**Dog**

The Jennings County 4-H Dog Project mission is to promote good sportsmanship among the dog project participants, equip the participants to effectively train and prepare their dog for show, and to teach participants about proper care and keeping of their dog.

Obedience is the first priority above any of the other disciplines offered in the county show, as it is the foundation for being successful in other areas. Showmanship is beneficial as it helps develop skills in presenting themselves and their dogs in the best light possible. Agility requires a solid foundation of training skills for the participant/handler, and a higher level of obedience and athleticism for the dog.

RULES

1. In order to complete the 4-H Dog project, participants must be enrolled in 4-H, be enrolled in the dog project, and turn in your project record sheet with Dog listed as a project.
2. In order to participate in the 4-H Dog Show, a member needs to attend the Dog Practice meetings held throughout the spring leading up to the show. If a member is unable to attend a Dog Practice for whatever reason, that member must contact a dog project adult leader and let them know so that it is an excused absence.
3. In order to participate in the Dog Practices, each participant must meet all of the following conditions:
	1. Be enrolled in 4-H and in the Dog Project in 4-H Online.
	2. Have turned in the Vaccination Form 4-H-671-W to a dog project adult leader or the extension office before or at the first training session.
	3. Have a dog that belongs to the participant or to a member of their immediate family or household.
	4. Have a dog that is at least 6 months old by the time the Dog Practices begin.
	5. Avoid bringing dog any dog that is displaying signs of illness or parasites, or females who are in season.
	6. Be responsible for the feeding, care, and training of their 4-H project dog.
	7. Be responsible for cleaning up after their own dog.
	8. Have the proper equipment appropriately fitted. This includes:
		1. A well fitted slip, buckle, or martingale collar made of leather, fabric or chain,
		2. A six foot leash made of leather or fabric, not chain.
4. Any rules or regulations not covered here for Obedience, Showmanship, or Agility, will default to Indiana State 4-H Dog Project rules and regulations.
5. 4-H members are responsible for the actions of their dogs. 4-H members must be able to control their dog brought to a practice or show.
6. Dogs that display signs of aggression are handled as described in the current Indiana 4-H Aggressive Dog Policy.

DISCIPLINES

1. Obedience
	1. No collar tags are allowed in the Jennings County Dog Show.
	2. No bait allowed in the show ring or staging area.
	3. Attire should be neat, participants must have closed-toed shoes.
	4. Participants should wear their number on the arm band on their left arm.
	5. See “Showing in 4-H Dog Obedience” publication 4-H-1009-W for further information and information on divisions offered. See the section below on Mini Dog Project for more information on the Mini Obedience Division.
2. Showmanship
a. Dog must wear a showmanship lead.

b. Baiting is a part of fully showing the dog to its best advantage and is encouraged.

c. Attire should be business casual at minimum, participants must wear close-toed dress shoes.

d. Participants should wear their number on the arm band on their left arm.

e. See “Indiana 4-H Dog Showmanship Guide” publication 4-H-716-W for further information.

f. Each participant will show in only one showmanship class for each year.

g. There shall be the following divisions:

* + 1. Mini (grades K-2 on January 1 of the current year)
		2. Junior (grades 3, 4, 5 on January 1 of the current year)
		3. Intermediate (grades 6, 7, 8 on January 1 of the current year)
		4. Senior (grades, 9, 10, 11, 12 on January 1 of the current year)
1. Agility (as of November 2022, not currently offered as a class at the Show, but Dog Practices are training for the Beginning Obstacles)

a. In order to be eligible to participate in Agility at the Dog Show at any level, participants and their dogs will have had to exhibit in Obedience the year prior, as well as exhibit in Obedience in the current year.

b. Participating dogs must be at least 15 months of age to begin agility training.
c. See “Indiana 4-H Dog Agility Rules” 4-H-1020-W for further information.

4) Mini Obedience

Mini Dog Obedience shall be offered in the following Divisions: K, 1, & 2. It is of utmost importance that the dog chosen for a mini 4-Her to participate with, is easily controlled by the Mini 4-Her, for the safety of all involved. Dogs participating in Mini Dog Obedience or Showmanship must also submit a Health Form, and be free of communicable disease and parasites, not exhibiting estrus, as well as adhere to the Indiana 4-H Aggressive Dog Policy. Mini Dog Obedience shall follow the same equipment and attire guidelines as other levels. To be consistent with other Jennings County Mini 4-H policies, the Mini Dog Project is not competitive.

1. Mini Dog Obedience Level K: Exercises include Heel on Leash around the Ring with a Halt and Forward, Sit Stay on Leash Directly in front of Dog for 10 seconds
2. Mini Dog Obedience Level 1: Exercises include Heel on Leash around the Ring with a Halt, Forward, Fast, and Slow, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit Stay on Leash 6 ft. away for 15 seconds.
3. Mini Dog Obedience Level 2: Exercises include Heel on Leash around the Ring with a Halt, Forward, Fast, Slow, and About Turn, Figure 8 on Leash, Sit Stay on Leash 6 ft. away for 30 seconds, Sit for Exam on Leash with Handler Remaining Beside Dog, Recall on Leash without a Finish.

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