



CLAY COUNTY 4-H DOG

*Updated for 2026

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HEALTH:

- a) All 4-H dogs must be accompanied by the [2026 Certificate of Vaccination](#), signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian indicating the dog has been vaccinated for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, leptospirosis and kennel cough. Dates must be included for each vaccine. Dogs that are vaccinated at home must provide an original receipt for the vaccine and attach the receipt and the label for the vaccine on the vet form; in addition to putting the date of vaccination on the form.
- b) **Vaccination form must be shown to the leader BEFORE the dog attends its first practice.**
- c) No dog may be exhibited showing any symptoms of any communicable disease or parasites (including ticks and fleas).
- d) A dog displaying signs of aggression will not be allowed to participate in the interest of safety to others associated with the project. Dogs that bite any official (including judges) will be disqualified from all further activities and will be sent home from the show.
- e) Pulling dogs on the leash is considered a major fault and will result in disqualification.
- f) 4-H members are responsible for the actions of their dogs.
- g) Female dogs who are "in season" will not be allowed to participate in training classes or the show. These dogs should be left at home, so they do not distract other dogs and prevent the exhibitors from being able to demonstrate their true abilities.
- h) Excessive and/or inhumane treatment of a 4-H dog by a handler and/or family member will be grounds for disqualification of the 4-H exhibitor.

ENROLLMENT:

All exhibitors must be enrolled in Clay County 4-H and in the Clay County 4-H Dog Project prior to May 15th in order to be eligible to compete in the county fair or state fair show. See the State Fair premium book ([here](#)) for state fair dog show entry information.

The Mini 4-H Dog Show will include members that are enrolled in the Clay Co. Mini 4-H program. Mini 4-H members must be entered in the dog project by **May 18, 2026** to allot time for pairing with an older 4-H member & their animal.

OBEDIENCE:

- a) A dog being shown in the dog obedience project must belong to the exhibitor or to a member of his/her immediate family or household. Ownership is waived on 4-H dogs raised for the service dog program.
- b) **A 4-H participant can show ONE dog in obedience classes in a year.**
- c) The 4-H member may not move back to a lower class than the one they entered in previous years, with the same dog.
- d) **Dogs are to be brought to the fairgrounds only on the day they are to be shown & demo day.**
- e) All 4-H exhibitors should go to the 4-H Dog registration table at least 1/2 hour before their section is scheduled to be judged to obtain armbands.
- f) The leash may be of fabric or leather and in the novice classes, shall be a length of 6 feet to provide adequate slack in the Heel Leash exercise. Acceptable collars include: slip collars, buckle collars or martingale collars.
- g) Outside of the show ring, all 4-H dogs must be on a leash or in their crate.
- h) Obedience Classes (placement of dogs in classes will be at the leader's discretion):
 - 1) **Class 1A:** Not repeatable. For 4-H'ers with no previous formal dog training experiences with a dog that has received no obedience training prior to October 1. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash-no Finish, Sit Stay on Leash-30 seconds.
 - 2) **Class 1B:** Repeatable for exhibition only. For 4-H'ers with previous dog training experience with a new untrained dog; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dog has had training; or for 4-H'ers and dogs with previous training experience, including showing in 1A; or for 4-H'ers with no experience whose dogs have had training that disqualifies them for 1A. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam on Leash, Recall on Leash, Down Stay (Walk Around Ring), Sit Stay (Get Your Leash).

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- 3) **Class 2A:** Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Recall off Leash, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.
- 4) **Class 2B:** May repeat until ready to move up. Exercises are: Heel on Leash, Figure 8 on Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Heel Free, Drop on Recall, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash), 1-Minute Sit Stay on Leash, 1-Minute Down Stay on Leash.
- 5) **Veterans Repeatable:** 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 the Veteran's Class. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Recall off Leash, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash)
- 6) **Class 3A:** Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Dumbbell Recall, Drop on Recall, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash).
- 7) **Class 3B:** May repeat until ready to move up. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Stand for Exam off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Drop on Recall, Stand Stay (Get Your Leash). Class
- 8) **Class 4A:** Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Dumbbell Recall Over High Jump, Recall Over Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Sit-Down).
- 9) **Class 4B:** May repeat until ready to move up. Exercises are: Heel Free, Figure 8 off Leash, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Command Discrimination (Stand-Down-Sit).
- 10) **Class 5A:** Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only. Exercises are: Hand Signals (+ voice), Directed Retrieve (2 gloves), Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.
- 11) **Class 5B:** May repeat until ready to move up. Exercises are: Hand Signals, Directed Retrieve, Retrieve Over High Jump, Broad Jump, Moving Stand and Exam.
- 12) **Class 6A:** Not repeatable with the same dog except for exhibition only. Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination 1 retrieve), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, Go Out, Directed Jumping (1 jump).
- 13) **Class 6B:** May repeat. Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping, Moving Stand and Exam.

SHOWMANSHIP:

A dog in showmanship must also be shown in obedience class.

- a) **Junior Showmanship:** 3rd–5th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Junior Showman, they may only compete in Intermediate Showmanship the following year.
- b) **Intermediate Showmanship:** 6th–8th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Junior winners. Once a 4-Her wins Overall Intermediate Showman, they may only compete in Senior Showmanship the following year.
- c) **Senior Showmanship:** 9th–12th graders as of Jan. 1, 2026, and all previous Intermediate winners. Winners may compete in the Champion of Champions class that year and in future years.
- d) **Champion of Champions Showmanship:** Open to all past Senior Division Champions, including the 2026 winner.

AGILITY:

- a) All dogs participating in Agility must be shown by the same exhibitor in obedience
- b) Agility Classes (placement of dogs in classes will be at the leader's discretion) - A dog may be entered in only one agility class. Awards are granted by agility class regardless of dog size.
 - 1) **Class Beginning A:** is for teams in which neither the 4-H member nor dog have previously participated in agility. The course is run on leash. The team must use a 6-foot leash. This class is not repeatable.

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- 2) **Class Beginning B:** is for teams in which either the 4-H member or dog has previously participated in agility. The 4-H member may have participated with another dog, or the dog may have participated with another 4-H member. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Beginning B until it can perform Intermediate-level work.
- 3) **Class Intermediate A:** is for 4-H members who have not participated in Intermediate agility in a previous year. The course is run off leash. This class is not repeatable.
- 4) **Class Intermediate B:** is for 4-H members who have participated in Intermediate agility with the current or a different dog in a previous year. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Intermediate B until it can perform Advanced-level work.
- 5) **Class Advanced A:** is for 4-H members who have not participated in Advanced agility in a previous year. The course is run off leash. This class is not repeatable.
- 6) **Class Advanced B:** is for 4-H members who have participated in Advanced agility with the current or a different dog in a previous year. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat Advanced B until it can perform Excellent-level work.
- 7) **Class Excellent:** is for 4-H members and dogs exhibiting more advanced handling skills over the same obstacles as those in the Advanced classes. The course is run off leash.
- 8) **Class Veteran:** is for 4-H members whose dog is at least 7 years old or are physically challenged.

ACTION DEMONSTRATION:

An action display is a way to show off your dog skills and abilities. You may give this demonstration during the show. The regular dog show judge will judge these.

GROOMING:

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

SHOW AWARDS

	<u>Showmanship</u>	<u>Obedience</u>	<u>Agility</u>
Champion Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Showmanship • Intermediate Showmanship • Senior Showmanship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division 1A Dog Obedience • Division 1B Obedience • Division 2A Dog Obedience • Division 2B Obedience • Division 3A Obedience • Division 3B Obedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Agility Beginner B • Dog Agility Intermediate B • Dog Agility Advanced B • Dog Agility Beginner A • Dog Agility Intermediate A • Dog Agility Advanced A • Veteran
Grand Champion	Grand Showman	Grand Obedience	Grand Agility

REFERENCES:

- [Purdue Extension Dog Project](#)
- [Indiana State Fair Book – Dog Show](#)

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IMPORTANT DOG DATES:

May 15, 2026	Deadline to enroll in the Dog Project on 4HOnline
May 18, 2026	Mini 4-Her's must be signed up to participate in the Mini 4-H Dog show.
July 1, 2026	Fair Entry due on fairentry.com (where you will enter your show classes for the fair)
TBD	Deadline to register dogs online for the State Fair.
July 13, 2026	Dog Obedience show
July 14, 2026	Dog Agility & Showmanship show
July 18 - 24, 2026	Clay County Fair
July 18, 2026	Agility Demo at Fair
July 18, 2026	Mini 4-H Dog Show (after Demo)
August 7 - 23, 2026	Indiana State Fair

