGILITY AWARDS

1. Dog Obedience Divisions Novice 1A and higher will receive premium 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 – Champions 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.

High Score Obedience. Open to all Obedience divisions. Highest score is pulled from total on score sheet. Any ties are broken by the judge using the method outlined within the State Fair rules for 4-H Dog Show.

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

Fun Match there will only be participation ribbons given. No group awards.

Group awards 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