



























# Iowa County 4H Dog Project

## Handbook



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## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT LEADERS***

Welcome to the Iowa County 4-H Dog Project. The goal of the project is to teach members different ways to have fun with their dogs, and along the way, teach responsible dog ownership, patience, sportsmanship, confidence, and teamwork. We hope the skills which members learn now will help members teach their dogs to become better canine citizens, and help the members enjoy dog ownership for the rest of their lives.

The Iowa County 4-H training classes are taught by volunteers with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences in the dog breeding, training, and competing world. All are willing to answer your questions and advise you and your dog training along the way. Please feel free to utilize this valuable resource of information. All of our volunteers want what is best for you and your dog and are here to help you work towards a successful goal ranging from showing their dog to a championship at state, local, or national level or just to have a well behaved canine family member at home.

Many of our project participants have been with the 4H dog project for many years. They also are a valued resource for questions and help along the way. The Iowa County 4-H dog project members have a strong alliance and friendships with each other and we will strive to continue this in the upcoming year. NO breed is the best breed; NO training method is the only way or always the right way. Help each other out and we will all have dogs that are the best they can be.

Everyone is here to learn. Everyone is at different stages of their learning but ALWAYS keep in mind that everyone has started out at the same basic level. We've all needed help in our training and education with dogs. Never be afraid to ask questions and get help when you need it.

Dog Bowl is another offering through the dog project. Some of you may be familiar with this type of competition though Horse Bowl in the Horse Project. The rules are the same and it's just as much fun and excitement as the Horse. Watch the 4-H newsletter for information regarding dog bowl practices.

Our members will also be continuing the introduction into the sport of Rally Obedience. This is another chance for our members to see another facet of what they can do with their dogs. Its quick paced and fun for both the dog and the handler.

There is usually an annual State 4-H Dog Show. Different counties host the State 4-H Dog Show each year. Got to <http://4h.uwex.edu/events/DogProjectEvents.cfm> to find updates and information about the State 4-H Dog Show.

There are other local dog events that many of our 4-H youth have attended and competed at. Please feel free to check them out and avail yourselves of these events to participate in with your dogs.

## ***DOG PROJECT DATES***

(subject to change - list is not all inclusive)

<b>Dog Project Calendar</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
June	6:30 pm	Dog Project Meeting – No dogs at this meeting	
June		Dog Quiz Bowl Practices Begin	
June – August	Monday evenings 6:30 pm	Dog Practices	Iowa County Fairgrounds
July		Blake's County Fair Agility Dog Show <a href="http://blakesprairiefair.org/index.html">http://blakesprairiefair.org/index.html</a>	Bloomington, WI
August		Fennimore School Fair Dog Show Obedience , Showmanship and Agility Contact Fennimore School for a fair book	Fennimore High School
August Pre-Fair Event		Iowa County 4-H Dog Show Obedience and Showmanship	Iowa County Fairgrounds Fair House Building
During the Fair	Iowa County Fair	Iowa County 4-H Dog Agility Show	Iowa County Fairgrounds Grand Stand

## DOG PROJECT WEBSITES

*Iowa County 4-H Dog Project Webpage-*

*<http://iowa.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-project-pages/dog-project/>*

*Iowa County 4-H Dog Project Facebook page -*

*<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Iowa-County-4H-Dog-Project/291023189401>*

*State 4H Dog Project Webpage -*

*<http://4h.uwex.edu/events/DogProjectEvents.cfm>*

# IOWA COUNTY 4-H DOG PROJECT PARTICIPATION RULES

(Rules may not be all inclusive)

## General Requirements

- ✓ The project is open to Iowa County 4-H project members in good standing.
- ✓ All youth members, parents, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to set a good example for others. Members and their family are expected to show good sportsmanship, respect and consideration for instructors, other members, and project dogs. Rude, uncooperative or unruly behavior may result in the member being excused from a training session by an instructor.
- ✓ Excessive corrections and/or inhumane treatment of a dog by the 4-H member and/or family member will not be tolerated.
- ✓ If classes are cancelled because of severe weather, the cancellation will be announced on WDMP and by e-mail to any family who has provided an e-mail address. If e-mail is not a good way to contact you then please provide a phone # you can be reached at.
- ✓ Parents may be asked to stay during training sessions to support a young handler with an unruly dog. At times, parents may be asked to assist a child at home. However, it is important that parents not take over the training the dog as it defeats the purpose of the project.
- ✓ Members will be required to participate in all 3 divisions of the project (Obedience/Showmanship/Agility). The three divisions compliment each other and one division is necessary for the other. Once a dog team (member and dog) have successfully completed the Novice level of any of the divisions, this will no longer be a requirement for that team.
- ✓ Attendance in all three sections will be monitored and a sign in sheet will be at each location. Failure to attend the required number of training sessions in each of the divisions will result in that member not being allowed to compete in the Fair.

## Required Vaccinations/Health :

- ✓ Before the first training session, all 4-H dogs must show proof of current vaccination for *distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis bordatella (kennel cough) and parvovirus*. We will accept vaccinations done by an experienced pet owner/handler if accompanied by a copy of the sticker from the original vial with the vaccination lot # and expiration date. We will need to retain a copy of the vaccination certificate. Please keep your originals.

- ✓ Regulations require that the Rabies vaccinations MUST BE given by and the certificate signed by a licensed accredited veterinarian. We will need to retain a copy of the vaccination certificate. Please keep your originals.
- ✓ A 4-H dog may not attend training sessions, clinics or exhibit if showing signs of communicable diseases, ill health, injury or internal or external parasites.

**Recommended but not required:**

- *Annual Heartworm test and preventative medication*
- *Flea & Tick Preventative*
- *Fecal Parasite Exam*

**General Rules**

- ✓ Dogs must be on leash at all times unless working off leash under the direction of an instructor.
- ✓ Handlers must clean up after their dogs.
- ✓ If for some reason a member cannot have his or her own dog, he or she may borrow or lease a dog to train and compete with. This dog must meet the other requirements of health and behavior.
- ✓ Members may train more than one dog. This is not recommended for beginner handlers. If a member wishes to train more than one dog, both dogs should attend training sessions

**Competition rules**

- ✓ Members may show more than one dog, but may show only one dog at each level of an event (except Brace class). For example, a member may compete in Pre-Novice Obedience and Showmanship with the same dog, but a member cannot show two dogs in Novice Obedience, competing against him or herself but may show only one dog at each level of an event (except Brace class). Members may compete in other events with the same dog.
- ✓ Dogs that have previously been show in 4-H or other competitions by someone other than the handler may not be shown at a lower level in 4-H competition. For example, if a brother or sister is competing with a dog in 4-H Open class or AKC open class, a handler cannot compete with the same dog in the Novice or Pre-Novice class.
- ✓ To keep the training consistent for the dog's sake, two members cannot use the same dog to compete in the same event. However, two members may compete using the same dog in different events. For example, one child in a family may compete with the family dog in obedience while a











brother or sister competes with the same dog in agility or showmanship,  
but two children from the same family may not both compete in obedience  
using the same dog.

# ~OBEDIENCE~

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND EXERCISE DESCRIPTIONS

### *OBEDIENCE TRAINING TIPS*

-  Be patient! Keep your training sessions short, so the dog doesn't get too tired. Two ten-minute sessions a day are better than one 20-minute session.
-  Praise the dog every time it correctly follows a command. Praise can be a pat on the head or chest, time out for play, a treat or just "Good Dog!" in a happy voice.
-  Keep commands short. Use the same words every time. For commands that require the dog to move ("Come," "Heel") use its name first. For commands that require the dog to stay put ("Stay," "Sit", "Down"), use only the command word. Speak in a firm, pleasant voice.
-  NEVER hit or scream at the dog.
-  Practice, practice, practice those commands! Repeat each exercise many times until the dog does it automatically.
-  End each training session with something the dog knows such as "sit," so you can end with success.
-  Make sure your equipment fits. The training collar should fit around the dog's neck with 1 to 1½" chain hanging down when you pull it snug.
-  If a dog has done something wrong he must be told immediately after the mistake in order to understand why.

### *As You Begin...*

*Remember your dog will learn at its own pace. Just because someone else's dog learned an exercise in a few minutes, and you're still struggling many sessions later doesn't mean your dog is dumb or you are training incorrectly. Train at your own pace until your dog masters the exercise. Just be patient, and don't become frustrated. Also, if a certain way of training isn't working for you, speak up! There are many ways of training. Don't ever be afraid of asking for help.*

Resist the temptation to skip ahead of the class to other exercises in this manual. The exercises build on each other so the dog learns in a logical fashion. You learned to count before you learned addition, then later multiplication. Skipping ahead only confuses the dog later when he doesn't have the required foundation to understand what you are asking.

## Equipment

These items should be brought to each training session:

- training collar (nylon or chain)
- six-foot leash (leather, cloth, or nylon)

To fit your dog for a training collar, measure around the neck and add two to three inches. It should form a "P" when you face the dog. Attach the leash to the ring that pulls it tighter. The training collar should fit around the dog's neck with 1 to 1½" chain hanging down when you pull it snug.

- 🐾 Always remove the training collar after each use! Unattended, it can become lodged on an object. In the struggle to free himself, the dog may strangle.

## THE EXERCISES

These exercise descriptions are only basic guidelines and are not a substitute for attending class. Also, check out the booklet provided by your 4H group. It shows photos and descriptions of the exercises and can be of great help when you need it.

### Lesson One

#### **The Basic Position**

Place your dog on your left side with his shoulder lined up with your hip. If your dog is small, his shoulder should be lined up with your knee. This is the "**BASIC POSITION**" that all exercises begin and end with. The dog should be looking at you during the heeling.

#### **The Sit**

1. Say "Sparky sit," while you pull straight up on the leash with your right hand.
2. At the same time, push down on his hindquarters with your left hand.
3. Praise

#### **The Down**

1. Begin with your dog sitting.
2. Say "Sparky down," while you pull the leash down with your right hand.

3. At the same time, push his shoulders with your left hand.
4. Praise.

OR

1. Begin with your dog sitting.
2. Say "Sparky down," while you scoop his front legs out from under him.
3. At the same time, press his shoulders with your left arm.
4. Praise.

Note - When a dog jumps on you, say "off" not "down." Don't use a word to mean two different things!

### ***The Stand***

1. Begin with your dog sitting
2. Say "Sparky stand," while you pull the leash forward and slightly up with your right hand.
3. Use your left hand to push up on his belly.
4. Praise.

## Lesson Two

### ***Heeling***

1. Start in Heel position with your right hand on the leash.
2. As you say "Sparky heel," step forward on your left foot, and jerk the leash forward.

Ideally your dog should walk in heel position with a loose leash. To keep him in heel position, you will need to make corrections, a jerk of the leash and a release. Remember to release otherwise corrections won't work.

3. As you halt, make your dog sit. This is an automatic sit. Eventually your dog needs to sit with no command from you. Review part of the last lesson to stay polished everyday.

### **IN THE SHOW RING**

The judge will say:

Forward (means to start heeling). Halt (means to come to a stop).

## Lesson Three

### ***The About Turn***

1. Begin in heel position.
2. Start heeling in a straight line.
3. U-turn to your right (with the dog on the outside).
4. As you move, bend down to your dog's level, and give a forward jerk. You will now be heeling in the opposite direction.
5. Praise.

### ***Pace changes***

"Normal" is a brisk walk. "Fast" is at a slow run or jogging depending on the size of your dog. Slow is walking slowly without stopping. A backward jerk will keep your dog in heel position.

Talk happily to your dog to keep his attention. Turns and pace changes can be added during heeling to keep it interesting.

### **IN THE SHOW RING**

The judge will say:

Turns: Right turn. Left turn, about turn.

Pace changes: slow, fast, normal

## Lesson Four

### ***The Long Sit***

#### **Part One**

1. Begin with your dog sitting in heel position, leash in your left hand.
2. Say "Stay," while bringing your palm in front of his nose.
3. Your dog should sit there for a short period of time. If he moves, say "NO" and put him back into position without repeating any commands.
4. Release by praising after 5-19 seconds.

*This part may last from one session to several weeks. Dogs learn at different speeds, so don't rush to the next part until your dog is steady (can stay for at least 30 seconds to one minute).*

#### **Part Two**

1. After the "Stay" command, pivot on your left foot in front of the dog.

2. After a short while, pivot back into heel position and release by praising.
3. Eventually you will move to the end of your six-foot lead. Take one step back.  
When your dog will stay at that distance, you can move back further until you are at the end of the leash.

*Don't rush! Make sure your dog will stay consistently before you increase your distance.*

*Never hurry this exercise. Trying to teach the next part before your dog is ready will only confuse him and frustrate you.*

### ***The Long Down and Stand for Examination***

The long down, and the first part of the stand for examination are taught in the same way. Eventually your dog will sit-stay for one minute, down-stay for three minutes, and stand-stay while the judge runs his or her hands over the dog.

REMEMBER: Step off on your left foot on moving commands (heeling), and your right foot on stationary commands (stays and recalls). This becomes a physical cue for your dog.

### **IN THE SHOW RING**

Long Sit: Sit your dog, leave your dog, return to your dog, exercise finished.

Long Down: Down your dog, leave your dog, return to your dog exercise finished.

Stand for examination: Stand your dog and leave when ready, return to your dog, exercise finished.

## Lesson Five

### ***The Recall***

#### **Part One**

1. Heel in a straight line.
2. Turn around suddenly, run backwards, and call out happily "Sparky come!"
4. As the dog reaches you, praise.

Once your dog comes eagerly, you can go on to the next part. Your dog should stay steadily to teach this part

#### **Part Two**

1. Begin sitting in heel position.

2. As you say "Sparky wait," or "Sparky stay", bring your right palm in front of his nose.
3. Step off on your right foot to the end of the leash facing your dog.
4. Command "Sparky come" and start running backwards.
5. When he catches up with you praise.

When your dog is coming consistently, move onto the third part. Continue to praise. This should be a fun exercise for the dog to encourage him to recall quickly.

### **Part Three**

1. Repeat the above steps, but when he reaches you make him sit squarely in front, facing you.
2. Praise.

*Never call a dog to you and punish him! If you need to correct him, go to him. Otherwise your dog will associate coming to you with punishment, and the recall exercise will be difficult.*

### ***Return to Heel Position***

This is used to return yourself to the basic position on all stay exercise. Your dog is to stay sitting in front of you until you release him. Vary the time before release so he won't anticipate it.

1. Return by holding the leash with the left hand, being careful not to wrap the leash around the dog.
2. Walk around the right side, go behind the dog, and back to heel position on the left.
3. Release and praise.

## Lesson Six

### ***The Figure Eight***

This is a heeling exercise to reduce lagging on turns. There will be two posts (people) six to eight feet apart. You and your dog will have to weave in between them in a figure 8 pattern.

1. Begin in heel position one step back from the center and in the middle.
2. On the command "Forward," start heeling to the left (The dog will be on the inside and won't begin lagging).
3. Continue forming a figure eight halting several times.
4. Praise.

IN THE SHOW RING the judge will say: "You may go either way. Forward, Halt, Exercise Finished."

### Lesson Seven

#### ***The Finish***

This is how your dog returns to heel position after recalls.

1. Begin with your dog sitting squarely in front, facing you, leash in right hand.
2. Say "Sparky heel," step back with your right foot.
3. At the same time, jerk the leash to the right.
4. Guide him behind your back. Switch the leash to your left hand.
5. Make him sit in heel position.
6. Praise.
7. Drop the step back with right foot when your dog knows what to do. Do not step back in the show ring.

OR

The next method is best for smaller dogs. Choose whatever way you feel comfortable with.

1. Begin with your dog sitting squarely in front, facing you, leash in left hand.
2. Say "Sparky swing" or "Sparky heel" step back with your left foot.
3. At the same time, jerk the leash to the left.
4. Guide him to make a U-turn into you.
5. Make him sit in heel position.
6. Praise.

Avoid doing a finish directly after a recall when practicing! If you practice them together, dogs will anticipate. They cheat and go directly to heel position without sitting and waiting for the finish command. Practice the recall and finish separately.

IN THE SHOW RING the judge will say: "Sit your dog, leave your dog, and call your dog. Finish, Exercise Finished."

#### **~Advanced lessons~**

##### **The Retrieve on Flat**

With your dog on leash, throw the dumbbell about 10 feet, run toward it and command him to take it. Praise him if he does. Then step backward, command him to come with the dumbbell in his teeth. After several moments say "Out" and take it. If he refuses to take the dumbbell in the beginning, try pushing his head down while



saying "Take it." Eventually increase the distance you throw the dumbbell and decrease the distance you run toward it. If your dog enjoys retrieving, remove the leash. Gradually increase the distance to 30 feet and start your dog from the sitting position.

**For the retrieve on flat**, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge gives the order, "Throw it," whereupon the handler gives the command and signal, "Stay," and throws a dumbbell about 30 feet directly in front of the dog. He must not give the signal with the hand in which he holds the dumbbell. The judge will then say "Send your dog," whereupon the handler gives the command, "Take it." The dog should retrieve the dumbbell at a fast trot or gallop. He should sit straight in front within easy reach of the handler and hold the dumbbell in his mouth without chewing or mouthing it. The judge will then order "Take it," and the handler commands his dog "Out" and takes the dumbbell from him. The judge will then order "Finish" and the handler may then give the command or signal to heel as in the recall. The judge may then say, "Exercise finished."

The willingness to learn this exercise will vary a great deal among dogs; however, it is generally not difficult and offers more fun for both the dog and handler than perhaps the other exercises.

### **Dumbbell Size.**

When teaching a dog to retrieve, it is important to use a dumbbell of correct size for the dog. The length of the bar should be about one inch more than the width between the dog's eyes for unobstructed vision. The bells should keep the bar far enough off the ground for the dog to grasp it behind his canine teeth without touching the ground with his nose. The bar should be large enough not to rock in his mouth and pinch his lips but not so large that he drools.

Study the size of your dog's mouth carefully before selecting or making a dumbbell. Paint the bells white; your dog may be able to locate the dumbbell more easily and perform better in competition.

### **Retrieve Over High Jump**

Dogs seem to enjoy jumping and will do it readily after they understand the commands. Teach the exercise in parts; do not advance to following parts until your dog performs the first parts well.

For most dogs, the height of the hurdle is one and one half times higher than their withers. Large dogs are required to jump only the height of their withers or three feet, whichever is less. Learn to make the hurdle by studying the illustration.

Start with the eight-inch board or, if your dog is very small, the four-inch board. Face the hurdle 15 feet away with your dog in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" With your dog on leash and heeling, approach the hurdle and step over it. As your dog goes over, repeat "Jump!"

If he refuses to jump, do not drag him over. Coax him by running at the hurdle and jumping with him. Praise him the moment he makes it. Raise the hurdle two inches at a time until it is about even with his withers. Regardless of your dog's size, he now recognizes this as a jump. When he clears it with you readily, go on the next step.

As you approach the hurdle, aim for the right upright and go around the end. Keep the lead high in your left hand and take your dog over the top. Your dog may try to follow your path around the hurdle. If he does, say "No!" quickly go back about 15 feet and rush at the hurdle again. A dog needs at least that much distance to get up enough speed to make the jump.

Set the hurdle about as high as your dog's withers. Place him in the sitting position at your heel. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle, stop just short of it and send your dog over with a repeat command, "Jump!" After he makes the jump, give the command to come and guide him back over the hurdle with the leash.

The next step involves retrieving the dumbbell. With your dog sitting at your heel and the leash attached as before, say "Stay" and throw the dumbbell over the hurdle about a foot beyond the spot where he lands. Be sure he cannot see the dumbbell until he jumps the hurdle; otherwise he will simply retrieve it without jumping. Give the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" Run toward the hurdle and send your dog over. As soon as he has the dumbbell, give the commands, "Come!" and "Jump!" to get him back across the hurdle. Don't forget the praise when he succeeds. Praise is just as important in advanced training as it is in early training.

Try off-leash jumping and retrieving. Gradually increase the height of the hurdle until you reach the required height for your dog. If your dog drops the dumbbell at your feet upon returning, do not move or praise him, but give the command, "Take it," and let him hold it a moment before you take it. Use patience, firmness and lots of praise. Remember that jumping can be tiring. It is also hard on the joints and may not be suitable for older or very young dogs.

### **The Broad Jump**

The broad jump is twice as long as the height of the high jump. The greatest length is therefore six feet for large dogs and two feet for small dogs. Build the jump according to the illustration.

Place the two lowest jumps apart at a distance equal to half the jumping distance required for your dog. If, for example, he is a large dog who must jump six feet, make the distance three feet. With your dog on lead in the sitting position at your heel and the lead in your left hand, face the jumps from about 10 feet away.

At the command, "Duke, heel! Jump!" run and leap over the jumps. As you leap, repeat the command to jump and make a broad, sweeping motion with your left hand. The motion will become a signal to jump, so it is important for your dog to learn it soon. In competition you may use a voice command or a signal, but not both. If at first your dog comes to a skidding halt instead of jumping, quickly drop the lead to prevent hurting or frightening him. Reassure him, remove one of the jumps and try again.

As soon as your dog can make half his required distance over two jumps, stop jumping with him and simply run alongside. Don't forget the sweeping motion of your left arm and the strong voice command to jump. Place your dog in the sitting position facing the jumps 10 feet away. Move to a position across the jump from him, give the command, "Duke, Come! Jump!" and tug the lead. Repeat the command to jump as he nears the jump. When he lands, guide him directly to you. Praise him lavishly.

Now you are ready to teach your dog to jump on command. Place him in the sitting position 10 feet away facing the jumps. Stand beside the jumps and give the command, "Duke, jump!" At the same time snap the lead lightly and make a sweeping motion with your left arm. As he nears the jump, repeat the command to jump; when he lands, say "Duke, come," and guide him directly to you. Give plenty of praise.

If your dog is readily jumping on lead, he is now ready to start jumping off lead. Perform the exercise off lead as you did on lead. If your dog does not perform correctly or if you lose control of him after the jump, go back to using the lead.

Gradually increase the length of the jump and the number of jump boards until you reach the requirement for your dog. Use two jumps for lengths up to two feet, three jumps for up to four feet and four jumps for up to six feet. Begin using only one command to jump. Discontinue calling your dog back because in competition he must do the recall without command. After your dog makes the jump, call him as you do in the recall and then send him to your heel.

### **Scent Discrimination (Utility Class )**

The following is a description of the scent discrimination exercise. The judge will select one leather one metal article from your box and place them on his table. The judge will then tell you where to stand with your dog at the heel position while he

places the remaining articles on the ground about 15 feet to your front. The articles will be placed about six inches apart.

At this time the article selected will be passed to you (probably on a clipboard). Show both the judge and steward the number and type of article so they can make a note of it. This eliminates any chance of question of whether the dog retrieves the correct article. You should then turn around so that both you and your dog are facing away from the articles on the ground. Rub the article with your hands to place your scent on it. After several seconds the judge will take it from you by asking you to place it on a clipboard. He will then, without touching it with his hands, place it among the articles on the ground. He will then order you to "Send your dog." You should then say, "Bo, heel," and do an about turn in place to your right. As you turn around and face the articles command, "Bo get it." Your dog should go briskly to the articles and search out the scented article. He should return quickly without mouthing, and sit straight in front of you, holding it patiently. The judge will then order "Take it." After you have removed the article from his mouth, the judge will order "Finish" and you will command, "Bo, heel." You will then follow the same procedure with the remaining article.

Your dog must be proficient at retrieving before learning the scent discrimination exercise. First carry one of the leather articles in your pocket for a week to allow it to become thoroughly impregnated with your scent. Then take the dog to a quiet place and throw the article 10 or 15 feet and command, "Get it." Don't forget to praise. Always rub the article with your hands just before throwing to add fresh scent to the article. Next place a clean unscented article and throw the scented article nearby. Send your dog. If he starts to pick up the unscented article, rush to him and flick it from his mouth. Guide him to pick up the scented article. Lavish praise is important.

Some trainers fasten the unscented article with wire or nails to a sheet of plywood. The dog then learns that the unscented article cannot be picked up. This method has worked well and is suggested. After the dog has learned to distinguish the scented from the unscented, fasten more articles down. He will then learn to smell each article until finding the one with the scent. Follow this procedure with the metal articles. Then use some of each, finally using all of the articles.

When training, it is important to handle the unscented articles in a manner to not confuse the dog. Prepare unscented articles by washing them with hot water and soap. Let them dry in the air. Use a pair of tongs to pick them up.

Use the same methods for teaching the exercises in the Utility class as you used in the Beginner class. They are praise, correction and persistence. Be definite with each. Your timing at using each is most important.

The judge will then drop the three predominately white cotton work gloves across the end of the ring. The gloves shall be designated "One," "Two" or "Three" from left to right when the handler turns and faces the gloves. The judge will order a retrieve of one of the three numbers. The handler will then give the command, "Chance, heel" and will turn in place, either to the right or to the left, to face the designated glove. The handler will come to a halt with the dog in the heel position. The handler shall not touch the dog to get it in position. The handler will then give the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of his left hand and arm along the right side of the dog. The handler may give the command to retrieve either simultaneously with or immediately following the giving of the direction. The usual command is "Chance, get it." The dog shall make the retrieve at a brisk pace, completing the exercise as in the retrieve on the flat. You will be asked to retrieve only one of the three articles.

This exercise will not be difficult for your dog to learn if he is proficient at the retrieve on the flat. When training, select an area that slopes upward from you and your dog. This will enable your dog to see the gloves more easily. In training, give your dog the stay command and signal (dog in sitting position), throw the glove, wait a few seconds, then give the arm signal and command of "Get it." After a few days of training, throw two gloves while he is sitting at heel. Give the signal and command to get the last one thrown, call him in and finish. Then send him to the other glove. Advance to three gloves as soon as he masters retrieving two gloves. After he masters retrieving three gloves, throw only one glove but send him for the other two already in place. He will soon develop a trust of always finding a glove to retrieve when you send him.

### **Directed Retrieve**

Place your dog in the sitting position facing away from the unobstructed end of the ring as shown in the drawing.

### **The Signal Exercise**

The signal exercise is done entirely from hand signals. No verbal commands may be given.

The exercise begins with heeling off leash. The judge will order a Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn and Halt, slow, normal and fast. Special emphasis will be placed on how you and your dog work as a team. In the process of heeling, the judge will

maneuver you to one end of the ring. While heeling, the judge will order, "Stand your dog" and then "Leave your dog." You should then signal your dog to stand and stay and walk to the far end of the ring (about 50 feet). The judge will then signal you to "Drop your dog", "Sit your dog", "Call your dog" and "Finish", in that order.

Begin teaching these exercises with the signal to heel. Place your dog in the heel position; give him the heel signal (the left hand held open, passed smartly above and forward beside your dog's head). Step off with your left foot and heel at a brisk pace. If your dog fails to get the idea of the hand signal, place him on leash so you can give a corrective jerk forward with the right hand.

Teach the stand signal when heeling by bringing the right hand down in front of his nose. Then bring the left hand across his face as a signal to stay. At first you may need to use the voice command a few times to help him recognize the signal.

Teach your dog to drop on your signal by leaving him in the standing position at a distance of about 25 feet. The sudden raising of your hand is the signal to drop. Lower it as soon as your dog starts to go down. You may at first need to give a voice command along with the hand signal. As he learns the hand signal, increase the distance to about 50 feet.

With your dog in the down position at the end of the leash to your front, give the hand signal to sit (quickly bringing your left hand upward from your waist). Reach toward your dog and say, "Sit," lifting him with the leash in your left hand. Be quick with the praise when he sits. As you repeat the exercise the following several days, discontinue using the voice command and leash to lift him. Remove the leash as soon as possible and increase your distance from him.

The signal to call your dog is done by sweeping your right hand out sideways and then to your chest. Your dog should come smartly to you upon signal and sit directly to your front. Teach this signal by standing about 25 feet in front of your dog. Use the voice command "Come" if necessary the first several days. A piece of light rope may also prove useful to correct your dog should he not come smartly on your signal. Increase your distance from him as soon as you can.

The signal to finish is done by using your left hand as shown. You may speed up his reaction to your hand signal by using your right hand to reach forward and giving a jerk on the training collar. Some dogs, after learning the exercises, will anticipate your signals. You can sometimes break this habit by doing the exercises out of sequence.

## **~BRACE~**

The brace is for youth who have two dogs of their own or for those who want to team up in training a pair of dogs. Dogs of the same breed, size and color are preferred, but not necessary. The class is judged according to the Graduate Beginner's score card and includes the heel on leash and Figure 8, stand for examination, recall, long sit and down off lead.

In the off lead exercises, the dogs are attached together but off lead. Dogs should have completed the Graduate Beginner's course and more training is helpful.

When training the dogs to heel on leash and do the Figure 8, place the quickest and most responsive dog on the outside because he will have to hurry on the turns. Stewards stand farther apart for the Figure 8 to allow more space for the dogs to turn. Heeling is done at slow, fast and normal speeds.

The stand for examination is made by the judge touching each dog on the head, back and rump. Remove the leash, hold the dogs by the tandem lead and take several steps forward, walking them into the stand or standing them separately.

The long sit for one minute and long down for three minutes is done by lining up the braces side by side on one side of the ring. Upon the judge's command, "Leave your dog," the handlers will move to a position about 30 feet in front of their dogs. The brace that works in unison and with the most precision receives the highest score.

When commanding two dogs simultaneously to heel or come, you may wish to use a single term such as "boys" or "girls" instead of two separate names. When heeling your dogs on leash, you may correct a dog that is lagging or forging by jerking the individual dog attached with the tandem chain. When correcting your dogs, carry the leash in your right hand and make the correction with your left. You may at first wish to attach a lead to each dog, holding a lead in each hand so that positive individual corrections can be made.

## **~TEAM OBEDIENCE~**

The ideal team would consist of four individuals with well-trained dogs of the same breed, size and coloring. This may be difficult to attain so selection should be made according to the training ability of the dogs. This class is judged according to the Graduate Beginner's score card. Dogs should have completed the Graduate Beginner's course and more advanced training will be useful. The success of a team depends equally upon the handlers as they must work together in harmony, each knowing

equally well the entire routine. Nothing new is required of the dogs, except that they must follow commands while working close to other dogs in a group.

The first practice session should be without the dogs. The handlers should line up side by side facing the same direction. The person on the extreme left is Number One, next is Number Two and so forth. Each person to the right of Number One should raise his left arm so that the fingertips just touch the shoulder of the person on his left. The three members should look to their left forming a straight line with Number one. Upon the command, "Forward," from the instructor (or judge in competition), step off with your left foot. Upon the command, "Halt," stop on your right foot and bring the left alongside it. Make sharp left and right turns and about turns. You will probably soon discover that it will take some training to march straight, make sharp turns and deep in line. Don't give up; with a little practice you will soon be marching with precision. Several alternates should be trained to fill in for regular members in emergencies.

After the team has learned to march and make turns with some precision, include the dogs. They will likely at this point make fewer errors than the handlers. After you are heeling your dogs well as a team, try the slow and fast gaits. In competition, the team will perform the heel on leash and Figure 8 the same as would be required of a single competitor.

Next comes the Figure 8 which involves eight stewards. In practice, you may wish to use stakes. Upon the judge's command, "Prepare for the Figure 8; take your places," the team should line up, each handler facing a pair of stewards. After a brief pause, the judge will command, "Forward," and simultaneously each handler will step off on the left foot turning to the left as he begins the Figure 8. The judge will command you to halt twice while performing the Figure 8. After the second command to halt, the judge will say, "Exercise finished." The team will then re-group side by side with their dogs in the sitting position.

On command from the judge, "Prepare for the recall," the handlers will remove the leashes and prepare to leave their dogs in a sitting position and on the command, "Leave your dogs," each handler will march forward about 30 feet and turn and face his dog. The judge will then command, "Call your dog," and the handlers will simultaneously obey.



## THE COMPETING LEVELS

### 1. PRE-NOVICE A and B:

This is the beginning dog obedience class. It is designed for teams who are just beginning dog training. The class is divided into Pre-Novice A which is limited to members who have never competed in 4-H obedience before and Pre-Novice B, which includes members who have competed into 4-H obedience before with a different dog or who scored less than 120 points in Pre-Novice A or B the previous year. In special circumstances, with written permission of the project leader, a member may continue to participate in Pre-Novice B. All pre-novice exercises are done on leash.

#### **Required Equipment:**

Properly fitted training collar

6-foot leather or nylon leash

Walking shoes (no sandals or open-backed shoes permitted).

Treats and/or toys

#### **Exercises:**

**Heeling** (walking on a loose leash on the left side of the member and sitting when the handler stops).

**Figure Eight** (heeling on leash in a figure eight pattern around two assistants without lagging behind the handler or forging ahead of the handler).

**Stand for Examination** (standing in place on leash without moving while the handler leaves the dog and a "judge examines" the dog).

**Recall** (calling the dog to the handler from a sitting position).

**Long Sit** (requiring the dog to remain sitting for one minute while the handler walks away).

**Long Down** (requiring the dog to remain sitting for three minutes while the handler walks away).

The long sit and long down are done as a group.

### 2. NOVICE A AND B: This is the second level of 4-H obedience training. The Novice class is divided into Novice A that is limited to members who have not

previously participated in the 4-H Novice class. The Novice B class includes members who have previously participated in the 4-H Novice class. It includes members who have competed in Novice 4-H Obedience with a different dog and teams who received a score of less than 120 points in 4-H Novice competition. Teams must receive a score of at least 120 in the pre-novice project or receive written permission from the project leader to enroll. Teams will begin work off leash.

Required Equipment: Same as Pre-Novice.

***Exercises:***

Heel on leash  
Figure eight (on leash)  
Stand for examination (off leash)  
Heel off leash  
Recall (off leash)  
Long sit (off leash)  
Long down (off leash)

3. **GRADUATE NOVICE:** This is the third level of 4-H obedience training. The Graduate Novice class is usually not divided into A and B groups. Teams must score at least 120 points in Novice A or Novice B or receive written permission from the project leader to enroll.

***Required Equipment:***

Properly fitted training collar  
6-foot leather or nylon leash  
Walking shoes (no sandals or open-backed shoes permitted).  
Jumping stick  
Treats and/or toys

***Exercises:***

Heel on leash  
Heel off leash  
Figure eight (off leash)  
Stand for examination (off leash)  
Drop on recall (off leash)  
Long sit out of sight

Long down out of sight.

4. **PRE-OPEN:** This is the fourth level of 4-H dog obedience. Teams must score at least 120 points in Graduate Novice or receive written permission from the project leader to enroll.

***Required Equipment:***

Properly fitted training collar  
6-foot leather or nylon leash  
Walking shoes (no sandals or open-backed shoes permitted).  
Jumping stick  
Dumbbell  
Broad jump  
Treats and/or toys

***Exercises:***

Heel off leash  
Figure 8 off leash  
Drop on recall  
Retrieve on flat  
Broad jump  
Long sit out of sight  
Long down out of sight

5. **OPEN:** This is the fifth level of 4-H dog obedience. Teams must score at least 120 points in Pre-Open competition or receive written permission from the project leader to enroll.

***Required Equipment:***

Properly fitted training collar  
6-foot leather or nylon leash  
Walking shoes (no sandals or open-backed shoes permitted).  
Jumping stick  
Dumbbell  
Broad jump  
High jump  
Treats and/or toys

***Exercises:***

Signal exercise  
Retrieve over high jump  
Directed retrieve  
Directed jump (over high jump)  
Moving stand

**6. UTILITY:** Highest level in 4-H dog obedience training. Teams must score at least 120 points in Open competition or receive written permission from the project leader to enroll.

***Required Equipment:***

Properly fitted training collar  
6-foot leather or nylon leash  
Walking shoes (no sandals or open-backed shoes permitted).  
Jumping stick  
Dumbbell  
Broad jump  
High jump  
Utility articles  
White gloves  
Treats and/or toys

***Exercises:***

Signal exercise  
Scent discrimination (leather, metal)  
Directed retrieve  
Directed jump  
Moving stand

**7. BRACE—NOVICE:** Brace class consists of one handler and two dogs. One dog must be shown by the handler at the Fair. Dogs may be shown unattached or coupled and must complete Novice exercises. Coupling dives may not be less than six inches long.

## ~SHOWMANSHIP~

Showmanship is the art and skill of presenting a dog at its best in a dog show. The purpose of 4-H Showmanship competition is to help members develop the skills and knowledge required to compete in a conformation show. Showmanship competition gives members the chance to learn about the differences between dog breeds. Members learn how to groom, train, and present their dogs in the conformation show ring, but members are judged on their presentation and handling skills, not the quality of their dog. The member's project dog does not have to be a purebred. Any 4-H Dog Project member may compete in showmanship. Mixed breed dogs are shown by the breed standard the dog most closely resembles.

Showmanship training teaches participating 4-H members how to present themselves and their dogs to the best of their ability. Handlers and dogs, working as a controlled and confident team, learn to stand their dogs for presentation ("stack"), walk at a pace which best shows off their dog's gaits, and present the dog for examination by the judge.

### **SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION**

Showmanship competition at the Iowa County Fair is divided into classes based on grade as follows: 1. Grades 3 and 4, 2. Grades 5 and 6, 3. Grades 7 and 8, 4. Grades 9 and 10, 5. Grades 11 and above.

All classes are judged in the same five basic areas:

1. Proper presentation for the breed. (Mixed breeds are presented according to the procedure used for the breed the dog most closely resembles, no matter what the actual breeding).
2. Proper ring procedure.
3. Knowledge
4. Appropriate grooming of the dog
5. Handler's poise, appearance, skill, and conduct.

### **Equipment**

A showmanship lead.

Grooming equipment appropriate for the dog being shown.

Bait appropriate for the size of the dog being shown.

Comfortable flat shoes. Heels and sandals are not allowed.

### Showmanship leads:

There are several types of showmanship leads. They come in many styles, sizes, weights and colors. Showmanship leads slip over the dog's head. In 4-H competition, the lead should never be removed while the dog is competing.

Loop lead. The lead has a simple loop which slips over the dog's head. Caution should be used when showing with this lead to make certain it is adjusted properly and does not slip off the dog's head.

Martingale lead. This lead has an additional loop at the end of the first loop and the dog's head is placed between the two loops. The lead allows the handler to have more control over the dog.

Slip collar and lead. If a beginning or small member is working with a large, strong dog, a chain slip collar and lead may be used. The lead should be four feet long or less, and both the length of the collar and size of the links of the chain should be appropriate to the dog. The collar must be correctly placed on the dog. (The handler, facing the dog, should hold the chain collar so that it forms the letter "P" and then slip the collar over the dog's head, so that the tension on the chain is released when no correction is being made).

## LEASH PLACEMENT



**Lead held correctly.**



**Lead held incorrectly.**



**Lead placed correctly on dog.**



**Lead place incorrectly on dog.**

Showmanship leads are preferred, but no deduction should be made for a chain collar and leash if it is necessary to maintain control of the dog.

No matter what lead is used; the handler must be in control of the dog at all times. The loop of the lead or collar should be placed high on the neck directly behind the dog's ears. The lead should be held neatly in the handler's hand, without ends hanging down or flapping around the dog. The handler and dog should be ready to move at the judge's instructions, and deductions are made for time spent organizing leads or other delays in responding to the judge's instructions. The lead should **never be removed** in the 4-H Showmanship ring.

**Bait:**

Part of showmanship is keeping the dog happy and animated while in the ring so it shows to its best advantage. Most judges allow baiting with food in 4-H showmanship competitions. Toys or squeakers are not allowed.

Baiting helps animate the dog when the dog is being stacked in the line up or during individual presentation to the judge. Many dogs show animation or expression by either wagging their tails or perking up their ears. Bait is also used to "free stack" a dog and keep its attention. (For a description of "free stack", look under the heading titled "stacking".)

**Baiting Guidelines for 4-Hers**

Baiting is to be done discretely, without a lot of fanfare and flare. Never stretch your arm out when holding the bait so that you are catching any other dog's attention. Handlers must be respectful of the other handlers and dogs in the ring.

Use food which is soft and moist and is an appropriate size for your dog. Semi-moist food chunks often work well because they can be easily handled and quickly broken off without too much mess. Avoid dry/hard treats which cannot be quickly broken into smaller pieces, messy or gooey treats.

"Mouth bait" (like hot dogs) that the handler actually keeps in his/her mouth is not allowed in the 4-H ring because of the chance of accidental choking. While this type of bait has its merits, it is barred from 4-H competition because of safety concerns.

Keep your bait in a bait bag or in your skirt, pants, or jacket pocket until you are ready to use it.

Bait should be held directly in front of your dog. The height (level) where you should hold the bait depends upon the size of your dog and your experience. Your goal is to create an appealing picture for the judge.

If you bait a big dog holding the bait too high, it will throw the balance of the dog off—big dogs have a habit of reaching for high items

**Clothing.** Handlers should appear neat, clean and well-groomed but should avoid clothing which draws attention to the handler and away from the dog. Very casual clothing such as jeans and T-shirts are usually not worn. The handler should appear business-like, but clothes must allow the handler to move freely to properly show the dog. Short and, short skirts or dresses should not be worn. Avoid jewelry which dangles or makes a noise. Wear



low-heeled shoes with good traction. High heels or flip-flops will result in a deduction. Tennis shoes, running shoes, or sneakers are permitted without a deduction. Long hair should be tied back so that it does not interfere with the handling.

**Armbands:** Armbands (paper numbers) are held on the left arm above the elbow with the number right side up and visible to the judge.

### **Exercises:**

Each judge is in charge of the procedure in his or her ring. The handler's first job is to follow the judge's instructions. The handler will be judged on gaiting the dog both in a group and individually, "stacking" or posing the dog to show off the dog's good points, and controlling the dog while the judge examines the dog individually. The judge also asks questions testing the handler's knowledge about dogs.

### **Ring Procedure:**

Individual judges vary their judging routine and the following components may be mixed in any order. Basic procedures include:

- Group Gaiting
- Individual Gaiting
- Stacking (posing the dog)
- Individual examination of the dog

The dog should move in a smooth straight manner at the correct speed based upon the dog's breed. The dog should move naturally and freely. Avoid traveling ahead of or behind your dog.

Always keep your show lead in the hand which is beside the dog. Do not keep the lead too tight or too loose. You should never pull your dog's feet off the ground with your lead. Avoid any unnecessary motions or actions which draw attention away from your dog. Use the entire ring unless the judge tells you to use only part of the ring.

If there is a mat in the ring, the dog should be centered on the mat, and the handler should be to the side while gaiting. If the mat is wide enough, both the handler and the dog should be on the mat, but if there is only room for one, the one is the dog. The dog should be kept between the handler and the judge at all times. It is a major fault if the handler gets between the judge and the dog for any significant amount of time. It is a minor fault if the handler is between the judge and the dog for a minimal period.

## **Group Gaiting**

Normally, the handlers enter the ring to the right in the order called (usually numerical order by armband). The judge may choose to rearrange the dogs according to size or speed. During group gaiting the handlers and dogs will always move counterclockwise around the ring, so the lead will always be in the handlers' left hand and the dog on the handler's left side. Handlers should never pass another exhibitor except at the judges' request. Part of handler is leaving space between your dog and the dog in front both for safety and so that the judge sees your dog to its best advantage. Crowding other dogs is a major fault.

During group gaiting, if the faster dogs are at the front of the line and catch up with the slower dogs at the end of the line, the handler with the faster dog should slow down and gait at a slower speed, even if it is not the proper speed for the dog's breed.

## **Posing Your Dog**

After group gaiting, the judge will signal that the exhibitors should line up. The dogs should remain in order and be posed head to tail. The judge may look at them briefly from a distance to get an overall perspective of the class.

Next, the judge will carefully inspect each dog. You will be asked to bring your dog in front of the others for inspection and individual gaiting. In order to show your dog correctly, you must know how a properly-posed and gaited dog of your breed performs. Breed magazines and attendance at dog shows will help you understand the standards for your dog. If a dog is a mixed breed, he should be shown according to the standards of the breed he resembles most.

## **Stacking (Posing) Your Dog to Best Advantage**

It will take a bit of practice to learn to make the proper moves around your dog so you can present your dog with assurance. After some practice, you will be able to move around your dog very smoothly and work as a team. When training your dog to pose, let him know that you mean business and it is not play time. Practice training your dog twice a day for 15 or 20 minutes. Training twice a day for a shorter period is much better than training once a day for a longer period. If your dog moves one of its legs, correct the pose immediately, but smoothly.

When posing your dog, start with the judge's side front foot first, and then move the front foot nearest to you. Next move the hind foot on the judge's side, and finally, move the hind foot on the side nearest you. The front foot should be placed by grasping the elbow and moving the foot into the correct position. You should move the hind legs by holding the

hock. Check to make sure your dog has not moved any of its feet out of place again. Only move feet that are out of place.

Small breeds are often posed on a table. You may wish to set the front end by lifting your dog and resettling it. Next, place the rear legs. Grasp the leg just above the hock and place the leg square. You can also place the rear legs by reaching under the dog. When placing the legs, you must lift up slightly on the dog's head, because the dog will tend to lower its head when you touch its legs.

When posing or stacking your dog, place the legs wide enough to indicate strong front and rear ends. The feet should point straight ahead. The rear legs should be positioned far enough back so that the portion of the leg between the hock and the pastern is straight up and down. This position will help the dog present a strong back instead of looking swaybacked. The dog's head should be held high enough to add style. In some breeds, proper techniques are to hold the dog by its lower jaw on the side of the muzzle opposite the judge. The tail is held as required for the breed.

Some breeds are "free stacked", meaning that the handler does not hold the muzzle or the tail.

Be careful not to stretch your dog out too much, because it will cause the dog's back to appear flat and takes away from the overall picture.

Many handlers practice stacking and gaiting in front of a mirror to check the picture they are showing to the judge.

Use of a brush or comb in the ring to reposition messy hair is acceptable, but should be done very discretely.

### **Individual gaiting**

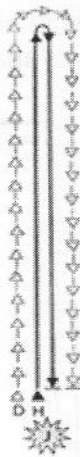
After the judge had examined the dog individually, the judge will ask the handler to gait the dog individually. The judge will decide the pattern the dog and handler will follow. The dog will move at the correct speed for its breed, which, depending on the breed, will be a walk, trot, or run. This means the dog is walking, trotting or running, but always under the handler's control. The handler must move at a speed which matches the dog's gait and shows the dog off to its best advantage.

Some dogs are shown at a trot which means that the back leg and front leg on the opposite side move together. Dogs should never be shown at a "pacing gait" which means that the back leg and front leg on the same side of dog move at the same time. Pacing is a major fault.

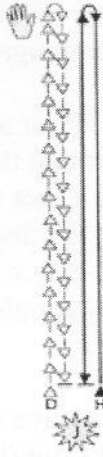
The judge will ask the handlers to perform one or more of the following patterns:

Down and back - The handler and dog will be asked to gait across the ring either on the diagonal or from end to end. At the far end of the ring, the handler may either (1) do an about turn or (2) switch hands with the lead as shown below.

### Down and Back Gaiting Pattern (1) and (2)



1. The Down and Back with an about-turn.



2. The Down and Back with a hand switch.

(1) If the handler does an about-turn, the dog stays on the same side (left or right) and goes around the outside of the handler.

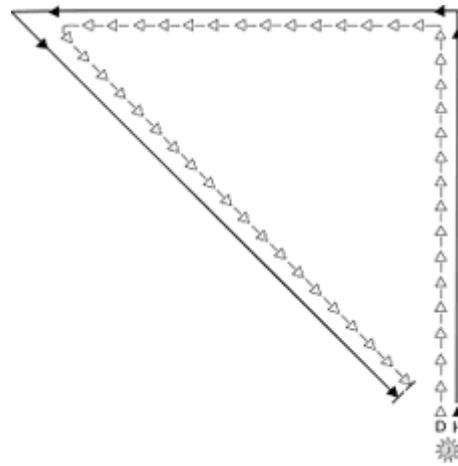
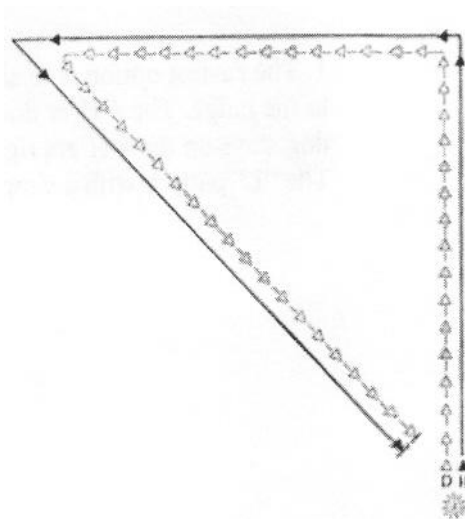
(2) If the handler switches the lead into the other hand, the handler and the dog turn toward each other and return to the judge. The dog is on the other side of the handler when it returns.

It is a major fault if the handler does a U-turn and goes around the dog.

Triangle - This pattern is performed in the shape of a right triangle. The handler and dog travel in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner, the handler and dog make a left turn and travel to the next corner. The pair then makes one of the following three turns before returning to the judge on the diagonal.

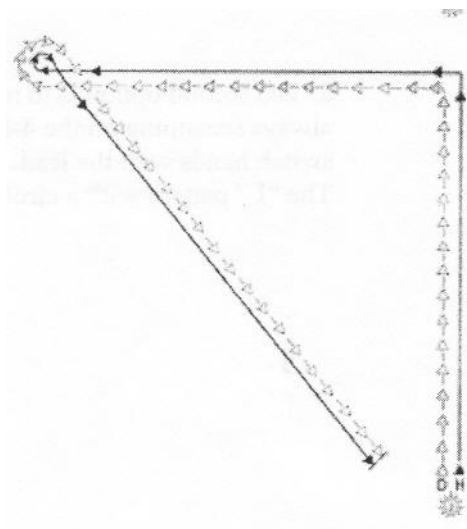
1. The easiest option is to simply make a left turn onto the diagonal. The handler does not switch hands and the dog stays on the handler's left side.

Triangle with simple turn at the corner



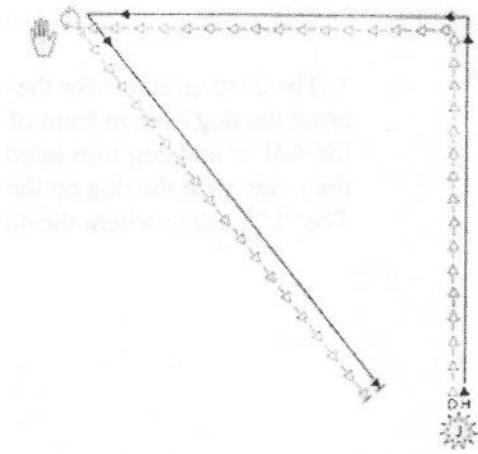
2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner; with the dog always remaining on the handler's left side. The handler does not change the lead to the other hand.

Triangle with circle at the corner



3. The third option is for the handler to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of the handler. The dog completes a circle as the handler and dog turn into (toward) each other and return to the judge on the diagonal with the dog on the handler's right side.

Triangle where handler switches hands with the lead



**"L" Pattern** - This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter "L". The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. The 4-H'er then switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the other end of the ring. At this corner, the 4-H'er has three options:

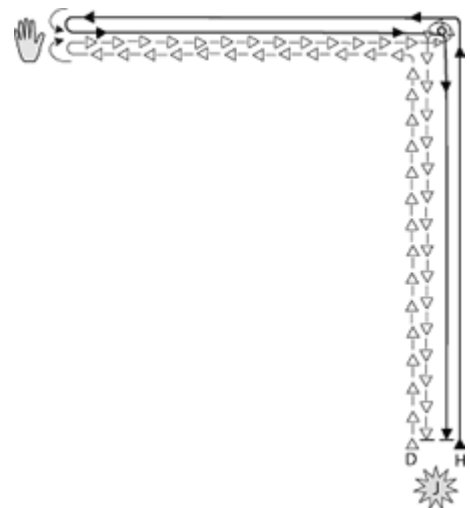
1. The easiest option is to simply make a right turn and proceed back to the judge. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead and the dog stays on the 4-H'ers right side.

**The "L" pattern with a simple right turn.**

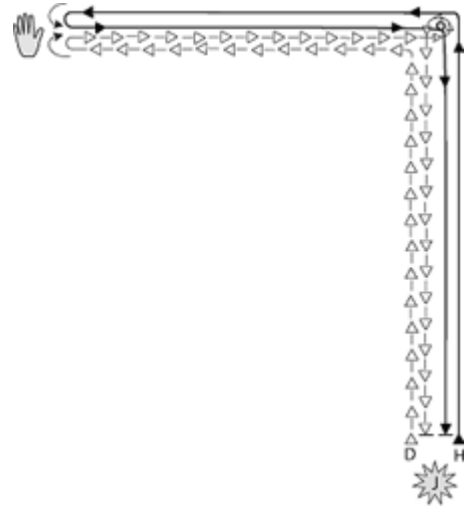


2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner with the dog always remaining on the 4-H'ers right side. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead.

**The "L" pattern with a circle.**

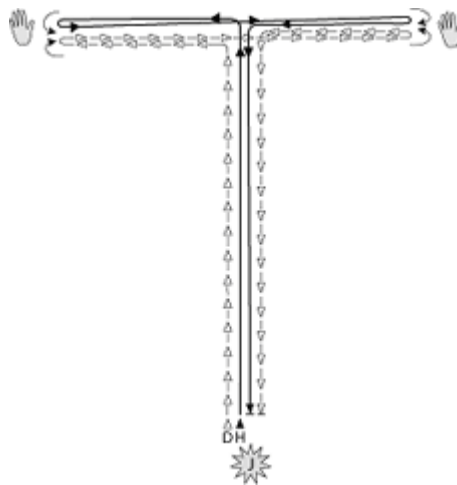


3. The third option is for the 4-H'er to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the judge with the dog on the 4-H'ers left side.



**The “L” pattern where the 4-H'er switches hands with the lead.**

**“T” Pattern** - This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter “T”. The judge will indicate where to start the “T” pattern. The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. The 4-H'er should turn to which ever side the dog is on and proceed to the corner of the ring. The 4-H'er then switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. At the other end, the 4-H'er again switches hands with the lead. The 4-H'er and dog again turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the center of the ring. The 4-H'er then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.

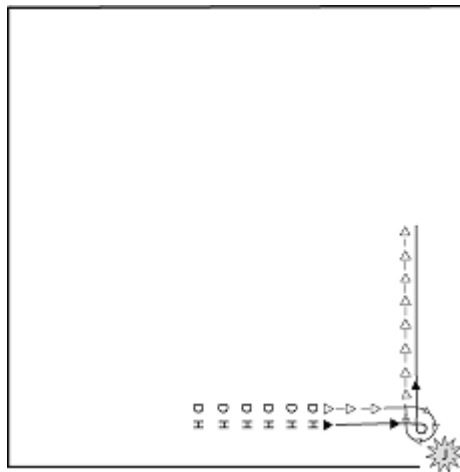




## The "T" pattern.

### **Courtesy Turn** (used at the start of the individual gaiting pattern)

A courtesy turn is optional in 4-H, but is recommended to get the dog moving from its stacked position. To do a courtesy turn, the 4-H'er will use a right hand turn before beginning the individual pattern designated by the judge. The courtesy turn should be executed quickly and smoothly and there should not be any break in the gaiting pattern. At this point it is acceptable for the 4-H'er to briefly pass between his/her dog and the judge.



**A correct courtesy turn.**

As the courtesy turn is completed the 4-H'er continues directly into the designated pattern (4-H'ers should not stop in between). If the courtesy turn cannot be executed smoothly, it should not be done because it then detracts from the overall teamwork.

### **Switching Hands**

It may be necessary in some patterns to switch the lead from one hand to the other to ensure the dog is always between the judge and the 4-H'er. These changes should be done gracefully at the corners of the patterns only as necessary to be sure the judge has an unobstructed view of the dog.

### **Completion of the Pattern**

It is customary for the 4-H'er to stop a few steps back from the judge. Some judges will use a hand signal to designate when to stop, others may not. If a judge does not signal, be sure to stop two to three feet from the judge. Most breeds should stop and stand with all four feet square. The dog should walk into the stack squarely, without the 4-H'er moving the dog's feet by hand. If 4-H'ers use their hands to stack their dog upon the completion of an individual pattern it is considered a major fault.

The handler should make certain that the dog, not the handler, comes directly toward the judge. The handler should look at the judge, not their dog, when returning to the judge.

### **Knowledge**

In showmanship, the judge will ask the handler questions to test the handler's knowledge of dogs. The judge may only ask questions about information contained in the current AKC Complete Dog Book and the current year's Dog Bowl references. Handlers should be prepared to answer questions about general dog knowledge, specific questions about their dog, and about their breed of dog. If the dog is a mixed breed, the handler may be asked to answer questions based upon the breed standard the dog most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed. Handlers should not be expected to answer questions about any breed other than the dog the handler is showing.

### **Basic questions every 4-H Handler should know how to answer:**

How do you care for your dog?

How often do you groom your dog?

What does AKC stand for?

What breed is your dog? (What breed standard are you using to show your mixed breed dog?)

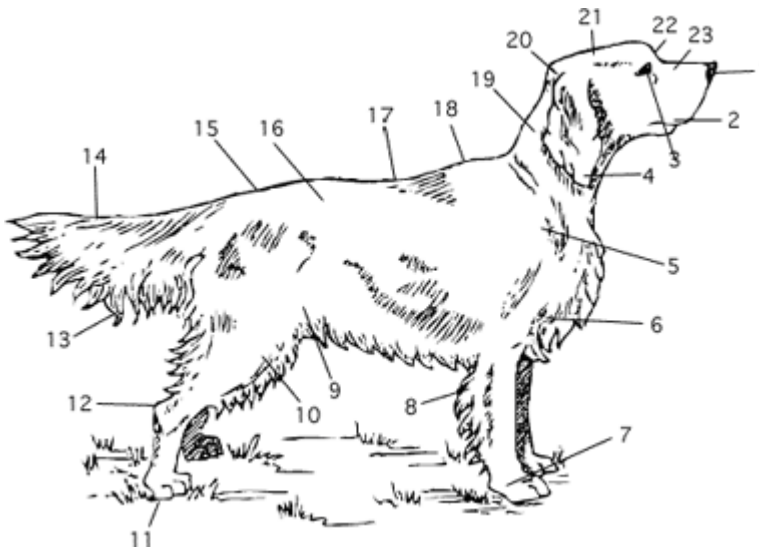
What is your dog breed's AKC Group classification?

Where did your breed originate?

Why was your breed developed?

What vaccinations are required for your dog to participate in 4-H dog shows?

Name one internal parasite and one external parasite of the dog?

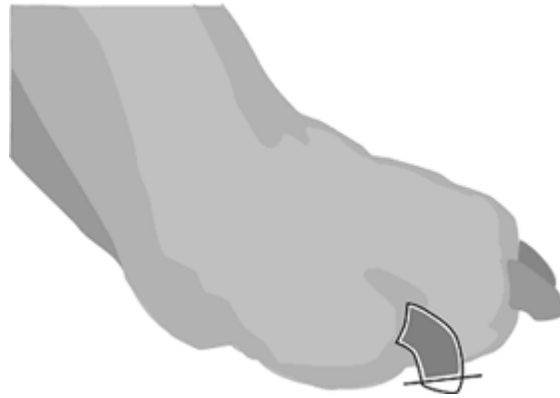


1. nose
2. flews
3. eye
4. ear
5. shoulder
6. brisket
7. pastern
8. elbow
9. tuckup
10. stifle
11. toes
12. hock
13. feathers (not on all breeds)
14. tail
15. croup
16. loin
17. back
18. withers
19. neck
20. occiput
21. skull
22. stop
23. muzzle

## Grooming of Dog

In showmanship dogs are required to be well-groomed. 4-H'ers are allowed assistance from a professional groomer, but are strongly encouraged to learn these skills as they advance in experience. Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge's attention will be considered a minor fault. Use of a brush or comb to reposition messy hair is acceptable but should be done very discreetly.

- Coat: The dog's coat must be clean, not scaly, free of mats, and free of loose hair. It is a major fault if a dog has mats or external parasites.
- Ears: The dog's ears should be free of dirt, parasites, and excessive hair.
- Eyes: The dog's eyes should be clean and free of matter.
- Toenails: The dog's toenails should be trimmed. It is a major fault if the dog's toenails are excessively long.



**Toenail trimmed correctly.**

Any dog with hair over its eyes that interferes with its vision may have the hair tied back with up to four rubber bands or plain, straight, rectangular-shaped barrettes that have a solid exterior color. No ribbons or bows are allowed.

### **The 4-H'ers Handling Skills**

4-H'ers should appear prepared, confident, and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and fellow exhibitors. 4-H'ers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting other 4-H'ers or their dogs. A 4-H'er who crowds or disturbs other dogs must be faulted.

4-H'ers should be aware that judges will excuse any dog that: (1) is out of control, (2) injured (healed injuries that do not cause the dog pain are excluded), or (3) shows aggression toward other dogs or people. If there is any question about an injury and the ability of a dog to shown, the 4-H'er should plan ahead and provide the show committee and the judge with a document from a licensed, practicing veterinarian that states that it is okay for the dog to be shown. 4-H'ers who exhibit impatience or mistreatment of their dogs will be faulted.

### **Posture**

- While gaiting, keep your back straight, your head up, and watch where you are going.
- While stacking, if you choose to kneel try to keep your body straight and use your legs to raise and lower yourself to your dog's level. When showing large breeds, bend at the waist only when necessary and as quickly and smoothly as possible.

### **Smoothness**

- In the ring you should be calm, cool, and collected. Remember not to rush.

- Your actions should be smooth, controlled, and purposeful. Jumpy and jerky actions make you appear nervous and unsure.

### **Attentiveness**

- Look confident. Remember to smile and enjoy what you doing.
- It is not appropriate to talk to other exhibitors or spectators.
- Your attention should always be focused on what is happening in your ring, including your dog, the judge, and other exhibitors.
- Know where the judge is located and always keep your dog between you and the judge.
- While gaiting, it is appropriate to make occasional eye contact with the judge. Eye contact should be subtle and natural. It should not be forced nor look "fake".
- It is important to listen to the judge's instructions. If you are unsure of an instruction, it is appropriate to ask the judge for clarification.

### **Sportsmanship**

- Think positively as you enter the ring.
- However you place, be humble and gracious. It is appropriate to sincerely congratulate the class winners. In a like fashion, if you fortunate enough to win a class accept congratulations from others graciously.
- If the judge gives you feedback, listen attentively and thank him or her.
- It is courteous to express your appreciation to those who are involved with the show including show committee members, 4-H staff and volunteers, judges, award donors, etc.

**While competing, 4-H'ers should remember that the judge will consider the following questions:**

1. Is the dog responsive to the 4-H'er? Do they work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear stacked or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Is the dog gaited correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Do both the dog and 4-H'er appear relaxed?
6. Is the dog presented with an economy of motion that gives the appearance of ease and minimum effort used to present the dog?

## **Proper Breed Presentation**

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has categorized dog breeds into seven groups. The seven groups are: (1) Sporting, (2) Hound, (3) Working, (4) Terrier, (5) Toy, (6) Non-Sporting, and (7) Herding.

The AKC has established a "Miscellaneous Class" for breeds applying for AKC recognition, but not yet approved. This "Miscellaneous Class" is only that - a class - and NOT a group.

If a breed is not recognized by the AKC, 4-H'ers should be familiar with the breed standards as established by the breed's recognized parent club. In the showmanship ring when the judge asks the 4-H'er about his/her breed, 4-H'ers should explain to the judge that their breed is not recognized by the AKC and then share information about the breed club.

Remember, a mixed breed dog should be shown by the breed standard it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed.

When the judge asks a 4-H'er what breed he/she is showing the dog as, the 4-H'er should reply with the breed's proper name. For example: the 4-H'er should say "Shetland Sheepdog" rather than "Sheltie".

The following pages contain information about how to properly present each AKC recognized breed as if it were being shown in the AKC breed ring. While the conformation of the dog is never evaluated in 4-H, this information is provided so that 4-H'ers can learn how to correctly stack and gait their dog.

## **Sporting Group**

The dogs in the Sporting Group work the hunting field to point, flush, or retrieve game. Most of these breeds are normally presented to give the impression of being alert, athletic dogs anxious for the hunt.

### ***Tail Presentation:***

Please note: When it mentions that the tail is a continuation or an elongation of the topline, the tail should be naturally straight out (sometimes that happens only when moving). If that is the case, during presentation it should be held.

- **American Water Spaniel:** The tail is moderate in length and has a curved rocker fashion. If the tail is held, make sure it is held slightly above or below the level of the back. If it is not necessary to hold the tail, the 4-H'er should not.

- **Brittany:** The tail is an extension of the spine at about the same level. The Brittany is typically tailless to about 4" docked or natural. If the Brittany is tailless, there is nothing to hold. If it is docked, it is the 4-H'ers choice whether or not to hold.
- **Chesapeake Bay Retriever:** The tail is long and hangs between the back legs. The 4-H'er does not touch the tail.
- **Clumber Spaniel:** The tail is docked and parallel to the ground. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Cocker Spaniel:** The tail is docked and the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold. If held, the tail should be tilted upward but not straight up.
- **Curly-Coated Retriever:** The tail is straight or fairly straight, never over the back. The 4-H'er does not touch the tail.
- **German Shorthaired Pointer:** The tail is docked. The tail hangs down when the dog is quiet and is horizontal when the dog is walking or moving. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **English Cocker Spaniel:** The tail is docked and the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold. If held, the tail should be tilted upward but not straight up.
- **English Setter:** The tail is straight and level with the back. If the tail is held, make sure it is level with the top line. It can be held about half way from the tip of the tail with the hand on top of or underneath the tail. It can also be held closer to the tip with the hand on top of or underneath the tail.
- **English Springer Spaniel:** The tail is docked and the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold it. The tail is carried horizontally. If holding the tail, make certain it is in the horizontal position, not upward.
- **Field Spaniel:** The tail is low set and in line with the croup. Some Field Spaniels have docked tails, although natural tails are also allowed. If the 4-H'er chooses to hold the tail, make certain it is not pushed upwardly.
- **Flat-Coated Retriever:** The tail is long and fairly straight without curl, as an extension of the top line. If the tail is not straight out when stacking, the 4-H'er should hold the tail.
- **German Wirehaired Pointer:** The tail is docked. The tail hangs down when the dog is quiet and is horizontal when the dog is walking or moving. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Golden Retriever:** The tail is long and "feathered". It is level or has some moderate upward curve, but never over the back or between the legs. The 4-H'er should hold the tail out so the feathering is displayed. It can be held about half way from the tip

of the tail with the hand on top of or underneath the tail. It can also be held closer to the tip with the hand on top of or underneath the tail.

- **Gordon Setter:** The tail is horizontal, or nearly so. If the tail is held, make sure it is about even with the top line. It can be held about half way from the tip of the tail with the hand on top of or underneath the tail. It can also be held closer to the tip with the hand on top of or underneath the tail.
- **Irish Setter:** When the tail is held, it should be about even with the top line. The 4-H'er should hold the tail out so the feathering is displayed. It can be held about half way from the tip of the tail with the hand on top of or underneath the tail. It can also be held closer to the tip with the hand on top of or underneath the tail.
- **Irish Water Spaniel:** The "rat tail" is a characteristic of the breed. The 4-H'er does not touch the tail, but rather should let it be natural.
- **Labrador Retriever:** The tail is a distinguishing feature of the breed. The tail should follow the top line when stacked or in motion. There should be a flowing line from the top of the head to the tip of the tail. If the dog's tail is not in this position when stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail straight out and even with the top line to create the flowing line from the top of the head to the tip of the tail.
- **Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever:** The tail is long and should hang naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Pointer:** The tail is long and tapers to a point. The tail has no curl and is never between the legs. The Pointer's tail is almost straight out. It is the 4-H'ers choice to hold or not to hold. With the long, slim, tapering tail it looks nice to hold the tail at the very tip.
- **Spinone Italiano:** The tail is horizontal or down, flicking from side to side when moving is preferred. The tail is docked so the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold, but should make sure if it is held that it is horizontal. The 4-H'er should not push the tail upwardly.
- **Sussex Spaniel:** The tail is docked and low set, never above the level of the back. It should be held straight out; making sure it is not pushed above level of back.
- **Vizsla:** The tail is docked and at or near the horizontal line. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail. If held, make sure it is held horizontally.
- **Weimaraner:** The tail is docked. At maturity the tail will measure about 6 inches. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail, and those held are tilted upwardly a bit. If the tail is in the proper position while stacked, it need not be held.



- **Welsh Springer Spaniel:** The tail is docked and horizontal. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold it. If holding the tail, make certain it is in the horizontal position, not upward.
- **Wirehaired Pointing Griffon:** The tail is docked and the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold it. However, if it is held, be sure it is even with the topline. Do not push upward.

***Stacking:***

Almost all of the Sporting Group is stacked with the rear legs stretched out (see below for exceptions).

- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever: The dog should be stacked very squarely.

***Gaiting Speed:***

the entire sporting group is gaited with the 4-H'er running (a nice smooth run - not a fast "get ahead of everyone" speed) except:

- Clumber Spaniel: The gait should be a trot.
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever: The gait should be a fast walk.

## Hound Group

The dogs of the Hound Group work in packs trailing game. There are two types of hounds - those that trail by a strongly developed sense of smell, known as "scent hounds," and those that chase down game using fast speeds and good eyesight, known as "sight hounds." There is a massive difference in size from the largest to the smallest breed within this group, ranging from 12 to 150 pounds.

### **Sight Hounds**

Afghan Hound  
Basenji  
Borzoi  
Greyhound  
Ibizan Hound  
Irish Wolfhound  
Pharaoh Hound  
Saluki  
Scottish Deerhound  
Whippet

### **Scent Hounds**

American Foxhound  
Basset Hound  
Beagle  
Black and Tan Coonhound  
Bloodhound  
Dachshund  
English Foxhound  
Harrier  
Norwegian Elkhound  
Otterhound  
Petit Basset Griffon  
Vendéen  
Rhodesian Ridgeback

Sight hounds are normally presented to look sleek and graceful. The Whippet, Basenji and Ibizan Hound are encouraged to have their ears pricked during stacking. Scent hounds are normally presented to look alert and athletic.

### ***Tail Presentation:***

- **Afghan Hound:** The tail is long and in a ring or curve on the end and is never curled over the back or resting on the back. It actually "sticks up in the air". If the tail is in place when stacking, the 4-H'er does not need to hold it.
- **American Foxhound:** The tail is long. When stacking the dog, tail should be held about 3" below the tip. Hold in an upward position with a slight curve.
- **Basenji:** The tail bends forward and lies well curled over to either side. As long as the tail is curled and in place, the 4-H'er should leave it alone.
- **Basset Hound:** The tail is long and held upward with a slight curve in the tail. If the tail is not in place, the 4-H'er should hold it.

- **Beagle (13" and 15"):** The tail is long, and not carried forward over the back. The tail has a slight curve and should be held up.
- **Black and Tan Coonhound:** The tail is long. When stacking, the tail should be held slightly forward, with the flat side of the 4-H'ers hand holding the tail.
- **Bloodhound:** The tail is long and curved ever so slightly. The 4-H'er should hold the tail about 3 inches below the tip.
- **Borzoi:** The long tail hangs naturally between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Dachshund:**
  - **Longhaired:** The 4-H'er should hold the tail almost straight out, with his/her hand grasping the top of the tail.
  - **Smooth:** The tail is long and should be held straight out when stacking the dog.
  - **Wirehaired:** The 4-H'er should hold the tail almost straight out. The 4-H'ers hand should grasp the tail about halfway, holding his/her hand under the tail.
- **English Foxhound:** The tail is long. When stacking the dog, tail should be held about 3" below the tip. The 4-H'er should hold it in an upward position with a slight curve.
- **Greyhound:** The tail should fall naturally between rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Harrier:** The tail is long. When stacking the dog, tail should be held about 3" below the tip. The 4-H'er should hold the tail in an upward position with a slight curve.
- **Ibizan Hound:** The tail will fall naturally between the rear legs, with the tip curling upward under the tuckup. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Irish Wolfhound:** The tail should fall naturally between rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Norwegian Elkhound:** The tail is tightly curled over the back. The 4-H'er should not trim the tail, but rather leave it natural. If the tail is in place, leave it alone. If not in place, it may be held.
- **Otterhound:** The long tail should straight up with a slight curve, but not over the back. When the dog is at rest it may droop. If it is in place while stacking, leave it alone. If not in place, it should be held.
- **Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen:** The tail has a slight curve. The 4-H'er should hold the tip of the tail when stacking.
- **Pharaoh Hound:** The tail should not be tucked between the legs. The tail is fairly thick at the base and tapers whip-like, reaching below the point of hock when in rest.

The tail should be curved when in action. Leave it hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.

- **Rhodesian Ridgeback:** The tail should hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Saluki:** The tail should hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Scottish Deerhound:** The tail should hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Whippet:** The tail should hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.

### ***Stacking:***

The hound group is stacked with the rear legs moderately stretched out.

### ***Gaiting Speed:***

Most of the hound group is gaited running. This is not a "get ahead of everyone" type of run, but rather a smooth, easy run. The following are exceptions:

- **Basenji:** The gait should be a brisk, fast walk or slow run.
- **Basset Hound:** The gait should be a regular walk (not real slow).
- **Beagle:** The gait should be walking (a little faster than average or a slow run).
- **Dachshund:** The gait should be an average speed walk.

## **Working Group**

The dogs of the Working group were developed for a variety of tasks - they are the dogs that work for humans pulling loads, protecting people and livestock, rescuing people, etc. These dogs are large, intelligent, and protective of their owners.

Because of the wide variety of body styles and types within the working group, there are several distinct "looks" that a handler may want to achieve. The sled dog breeds are to have pricked ears. The breeds with cropped ears are to appear alert, so they are shown with pricked ears. The large bodied breeds are shown with relaxed ears.

### ***Tail Presentation:***

- **Akita:** The long tail curls in a double curl or single curl over the back. It is common for the Akita's tail to drop down when they are bored or tired, but should come up over the back when moving. Hand may or may not be placed on tail, or it may be left alone.

- **Alaskan Malamute:** The tail is long and lies over the back. The 4-H'er may or may not place hand on the tail.
- **Anatolian Shepherd:** The moderately long tail should hang naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Bernese Mountain Dog:** The long tail should hang down naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Black Russian Terrier:** The tail is docked and erect. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Boxer:** The tail is short and docked. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Bullmastiff:** The long tail is rather curled up on the end. The 4-H'er should leave it hang naturally and not touch it.
- **Doberman Pinscher:** The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **German Pinscher:** The tail is docked tail and held erect. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Giant Schnauzer:** The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Great Dane:** The long tail hugs the body and hangs naturally between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Great Pyrenees:** The long tail should hang naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Greater Swiss Mountain Dog:** The long tail sticks out with a curl in the end of it. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Komondor:** The long tail should hang naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Kuvasz:** The long tail hangs naturally between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Mastiff:** The long tail hangs naturally between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it
- **Neapolitan Mastiff:** The tail is long and the 4-H'er should let it hang naturally. The 4-H'er should not touch the tail.
- **Newfoundland:** The tail is long and covered with long dense hair that may be trimmed for neatness. Let the tail hang naturally and the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Portuguese Water Dog:** The tail is long and when the dog is attentive, it is held in a ring over the back and should be in that position when showing. If not, the 4-H'er should hold it in that position.
- **Rottweiler:** The tail is short and docked. The 4-H'er does not hold it.
- **Saint Bernard:** The long tail hangs naturally. The 4-H'er does not touch it.

- **Samoyed:** The long tail should be over the back or to one side. If the tail is to the side, try to place it on the judge's side. If held, the hand should be placed at the root of the tail.
- **Siberian Husky:** When the dog is standing, the tail is down. When moving, the tail is straight out. The 4-H'er should leave the tail hang naturally and not touch it.
- **Standard Schnauzer:** The tail is short and docked. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail

### ***Stacking:***

Basically, the entire working group is stacked squarely, with the exception of the following:

- **Black Russian Terrier:** The rear legs should be stretched out somewhat.
- **Boxer:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out slightly.
- **Bull Mastiff:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out somewhat.
- **Doberman Pinscher:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out somewhat.
- **German Pinscher:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out somewhat.
- **Giant Schnauzer:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out somewhat.
- **Great Dane:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out.
- **Neopolitan Mastiff:** The rear legs should be stretched out somewhat.
- **Rottweiler:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out somewhat.
- **Standard Schnauzer:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs stretched out and the dog stacked to give the appearance of being on the toes of their back feet.

### ***Gaiting Speed:***

the entire working group is gaited with the 4-H'er and dog running - remember this should be an even, smooth pace, with the exception of the following:

- **German Pinscher:** The gait should be a fast walk or a smooth, even run.

## **Terrier Group**

The dogs of the Terrier Group were developed primarily on the British Isles to control rodents and other unwanted small animals around farm yards, hunt aggressive game that may

dig itself underground, and to protect the farm house. There are two basic types of terriers - long legged and short legged. All terrier breeds are ideally shown to look so alert they give the appearance of a tense energy.

***Important Note:***

It is never appropriate in the 4-H ring to "spar" terriers. This is defined as bringing two to four dogs together, to face each other, in the center of the area. This is done to show that they will become alert and demonstrate terrier spirit. There is too much potential for a dog to get away from a 4-H'er if this were done in the 4-H ring.

***Tail Presentation:***

- **Airedale Terrier:** The tail is of fair length and never curled over the back. However, it does bend forward. If in place, the 4-H'er does not touch the tail.
- **American Staffordshire Terrier:** The tail tapers to a fine point. It is not docked, not curled and not over the back. The 4-H'er does not touch the tail, but rather lets it hang naturally.
- **Australian Terrier:** The short, docked tail is straight up. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Bedlington Terrier:** The long tail hangs between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Border Terrier:** The moderately short tail is carried gaily when alert, but when at ease may drop down. If in place when stacking, the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Bull Terrier:** The short tail is not docked and is ideally horizontal. When stacked, if the dog does not hold the tail horizontal the 4-H'er should hold it.
- **Cairn Terrier:** The tail is short and must not curl over the back. The 4-H'er will want to hold the tail when stacking the dog.
- **Dandie Dinmont Terrier:** When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail about 2" from the tip on a horizontal basis, a continuation of the top line.
- **Irish Terrier:** The tail is docked. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail with the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Kerry Blue Terrier:** The 4-H'er will probably want to hold the tail while stacking the dog, holding the tail slightly forward.
- **Lakeland Terrier:** The 4-H'er will probably want to hold the tail while stacking the dog, holding the tail slightly forward.
- **Manchester Terrier (standard):** The tail is has a slight upward curve, but never over the back. The 4-H'er should let the tail hang naturally and not touch it.

- **Miniature Bull Terrier:** The short tail is not docked and is horizontal. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail out horizontally.
- **Miniature Schnauzer:** The tail is erect. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Norfolk Terrier:** The tail is docked. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Norwich Terrier:** The tail is docked and erect. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Parson Russell Terrier (formerly Jack Russell):** When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward. If the tail is in place, the 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Scottish Terrier:** The tail is docked and erect. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Sealyham Terrier:** The tail is docked and upright. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Skye Terrier:** The tail is long and well feathered. The 4-H'er should let the tail hang naturally and not hold it.
- **Smooth Fox Terrier:** When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier:** The tail is docked and never over the back. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Staffordshire Bull Terrier:** Let the tail of medium length hang naturally between the rear legs. The 4-H'er does not touch the tail.
- **Welsh Terrier:** The tail is docked and erect. If the 4-H'er holds the tail, he/she should not push it forward.
- **West Highland White Terrier:** The tail is docked and never over the back. When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.
- **Wire Fox Terrier:** When stacking the dog, the 4-H'er should hold the tail using the flat side of his/her left hand, pushing slightly forward.

***Stacking:***

Basically, the terrier group is stacked with the rear legs moderately stretched out with the exception of the following:



- **American Staffordshire Terrier:** The dog should be stacked slightly stretched out and square.
- **Border Terrier:** The dog should be stacked slightly stretched out.
- **Bull Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Cairn Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Miniature Bull Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Norfolk Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Norwich Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Skye Terrier:** The dog should be stacked square.

### *Gaiting Speed:*

Most of the terrier group is shown with a brisk walking gait, or a slow run (trot) with the exception of the following:

- **Airedale Terrier:** The gait should be a run at average speed.
- **Kerry Blue Terrier:** The gait should be a run at average speed.
- **Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier:** The gait should be a run at average speed.

## **Toy Group**

The dogs of the Toy Group are small dogs bred to be companions to the lords and ladies, kings and queens of past history. Now they are companions of a very small size. These dogs are typically shown with their natural ear carriage.

### *Tail Presentation:*

- **Affenpinscher:** The tail may be docked or natural. A docked tail is erect. A natural tail is gently curved up over the back while moving. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold a docked tail. The natural tail should be held gently curved over the back while stacking.
- **Brussels Griffon:** The tail is docked and held high. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel:** The 4-H'er should let the tail hang naturally and not touch it. The tail is in constant motion when the dog is in action. The hair on the feet is not to be cut.

- **Chihuahua (smooth or long):** The tail is moderately long, and sickles either up or out, or in a loop over their back, with the tip just touching the back. The tail should never be tucked between the legs. The 4-H'er should gently use the flat side of his/her hand to hold the tail up.
- **Chinese Crested (hairless or powderpuff):** The tail is long and slender in either variety. When in motion the tail is slightly forward over the back. At rest the tail is down with a slight curve upward at the end. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **English Toy Spaniel (King Charles & Ruby or Prince Charles & Blenheim):** The tail is docked and at or slightly above the level of the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail, but if holding should keep it at or slightly above the level of the back and not straight up. The hair on the feet is not to be cut.
- **Havenese:** The tail is curled over the back. While standing a dropped tail is permissible. If not curled over the back, the 4-H'er should hold the tail when stacking.
- **Italian Greyhound:** The tail is long and slender, tapering to a curved end. The 4-H'er should let the tail hang naturally and not touch it.
- **Japanese Chin:** The tail is arched up over the back and flowing to either side of the body. If not over the back, the 4-H'er should hold while stacking.
- **Maltese:** The tail is a long-haired plume over the back, its tip lying to the side over the quarter. The 4-H'er should hold the tail while stacking, if not in place.
- **Manchester Terrier (toy):** The tail is tapered, moderately short, and in a slight upward curve but never over the back. If the 4-H'er holds the tail out, it should be even with the top line and held at the tip.
- **Miniature Pinscher:** The tail is docked and erect. If the tail is not erect, the 4-H'er should hold it up.
- **Papillon:** The tail is long and well arched over the body. The tail is covered with a long flowing plume that is to either side of the body. If the tail is not up, the 4-H'er should hold it. Try to keep the tail on the judge's side when stacking.
- **Pekingese:** The tail is well over the center of the back. The long, profuse, straight feathering may fall to either side. If not in place, the 4-H'er should hold while stacking.
- **Pomeranian:** The plumed tail lies straight and flat on the back. If not in place, the 4-H'er should hold while stacking.
- **Poodle (toy):** The tail is erect. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.

- **Pug:** The tail is curled as tightly as possible over the hip. If in place, the 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Shih Tzu:** The tail is heavily plumed and in a curve well over the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail while stacking.
- **Silky Terrier:** The tail is docked and straight up. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail while stacking.
- **Toy Fox Terrier:** The tail is set high and erect. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Yorkshire Terrier:** The tail is docked and slightly higher than the level of the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.

### *Stacking:*

Most of the toy group is stacked square, with the exception of the following:

- **Italian Greyhound:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.
- **Silky Terrier:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.
- **Manchester Terrier:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.
- **Miniature Pinscher:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.
- **Brussels Griffon:** The rear legs should be stretched back slightly.
- **Chinese Crested:** The rear legs should be stretched back slightly.
- **Poodle:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.
- **Toy Fox Terrier:** The rear legs should be stretched back somewhat.

### *Gaiting Speed:*

4-H'ers should walk with a toy dog, a pace that is acceptable to the speed your dog moves. A trot or a slow run is acceptable for toy dogs.

- **Toy Fox Terrier:** The gait should be a fast walk.

## **Non Sporting Group**

The dogs of the Non-Sporting Group have no common characteristic such as intended use, size or skill. They are dogs that did not fit into other groups. Most of these dogs were bred for a purpose other than hunting (sporting or hound group), protection or work (working group). They were too large to be in the toy group, so they were loosely described as non-sporting dogs.

### ***Tail Presentation:***

- **American Eskimo Dog:** The richly plumed tail is placed loosely on the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Bichon Frise:** The tail is well plumed and curved gracefully over the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail. If held, use the flat side of his/her hand to hold the tail.
- **Boston Terrier:** The tail is short, fine and tapering, straight or screw, and must not be above the horizontal line of the dog. The 4-H'er should not touch the tail, but rather leave it natural.
- **Bulldog:** The tail may be either straight or screwed. The 4-H'er should not touch the tail, but rather leave it natural.
- **Chinese Shar-Pei:** The tail curls over the back or to either side of the back. If the tail is in place when presenting, the 4-H'er does not need to hold it. If it isn't, the 4-H'er should hold it.
- **Chow Chow: (smooth and rough):** The tail is close to the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Dalmation:** The tail is long, straight, and tapers to a tip. The tail has a slight upward curve and is never over the back. If the tail is not in place, the 4-H'er should hold it.
- **Finnish Spitz:** The tail forms a single curl falling over the loin. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **French Bulldog:** The tail is straight or screwed, short and low in repose. The 4-H'er should not touch the tail, but rather leave it natural.
- **Keeshond:** The tail is curled over the back. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Lhasa Apso:** The tail is well over the back in a screw. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Löwchen:** The tail is over the back when the dog is moving, but hangs down when standing. The tail should be held if it is not in place for presentation.
- **Poodle (miniature and standard):** The tail is erect. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Schipperke:** The tail is docked or there is no tail. The 4-H'er should not touch the tail, but rather leave it natural.
- **Shiba Inu:** The tail is over the back in a sickle or curled position. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.

- **Tibetan Spaniel:** The plumed tail is in a curl over the back when moving. The tail may drop down when standing. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.
- **Tibetan Terrier:** The tail falls forward over the back or may curl to either side. If possible, the 4-H'er should choose the judge's side when presenting the tail. The 4-H'er can choose whether or not to hold the tail.

### ***Stacking:***

Because of the vast difference in dogs in the non-sporting group, each breed is stacked uniquely.

- **American Eskimo Dog:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Bichon Frise:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs stretched out somewhat.
- **Boston Terrier:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs slightly stretched out.
- **Bulldog:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Chinese Shar-Pei:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Chow Chow:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Dalmation:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs stretched out.
- **Finnish Spitz:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **French Bulldog:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Keeshond:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Lhasa Apso:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs slightly stretched back.
- **Löwchen:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs slightly stretched back.
- **Poodle:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs stretched back.
- **Schipperke:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Tibetan Spaniel:** The dog should be stacked square.
- **Tibetan Terrier:** The dog should be stacked with the rear legs slightly pulled back.

### ***Gaiting Speed:***

- **American Eskimo Dog:** The gait should be a run.
- **Bichon Frise:** The gait should be a brisk walk or slow run (trot).
- **Boston Terrier:** The gait should be a walk.
- **Chinese Shar-Pei:** The gait should be a walk.
- **Dalmation:** The gait should be a run.
- **Finnish Spitz:** The gait should be a run.
- **French Bulldog:** The gait should be a walk.
- **Keeshond:** The gait should be a run.
- **Lhasa Apso:** The gait should be a walk.
- **Löwchen:** The gait should be a slow run (trot).
- **Poodle:** The gait should be a run.
- **Schipperke:** The gait should be a brisk walk.
- **Shiba Inu:** The gait should be a brisk walk or slow run (trot).
- **Tibetan Spaniel:** The gait should be a walk.

- **Tibetan Terrier:** The gait should be a run.

## Herding Group

The dogs of the Herding Group were developed for their skill in herding and controlling livestock. Many of these dogs were split from the working group in the mid-1980's. Herding dogs are normally shown to appear alert and responsive to the handler. They are shown with their ears pricked forward.

### *Tail Presentation:*

- **Australian Cattle Dog:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not need to touch it, but rather it should hang naturally.
- **Australian Shepherd:** The tail is docked or naturally bobbed. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Bearded Collie:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Belgian Malinois:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Belgian Sheepdog:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Belgian Tervuren:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Border Collie:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Bouvier des Flandres:** The tail is docked or they are born tailless. If held, it is to be held upward.
- **Briard:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Canaan Dog:** The tail is long. When the dog is excited, the tail may curl over the back in one full curl. The 4-H'er should let the tail hang naturally or curl over the back, and not touch it.
- **Cardigan Welsh Corgi:** The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Collie (rough and smooth):** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **German Shepherd Dog:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it, but rather lets it hang naturally.
- **Old English Sheepdog:** The tail is docked close to the body when not naturally bob-tailed. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Pembroke Welsh Corgi:** The tail is docked as short as possible without being indented. The 4-H'er does not touch it.
- **Polish Lowland Sheepdog:** The tail is docked and low set. The 4-H'er does not touch it.

- **Puli:** The tail is carried over the back. The 4-H'er may hold the tail in place if necessary.
- **Shetland Sheep Dog:** The tail is long. The 4-H'er does not touch it.

***Stacking:***

The dogs in the herding group are stacked squarely with the exception of the following:

- **Belgian Tervuren:** The dog should be stacked with the hind legs back far enough to create of a slope in the topline.
- **Briard:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs pulled back slightly.
- **German Shepherd:** The dog should be stacked with the leg next to the judge as the one that is stretched back.



- **Old English Sheepdog:** The dog should be stacked with the back legs slightly pulled back with the appearance that the dog is somewhat stacked on the toes of the back feet.

***Gaiting Speed:***

Most of the herding group is gaited at a running pace (always smooth and even, not a "get ahead of everybody pace"), moving out with the dog. The following breeds are exceptions:

- **Canaan Dog:** The gait is a brisk walk, slow run, or trot.
- **German Shepherd Dog:** The gait is at a run. The 4-H'er should let the lead out so the dog can gait ahead of the 4-H'er.
- **Old English Sheepdog:** The gait should be a trot. Expect to see them "roll" over the top line.
- **Polish Lowland Sheepdog:** The gait is a fluid motion with a medium run. This breed is often an ambler. What you may see while gaiting is that the dog is capable of swinging his front legs forward with great reach of stride. This is perfectly proper.
- **Shetland Sheepdog:** The gait is a brisk, fast walk or trot.
- **Welsh Corgi (cardigan and pembroke):** The gait is a brisk walk at moderate speed.



## Miscellaneous Class (not an AKC group)

Breeds in the miscellaneous class have been not yet recognized by the American Kennel Club, but are working toward full recognition. These breeds can compete in some AKC events and earn selected titles.

- **Beauceron:** The tail is long and should not be touched by the 4-H'er, but rather should hang down naturally. They should be stacked squarely, but with the rear legs stretched out slightly. The gait is a smooth, even run.
- **Glen of Imaal Terrier:** The tail is long and the 4-H'er should let it hang naturally. The stack is square with the rear legs very slightly stretched out. The gait should be a fast walk.
- **Plott Hound:** The tail is long with an upward curve. The 4-H'er should not hold the tail over the back. If the 4-H'er holds the tail, it must be held naturally at the tip and there should be a natural curve in the tail. It should not be held straight out. The rear legs should be stretched out slightly when stacked. The gait should be a smooth, even run.
- **Redbone Coonhound:** The tail is long and has a natural upward curve. The 4-H'er should not hold the tail over the back. If the 4-H'er holds the tail, it should be held naturally with the slight upward curve at the tip of the tail. It should not be held straight out. The rear legs should be stretched out somewhat when stacked. The gait should be a smooth, even run.

## ~Agility Rules and Guidelines~

The Iowa County 4-H Dog Project will follow the State 4-H Agility Guidelines which follows below as close as possible. In agility competition, 4-H members and their dogs must properly complete a series of seven to fifteen obstacles. Classes are divided into jump heights based upon the size of the dog. The teams are timed, and courses must be completed within a specific time. Points are deducted for faults. Teams scoring 70 or more points receive a qualifying score.

### Agility Rules and Guidelines for the State 4-H Agility Event (Revised 3/2010)

All 4-H activities and events are to be youth focused. This means that the event will help teach young people life long skills and assets, utilizing their project, in this case – their dog, as a vehicle for learning those skills. The actual event takes a back seat to the development of young people. Safety is also and always a primary concern for both youth and animal.

#### **Eligibility:**

In order to compete in Agility each exhibitor and dog must **demonstrate** the following competencies:

1. A successful sit/stay.
2. A successful down/stay.
3. A good relationship between the dog and handler, which includes ability to control the dog whether stationary or when walking on leash.
4. The ability to be peacefully approached by other dogs and handlers.
5. It is strongly suggested that youth and dog successfully complete at least one year of obedience training before moving to agility. If

#### **Participation Rules**

1. The handler and dog must be in good health at the time of competition.
2. The dog may not be pregnant or nursing puppies at the time of competition. Bitches in heat may not compete.
3. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to compete in agility. It is recommended that larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because for most breeds the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months – even later for large breeds.
4. Dogs 18 months and younger and 7 years and older are encouraged to jump at least one height lower than their measured jump height.
5. All 4-Hers are strongly encouraged to consult their veterinarian before beginning agility training to be sure that there are no problems such as hip dysplasia, disc problems, overweight, etc.

6. The handler and dog must know basic commands at the time of competition. (sit, down, stay, come, controlled walking on leash, etc.)
7. Any breed or mixture of breeds and/or size dog is allowed to compete.
8. The handler must have complete control over their dog at all times.
9. Handlers are required to follow instructions and wait courteously while the instructor is working with other teams. Unruly or discourteous handlers may be excused from class and the class will not count toward the required training sessions needed to show at the fair.
10. Family members may share a dog, but there are a maximum number of four runs per dog per day.

### **Standard Equipment:**

1. Buckle collar – no choke collars
2. Standard 6 foot leash – no retractable leashes
3. For safety reasons, handlers must wear rubber soled shoes that tie or Velcro (no flip-flops or slip-ons)

### **Class Jump Heights**

Classes divided by 4 jump heights:

- 4” class – for dogs up to 10 inches at the shoulder
- 8” class – for dogs greater than 10” and up to 14” at the shoulder
- 12” class – for dogs greater than 14” and up to 18” at the shoulder
- 16” class – for dogs over 18” at the shoulder.

It is the handler’s responsibility to know the appropriate jump height for their dog. Changes in jump height will not be allowed once the entry has been received, unless the Judge determines that the dog, for physical reasons, should not be jumping at the entered height.

(In order to help with height determination, a video will be posted on the State 4-H website which shows the proper procedure for measuring a dog for agility.)

**Class Descriptions** (Depending on their demonstrated abilities handler/dog teams may enter JTT and Standard or Advanced Jumpers and Advanced Standard)

JTT (Jumps, Tunnels, Table) Class\* (There will be a JTT-A and JTT-B, see details below)  
 Jumps, Tunnels and Table – on leash  
 Jumps, Tunnels and Table – off leash

\* For JTT Agility, the only pieces of equipment needed are: PVC pipe jumps, a table and one or more tunnels. Jumps and table are easily made, so the only equipment that would need to be purchased is the tunnel. JTT can be very affordable and should be doable for even a beginning agility program.

Standard Agility\*\* (There will be a Standard A and Standard B division, see details below)

Contact Obstacles and Weaves – on leash  
Contact Obstacles and Weaves – off leash

\*\* The contact obstacles (A-frame [maximum 4’6” at apex]), dog walk and seesaw) and six weave poles will be added to the course containing jumps, tunnels and table.)

When exhibitors move to Standard Agility, (by demonstrating the ability to complete contact obstacles and weaves successfully as determined by a county dog project leader), they will be able to compete in JTT and Standard agility classes at a single event.

Both JTT and Standard will be divided into two divisions - A and B.

**Division A** - In this division, neither the dog nor handler has previously achieved a qualifying score in 4-H agility or another agility venue. In addition, neither the handler nor the dog has previously achieved a title in another agility venue.

**Division B** - This division is designed for those where either the dog or handler have achieved a qualifying score in 4-H agility or another venue OR for those situations where either the handler or the dog has earned an agility title in another venue. Receiving a qualifying score in either JTT or Standard means that the dog/handler team should be entered in Division B in both JTT and Standard in future competitions.

## Advanced Classes

Advanced classes are designed for more experienced 4-H handlers and will help to prepare them to compete in other venues if they choose. **These classes must be performed off-leash.** In these classes, there will be more obstacles, more complex course patterns and the course time will be 60 seconds. Handlers may choose to enter Advanced classes when they have achieved a qualifying score in 4-H agility (in JTT for Advanced Jumpers or in Standard for Advanced Standard) or if they or their dog have earned a title in another agility venue. It is recommended that 4-H members consult their county 4-H dog agility leader regarding their readiness before entering advanced classes. Handlers who enter either or both of the advanced classes described below, may **NOT** enter JTT or Standard.

Advanced Jumpers – in addition to single bar jumps, open tunnels and pause table, this class may include wing jumps, double and triple jumps, tire jump, the broad jump, panel jump, twelve weave poles and a closed tunnel (chute). There will be a maximum of twenty obstacles in this course and course time will be 60 seconds (beyond 60 seconds, time penalties will be assessed as described in the scoring section of these guidelines).

Advanced Standard – may include single, double and triple bar jumps, tire jump, wing jumps, broad jump, panel jump, twelve weave poles, open and closed tunnels, a pause table, A-frame (maximum height 4’6”), dogwalk and seesaw. There will be a maximum of 20 obstacles and course time will be 60 seconds (beyond 60 seconds, time penalties will be assessed as described in the scoring section of these guidelines).

## **General Course Information**

1. JTT agility courses will consist of 7 – 10 obstacles with a course time of **50** seconds. Standard agility courses will consist of 10 to 15 obstacles with a course time of **75** seconds. Areas in which courses are set up should be at least 60 feet by 70 feet.
2. Advanced classes will consist of 16 – 20 obstacles with a course time of **60** seconds. Areas in which courses are set up should be at least 75 feet by 100 feet.
3. Indoor courses must have flooring (thick matting or another surface) which provides both traction and cushion! It is recommended that 4-H dog agility groups check with kennel clubs or training centers in their area, if they are seeking appropriate indoor facilities.
4. The course will be clearly marked with a start/finish line.
5. Each obstacle will be marked with a number. Handlers and dogs will be required to follow the course in numerical order.
6. Before competition begins, the handlers will be allowed to walk through the course to become familiar with the course. The walk through is restricted to the handlers only and is limited to 10 minutes.
7. In Standard agility, a period of time (determined by the judge) will be allowed for obstacle familiarization for dogs and handlers on the contact pieces **ONLY**.
8. A warm-up jump outside of the ring will be available for handlers and dogs. Handlers should be considerate of others in taking turns at the warm-up jump.
9. Any dog whose hair covers its eyes and may interfere with its vision of the obstacles may tie the hair back with rubber bands.
10. Food and toys are not permitted on the course.
11. Handlers are not permitted to have whistles, stopwatches, fanny packs or other training devices on the course.
12. The handlers may be on either side of the dog while running the course.
13. A dog's time starts whenever any part of the dog crosses the start line. Its time will end when any part of the dog crosses the finish line.
14. Flat collars are required for all dogs.
15. No choke or pinch collars are allowed on the agility course.
16. Familiarization with contact zone obstacles (A-frame, dog walk and seesaw) will be allowed for a time period established by the judge.

## ***General Scoring***

1. Each course is worth a maximum 100 points.
2. A penalty consists of the loss of 5 or 10 points.
3. 10 point penalties (judge holds up two hands) include: not making contact in contact zones, not doing the obstacles in proper order or not completing an obstacle, the handler going over the obstacle with the dog, or missing one or more weave poles.
4. 5 point penalties (judge holds up one hand) include: knocking down a jump bar, excessively guiding the dog with leash, touching the dog, or touching the obstacle.
5. Refusals or run-by's will not be faulted in 4-H competition.

6. The only penalty for breaking a sit or a down on the pause table is the extra time that accumulates when the count stops, and is not resumed, until the dog is back in position.
7. The dog/handler team's run will be timed. A 5 point penalty will be given for going over the course time and an additional 5 points for each 15 seconds over the course time. In the case of a tie in total points, the fastest time will win.
8. If the judge determines that a dog is no longer working with the handler, the team will be excused from the course.
9. The contact zone on the A-frame, dog walk and seesaw is the contrasting colored zone (usually yellow) on the start and end of each obstacle.
10. Any interference or outside assistance that aids the dog or is intended to aid the dog or handler will be considered a 5 point penalty.
11. If a handler loses control of their dog while on the course, it will be considered a penalty.
12. Excessive or harsh commands or corrections will not be allowed. This will be a penalty.
13. Un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This will be a penalty and the handler and dog will be excused from the competition.
14. Failure to follow judge's verbal instructions is a penalty.
15. If the dog urinates or defecates in the ring (from the time it enters until it leaves the ring), the dog and handler will be disqualified from that class.
16. Any dog that commits to a contact obstacle (A-frame, dog walk, seesaw) with all four paws must, for safety reasons, continue with the obstacle. Whether obstacle is completed or if the dog jumps off, dog and handler must go on to the next obstacle and may not attempt that obstacle again.
17. A score of **70** or higher is considered a Qualifying Score in all classes of 4-H agility.

## Obstacles

It is critical that the equipment used in agility be safe for the dogs and handlers. For this reason it is very important that equipment be constructed to standards that have been approved by one of the major agility venues (AKC, USDAA, NADAC, CPE or UKC) These venues specify equipment standards that provide solid construction, appropriate sizes and heights, and non-slip surfaces. Either locate equipment made to the specifications of one of these venues, or if you are constructing your own agility equipment, obtain and follow these specifications exactly. Appropriate construction, heights, widths, and surfaces are essential for providing training and competition environments that are safe for 4-H youth and their dogs!

When hosting the State 4-H Dog Agility Show, the hosting county must provide equipment that meets the specifications outlined in the preceding paragraph. It is recommended that they also arrange for the judge they have selected to check the equipment prior to the show, and again for condition on the day of the show. The hosting county should also specify whether their A-frame and dogwalk are slatted or unslatted when they send out the initial show/entry information. This will allow counties with different types of equipment to help prepare their members.

Another safety consideration is the condition of the show ring. If it is an indoor trial the running surface must provide sufficient traction and cushion for the dogs. If it is an outdoor ring the ground should be examined before, and the day of, the show to make sure that there are no holes,

stones, thistles or other factors that could cause safety problems for the dogs or handlers. An additional safety consideration is placing enough space between obstacles to provide safe entries for the dogs. There should be a minimum of 15 – 18 feet between obstacles.

**A-Frame:** Dogs must go up one side touching the contact zone on the up side with any part of one foot and down the other side in the direction designated by the judge. The dog must also touch the contact zone on the down side with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle. The height of the A-frame at the apex will be no higher than 4'6".

**Dog Walk:** Dogs must go up the ramp touching the up contact zone with any part of one foot, cross the center section and go down the down ramp touching any part of one foot in the down contact zone prior to exiting the obstacle.

**Seesaw:** Dogs must go up the plank touching the up contact zone with any part of one foot and cause the plank to pivot. At least one foot must touch the down contact zone after the plank has touched the ground and prior to exiting the obstacle. (Handlers may slow the plank down so it doesn't scare the dog).

**Weave Poles:** The dogs must enter the weave poles by passing between poles # 1 and #2 from right to left. They must continue this sequence until they pass the last two poles. Missing one or more poles will be a 10 point penalty. The dog's left shoulder must enter on the right of the 1st pole.

**Pause Table:** The dogs must pause on the table for 5 seconds in either a sit or a down position, as specified by the judge at the beginning of the competition. The judge will do an oral count and will also give a signal to "Go". If the dog breaks from the sit or down position the judge will stop counting and will only continue the count when the dog returns to the proper position. When the judge says, "Go," the handler may then release the dog and proceed.

**Open Tunnel:** The dogs must enter the end specified by the judge and exit the other end.

**Closed (Collapsed) Tunnel:** The dogs must enter the rigid entrance and exit through the fabric chute.

**Bar Jumps:** The dogs must jump over the top bar, without displacing it, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Panel Jump:** The dog must jump over the top panel without displacing it, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Tire Jump:** The dogs must jump through the tire opening in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking the tire/frame over.

**Double Jump:** The dog must jump over two bars, without displacing either of the bars.

**Triple Jump:** The dog must jump over all three bars, without displacing any of the bars.

**Broad Jump:** The dog jumps over several low, flat jumps equaling two times their jump height (for example, a dog jumping 8 inches needs to jump over a 16 inch broad jump).

## ~RALLY~

Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience.

The team of dog and handler moves continuously at a brisk, but normal, pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect "heel position" is not required. Any faults in traditional obedience that would be evaluated and scored as a one-point deduction or more should be scored the same in Rally, unless otherwise mentioned in the Rally Regulations. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly.

Unlimited communication from the handler to the dog is to be encouraged and not penalized. Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. The handler may not touch the dog or make physical corrections. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands or intimidating signals will be penalized.

Go to <http://classic.akc.org/events/rally/2012info.cfm> to find a complete list of Rally signs.

## ~RALLY RULES & GUIDELINES~

Exhibitors must be in third year of Obedience or above to compete in Rally.

A dog can only be entered at one level of Rally in any given year. Rally level placement will be determined by the Rally trainer.

List your dog's height at withers on your entry form:

<u>Height at Withers</u>	<u>Jump Height</u>
Less than 10 in.	4 in.
10 in. to less than 15 in.	8 in.
15 in. to less than 20 in.	12 in.
20 in. and over	16 in.



1. **Rally Novice**

Performed on lead. Must use a well fitting flat collar with no tags.

Course to include 10-15 novice signs with 3-5 novice stationary signs. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or signals using one or both arms are allowed. Handlers are allowed to pat their legs and clap their hands to encourage their dogs. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dogs or make any physical correction.

2. **Rally Advanced**

Performed off lead. Must use a well fitting flat collar with no tags. Course to include 12-17 novice signs with 3-7 novice stationary signs, and a minimum of 1 advanced and 1 jump sign. The same rules for verbal encouragement as in Rally Novice apply to Rally Advanced.

3. **Rally Excellent**

Performed off lead. Must use a well fitting flat collar with no tags. Course to include 15-20 novice signs with 3-7 stationary signs, and a minimum of 2 advanced signs, 1 excellent and 2 jump signs. Unlike the other Rally levels, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage their dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or signals using one or both hands are allowed. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical correction.