

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

4-H Dog Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility Club

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Handbook

HANDLER EXPECTATIONS:

At Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program, we expect 4-H leaders, members and parents to respect each person and dog that comes to train with us. Each handler will be responsible for their dog in all aspects.

HANDLER and ANIMAL SAFETY:

1. For the safety of all handlers and animals, each team will be required to maintain the 6 ft. rule. This means that each team will need to keep a space of 6 ft. around themselves and from other teams unless directed by a designated leader for activities and training.
2. All dogs will be either in a kennel or on a leash at all times unless directed by a designated leader.
3. Only 4-H participants will be allowed in the arena or on the field for practice. All family and friends will be required to watch from the sidelines or bleachers unless directed by the leader to assist with training. This will help minimize distractions and frustration.
4. The Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program requires one handler per dog registered in the 4-H project. The limit is TWO dogs per person and ONE person per dog. *The limit of dogs per person may vary with each chartered club.

LIST OF REQUIRED VACCINATIONS:

Each participant will be required to bring a copy and provide proof of the following vaccinations to participate in this 4-H dog club. These will be kept in individual files to be provided upon request or in the event of an incident. All vaccinations and rabies shots must be administered and documented by a licensed veterinarian.

1. Rabies
2. DA2PP (Combination—Includes *Bordatella)
 - i. *Bordatella can be given nasally

ANIMAL BITES:

In the event a participant or other is bitten, medical personnel will treat at the scene and the bite will be reported to the respective police agency. Animal records will be produced for a police report and verification of rabies vaccination. **ALL BITES MUST BE REPORTED.**

Parents or guardians will be notified and they can make the decision to treat at the local hospital if necessary. All participants assume this risk by participating in a dog program.

REGISTRATION FORMS AND RELEASES:

In order to participate in Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program, **ALL** registration and release forms must be signed and will be placed in a participant file.

1. The Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Registration Form
2. General Liability and Club Expectation and Standards Release Form
3. Photo and Social Media Release

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

LIST OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

All of the equipment is required at each dog club meeting when we are working with dogs.

1. Collar and Leash
 - a. ***Absolutely NO Muzzles, Choke, Prong/Pinch or Shock or E-Collars Will Be Allowed!**
2. Water Bowl
3. Portable Kennel or Crate (appropriate size)
4. Sheet or Blanket to cover the Kennel or Crate during down times
5. Dog Poop Bags (any kind)

4-H DOG PROGRAM AND CLUB DUES:

1. \$12 4-H Enrollment Fee (Pay at the 4-H Office)
2. \$20 Club Fee (Due on or before the 1st meeting)

4-H DOG PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:

1. Youth must be enrolled in the 4-H dog project and be between the ages of 8 and 18 and in 3rd grade as of September 1st of the current 4-H year for 4-H project participation.
2. Youth must be enrolled in the 4-H Dog Club **BEFORE** they bring their dog to 4-H.
3. Clover buds may participate in club activities **WITHOUT** handling a dog.
4. Only domestic dogs may be shown. Wolf and wolf hybrids are not permitted.
5. All dogs must be six months of age to come to club practice. Socialization and obedience classes prior to joining the 4-H club are highly encouraged.

AGGRESSIVE DOGS:

The Box Elder County 4-H Dog program director, 4-H leader and other designated trainers will evaluate any dogs that show signs of aggression. A determination will be made if it is an isolated incident or a chronic behavior. Dogs that are aggressive will not be allowed to participate in the 4-H dog club program.

4-H CLUB MEETINGS:

4-H dog club will meet at the Box Elder County Fairgrounds Small Indoor Arena with youth and dogs on the **1st Tuesday of each month**. In general, the rest of our Tuesday night meetings will be held at other designated locations.

In general, club meetings other than the 1st Tuesdays during the summer will be held at the East Garland Ball Park. The address is: 14400 North 4400 West, East Garland, Utah. Participants will be notified of meeting locations with a club reminder text. You will be notified if it is a youth only meeting or with dogs.

Field trips, clinics and workshops may be scheduled on different days and times to accommodate guest trainers and experts in their field. Please keep in mind that we are sharing all facilities with other 4-H groups and county associations. Be prepared to be flexible with times and locations.

SPONSORSHIPS and DONATIONS:

Agility equipment and program expenses are substantial. Finding sponsors and donations; or participating in fundraising will be critical for our organization. Everyone will be encouraged to find at least one sponsorship or donation.

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

ACTIVE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

The Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program will align with the Utah 4-H Dog Program Guide with the following exceptions:

- Agility accommodations – please refer to the Box Elder County Agility Trials Judge Handbook
- Class division accommodations for Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility – please refer to page 8.
- Attendance requirements at 4-H chartered club meetings:
 - Attend at least 10 **chartered club meetings** where you are working with the dog and/or dogs you are using for competition. This must be verified with the club leadership before trials and fair. An attendance spreadsheet should be turned into the Box Elder County Extension office for verification before the county fair show. Some activities may not count. If a youth does meet the required minimum attendance, they are still able to participate in the county fair show but will not be eligible for overall awards
 - Attend at least 6 youth only meetings offered by your chartered club
 - Outside training, such as obedience classes **DO NOT** count as 4-H club meetings or activities. They must be actively participating in chartered 4-H club meetings

4-H DOG PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

***Fair and Other Show Events: Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility**

The 4-H Dog Program is designed to emphasize youth development. The dog should be a vehicle that reflects the knowledge and skills learned by its handler. Emphasis is placed on the partnership between the handler and the dog, building overall responsible ownership skills, and general canine knowledge. Classes, which place emphasis upon the dogs' conformation, are not included in 4-H dog contests.

A primary objective of the 4-H Dog Program is for youth to learn how to handle their dog and to do their own training. If a dog needs to be taken to a professional trainer for special purposes, or is referred by the 4-H leader, the youth should be trained with the dog.

The youth have the opportunity to compete in the Box Elder County Fair, the Utah State Fair, as well as various trials, fun matches and other events throughout the year. *From state guidebook:

1. *At all 4-H competitions, each 4-H member must provide the dog he/she uses. The dog may be leased or borrowed, providing the member has access to the dog at all times during the project year and has major responsibility for its care and maintenance. This does not necessarily include financial support
2. *After arrival at the show grounds, the 4-H exhibitor will be the only individual who handles the dog until all events are complete. Violators will be disqualified from the show in its entirety.
3. Situations requiring a substitution of the project dog must be cleared through the 4-H Dog Club Program Manager with the 4-H Program Coordinator assigned to the 4-H Dog Program and the 4-H club leader of the youth.

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

CONDUCT:

1. Any youth or other person(s) abusing a dog will be removed from the program.
2. Excessive physical or verbal discipline of a dog is not permitted except in case of an attack on a person or another dog.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct by youth and/or parents or guardians is not acceptable at any time during club meetings, show events and trials. Youth may be removed from the program by the program director after consultation.
4. 4-H club members are **completely responsible** for their dogs while participating in the dog club.
 - a. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times except when participating in learning activities
 - b. Youth **MUST** clean up after their dogs

KENNEL POSTER

Create a poster that introduces yourself and your dog to the group. Include your dog breed, traits and activities that you like to do. This should be laminated, as you will use it to educate the public at events. Participants are also encouraged to follow the fair entry requirements and put their posters in the fair.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Service, in general, is one of the main objectives of the 4-H program. The club will be doing multiple service project and all club members will be asked and expected to participate. Please track all other service and leadership projects; as these can be put into your record book.

PORTFOLIO

Each participant is encouraged to complete a 4-H Portfolio. This helps the participant to learn how to manage an animal project, track activities and progress. The youth will be encouraged to participate in a portfolio workshop held by the Box Elder County extension office to ensure all the correct information is included.

All club rolls with dates, club activities and service projects, jr. leader assignments and training, will be provided to participants at the end of the year before record books/portfolios are due.

4-H CLUB PARTICIPANT ATTIRE

Club Meetings: All participants, including leaders and 4-H members will be required to wear long pants and closed toe shoes. No sandals or flip flops will be allowed when training with the dogs in the small indoor arena or other designated training areas. Leaders will let 4-H participants know if dress standards may be altered for certain activities and weather concerns.

Trials/Shows: All participants will adhere to the 4-H dress code. Long or short sleeve white shirt which fastens down the front with a collar, no lettering allowed except the 4-H emblem, which must be displayed. The shirt can be any style. Full length black or blue pants are to be worn. The participant must wear boots, dress shoes or tennis shoes. No sandals or flip-flops will be allowed.

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

For any trials, fun matches or activities that are not during the Box Elder County Fair, participants may wear the club shirt; long or short sleeved. Club shirts are not required and are purchased by the participant. Participants are encouraged to wear club shirts to help promote a team atmosphere.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS:

Parents may be called upon to help in various ways during hands on training with the dogs. They may also be asked to volunteer during the fair, trials, fun matches and fundraising events. Parents are encouraged to let their youth work with their dogs and the leader so that they can gain their own education and experiences.

Recognizing and encouraging youth efforts in their projects can have the following impact:

- Recognition can be a motivator for some young people to excel and take risks.
- Recognition can foster self-appraisal skills, providing a strong foundation for each young person to engage in self-reflection and self-praise without the need for external rewards.
- Recognition can encourage and support the efforts of young people as they engage in individualized learning, peer competition or cooperation.
- Recognition, used in all its forms, can provide balance to the recognition young people receive as they move through our educational programs to increasingly difficult challenges.

Participants under the age of 16 are required to have a parent, guardian or sibling over the age of 16 present on the grounds whenever training or competition is being held with the dogs; unless arrangements have specifically been made prior to the event and approved through the leader.

Participants with access and functional needs youth are required to have a parent or guardian present on the grounds whenever training or competition is being held with the dogs; **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

GENERAL LIABILITY, CLUB EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS

I agree that participating in any 4-H animal program may put me or my animal at risk. I accept all risk and assume all liability for myself, my animal and others I may bring with me to any Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club event. This includes any medical or veterinarian costs.

The Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Program Director, Assistant Club Leader, Group, Club Members, Box Elder County or USU Extension Staff may not be held liable for any incidents or participant misconduct during any 4-H activities.

I agree to follow the standards and agreements set forth in Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Handbook and the National 4-H program signed at the time of 4-H and Dog Club Registration.

PHOTO AND SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE

I recognize that while I am participating in the Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club, I may be photographed or videotaped during club meetings, trainings, field trips and trials/shows.

I understand that these photographs and videos may be used: in class presentations, national promotions, published textbooks, published flyers and other promotional events and print, online or other publications.

I also understand that these photographs and videos may be posted to an approved social media website or open Facebook group.

By signing this release I understand that I am waiving any right to compensation for my likeness that may appear. I also agree to allow the instructors of this course to use any video or photos taken in a manner that will enhance training and education.

PLEASE PRINT:

4-H Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(4-H Participant Signature)

By signing above, I understand and agree to ALL of the 4-H Guidelines, Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Handbook and 4-H Member Code of Conduct Guidelines.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

By signing above, I understand and agree to ALL of the 4-H Guidelines, Box Elder County 4-H Dog Club Handbook and 4-H Member Code of Conduct Guidelines.

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

REGISTRATION FORM:

4-H Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: Phone Cell Text Email

4-H Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Number: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: Phone Cell Text Email

Dogs Name: _____

Breed of Dog: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Color: _____

Dogs Name: _____

Breed of Dog: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Color: _____

Box Elder County 4-H Dog Program

FAIR SHOW EVENT TERMINOLOGY:

Discipline – refers to a show category. Each of the following is a Discipline: Showmanship, Obedience, Rally and Agility.

Level – refers to sub-categories within specific disciplines. For example, Novice is a level in the Obedience discipline.

Class – refers to the two classes within specific disciplines and/or discipline levels. The letters “A” and “B” refer to the experience of the youth **and** dog.

- “A” classes are for handlers or dogs with NO training or showing experience prior to the programs current project year. “A” classes can never be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown. “A” classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog.
- “B” classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided the youth and/or dog are not the class winners (exception: Showmanship). If/when a youth and/or dog place in the top two (2) in a “B” class, the youth and dog must move to the next level (exception: Showmanship, specified advanced obedience class and movement to Level C).
 - Levels in the “B” class are:
 - Novice
 - Advanced
- “C” classes are considered experienced dogs and handlers with more than five years of experience in the 4-H dog program.