



CLAY COUNTY 4-H DOG

**Updated for 2025*

4-H Dog Club Leader: Derik Tipton - (812)244-9292 (tiptonde@clay.k12.in.us)

HEALTH:

- a) All 4-H dogs must be accompanied by the **2025 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) No dog may be exhibited showing any symptoms of any communicable disease or parasites (including ticks and fleas).
- c) 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.
- d) **Pulling dogs on the leash is considered a major fault and will result in disqualification.**
- e) 4-H members are responsible for the actions of their dogs.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.

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 up to two dogs 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 ½ hour before their section is scheduled to be judged to obtain armbands, and show their certificates of vaccination.
- 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).
 - 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) **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).



- 6) **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
- 7) **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).
- 8) **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).
- 9) **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.
- 10) **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.
- 11) **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).
- 12) **Class 6B:** May repeat. Exercises are: Hand Signals, Scent Discrimination, Directed Retrieve, Directed Jumping, Moving Stand and Exam.
- 13) **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)

SHOWMANSHIP:

- a) A dog in showmanship must also be shown in obedience class.
- b) Showmanship Classes:
 - **Junior:**
This class is for any 4-H exhibitor who is in the third, fourth, or fifth grade on January 1 of the current year. Once an exhibitor is the Junior Showmanship winner at the state fair, he/she is only eligible to compete in Intermediate or Senior Showmanship in future years.
 - **Intermediate:**
This class is for any 4-H member in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade on January 1 of the current year or for showmanship winners in the previous class. Once an exhibitor is the Intermediate Showmanship winner at the state fair, he/she must compete in Senior Showmanship in future years.
 - **Senior:**
This class is for any 4-H member in the ninth grade or above on January 1 of the current year or for showmanship winners in the previous class.

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.
 - 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.

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:

NEW FOR 2025

4-H Exhibitors that use groomers for show day assistance at the Clay County 4-H Fair, your groomers **WILL NOT** be required to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. However, if you plan to have groomers assistance at the State Fair, those individuals *may be required* to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please reach out to the Extension Office in the Spring for enrollment assistance or refer to the State Fair rule books.

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
Grand Champion	Grand Showman	Grand Obedience	Grand Agility

REFERENCES:

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

IMPORTANT DOG DATES:

May 15, 2025	Deadline to enroll in the Dog Project on 4HOnline
July 1, 2025	Fair Entry due on fairent.com (where you will enter your show classes for the fair)
TBD	Deadline to register dogs online for the State Fair.
July 6, 2025	Dog Obedience show
July 7, 2025	Dog Agility & Showmanship show
July 12 - 18, 2025	Clay County Fair
August 1 - 17, 2025	Indiana State Fair
August 16 - 17, 2025	State Fair Dog show

