

# Dog & Dog Obedience

<b>Manual:</b>	Level 1: Grade 3-5 BU-8166 Dog 1: Wiggles & Wags Level 2: Grades 6-8 BU-8167 Dog 2: Canine Connection Level 3: Grades 9-12 BU-8168 Dog 3: Leading the Pack
<b>Record Sheets:</b>	4-H 716-W Dog Showmanship All levels: 4-H 357-W Dog Obedience (Complete and put on your Green Record Book) 4-H 390W Dog Record) 4-H671 Certification of Vaccination 4-H 528 General Record Sheet for Poster Exhibit
<b>Exhibit Options:</b>	Exhibit animal, AND/OR Display an educational poster about dogs, AND/OR Interactive Demonstration

The 4-H Dog Project provides fun, hands-on learning experiences that develop life skills, encourages youth to develop good character, discipline, and a feeling of self-worth while learning about canine care, responsibility, and the sport of dog showing. Youth have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation. The dog serves as a tool in the growth of each individual and is a unique conduit to open interactions between the members. The dog show provides an opportunity for a member to exhibit what he or she has accomplished. Members, who spend months working their dog perfecting skills in training, can put their proficiency to a test, demonstrating the dog's usefulness as a companion while behaving in a public place in the presence of other dogs.

## **Dogs health requirements:**

### **SEE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SPECIES**

1. No dog may be exhibited showing any symptoms of a communicable disease and are parasite free (including fleas).
2. Female dogs in season will not be admitted.
3. Each dog presented for exhibition and before attending classes must be accompanied by a Certificate of Vaccination or other statement that is signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian and that indicates the vaccinations each animal has been given.
4. Vaccinations must be current. All dogs must have received a Rabies & DHPP vaccination either one (1) or three (3) years prior to exhibition. Leptospirosis and Bordetella (Kennel Cough) must be received within one (1) year of the date of exhibition.
  - a. Rabies
  - b. DHPP
  - c. Leptospirosis
  - d. Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
5. All dogs 3 months of age and over must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in accordance with the state rabies vaccination law.
6. The Board of Animal Health recommends, but does not require that:
  - a. Exhibitors test their dogs that are six (6) months of age and older for heart worms. It is recommended that dogs that test positive for heart worms not be shown. Exhibitors should implement a preventative program for heart worms.
  - b. Dogs have a negative fecal exam for parasites not more than thirty days prior to exhibition.

NOTICE: Indiana State 4-H imposes vaccination requirements for Dog Show participants beyond the requirements of the Indiana State Board of Health Minimum requirements. Check with your local 4-H County Extension Educator for those requirements.

For more information on dog health requirements, call the Indiana Board of Animal Health at (317)554-2387.

### **General Rules:**

1. Each participant can show one dog. They must show in obedience to participate in showmanship or agility.
  - a. A participant may show two dogs at the county level after the 4-H member has completed level 1B/2A and with leader approval. Both dogs must be shown in obedience to participate in showmanship or agility.
  - b. At the state level, a 4-H member may show two dogs ONLY if one is the 4-H obedience trained dog and the second is trained through the 4-H Service Dog Program (leader dogs/guide dogs).
2. Dogs may be of any breed or mixed breeds and any size. Some larger breeds may be at a disadvantage in agility due to the standard size of equipment like the height of the tunnel, or width of dog walk
3. Each dog may only be shown by one child. At the county level, a second child in the same household may show the same dog as “exhibition only” but will not receive a placing.
4. A dog being shown in the dog project must belong to the 4-H member or a member of their immediate family.
5. Dogs can be any age, but puppies must have been born by January 1 of the current year in order to compete at the State level. Puppies are welcome to show at County Level as long as they have received their vaccines including Rabies and have a current Certificate of Vaccination Form.
6. All dogs must be vaccinated.
7. Each trainer is to keep a complete record of his/her dog, including feeding costs, health care costs, training record and time spent grooming.

### **Training Program:**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Member to sign the roll book at each class.
2. Members are encouraged to attend all training classes due to the progressive nature of the training. Members are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to attend at least 3 obedience classes and 5 agility classes in order to show at County Fair. Classes can be made up with prior arrangements with the leaders.
3. Members must have a 6-foot lead (preferably leather) and a proper fitting training collar (nylon or chain choker type or flat buckle collar), a martingale or equivalent for showmanship, and a flat buckle collar for agility that are all acceptable for exhibition.
4. Members are expected to practice at home a minimum of 30 minutes per day. This is best as two 15-minute or three 10-minute sessions.
5. Female dogs in heat/season must not attend class. 4-H members are still encouraged to attend class and continue to work with their dog at home. Unfortunately, females in heat are not allowed to show at the County or State shows.
6. Puppies too young for Rabies vaccination are allowed to participate in training as long as they have received vaccines standard for their age (minimum of 1 DHPP vaccine). Members assume the risk of exposing the puppy to serious illness (that could result in death) if they are not yet fully vaccinated.
7. All classes, exercises and judging will comply with State Fair Rules.

## **Obedience:**

Dog obedience is the ability for a dog to follow commands taught by their handler. Basic obedience exercises include heeling, sit, down, stay, and recall (come). Obedience training is also a great way to train the dog to behave appropriately in social situations at home and abroad.

The handler/dog team may begin at any eligible level and progress from there. Teams are encouraged to move out of repeatable classes when ready. A team may skip up class(es) if they desire but may not move back to a lower class than the one they entered in previous years. A handler who re-enters a class that is not repeatable will do so for exhibition only (no placing).

In any given year, a 4-H dog must be shown at the same obedience level at the Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show that the dog was entered in as a part of the county 4-H program (excluding exhibition only). Each year the member and their dog will progress to the next level as they master obedience exercises specific to each level. Leaders will not hold members back if they are ready for a level above where they should be showing.

- Obedience Classes: 1A (not repeatable)
- 1B (only repeatable with a new dog)
- 2A (not repeatable with same dog)
- 2B (repeatable until ready to move up)
- 3A (not repeatable with same dog)
- 3B (repeatable)
- 4A (not repeatable with same dog)
- 4B (repeatable)
- 5A (not repeatable with same dog)
- 5B (repeatable)
- 6A (not repeatable with same dog),
- 6B (repeatable)
- Veterans - for dogs who are at least 7 years old or are physically challenged. Must have completed at least level 2B prior to entering veterans. A dog may not be shown in any other class once they have been shown in Veterans so they remain in that class the remainder of their 4-H tenure.

Full descriptions of each class and fully detailed rules to showing in obedience can be found in the Dog Obedience Guide “Showing in Dog Obedience” 4-H-1009-W.

## **Showmanship:**

Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is shown by the handler. The dog’s conformation or its being purebred is of no importance. The emphasis is on the handler’s presentation of the dog standing still and in motion. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog’s breed or the breed chosen as that which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard. The handler and dog appear to be part of a team. They work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit.

## **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.

Details and more information can be found in the “Indiana 4-H Dog Showmanship Guide” 4-H-716-W.

## **Agility:**

Dog Agility Program is part of the 4-H Dog project. Youth learn to guide their dogs through an obstacle course against time without touching the dogs or obstacles. The program allows youth to learn to communicate clearly and quickly with their dogs, build teamwork skills, develop mental acuity, and learn dog training and showing skills for the exciting dog sport of agility. Dogs must be at least 15 months old to compete but can start training on obstacles prior to that age (no jumps). Dogs must also exhibit in obedience in the same show to be eligible to exhibit in agility. Dogs disqualified in obedience may not compete in agility. If a dog completes agility before being disqualified in obedience, the agility score sheet is changed to disqualified. Dogs otherwise qualified but disqualified as the result of accident or injury are eligible, as long as the disfigurement does not interfere with functional movement. Dogs should be physically sound. Blind dogs, meaning dogs that don't have useful vision, are not eligible. No dog shall compete if it is taped or bandaged, or in any way has anything attached to it for medical purposes.

## **Agility Classes:**

A dog may be entered in only one agility class. Each class offers five divisions based on the dog's height at the withers.

- 4 Inches: For dogs 11 inches and under at the withers
- 8 Inches: For dogs 14 inches and under at the withers
- 12 Inches: For dogs 18 inches and under at the withers
- 16 Inches: For dogs 22 inches and under at the withers
- 20 Inches: For dogs over 22 inches at the withers

\*\*Dogs 7 years and older may be entered as Agility Veterans and jump one height division lower than their actual height division. 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 Veteran class.

- **Class Beginning A:** 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.
- **Class Beginning B:** for 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

Full rules and detailed descriptions of obstacles and classes can be found in “Indiana Dog 4-H Agility Rules” 4-H-1020-W

## **Drill Team:**

Drill Team is a State Fair Competition only. Drill Team is a choreographed routine of obedience exercises and showmanship movements set to music. A drill team consists of 4-H exhibitors and their dogs. Handler and dog equal one unit and teams must have a minimum of 4 units, with a maximum of 20 units. A 4-H member may participate on only one drill team in any given year. A club may enter a total of two drill teams. All members of the drill team must be accompanied by their 4-H obedience dog while performing in the drill team ring. Drill Team members must commit to showing at the State Fair in a minimum of Obedience and Drill Team. Drill Team requires additional training time after regular training sessions and extended training between County and State Fair. Participants and parents must be seriously committed to attending all Drill Team practices.

## **4-H Fair Dog Awards:**

**Blue:** 1st - 3rd

**Red:** 4th - 6th

**White:** 7th place and on, or individual serial ribbons 1st place and on

Banners will be awarded to the Champion and Reserve Champion of each class. Champion and Reserve Champion banners will also be given for High in Trial and Overall Showman.