

Dog Training

Superintendent: Volunteer Needed

State Fair Entry: Yes

Animal Check In: To Be Determined

Show Day: To Be Determined

1. A dog must be at least 6 months of age at the time of the Indiana State Fair dog show to be able to exhibit in Obedience, Showmanship, and/or Rally Obedience.
 2. The certificate of vaccination form (4-H 671) must be turned in before the 4-H member is allowed to bring their dog to training. The form must be signed by a veterinarian. All vaccinations must be up to date at training times. Prior year vaccination forms may be used for training; however, the current year form must be submitted prior to the county fair.
 3. Any dog not fit for competition, a threat to the safety of others, or a self-risk will not be allowed to participate in the dog project. The leaders reserve the right to dismiss any dog for any reason.
 4. 4-H members may show multiple dogs in the county fair dog show. Requirements for showing multiple dogs within a class (obedience, agility, and rally obedience) are detailed within each individual class requirements. Each dog may compete with only one 4-H member. Additional showing of the dog would be for exhibition only.
 5. All dogs must show in 4-H Obedience (except Mini 4-H and Dog Care 4-H members).
 6. Female dogs in season shall be kept at home. Credit for the year will be given if a dog is in season on show day.
 7. Professionally trained dogs will not be permitted to show. (Dogs which are trained personally by a private trainer.)
 8. Champion and Reserve Champion awards will not be awarded in all classes unless a score of 125 points has been achieved. Placement ribbons will be awarded to scoring participants. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.
 9. Trophies/plaques will not be awarded in all classes unless a score of 125 total points has been achieved. Placement ribbons will be awarded to scoring participants. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.
 10. 4-H members not participating in Mini or Dog Care must attend at least five training sessions to complete the Dog Project and participate in the county fair dog show or complete an approved dog volunteer activity if attendance at the show is not possible.
 11. 4-H dogs must wear a well fitted slip, buckle, quick release, or martingale collar made of leather, fabric, or chain in order to be exhibited in dog show classes. The leash must be made of fabric or leather and must be six feet in length. Collar tags and flea/tick collars will not be allowed for showing. 4-H dogs being raised for the service dog programs are exempt from the collar tags requirements. Head halters and harnesses may be used for training (note: when used for show, halters and harnesses are considered improper equipment and will be subject to a deduction). Pinch collars and electronic collars are not permitted during any Dog Training project event.
 12. 4-H members with at least five years in the dog project or at an obedience level 3B are required to assist with dog training to complete the Dog Training Project. 4-H members at an obedience level of 4A or higher are required to teach a workshop or training session to complete the Dog Project.
 13. Any 4-H member may voluntarily move up in level beyond the specific class requirements, but may not move down in level.
- Failure to comply with any of the above rules and guidelines may result in disqualification, or point deductions at the county fair dog show.
 - Special cases and rule exceptions may be determined by the Dog Project Superintendent.

Classes:

Dog Care: Requirements

1. This is a class intended for those enrolled in the 4-H Dog Training Project that are unable to meet the training needs of 4-H but would like to participate. Members will be required to meet the requirements of the 4-H Dog Training project and will undergo the Examination portion of Showmanship at the time of the county show. Dog Care class participants will be judged on the grooming of their dog and their knowledge of dog care (e.g. dog parts, diseases, care needs). Professionally groomed dogs will not be allowed to be shown in the Dog Care class.
2. Harnesses or head collars are permitted.
3. All participants are invited to attend workshops related to dog care
4. All participants will present their dog for judging at the County Fair during the Showmanship event. Each dog will be judged on general appearance, health, and proper canine maintenance. Breed standards and guidelines will not be considered in this judging. During judging, each participant will be questioned about dog care and maintenance based on their current showing level.
5. Only one dog may be shown.

Obedience: Requirements

1. Harnesses or head collars may be used for judging at the Obedience 1A and 1B level, but will incur a 10-point deduction.
2. Multiple dogs may be shown if the 4-H member is showing one dog at a 3A or veterans' level or higher, including veterans.
3. 4-H members that earn a qualifying score (at least 185 points and at least 50% in every category) will be required to move up to the next number level the following year.

Levels: See the Indiana State Fair Dog Show guidelines for related scoresheets

- 1A: for 4-H members with no previous formal dog training experience with a dog which has received no obedience training prior to November 1 of the current year.
- 1B: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 1A, 4-H members with previous dog training experience returning with a new dog, or 4-H members with no experience whose dog has had training which disqualifies them for 1A.
- 2A: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 1A or 1B
- 2B: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 2A (repeatable).
- 3A: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 2A or 2B.
- 3B: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 3A (repeatable).
- 4A: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 3A or 3B.
- 4B: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 4A (repeatable).
- 5A: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 4A or 4B
- 5B: for 4-H members and dogs that have completed 5A (repeatable).
- 6A: for 4-H members and dogs who have completed 5A or 5B
- 6B: for 4-H members and dogs who have completed 6A (repeatable).

Veterans: For 4-H members whose dogs are at least seven years old by the date of the Indiana State Fair 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 be shown in any other obedience class once they have completed the Veterans class.

Showmanship: Requirements:

1. All guidelines and procedures for showmanship enumerated for the Indiana State Fair shall be followed.
2. Proper showmanship lead shall be required.
3. Proper show attire shall be required.
4. Any 4-H member that achieves champion at his/her level will be required to move up to the next level.
5. Only one dog may be shown in showmanship.

Levels:

- Junior: Any 4-H member in grades 3-5 on January 1st of current year
- Intermediate: Any 4-H member in grades 6-8 on January 1st of current year.
- Senior: Any 4-H member in grades 9-12 on January 1st of current year.

Agility: Requirements

1. Dogs must be 15 months of age at the time of the Indiana State dog show, unless they are showing at the Novice level.
2. Multiple dogs may be shown if the 4-H member is showing a dog at the intermediate A level or higher.
3. Only flat buckle, quick-release, or rolled leather collars are permitted. Harnesses or head collars may be permitted at the Novice Level.
4. 4-H members in a B level that earn a qualifying score with at least 185 points will be required to move up to the next level the following year.
5. Agility requirements and levels will be run as prescribed by the Indiana State Fair, with the exception of the Novice level, which is unique to the county.

Jump Height Divisions:

1. 4 inches: for dogs 11 inches and under at the withers.
2. 8 inches: for dogs 14 inches and under at the withers.
3. 12 inches: for dogs 18 inches and under at the withers.
4. 16 inches: for dogs 22 inches and under at the withers.
5. 20 inches: for dogs over 22 inches at the withers.

Veteran Designation: Dogs 7 years and older by the date of the Indiana State Fair may be entered as Agility Veterans and jump one height division lower than their actual height division (except Division 1). Once taken, the Agility Veteran designation remains with the dog for the rest of its 4-H show career. The Agility Veteran designation is independent of the Obedience Veterans class.

Classes:

- **Novice:** First year dogs without prior agility training or 4-H members showing a dog that does not meet the minimum age of 15 months by the date of Indiana State Fair. The course is run on leash and will consist of 6 to 9 obstacles. All dogs will jump a maximum of 8". Note: Members electing to show at the Novice level are not eligible to compete at the Indiana State Fair in agility and will not be eligible for Agility Grand or Reserve Grand Champion.
- **Beginning A:** 4-H members and dogs that have not previously participated in agility other than the Novice level. The course is run on a 6-foot leash. This level is not repeatable.
- **Beginning B:** 4-H members or dogs who have previously participated in agility at the Beginning A level or higher. The 4-H member may have participated with another dog, or the dog with another 4-H member. The course is run off leash. The dog should repeat this level until it can perform Intermediate-level work.
- **Intermediate A:** 4-H members and dogs who have not previously participated in Intermediate agility. The course is run off leash. This level is not repeatable.
- **Intermediate B:** 4-H members and dogs who have participated in Intermediate agility. The dog should repeat this level until it can perform Advanced-level work.
- **Advanced A:** 4-H members and dogs who have not previously participated in Advanced agility. The course is run off leash. This level is not repeatable.
- **Advanced B:** 4-H members and dogs who have participated in Advanced agility. The dog should repeat this level until it can perform Excellent-level work.
- **Excellent:** 4-H members and dogs exhibiting more advanced handling skills over the same obstacles in the Advanced level. The course is run off leash.

Rally Obedience: Requirements

1. Rally obedience requirements and classes will be based on the rules published by the United Kennel Club.
2. Multiple dogs may be shown if the 4-H member is showing one dog at a Rally 2 level or higher.
3. 4-H members that earn a qualifying score (at least 190 points) and win their level will be required to move up to the next number level the following year.

Levels:

Rally 1: Teams in the 1A, 1B, and 2A Obedience classes. Course will be performed on leash and consist of 8-12 exercises from UKC RO1 level.

Rally 2: Teams in the 2B Obedience class or higher. Course will be performed off leash and consist of 10-14 exercises from the UKC RO2 level.

Rally 3: Teams that have earned a Qualifying score (190 points or higher) in Rally 2. Course will be performed off leash and consist of 12-16 exercises from the UKC RO3 level.

Top Dog Test:

4-H members will be tested on dog project information across all classes, according to their grade level. Any 4-H member that achieves a qualifying score of at least 185 points shall be required to move up to the next level.

Levels:

- Junior: Any 4-H member in grades 3-5 on January 1st of current year
- Intermediate: Any 4-H member in grades 6-8 on January 1st of current year.
- Senior: Any 4-H member in grades 9-12 on January 1st of current year.