

Utah 4-H Dog Program



Rank Advancements

This book belongs to: _____

And my dog: _____

Rank Advancements

The Utah 4-H Rank Advancements are designed to help youth and club leaders set goals and get the most out of their involvement in Utah 4-H animal science programs. Club leaders should work with their county extension office to recognize youth as they pass off ranks 1 through 4. Youth who have completed rank 5 will be recognized by the Utah 4-H State Team at either the Utah State University Horse and Livestock Symposium or the Utah State University Companion Animal Event.

These ranks are designed as benchmarks for participants. Some exhibitors will not be able to obtain all the ranks, and some exhibitors may pass off the highest level as a 9th grader. An exhibitor that started at 8 years old could have 10 years to complete all 5 ranks, and may seem to have the advantage. However, the skills get progressively harder and it would be difficult for anyone to do that. They are designed to build on each other over the entire experience. Also keep in mind that the skills are passed off again if the exhibitor gets a new project dog.

Utah 4-H Dog Program Requirements

The Handler/Dog Team skills must be completed with each dog. In order to compete, an exhibitor must turn in AT LEAST a Level 2 rank advancement form that has been completed and the skills passed off with the dog they plan to show. No exceptions. This is our form of verification.

If an exhibitor gets a new project dog, the Handler/Dog Team skill requirements must be passed off again. The Mastery and Citizenship categories do not need to be completed again.

For example, Susie achieved a level 4 rank with her old dog Spot. Her parents got her a puppy (Clover) for her birthday. In order to be considered a Level 4 Rank with Clover, Susie has to pass off the handler/dog team skills for Levels 1 and 2. However, the requirements for Mastery & Education and Citizenship & Personal Development will count towards the ranks with her new puppy. For her Handler/Dog Team Skill requirements, Susie passes off all of the Level 1 and Level 2 skills at the same time and begins working on the skills required for a Level 3 and 4 ranks.

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Rank Advancement Level 1

This rank covers the very basics of handling a dog and being safe and successful with a pet in the home. This rank should be easily achieved by all ages, including youth who are not yet 8.

Name _____ Dog's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Dog Team Skills Pick 3 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Demonstrate how you would praise and reward your dog for obeying a command		
Demonstrate how to approach a strange dog		
Demonstrate the 5' leash rule		
Demonstrate how to properly put a slip or other collar and leash on your dog		
Demonstrate how to show your dog's bite		
Mastery and Education Pick 2 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Ask your leader to interview you on your dog project		
Show where the hock, loin, shoulder, and muzzle are located		
Answer the following questions: What are three popular dog breeds in the U.S? Why do dog's need vaccines? What does AKC stand for? What is "neuter" and "spay"?		
What are three methods to keep a puppy from jumping on you?		
How can you keep your puppy from chewing on things?		
Citizenship and Personal Development Pick 1 or more of the following	Date	Initials
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest		
Hold a leadership position in your club or at the county level		
Participate or help plan a community service project		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your dog project and make a plan to achieve them		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 2

This rank covers the basic skills and knowledge needed to be safe and successful at a regional or state dog show. This rank is *required* in order to take your dog to a show and compete in any level other than novice.

Name _____ Dog's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Dog Team Skills	Date	Initials
Demonstrate the basic five commands of a proper sit, down, stay, recall, and heel (on or off leash)		
Pass of the proper equipment needed to compete at a regional or state dog show (see rule book for list of required equipment to travel and competition with your dog project)		
Pick 2 or more of the following		
Demonstrate the proper equipment for qualifying and non-qualifying classes at a Regional or State Dog Show and show how to fit a collar to your dog and hold a leash		
Pass off the Utah 4-H Companion Animal Endorsement for Dogs (coming soon!)		
Demonstrate a sit/stay and down/stay off leash		
Demonstrate a Recall off leash		
Demonstrate a Figure-8 like you would see in an Obedience class		
Demonstrate at least two different patterns you may see in a Showmanship class		
Mastery and Education	Date	Initials
Pick 3 or more of the following		
Create a poster on a dog project related topic and present to your club.		
Participate at a county or state Dog Quiz Bowl Contest		
Ask your leader to interview you on your dog project		
Participate at county or state 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a dog related topic (discuss age appropriate options with leader)		
Attend a Regional or State 4-H Dog Clinic with or without your dog		
Go to a non-4-H Dog show or event and observe		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option.		
Citizenship and Personal Development	Date	Initials
Pick 2 or more of the following		
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest		
Hold a leadership position in your club or at the county level		
Participate or help plan a community service project		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your dog project and make a plan to achieve them		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 3

This rank is for handlers that have owned a dog for two or more years. Youth that are junior and intermediate 4-Hers should be able to obtain this rank.

Level 2 must be completed to achieve a Level 3 Rank.

Name _____ Dog's Name _____

Club Leader _____ Phone _____

County Agent _____ Phone _____

Date Completed _____

Handler/Dog Team Skills	Date	Initials
Pick 7 or more of the following. Repeated skills from Level 1 or 2 MUST be re-done in the current year. For example, if the exhibitor competes in the Pre-Open division at the State Dog Show, they must compete a second time to pass off that requirement for Level 3.		
Pass off the Utah 4-H Companion Animal Endorsement for Dogs.		
Compete at the State 4-H Dog Show in the Pre-Open or Open division.		
Earn a blue ribbon in any Showmanship class at a regional or state dog 4-H show.		
Earn a blue ribbon in any Obedience class at a regional or state dog 4-H show.		
Earn a blue ribbon in any Rally-Obedience class at a regional or state dog 4-H show.		
Pass off the Obedience exercises that may be seen in both the Novice and Pre-Open divisions.		
Pass off 10 or more of the skills on the Agility Verification Form (must include required skills).		
Participate in 1 or more Non-Qualifying contest at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show.		
Teach your dog a trick		
Pass off an off-leash recall		
Mastery & Education	Date	Initials
Pick 5 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 3 Mastery need to be completed within 2 years of the time the youth wishes to achieve this rank. A limit of 3 options can be the same (but completed again) from previous years.		
Attend a regional or state 4-H dog clinic with or without your dog		
Go to a non-4-H Dog show or event and observe.		
Get a blue ribbon on a regional or state 4-H Dog Knowledge test		
Participate in a county, regional, or state 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl Contest		
Create a poster about a dog related topic and present it to your club or submit it for county contest.		
Prepare a speech or demonstration on a topic related to your dog project. Present it to your family or club members (discuss age appropriate options with leader).		
Participate in county 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a dog related topic (discuss age appropriate options with leader)		
Ask your club leader to interview you on your dog project.		

Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option		
Citizenship and Personal Development	Date	Initials
Pick 3 or more of the following		
Submit a portfolio to county or state contest achieving a blue ribbon score		
Hold a club or county leadership position		
Participate in a county wide community service project		
Organize a community service project for your club		
Participate or help organize a Pet Show or Fair at the local level or participate in a show's youth committee		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your dog project and make a plan to achieve them		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 4

This rank is for 4-H youth that have been showing and raising dogs for several years and have developed excellent skills and knowledge about their dog project. Level 4 is a good goal for senior aged exhibitors to strive for. The requirements for this level do not need to be completed within the same year (unless they are repeats from previous years), but have to be completed within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level

Level 3 must be completed to achieve a Level 4 Rank

Handler/Dog Team Skills	Date	Initials
Pick 10 or more of the following. Repeated skills from Level 3 MUST be re-done in the current year. For example, if the exhibitor passes of all the skills on the Agility Verification Form to complete Level 3, it must be completed again to count for Level 4.		
Pass off the Obedience exercises that may be seen in a Novice, Pre-Open, and Open division.		
Pass off the Utah 4-H Companion Animal Endorsement for Dogs.		
Complete the Retrieve on Flat and Drop on Recall exercises in Open or Advanced Obedience with no major deductions at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Complete the Signal Exercise in Advanced Obedience with no major deductions at a Regional or State Show		
Pass off the 17 exercises that can be used in Pre-Open, Open, and Advanced Rally-Obedience classes		
Pass off the 13 exercises that can be used in Open and Advanced Rally-Obedience classes		
Pass off all the skills on the Agility Verification Form		
Earn a blue ribbon in Obedience working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Earn a blue ribbon in Rally-O working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Earn a blue ribbon in Agility working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Participate in 1 or more Non-Qualifying Costume Contest earning a blue ribbon at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Participate in 1 or more Non-Qualifying Trick Contest earning a blue ribbon at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Compete in the Open Puppy or Open Aged class, placing in the top 3 as an Overall Exhibitor at the State Dog Show.		
Compete in the Open or Advanced Standard class, placing in the top 3 as an Overall Exhibitor at the State Dog Show.		
Compete in an AKC or breed specific event placing in the top 3 of at least 10 dogs or receiving a title.		
Mastery and Education	Date	Initials
Pick 12 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 4 Mastery do not need to be completed within the same year, but have to be within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level.		
Write a news story or article to be published in the local newspaper or newsletter.		
Create and write a blog with a minimum of 10 posts related to animal husbandry and dog ownership		
Participate in or organize a county level dog contest such as judging or quiz bowl.		
Run a summer project club related to the dog project (minimum of 6 hours)		

Create a lesson plan and teach your club on one of the following topics: health, first aid, nutrition, grooming, or other dog project related event.		
Help plan a county wide or regional dog clinic and teach at least one class on grooming, training, or an event specific clinic.		
Get a blue ribbon on the state Dog Knowledge test		
Participate in the state Dog Quiz Bowl Contest		
Participate at state 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a dog related topic (discuss age appropriate options with leader)		
Volunteer or work at a pet hospital/veterinarian clinic for 20 or more hours		
Volunteer, shadow, or intern for a certified groomer for 20 or more hours		
Work with an animal rescue to foster and rehome a dog in need		
Know and be able to demonstrate a complete veterinarian exam using information found in the Ohio State Dog Resource Book		
Be able to groom your dog head to toe including brushing teeth and clipping nails		
Become an accredited therapy team		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option.		
Citizenship and Personal Development	Date	Initials
Pick 4 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 5 Citizenship do not need to be completed within in the same year, but have to be within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level.		
Submit a portfolio to the state contest achieving a blue ribbon score		
Hold a county or state leadership position		
Organize a county wide community service project		
Help organize a state wide community service project		
Help organize a pet show or exhibition at the county level		
Contribute to your club, county, or state program by taking photos, posting to social media accounts, or other forms of publicity		
As an accredited therapy team, visit a rest home, hospital, or school		
Work with a parent or club leader to set goals for your dog project and make a plan to achieve them		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____

Rank Advancement Level 5

This rank is for 4-H youth that have truly excelled in their dog project. Youth that complete Level 5 are prepared to move from the 4-H program into the world of adulthood. These individuals have developed skills pertinent to various careers within the dog industry and are prepared to give back to the community. Level 5 is the highest level and is the hardest to obtain.

The requirements for this level do not need to be completed within in the same year (unless they are repeats from previous years), but have to be within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level

Level 4 must be completed to achieve a Level 5 Rank

Handler/Dog Team Skills	Date	Initials
Pick 12 or more of the following. Repeated skills from Level 4 MUST be re-done in the current year. For example, a blue ribbon may be earned in Agility working off leash, but this accomplishment can only be counted once. If this is achieved in Level 4, it must be accomplished a second time to be counted for Level 5.		
Pass off the Obedience exercises that may be seen in a Novice, Pre-Open, and Open division.		
Complete the Retrieve on Flat and Drop on Recall exercises in Open or Advanced Obedience with no major deductions at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Complete the Signal Exercise in Advanced Obedience with no major deductions at a Regional or State Show		
Pass off the 17 exercises that can be used in Pre-Open, Open, and Advanced Rally-Obedience classes		
Pass off the 13 exercises that can be used in Open and Advanced Rally-Obedience classes		
Pass off all the skills on the Agility Verification Form		
Earn a blue ribbon in Obedience working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Earn a blue ribbon in Rally-O working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Earn a blue ribbon in Agility working off leash at the State Dog Show		
Teach your dog to seek or find an article off a command or scent		
Participate in 1 or more Non-Qualifying Costume Contest earning a blue ribbon at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Participate in 1 or more Non-Qualifying Trick Contest earning a blue ribbon at a Regional or State 4-H Dog Show		
Compete in the Open Puppy class, placing in the top 3 as an Overall Exhibitor at the State Dog Show.		
Compete in the Open Aged class, placing in the top 3 as an Overall Exhibitor at the State Dog Show.		
Compete in the Open or Advanced Standard class, placing in the top 3 as an Overall Exhibitor at the State Dog Show.		
Mastery and Education	Date	Initials
Pick 15 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 5 Mastery do not need to be completed within the same year, but have to be within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level.		
Write a news story or article to be published in the local newspaper or newsletter.		
Create and write a blog with a minimum of 15 posts related to animal husbandry and dog ownership, dog careers, or other dog related topics.		

Help organize a county or state dog contest such as judging or quiz bowl.		
Run a summer project club related to the dog project (minimum of 6 hours)		
Create a lesson plan and teach your club on one of the following topics: health, first aid, nutrition, grooming, or other dog project related event.		
Help plan a county wide or regional dog clinic and teach at least one class on grooming, training, or an event specific clinic.		
Get a blue ribbon on the state Dog Knowledge test		
Participate at in the state Dog Quiz Bowl Contest		
Participate at state 4-H contests giving a public speech or demonstration on a dog related topic (discuss age appropriate options with leader)		
Volunteer or work at a pet hospital/veterinarian clinic for 40 or more hours (20 additional hours from level 4)		
Volunteer, shadow, or intern for a certified groomer for 40 or more hours (20 additional hours from level 4)		
Raise a guide dog puppy		
Work with an animal rescue to foster and rehome a dog in need		
Explore a dog related career and set up a job shadow. Report on your experience in a presentation, blog post, or article to share with your club.		
Know and be able to demonstrate a complete veterinarian exam		
Be able to groom your dog head to toe including brushing teeth and clipping nails		
Shadow or be an intern for a certified groomer for 40 or more hours (20 additional hours from level 4)		
Obtain a certificate to be a groomer at a dog salon		
Complete a breeding project demonstrating an understanding or responsible and ethical pet breeding		
Become an accredited therapy team		
Work with your club leader or county staff to come up with your own Mastery option.		
Citizenship and Personal Development	Date	Initials
Pick 5 or more of the following. The requirements for Level 5 Citizenship do not need to be completed within in the same year, but have to be within at least 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level.		
Submit a portfolio to the state contest achieving a blue ribbon score		
Hold a county or state leadership position		
Help organize a state wide community service project		
Help organize a pet show or exhibition at the county level		
Volunteer and assist in putting on a county, regional, or state Dog Show.		
Contribute to your club, county, or state program by taking photos, posting to social media accounts, or other forms of publicity		
As an accredited therapy team, visit a rest home, hospital, or school		

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

4-H Member _____ Club Leader Signature _____