

Utah 4-H Dogs



Program Guide

Updated April 2019

EXTENSION 
UtahStateUniversity

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Special Acknowledgments: Colorado State 4-H, Indiana State 4-H, Texas State 4-H, and Oregon State 4-H

Dear 4-H Volunteer and Member:

Thank you for participating in the Utah 4-H Dog Program. If you see needed corrections or errors in this guide, or would like to propose changes or additions, please contact Jessie Hadfield at 435-797-8442 or jessie.hadfield@usu.edu. All rule proposals must be submitted by September 1st to be considered for the following year.



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Section 1: General Utah Dog 4-H Programming and Rules

The Utah Dog 4-H Program is one of our newest and fastest growing animal science projects within 4-H. This program is designed to emphasize youth development. The 4-H dog project is a vehicle that reflects the knowledge and skills being developed by the participant.

Classes that emphasize a dog's conformation are not included in our 4-H program and thus purebred dogs do not have any preference over a cross-breed or mixed dog. Local shows may hold conformation or breed standard classes, but they will not be held at the state level. This program is designed to allow handlers and their dogs of all shapes and sizes to be successful!

4-H is open to all youth. To be eligible for enrollment in Utah's 4-H Dog Program, youth must be in the 3rd grade and no younger than 8-years-old as of October 1st of the previous year. 4-H involvement as a member will end the summer following high school graduation (September 31st), or no older than 19-years of age, whichever comes first.

Class organization for handler and dogs are discussed on page 14, Section 2 Rank Advancement and Exhibitor Divisions. Age groupings for competition are grouped by grade as of October 1st of the previous year as follows:

Junior: 3-5
Intermediate: 6-8
Senior: 9 – 12

4-H does not discriminate as to race, color, national origin, disability, religion, or sex of members.

4-H OBJECTIVES

Encourage youth to:

1. Develop leadership abilities, build character, and assume citizenship responsibilities.
2. Explore career opportunities.
3. Develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for lifelong use.
4. Share knowledge gained with others.
5. Acquire skills in dog management by owning a dog of any type (i.e. purebred, crossbred, registered, etc.) and being responsible for them.
6. Appreciate having dogs as a companion.
7. Learn appropriate dog handling skills and promote the love and humane treatment of animals.
8. Understand breeding, training, and raising of dogs responsibly.
9. Acquire safety skills to prevent injury to persons and animals.
10. Develop sportsmanship, cooperation, decision-making ability, and public speaking skills through participation in demonstrations, tours, judging, and/or exhibits.



USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM OF 4-H CLUB WORK

The federal law states that only activities or programs under supervision of the Cooperative Extension Service may use the name and emblem of 4-H club work. Therefore, any local, county, district, area of state 4-H dog contest must have the approval of the Utah State Cooperative Extension Service through county, district, or state personnel.

Contests or events sponsored by other organization or individuals, and contests which do not provide separate classes for 4-H members, are not permitted to use the name and emblem of 4-H club work. In such cases, the title, "Junior Dog Contest," or similar name should be used.

GENERAL RULES

All rules and guidelines related to the Utah 4-H Dog Program not specifically covered in this document will defer to the most current "Rules & Regulations" books of the American Kennel Club (AKC). All handbooks are available online at www.akc.org. Rules specifically outlined in the Utah 4-H Dog Program Guide will supersede any conflicting rules or guidelines.

ALL STATE AND REGIONAL 4-H DOG CONTESTS WILL ABIDE BY THESE RULES:

Club and county contests are encouraged to follow these rules for competition. Contest committees and leaders should make every effort to inform all members, leaders, parents, and judges of rules to be used, especially if they vary from state rules.

1. Only dogs that are registered as a project will be permitted on the show grounds *at any time*. Registered
2. Dogs must be on a leash, tethered, or in a crate while on the show grounds, except when showing. Dogs must not be left unattended, and if possible, youth exhibitors should be the sole handler of their project dog.
3. Exhibitors must clean up after their dogs and keep their area clean. Exhibitors must bring their own doggie-bags (pet waste bags), water-bowls, and other necessary equipment.
4. At all 4-H contests 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.
5. Dogs will need to have a certificate of vaccinations by a licensed veterinarian in order to register or *be on the show grounds*.
6. At all State 4-H Contests, the limit is one dog per person and one person per dog, per division. For example, a 4-H member may have both a standard dog and a puppy.
 - Exhibitors must appoint one dog at the time of show registration to be their "primary dog". The primary dog is the one that will be used for showmanship and eligible for Over-All Exhibitor awards.
 - Situations requiring a substitution of the project dog or alternate dog and handler, should be cleared through the County Dog Council with Extension Agent input. Grievances regarding state 4-H Dog Show eligibility and may be referred to the State 4-H Dog Program Council for final say.
 - Each County needs to have rules and guidelines in place to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings regarding qualifications and substitutions that may be required.

7. The 4-H member's project is centered around learning good husbandry, knowledge, and skills necessary to be successful in and out of the show ring. As a component of the primary objective of the 4-H Dog Program, youth should do their own training. If a dog needs to be taken to a professional trainer for special purposes, the youth should be trained with the dog.
8. In any class the judge may direct any exhibitor to repeat or perform additional maneuvers.
9. All 4-H exhibitors must take the written test and show in Showmanship to be eligible to compete in the other events of the show. Anyone requiring special assistance with the written test must request assistance prior to the start of the test from their club leader. Special provisions will be made with the show committee to accommodate the youth in the best way possible for both parties.
10. Anyone missing their gate call in any event (judged or timed) without pre-approval from the show committee or management, will show at the end of the class and may be penalized 1 ribbon placing from the placing awarded at the discretion of the show committee.
11. Parents or adult leaders may not assist 4-H members inside the show ring. This includes any competition ring, costume contest, drill, obedience, etc., Assistance is considered physically going into the ring, verbal and non-verbal coaching, or instruction from outside the ring, verbal or hand signals to a dog and anything else that may be perceived to be double handling or coaching the 4-H member or dog during competition. Verbal warning will be given once, and then show management will address each issue case by case. Youth with any physical/mental disabilities that require assistance from others will need to notify the show officials at entry time so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Attire

1. A 4-H patch - must be worn on the upper left sleeve. Patches must be visible during the event. No patch or patch not visible is a drop in 1 ribbon placing for judged events and a 5 second penalty in timed events. Any patch exhibiting the proper 4-H clover will be accepted including those found at the 4-H Mall as well as official University Extension 4-H patches.
2. A white collared shirt with sleeves such as a polo, long pants without holes, and closed toe shoes are required.
3. At state and region contests exhibitors will receive a number which will be placed on the right sleeve or back and be clearly visible. If a contestant does not have a number, it is a drop in 1 ribbon placing.

AWARDS DRESS CODE— Appropriate dress is required when receiving awards although 4-H attire is not required.

Exhibitor Behavior and Dog Program Etiquette

Everyone deserves to have a fair chance at a successful performance and to enjoy the dog program and 4-H dog shows both as an exhibitor and spectator. Please be courteous in your behavior! In the crating area, be courteous of other exhibitors. Keep your space clean and tidy, and stack *empty* crates where possible to avoid "urban sprawl".

1. Good sportsmanship shall prevail at all times. No abuse of animals or people will be permitted by a 4-H member, any family member, or associate. Abusive behavior of this



kind will be cause for disqualification of the 4-H member from further competition in the event or show at the discretion of the show committee.

- Reports of abuse must be made immediately to contest officials or any member of the grievance committee and then followed with a written statement. Infractions are more effectively controlled if handled in a timely manner.
 - Contest officials and grievance committee will determine disqualifications on a case by case basis.
2. A 4-H member will be disqualified from an event, and may be asked to leave the show, for verbal or physical abuse of people or dogs committed by the 4-H member or any family member or associate.
 - Physical abuse is considered actions done out of anger, in contempt, frustration, or any action that inflicts fear or physical harm that surpasses rational correctional behavior.
 - Administering performance altering drugs or substances to dogs is also considered abuse.
 - Contest officials and grievance committee will determine disqualifications on a case by case basis.
 3. Abusive use of choke chains, collars, leashes, or other handheld devices will result in disqualification from event. This applies to all events, and may result in eviction from the show.
 4. Unsafe behavior by a 4-H member, any family member, or associate on the show grounds may be cause for disqualification of the 4-H member from further competition in the event or show, at the discretion of the show committee. The following are considered unsafe behaviors:
 - Allowing dogs to approach other dogs uninvited and not enforcing or encouraging good behavior.
 - Practicing poor-dog handling skills such as allowing dogs to pull or jump on people or other dogs.
 - Tethering the dog to any object and encouraged to pull.
 - Encouraging play off leash and in the open
 - Riding bikes, scooters, skateboarding, roller-skating, or similar activities around the dogs.
 - Teasing dogs into being worked up and agitated by any means including poking, yelling, or throwing objects in their direction.
 5. Good show-ring etiquette for participants and spectators is essential for the program. This means being quiet and appropriately behaved indoors. Good show ring etiquette is similar to attending a movie at a theater, and the same courtesy should be given to handlers in the ring. Avoid distracting behavior.

Dog Eligibility

1. All dog breeds, types, and sizes are eligible, as long as health or soundness do not impair the required performance and compatibility with the ability of the handler. The show council reserves the right to excuse dogs that appear unhealthy or lame, as reviewed by the dog show committee (at minimum 3 people).
2. Any dog(s) exhibiting abnormalities or symptoms of sickness, disease, or parasite infestation as determined by a Show Committee member(s), instructor(s) or judge(s), will be eliminated from the show/training and must be removed from the show/training grounds immediately. If a dog is under veterinary care for a health condition that is not infectious or contagious, the exhibitor must bring a health certificate from the attending veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment. Show committee decisions are final.



3. Females showing any sign of heat must wear a diaper, will be placed in their own holding area, and will show separately.
4. Intact males will be allowed.

Age and Breed

1. Dogs participating in the “**puppy**” class must be at least 6 months and have received all required vaccinations a minimum of 1 month prior to show. This means that the day of the show, puppies should be 7 months of age with all required vaccinations completed.
2. Dogs participating in the “**standard**” class must be 12 months of age prior to registration at the first qualifying show of the year.
3. Dogs participating in the “**aged**” class are older, mature dogs, typically 8 years of age or older. Handlers and veterinarians should decide if a dog is better suited to the “aged” class instead of the “standard” class. Once a dog is shown as “aged” he cannot compete in the “standard” class again.
4. Dogs exhibited in Agility must be 15 months of age to be considered “standard” by entry of the show. Modified classes for puppies, young, and aged dogs are available.
5. Only domestic dogs can be shown. Any dog, mixed or purebred, is eligible as long as the dog is not a danger to itself, the youth, or other dogs, and is clearly a 4-H project.
 - a). wolf, wolf hybrids, coyote, or coyote hybrids are not permitted.

Vaccinations

Current vaccination certificates with age verification completed and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian are required for participation. Tags do not count as verification of vaccine.

Required vaccinations include: Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Bordetella, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus

Health Certificate

At this time, a health certificate will not be required for participation in the show. However, it is **HIGHLY** encouraged to have a qualified veterinarian give your dog a clean bill of health a maximum of 10 days before attending the state dog show.



If your dog is exhibiting any of the following, the show committee may request a temperature be taken and/or a clean bill of health (at the exhibitor’s expense) from a veterinarian.

- a strong cough
- runny nose
- sneezing
- lethargy

The show committee, with a veterinarian, reserves the right to excuse a dog that is deemed unfit from the show grounds. No refunds will be given!

If you are worried your dog may be sick prior to the show, request a substitute. Some conditions that may indicate a dog is unable to compete:

- loss of appetite.
- low fever (103 or higher)
- Discharge out of the eyes and nose
- Bloody stool

Agility Verification

If you chose to participate in an Agility trial, the Agility Verification Form *must* be completed in addition to the verification of vaccines. This form is a verification of health by a veterinarian, and skill by a parent or leader (with approval of one of the Dog Program Committee members). This two-sided form can be found on the Utah 4-H Website. If you do not have the Agility Verification form completed, dogs may be allowed to compete in the modified division.

Aggressive Dogs and Dog Bite Policy

It is the handler's responsibility to keep their dogs at a safe distance from other dogs. Always keep 2 full leash lengths (minimum of 5 feet) spacing when approaching an identified dog and ask the handler for permission to come near.

All participants assume some risk by participating in a dog program. You are legally responsible for the actions of your dog. Volunteers and youth participants should have appropriate liability insurance (usually with renters or home owner's insurance) for their own protection. Safety of the youth and animals is the highest priority during any 4-H program event.

1. Any dog who *attempts* to bite or attack a human or another dog will be immediately excused from the show ring or practice area and will be put on probation. Air snapping, lunging, or snarling are all actions that are cause for concern and are indications that a dog is overly stimulated and needs some quiet time. Dogs exhibiting these behaviors may be asked to leave the show grounds in extreme cases, be kenneled, or simply removed from the situation for a short period of time. The show committee will evaluate each occurrence on a case by case basis and will determine the course of action.
2. A red ribbon attached to a dog's collar indicates that the dog may bite and needs extra space in and out of the ring. A dog that has the appropriate red ribbon(s) attached and is properly handled, will be given special consideration if an incident is under review. A red

Notes on Vaccinations and Health Certificates

The average cost of a health certificate is \$50 with some as high as \$75. We believe that the health and safety of our canine companions is worth it. Below are some tips to avoid a financial burden.

1. Develop a relationship with your regular vet. A good relationship with you and your dog may help this process be easier and less costly. You may even be able to get yours free!
2. Ask for a group discount. Most veterinarians are eager to help our youth and are supporters of 4-H. See if a local veterinarian will accommodate all of your club's dogs at one time for a reduced fee or come to your club practice outside of the office.
3. Make sure the veterinarian knows this is only for travel in Utah and you will not be leaving the state, or flying on an airplane. (Out of state health certificates are MUCH more expensive)
4. Don't wait until the last minute to get your certificates of vaccinations! Rushing to get these done will not help you bargain for group discounts or waived fees. Make arrangements early in the year.
5. Hold a fundraiser specifically for vet costs or volunteer time in return for a health certificate.
6. Put a few dollars away each month to save up for the certificate.



ribbon also helps the show management keep exhibitors and dogs safe in staging and practice areas.

3. All dog bites that leave a mark or draw blood **MUST** be reported to a member of the show committee. They will be properly documented and reported to local authorities. In the case of an exhibitor being bitten, parents or guardians will be notified and they can make the decision to treat at the local hospital if necessary.
4. Expulsion from the program is very rare and will only be considered in the most extreme circumstances. Every effort to help exhibitor and dog overcome fears and negative stress responses will be made. If a dog is expelled, the Utah 4-H dog show committee and local leaders may require that the 4-Her and their dog go through an aggressive dog class, work with a veterinarian, or other professional, and then go through a review process before the dog is allowed to participate in the 4-H program again.

Awards and Recognition

1. All Awards and recognition will follow Utah State University Policy.
2. All participants in 4-H contests will receive blue, red, or white awards based off of the Danish ribbon system in each class or contest. If a class is large enough for call backs, blue ribbons will return for a final judging. Class and division awards based off the American system may be given at the discretion of the show committee.
3. Circumstances making it impossible to complete a course, any exhibitor losing control of their dog during any judged event, or within the pattern of a timed event, will receive a participation ribbon and disqualification, with no re-run for points.
4. Specific event disqualifications, standard point deductions, and tie-break procedures for each class and division can be found in Section 3: Permanent Classes (page 17).

Over-all Exhibitor Award

An Over-all Exhibitor award will be awarded to the junior, intermediate, and senior aged 4-H youth that has accumulated the most points at the show. In order to qualify for the Over-All Exhibitor in each age division, youth must take the written test and compete in showmanship at a minimum. Qualifying events that will count towards over-all exhibitor points include submitting a Utah 4-H portfolio, Rank advancements, taking the written test, and showmanship, obedience, and rally-o classes.

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

The American system is the most widely used system for ranking and recognizing participants in contests, sports, and other competitions. In the American System, exhibitors are judged against their peers, within their class, and lined up according to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.

Unlike the Danish system, where there can be a multitude of blue, red, and white ribbon winners, in the American system there can only be one first place winner.

THE DANISH SYSTEM

The Danish system is a method of recognition that measures exhibitors against a standard rather than others in the class. It is sometimes called the "group method". Judges will give exhibitors a ribbon based on their performance *as compared to the general exhibitor pool* or accumulated points as outlined on the score sheet.

Blue: above average performance

Red: average with excellent performance, but has room for improvement

White: below average performance with some need for correction and additional guidance

White ribbon performances (including the test and portfolio submissions) will not be awarded points.

In the event of a tie score for the Over-all Exhibitor Award, the General Knowledge Test score will be used with the exhibitor with a higher percentage winning the tie. If a further tie breaker must be used, the portfolio or project report score is used, then the faster Rally-O time. If a further tie breaker must be used, the official judge may ask the tied individuals to complete additional skills at the judge's discretion.

Over-all Exhibitor points will be tallied as follows:

Rank Advancement:

Completed Rank from previous years = 10 points

Current and Updated Rank = 20 points

Qualifying Events:

1st place = 50 points

2nd place = 40 points

3rd place = 30 points

4th place = 20 points

5th place = 10 points

6th and on = 5 points

Individual Awards

The show committee may wish to present awards for classes or divisions beyond an over-all exhibitor award, and to recognize exhibitors participating in educational contests and non-qualifying events such as Agility, Trick, or Costume classes. Awards may be given to more individuals at the show committee's discretion based on number of participants. Individual awards should be used to recognize youth who are outstanding examples to their peers and have worked to develop independence, generosity, and mastery.

General Knowledge Test

The test will cover AKC recognized breeds, general knowledge and care, and rules and program guidelines of the Utah 4-H Dog Program. All questions will come from designated sources, found on page 17 . The test is designed to encourage mastery as a responsible and knowledgeable dog owner. The test is divided into age divisions of junior, intermediate, and senior.

Showmanship

The exhibitor is judged on their ability to handle a dog. The prime objective for the competitor is to demonstrate his or her ability in showing the dog to its best advantage. Throughout the various ring procedures and examinations, the competitor must strive to make his or her dog the most appealing. The member must demonstrate that they know the dog's faults and have learned to minimize them. Because it is the handling abilities of the contestants rather than the dogs that are being judged, Showmanship classes often take longer to judge. Showmanship is divided into age divisions (junior, intermediate, and senior), rather than based on skill level.

Obedience

Obedience trials test a dog's ability to perform a list of exercises on which it is scored. All contestants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to the Obedience Regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that a smooth and natural handler be given precedence over a handler moving with military precision and using harsh commands. See Pages 11 for details. Obedience is divided into skill levels and age divisions

Rally-O

Rally is a type of obedience class in which the dog and handler follow the instruction on signs at each station. 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). Scoring is not as rigorous as formal obedience. See Pages 19 for details. Rally is divided into skill levels and age divisions.

Utah 4-H Portfolio

The Portfolio is a comprehensive book recording and presenting the 4-H experience of the exhibitor. Portfolios ensure that youth exhibitors are getting the most out of their 4-H experience by participating in leadership, service projects, and developing mastery. Portfolio contests are judged based on age divisions.

Portfolios guides and judging rubrics are found at the Utah 4-H website:
<https://utah4h.org/projects/leadership/portfolio/>

Section 2: Rank Advancement and Exhibitor Divisions

The rank advancements and class divisions of the Utah 4-H Dog Program are designed with a three-fold purpose: to promote an environment of safety for dogs, exhibitors, and participants; to encourage mastery and skills development; and to help youth make and achieve goals.

Rank Advancement

Youth are required to have achieved a rank advancement of 2 in order to participate at a regional or state level show in the pre-open, open, or advanced divisions. This ranking must be **done each year** and with **each dog project**. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to get ranked. Parents, club leaders, or county agents can sign off on these forms *with approval of the state dog show committee*. Youth that do not submit a current and properly signed rank advancement form at the time of registration, will compete in the Novice division (see below for division information). Ranking events should be done on the local and county level, but a regional show may have a “ranking” prior to the start of the show and allow exhibitors to achieve their desired rank. This is a favor and not a requirement for show management. Additionally, the handler/dog team qualifying at a regional show must be the same team participating at the state level. In the instance of illness or injury, a substitute dog may be used. County staff will be responsible for deciding if a substitute is appropriate and if it will be allowed. The show committee should be made aware of the change prior to arriving at the show.

Rank advancement guides are found at <https://utah4h.org/projects/ag/Dog/>

Exhibitor Divisions

Once an exhibitor meets the minimum requirements to enter the show, they must select which division they want to compete in based off of the definitions below. Score sheets for each division can be reviewed and youth should select a division that best suits their skills and abilities, or describes their dog show experience. If no division is selected, the exhibitor will be placed in the Novice division for each event. Once a handler/dog team has competed at a regional or state show in one division, they CAN NOT return to a lower division. The show committee may request that a handler/dog team move into a division they deem more appropriate (higher or lower) prior to the start of the show.

Classes are divided based on a combination of handler and dog experience and skill. These experience and skill levels are divided into new, semi-experienced, experienced, and expert.

Definitions

New dog or handler:

- less than 2 years of experience
- have not shown at an AKC or breed specific event.

Semi-experienced dog or handler

- 2 or more years of experience
- have shown at an AKC or breed specific event, (but have not placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors)
- has competed and won first place in the Novice division at the Utah 4-H State Dog Show.

Experienced dog or handler

- 3 or more years of consecutive experience
- competitor at an AKC or breed specific event placing in the top 3 with at least 5 other competitors
- Competed and placed 1st or 2nd in the Pre-Open division at the Utah 4-H State Dog Show with 5 or more competitors

Expert dog or handler

- 3 or more years of consecutive experience
- Competitor at AKC or breed specific events, placing in the top 3 with at least 5 other competitors in 5 or more separate events
- competed and placed 1st or 2nd in the Open division at the Utah 4-H State Dog Show with 5 or more competitors
- handler has been paid or compensated to train or show a dog at an AKC or breed specific event

The below class divisions are applicable for obedience, rally-o, and agility. All other contests and events will be divided and judged according to age group (junior, intermediate, senior). These divisions are designed to allow youth to feel more confident in their levels while encouraging them to set goals and advance their skills as a dog handler and as a member of a team.

If a complete class (5 or more dogs) cannot be compiled, divisions may be combined. For example, if there are only 4 Novice exhibitors, and 3 Pre-open exhibitors, the 4 novice exhibitors may be moved into the Pre-open category or vice versa.

Divisions

Novice: New x New | New x Semi-experienced

This division is for handler/dog teams that are both new, with less than 2 years of experience and have not shown at an AKC or breed specific event, OR with one new and at most one semi-experienced member, and has not placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at an AKC (or breed specific) or State Dog Show. For example, a dog with more than two years of experience and a handler with less than 2 years of experience would be considered a novice *unless* they had placed in the top 3 at another qualified show or won 1st place in the Novice divisions at the State 4-H Dog Show with 5 or more other competitors.

Pre-Open: Semi-experienced x Semi-experienced | New x Experienced

This division is for handler/dog teams with two or more years of experience, but have NOT placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at an AKC (or breed specific) event, or placed 1st with at least 5 competitors at the State 4-H Dog Show, OR a team with one experienced member and one new. For example, an experienced dog with 2 or more years of

experienced that has placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at a qualified event, matched with a new handler would show in the Pre-open division.

Open: Experienced x Experienced | Experienced x Semi-Experienced

This division is for handler/dog teams where both members have 3 or more years of consecutive experience, have placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at an AKC (or breed specific) event, placed 1st with at least 5 competitors at the State 4-H Dog Show in the pre-open division OR one of the members has placed in the top 3 at a qualifying event with 5 or more dogs and one has not.

Advanced: Expert x Expert | Experienced x Expert

This division is for handler/dog teams where both members are experienced, where both have placed 1st at the State 4-H Dog Show in the Open Division (with at least 10 exhibitors in their class), or have placed in the top 3 of at least 5 dogs at 3 or more AKC (or breed specific) events.

***Note: once an exhibitor has competed at a level, they can NOT move down to a lower level with the same dog. ***

Puppy and Aged Divisions

Animals being shown in the puppy division should have a vet certificate verifying age. Aged dogs may be shown in this category at the owner's discretion. Once a dog competes in the Aged division, he can NOT move back to the Standard division.

Novice Puppy: This division is for exhibitors that have two years or less experience and are competing with a puppy that is between 7 and 12 months of age at the time of show registration.

Open Puppy: This division is for experienced handlers with two or more years of experience, have placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at an AKC (or breed specific) event, *or* placed 1st with at least 5 competitors at the State 4-H Dog Show event in the Novice division and are competing with a puppy that is between 7 and 12 months of age at the time of show registration.

Novice Aged: This division is for exhibitors that have two years or less experience and are competing with an aged dog that requires special consideration for jump height and certain maneuvers.

Open Aged: This division is for experienced handlers with two or more years of experience, have placed in the top 3 with at least 5 competitors at an AKC (or breed specific) event, *or* placed 1st with at least 5 competitors at the State 4-H Dog Show event in the Novice division, and are competing with an aged dog that requires special consideration for jump height and certain maneuvers.

Modified Divisions

The show committee may place dogs in a "modified" division with special consideration to jump height and certain maneuvers. Exhibitors should notify the committee prior to registration if they feel their dog would be safest and happiest in a modified division. The

show committee reserves the right to place dogs in a modified division at the time of the show.

		Handlers			
		New	Semi-experienced	Experienced	Expert
Dogs (not including puppy or aged dogs)	New	NOVICE	NOVICE	PRE-OPEN	OPEN
	Semi-experienced	NOVICE	PRE-OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
	Experienced	PRE-OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	ADVANCED
	Expert	OPEN	OPEN	ADVANCED	ADVANCED

Section 3: Permanent Events

General Rules and Guidelines

1. All 4-H dog classes will follow the latest AKC guidelines whenever possible, except that dog registry with AKC is not required. Some exercises and rules may be modified from AKC to better serve the youth of this program.
2. In instances of conflicting rules, the Utah 4-H Dog Program rules will supersede rules outlined by AKC or other breed specific associations. When a rule is not clearly outlined in this guide, refer to AKC rules.
3. All timed events will be timed start line to finish line. That is, the clock will start when the dog's nose crosses the starting line and will stop when the dog's nose crosses the finish line. At least two stop watches will be used during each event.
4. A start and finish line must be clearly indicated by cones or markers. Dog and handler must pass between the cones to start and finish the event or a participation ribbon will be awarded.
5. Handlers that have not turned in a current and signed Rank 2 form will automatically be placed in the Novice division and will compete on leash in all events.

For all permanent classes, exhibitors will be expected to follow the 4-H Dress Code outlined on page 4. If needed, dogs may have their hair tied up if long hair inhibits vision. Up to four rubber bands or a single plain colored barrette may be used and no bows or ribbons are allowed.

For over-all exhibitor points, the exhibitors will be ranked according to score with the exhibitor with the highest percentage receiving 1st place (50 points, see page 11). In the event of a tie score, the participant with the higher portfolio score will win the tie. If a further tie must be broken, the faster Rally-O time will be used, and finally, official judges may ask the tied individuals to complete additional skills at the judge's discretion.

General Knowledge Test

In order to compete in other events, exhibitors must take the written test. Tests are corrected by age division, meaning juniors will be scored against other juniors.

All testing materials will come from these resources for any State or Regional show, quiz bowl contest, or similar event.

- Utah 4-H Dog Program Guide
- Discover 4-H Dog Club Guides (all published materials at time of registration)
- Ohio State University Dog Program Resource Guide

Showmanship

In showmanship events, the exhibitor is judged on their ability to handle their dog as well as exhibitor confidence and knowledge in their dog project. The prime objective for the competitor is to show their dog to its best advantage and in accordance to its breed, breed type, or type the dog most closely resembles. There are various ring procedures and the exhibitor should do their best to make their dog look appealing to the judge during these procedures and examination.

This means that the exhibitor should be aware of their dog's faults and demonstrates their skill in minimizing them. Showmanship classes can take a bit longer to judge, and the official judge is encouraged to take their time with the exhibitors.

An exhibitor can use a "standard", "puppy" or "aged" dog for showmanship, but must declare ONE dog at the time of show registration to be their teammate in their showmanship class.

Showmanship Evaluation

Official score sheets to be used during showmanship classes are coming soon. Exhibitors will be evaluated on the following categories:

- Overall Appearance and Conduct of Handler
- Overall Affinity and Teamwork with Dog
- Overall Presentation/Grooming of Dog
 - Dogs should be shown by the breed standard it most closely resembles.
- Overall Knowledge and Skill

Class Divisions

Exhibitors compete with their age group in all showmanship classes, regardless of skill level.

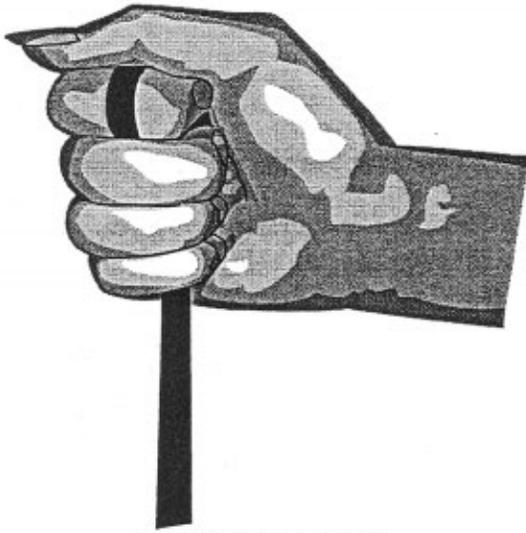
- Junior (3rd through 5th grade)
- Intermediate (6th through 8th grade)
- Senior (9th through 12th grade)

Equipment

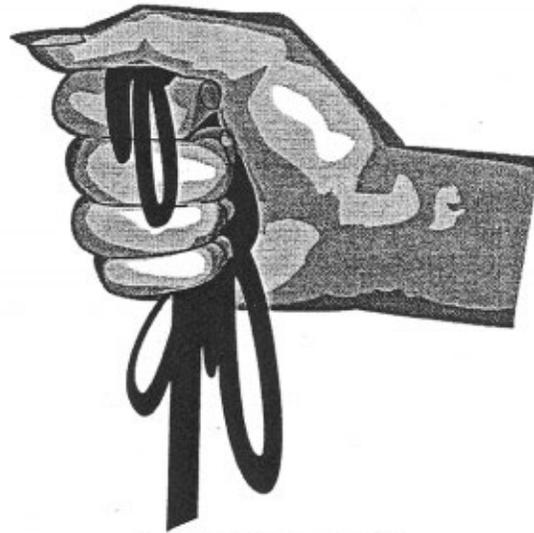
Below are the alternative leads and collars accepted in showmanship classes. All dogs are shown on leash at all times. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog.

- Loop lead
- Martingale
- Slip collar with short, thin lead (less than 4 feet)
 - Participants using obedience collars and leashes will not be deducted any points

Regardless of lead, the handler should be familiar with the use and proper adjustment of each type. Leashes should be tucked neatly into the palm of the hand and the lead placed correctly on the dog (see illustrations)



Lead held correctly.



Lead held incorrectly.



Lead placed correctly on dog.



Lead placed incorrectly on dog.

(images obtained from Minnesota 4-H Dog Showmanship Rules)

Baiting

No baiting with treat, toy, or anything else is allowed inside the ring. No exceptions! Baiting will result in a 10-point deduction.

Ring Procedures

The judge may choose to modify the ring procedure prior to the first exhibitor, but each exhibitor will be asked to perform the same maneuvers, although the order may change. Handlers may be called in as a group or individually. Basic procedures include stacking, individual examination, and gaiting.

Stacking: The method of stacking is setting the dog up at a stand-still to be presented to the judge. The handler should set their dog up quickly and quietly, avoiding distracting movements. Minimal touching of the dog is always preferred, but the exhibitors may use their hands to position the legs as needed. Exhibitors should be familiar with the use of a table and know if a table is appropriate for their dog's breed type and size. Sometimes the judge will ask a group of exhibitors to line up and face the judge. In this case, exhibitors form a line and take care to ensure they are never between the judge and their dog except when quickly crossing over to switch sides.



(images obtained from USU Photostock)

Individual Examination: This procedure is done in such a way that the judge can see the overall appearance of the dog, the proper grooming, and inspect the dog's teeth. When the judge asks to "show the bite" he is asking the exhibitor to gently pull back the lips so that the judge can see the teeth. Some breed types also indicate that the teeth should be counted. Exhibitors should review the proper standards for the breed type their dog closest resembles and follow those guidelines. During the individual examination, the judge will ask general questions to assess and score the handlers knowledge and general confidence and communication skills. The questions will generally be specific to the youths' project animal but may include general knowledge about raising and showing dogs.

Breeds/Breed Types where teeth are counted and the mouth is opened completely for an exam (http://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/Oral_exams.pdf)

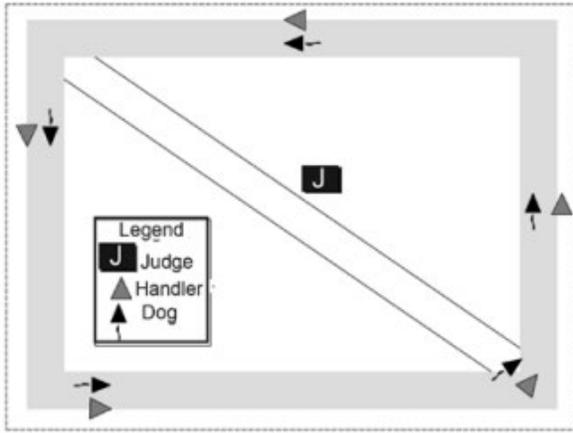
- Beauceron

- Belgion Laekenois
- Black Russian Terrier
- Cane Corsos
- Chinese Shar-Pei
- Chow Chows
- Doberman Pinschers
- Komondorok
- Lagotto Ramagnolo
- Rottweilers
- Wireharied Vizsla

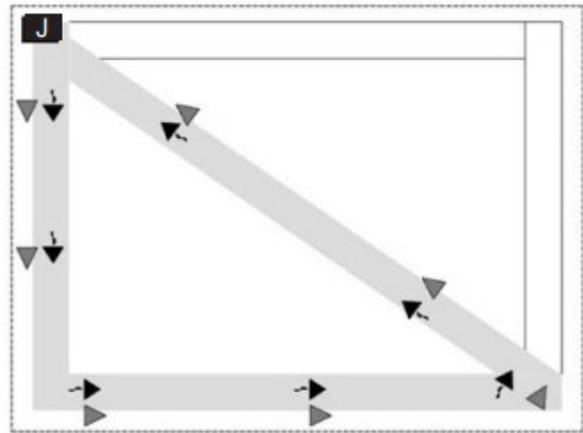
Gaiting: this is the process of putting the dog into motion so the judge can evaluate how the dog moves. The handler is responsible to execute the pattern as requested by the judge. Gaiting should be smooth, in a straight line, and at a speed appropriate to the breed type and size of the dog. The patterns to be used in Utah 4-H Dog Showmanship contests are the “Go Around”, “Triangles”, the “L”, the “T”, the “Diagonal”, and “Down and Back” in pairs and individually.

Dogs will gait at a different pace. Exhibitors should be courteous and if needed, pass on the inside of the ring, doing their best to avoid interfering with the exhibitor and dog they are passing.

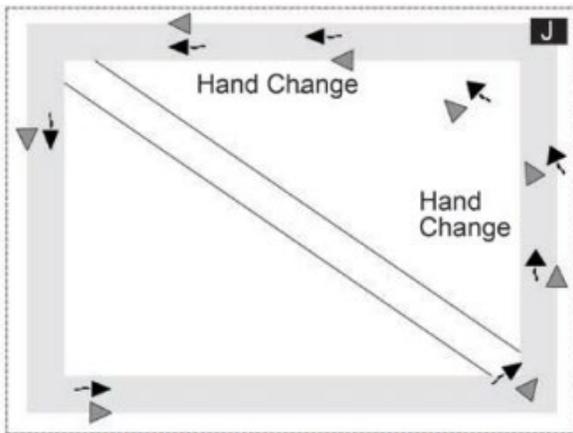
The show committee or judge will choose the pattern and may use a different pattern for each age group if they wish. Patterns will be posted at minimum 1 hour prior to the show and should be posted the day before is possible.



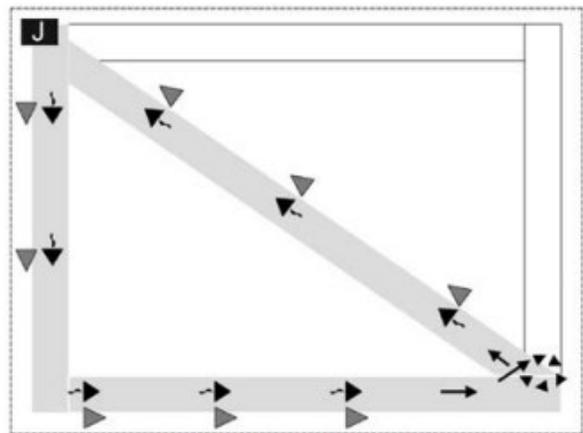
The Go Around



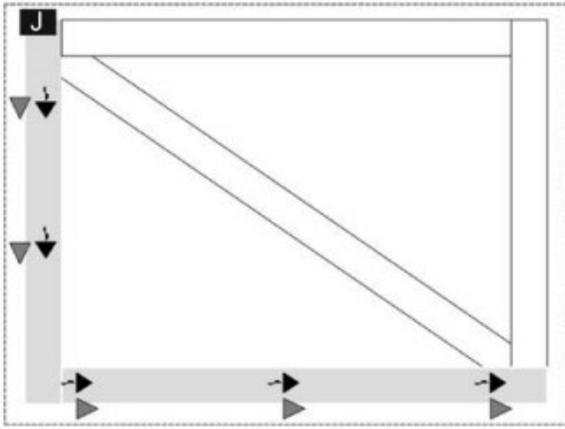
The Triangle



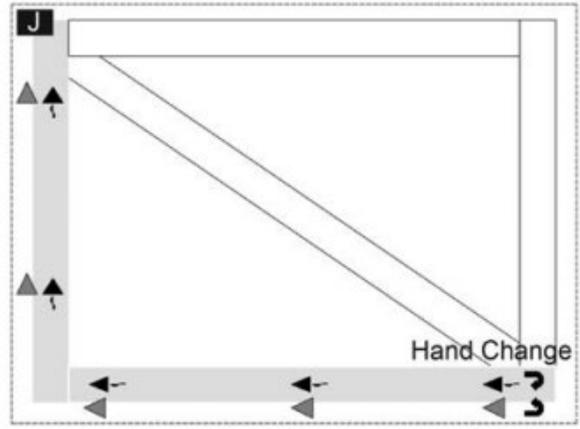
The Go Around: Judge in Corner



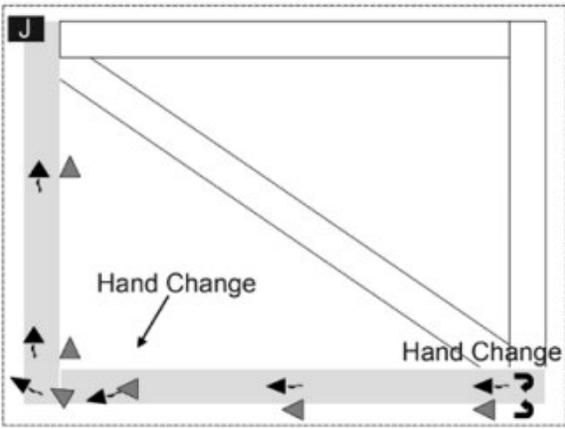
The Optional Triangle



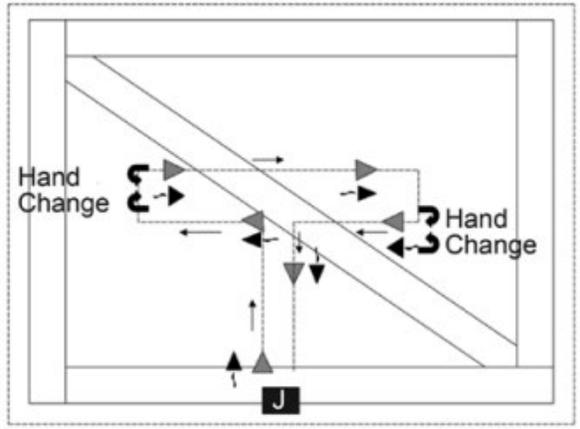
The L: Going



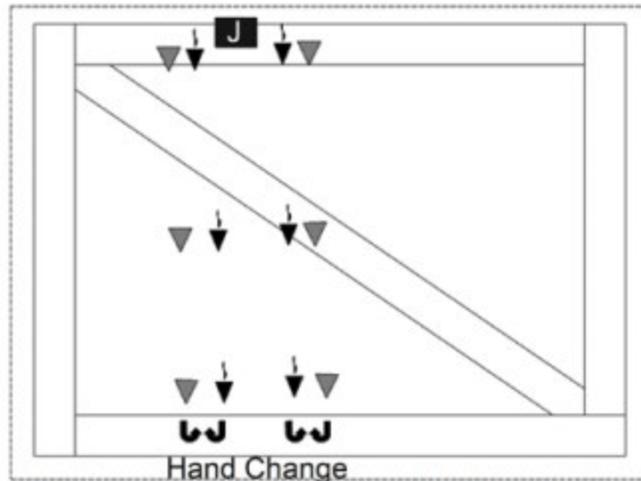
The Optional L: Returning



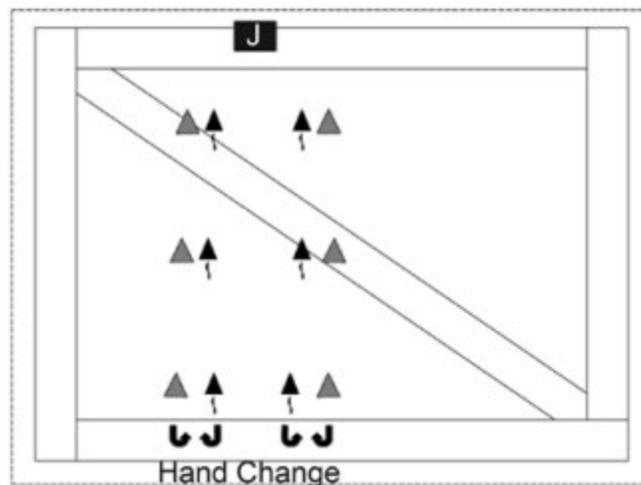
The L: Returning



The T



Down and Back with Another Handler: Going



Down and Back with Another Handler: Returning

(all gaiting graphics from Indiana State Extension)

The appropriate procedure after the gaiting pattern is to stop and stand a few feet from the judge, presenting the dog in a stacked position.

Score Sheets coming soon!

Additional Resources

The following programs have guides that provide further detail and recommendations for performing at showmanship with a lot of success:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/4H/4-H-716-W.pdf>

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/docs/dog-showmanship-rules.pdf>

Obedience

Obedience classes are designed to test a dog's ability to perform certain exercises with the instruction of the handler. These exercises are scored by a judge, and all exhibitors will essentially perform the same exercises in the same way for comparative scoring in each division. The performance of dog and handler in the ring must be accurate and correct according to the obedience regulations. It is also essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and enjoyment while it is working and that a smooth and natural handler be given preference over a handler moving with military precision and using harsh commands.

An exhibitor may show a "standard", "puppy", and/or an "aged" dog (no more than one dog in each classification). Any dog that is placed in a "modified division" may be exempt from certain maneuvers or may be asked to accomplish a different maneuver at the show committee or judge's discretion.

The recommended ring size is a minimum of 30' x 40' and no larger than 40' x 50'.

Obedience Evaluation

Official score sheets to be used during obedience classes are coming soon. Divisions vary based on skill and experience, but exhibitors may be evaluated on a variety of exercises. These exercises are divided into class beginning on page 27.

Class Divisions:

Exhibitors compete in pre-determined divisions (declared at registration) regardless of handler age. These divisions are based on experience level and skill.

- Novice
- Pre-Open
- Open
- Advanced
- Novice Puppy
- Open Puppy
- Novice Aged
- Open Aged

Equipment

Below are the alternative collars accepted in Obedience classes. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog. **Exhibitors in the open and advanced classes may choose to remove the lead upon entering the ring.** However, exhibitors in Novice and Pre-Open and exhibitors with a puppy must have a leash at all times.

- Loop lead
- Slip collar
- Flat collar
- Harness
- Leash – 6' leather, nylon, or cotton

Regardless of lead, the handler should be familiar with the use and proper adjustment of each type. Leashes should be held neatly with the excess coiled if necessary to avoid being drug.

Baiting

No baiting with treat, toy, or anything else is allowed inside the ring. No exceptions! Baiting will result in a 10-point deduction.

Ring Procedures:

Exhibitors will enter the ring when invited by the judge with their dog in the heel position on a loose leash. Upon entering the ring, exhibitors in Open and Advanced classes may remove their leash. In a group situation, the leash should only be removed once their dog is in position. Judging for each exercise begins when the judge asks, "Are you ready?" and is completed when the judge says, "Exercise finished". Praise and petting are acceptable between each exercise as long as the dog does not get too excited and is still reasonably in control. At no time should a dog be picked up or carried in the ring.

Group exercises. Handlers should enter and exit the ring in a single file line, with their dogs on leash and in the heel position. Handlers should line up next to each other, leaving 5 feet between them and the dog beside them. If this is an off-leash class, the handlers may remove the leash once in position.

Dogs will gait at a different pace.

Exhibitors should be courteous and if needed, pass on the inside of the ring, doing their best to avoid interfering with the exhibitor and dog they are passing.



Image from USU Photo Stock

Exit the ring with the dog in the heel position and on a loose leash. If handler in is an off-leash class, they should put the leash on their dog prior to exiting the ring.

Commands and signals:

When executing an exercise, only a single command or signal should be given. A signal and command given simultaneously will be permitted. A signal must be a single gesture with only one hand/arm. Handlers may not touch the dog when giving a signal. Once the initial signal is given, additional signals will be penalized. Any noise or motion may be considered a command or signal.

The dog's name may be used before giving the command and/or signal. A dog that anticipates a maneuver before the command is given, will receive a point deduction. Extra commands and/or signals will be penalized. Delay to follow the judges request for a command will result in a penalization.

Any kind of whistling is prohibited.

Loose Leash

The handler should exhibit the dog on a loose leash at all times. Points will be deducted each time the leash is tightened. A leash is considered tight when the clip on the leash is pointed towards the handler and there is no slack in the leash. The amount of deduction will depend on class division and severity of the occurrence.

Exercises

The below exercises can be arranged in any order and may be repeated.

Symbols indicate the levels that may be asked to complete each exercise. The exercises are increasingly more difficult as you go down this list, however all of them should be obtainable with practice and dedication.

Novice (including puppy and aged): ♣

Pre-Open: ♦

Open (includes Open Aged): ♥

Open Puppy: ♠

Advanced: ⊗

⊗ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Heel on Leash: The handler will typically begin this exercise at a designated point with their dog on a loose leash sitting to their left. The judge will command “forward” or ask “are you ready?” before beginning the exercise. The handler signals their dog to heel and walks briskly in the designated pattern. There will be designated “halt” positions where they handler stops. The dog should sit promptly without command. When the handler begins moving again, it is appropriate to give another signal if needed. The commands or “pattern” for this exercise are listed below.

- Forward – exhibitor steps forward with a brisk pace. A command or signal to heel is acceptable.
- Halt – the judge will command a halt and the exhibitor stops with their dog sitting promptly beside them
- Left or Right turn – exhibitor changes direction at a 90-degree angle.
- About turn – exhibitor reverses direction (or turns 180-degrees). About turns are always performed to the right.
- Slow, Normal, or Fast – these instructions require a noticeable change in pace based off the brisk walk that is considered normal.

⊗ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Figure 8 on leash: Two ring stewards or cones, set 8 feet apart, are used for this exercise

Similar to the heel exercise, the exhibitor begins by facing the judge, with their dog on a loose leash in a sit position on their left side. When the judge signals, the exhibitor performs a figure 8 around the two ring stewards. The judge may ask the handler to “halt” and move “forward” throughout the figure 8.

⊗ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Sit/Stay: The judge will say “sit your dogs” to begin this exercise. The handler will cue their dog to sit. The next phase is “leave your dogs”. Handlers will give their dogs a cue to “stay” and will promptly walk away. Handlers should not simply back away. The handler will go to the end of the leash (keeping the leash from touching the ground at all times) and then turn to face their dog. If this exercise is done in a group, the handler may be asked to move their dog to a separate area if their dog interferes with another dog. When the judge says, “return to your dogs” the handler walks on the right side (the dog’s left), behind the dog, and back to

the proper heel position. The time a dog is required to sit varies from 43 seconds to 3 minutes.

⊗ ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣

Down/Stay: See instructions for sit/stay. This exercise begins and ends the same with the only difference being the judge's instruction to "down your dogs". Dogs will be required to stay in the down position for 1 to 3 minutes.

⊗ ♠ ♥ ♦

Recall on leash: See instructions for sit/stay. This exercise varies in that the judge will order the handler to "call your dog" instead of "return to your dog". The handler will cue their dog to come to them, coiling the leash up as the dog comes to sit in front of them. This exercise has variation on finishing. The judge will say "exercise finished" and the handler can choose what to do next. Most exhibitors will praise their dog and cue them to the heel position to prepare for the next exercise.

⊗ ♥

Retrieve on Flat: This exercise is one of the more advanced exercises and must be done off leash. With the dog sitting in the heel position, the judge will ask "are you ready?". To begin the exercise, the handler will cue their dog to stay and then throw the retrieving item (typically a dumb bell) at least 20 feet. The handler waits for the judge to say "send your dog" before cuing their dog to retrieve the dumbbell. The dog should return and sit in front of the handler, keeping the dumbbell in their mouth until the judge commands the handler to "take it". After the handler takes the dumbbell, the judge will say "exercise finished". The exhibitor has the freedom at this point to complete the exercise similar to Recall on leash.

⊗ ♥

Drop on Recall: This exercise is one of the more advanced exercises and must be done off leash. See instructions for Sit/Stay. The exhibitor walks to the other end of the ring or to a designated spot indicated by the judge or show officials. When the handler is to the designated spot, they will turn and face their dog keeping their hands and arms hanging naturally at their sides (remember that movement may be considered a signal). The judge will indicate for the handler to call their dog in which they will cue their dog to come. On the judge's signal, the handler will command their dog to drop. The dog must stay until the judge indicates to continue with the recall. The dog should finish by sitting in front of the handler. The exercise is completed in the same manner as recall on leash and retrieve on flat exercises.

⊗

Signal Exercise: This exercise is one of the more advanced exercises and must be done off leash. Only visible signals are used. Starting in a sit at the heel position, the judge will ask, "are you ready?" and the exhibitor will respond with, "ready." Judging begins at this point. The exhibitor will follow the judge's directions (given to the exhibitor prior to the class) to heel, sit, down, and stay in a pattern using ONLY visible signals.

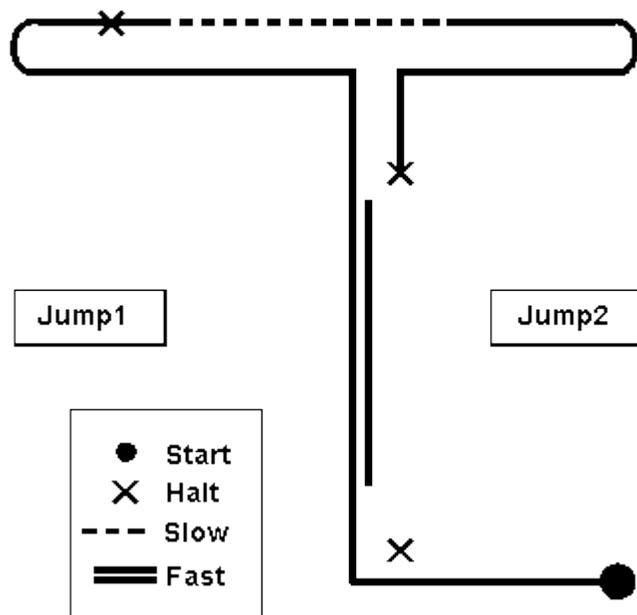


Figure 1. A Typical Signal Exercise

Note that this pattern correlates with the commands given in the table below.

Judge's Commands	Handler's Commands	Dog's Behavior
Are you ready?	Ready	Attentive
Forward	Heel signal	Heeling
Right Turn		"
Fast		"
Left turn		"
About turn		"
Halt		Sits straight
Forward		Heel signal
Slow	"	
Normal	"	
About turn	"	
Left turn	"	
Stand your dog	Halt with hand signal	Stands
Leave your dog	Stay signal	Stays
Signal to drop	Drop signal	Downs
Signal to sit	Sit signal	Sits
Signal to recall	Recall signal	Comes
Signal to finish	Finish signal	Finishes
Exercise finished	OK	Free (reasonably)

Score Sheets coming soon!

Additional Resources

The following programs have guides that provide further detail and recommendations for performing at obedience with a lot of success:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Documents/4-H-1009-W.pdf>

Rally-Obedience

Rally-Obedience (called Rally-O or Rally interchangeably) is a variation of an obedience class that is not only less rigid, but also timed. In Rally, the handler begins the exercises when the judge instructs them to do so, and then the handler and dog move from station to station at their own pace, completing the exercises designated. Much like obedience, it is essential that the dog demonstrate willingness and seems to enjoy working. Smooth and natural handlers will be given preference over those with harsh commands.

An exhibitor may show a “standard”, “puppy”, and/or an “aged” dog (no more than one dog in each classification). Any dog that is placed in a “modified division” may be exempt from certain maneuvers or may be asked to accomplish a different maneuver at the show committee or judge’s discretion.

The recommended ring size is a minimum of 40’ x 50’ up to 50’ x 60’. Equipment for the course include 10 cones, two food bowls with covers, rally signs, rally sign holders, number set for rally sign holders, bar jump, high jump, and a broad jump.

Rally-O Evaluation

Point deductions, official score sheets, and signs and exercises to be used during rally-o classes are coming soon. Each course will have 5 to 20 stations (based on the level) to be completed. The judge will score the handler on each station, with the time being used as a tie breaker. Divisions vary based on skill and experience.

Class Divisions

Exhibitors compete in pre-determined divisions (declared at registration) regardless of handler age. These divisions are based on experience level and skill.

- Novice
- Pre-Open
- Open
- Advanced
- Novice Puppy
- Open Puppy
- Novice Aged
- Open Aged

Equipment

Below are the acceptable collars and leashes accepted in Rally-O classes. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog. **Exhibitors in the open and advanced classes may choose to remove the lead upon entering the ring.** However, exhibitors in Novice and Pre-Open divisions as well as exhibitors with a puppy must have a leash at all times.

- Slip collar that fits properly
- Flat collar
- Harness
- Leash – 6’ leather, nylon, or cotton

Regardless of lead, the handler should be familiar with the use and proper adjustment of each type. Leashes should be held neatly with the excess coiled if necessary to avoid being drug. If a loop lead or slip collar is being used, it must be placed correctly (see illustrations).



Image obtained from USU Photo Stock

Baiting

No baiting with treat, toy, or anything else is allowed inside the ring. No exceptions! Baiting will result in a 10-point deduction.

Ring Procedures:

The courses will be posted prior to a class and may be posted as early as registration. Handlers will be given time to walk the course. Handlers may walk the course, without their dogs, as many times as they wish during the allotted time.

Exhibitors will enter the ring when invited by the judge with their dog in the heel position on a loose leash. Upon entering the ring, exhibitors in Open and Advanced classes may remove their leash. The judge will acknowledge the handler, asking “are you ready?”, and tell them to begin the course, usually with the word “forward”. No other command from the judge will be given. The handler and their dog will then proceed through the course on their own, completing each station. The handler and dog should exhibit team work, but the perfect heel position is not required. Furthermore, communication between handler and dog should be unlimited. Verbal praise, encouragement, and direction are acceptable, however the handler cannot touch the dog at any time and will be penalized for a short, tight leash.

Signs and placement descriptions

The complete list of each of the exercises and their respective signs are found on page ([coming soon](#)). Exhibitors should focus on the exercises specific for the class they are currently competing in. Each class may be set up differently with different exercises for each. Below are *recommendations* for the amount of exercises per class division, however these can be modified at the discretion of the show committee.

- Novice (including novice aged, novice puppy, and open puppy) – 8 – 10 stations
- Pre-Open – 10 – 13 stations
- Open (including open aged) 13 – 15 stations
- Advanced – 15 – 20 stations

Repeat of Station/retry

When a handler feels that they should repeat a station, they can do so by verbally saying “retry” to the judge. The handler and dog will then re-approach the station and complete it in its entirety. A station can be repeated two times with a 3-point deduction each time.

Scoring and Point Deductions

Official score sheets for each division are coming soon. All classes are scored with a maximum of 100 points. The following point deduction shall apply for each class:

Minor Deduction (1 – 2 points)

- Tight leash
- Dog interfering with handler
- Poor sits
- Slow, delayed, or resistant response
- Touching or ticking a jump, pylon, post, or person
- Out of position

Minor to substantial deduction (1 – 10 points)

- Repeat of a station (3 points with a maximum of 2 retries per station)
- Pylon/post knocked over
- Lack of control
- Lack of team work
- Lack of briskness
- Handler error
- Loud or intimidating signal
- Excessive barking
- Hitting a jump

Substantial deduction (6 – 10 points)

- Incorrectly performed station
- Luring or pleading with dog
- Lack of natural manner
- Uncontrolled barking
- Disciplining in the ring
- Dog eliminates in the ring
- Double handling (interference from outside ring)

Non-qualifying (DQ)

- Dog breaks free from handler
- Handler loses control or dog is unable to finish for any reason

Score Sheets coming soon!

Exercises

The following 19 exercises may be used in all Puppy, Aged, and Standard classes

***Novice Exhibitors should focus on these exercises**

1. START - Indicates the beginning of the course. Dog does not have to be sitting at start.
2. FINISH - Indicates the end of the course - timing stops.
3. HALT - Sit - While heeling, the handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The team then moves forward, with the dog in heel position. (Stationary exercise)
4. HALT - Down Dog - While heeling, the handler halts and the dog sits. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to down, followed by the command to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)
5. * Right Turn - Performed as a 90° turn to the right, as in traditional obedience.
6. * Left Turn - Performed as a 90° turn to the left, as in traditional obedience.
7. *About Turn - Right - While heeling, the team makes a 180° about turn to the handler's right.
8. *About "U" Turn - While heeling, the team makes a 180° turn to the handler's left.
9. 270° Right Turn - While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's right. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
10. *270° Left Turn - While heeling, the team makes a 270° turn to the handler's left. 270° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
11. 360° Right Turn - While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's right. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
12. 360° Left Turn - While heeling, the team makes a 360° turn to the handler's left. 360° turns are performed as a tight circle, but not around the exercise sign.
13. Call Dog Front–Finish Right–Forward–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's right, around behind the handler, toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position. The dog does not sit before moving forward in heel position with the handler. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position. (Stationary exercise)
14. Call Dog Front – Finish Left – Forward–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part of the exercise directs the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change from the front position by moving to the handler's left toward heel position. As the dog clears the handler's path, the handler moves forward before the dog has completely returned to the heel position.

The dog does not sit before moving forward in heel position with the handler. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position. (Stationary exercise)

15. Call Dog Front – Finish Right – HALT–While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Second part is the finish to the right, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the right side of the handler. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the handler. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position. (Stationary exercise)

16. Call Dog Front – Finish Left – HALT – While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. Second part is the finish to the left, where the dog must return to heel position by moving around the left side of the handler and sit in heel position. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward in heel position with the handler. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog as the dog moves toward heel position. (Stationary exercise)

17. Slow Pace - Dog and handler must slow down noticeably. This must be followed by a normal pace unless it is the last station on the course.

18. Fast Pace - Dog and handler must speed up noticeably. This must be followed by a normal pace.

19. *Normal Pace - Dog and handler must move forward, walking briskly and naturally. This station can only be used after a change of pace.

The following 16 exercises may be used in all Advanced Puppy, Advanced Aged, and Standard classes.

***Pre-open Exhibitors should focus on these exercises**

20. Moving Sidestep Right–While heeling, the handler takes one step to the right, leading with the right foot, and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The dog moves with the handler. The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. (This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the team’s path requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right to pass the sign.)

21. Spiral Right - Dog Outside - This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. Spiral Right indicates the handler must turn to the right when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the outside of the turns (See 1A and 1B). The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.

22. Spiral Left - Dog Inside - This exercise requires three pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. Spiral Left indicates that the handler must turn to the left when moving around each pylon or post. This places the dog on the inside of the turns (See 2). The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the spiral is started.

23. Straight Figure 8 Weave Twice - This exercise requires four pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise is started. Entry into the weaving pattern is with the first pylon or post at the dog/handler's left side. The dog and handler must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon or post.

24. Serpentine Weave Once - This exercise requires pylons or posts placed in a straight line with spaces between them of approximately 6 - 8 feet. The exercise sign is placed near or on the first pylon or post where the exercise starts. Entry into the weaving pattern is with the first pylon or post at the dog/handler's left side. The dog and handler must complete the entire exercise by passing the last pylon or post. It should be noted that in this exercise, the team does not weave back through the obstacles as they do in the Straight Figure 8.

25. HALT - 1, 2 and 3 Steps Forward - The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position to begin the exercise. The handler takes one step forward and halts with the dog maintaining heel position. The dog sits when the handler halts. This is followed by two steps forward - halt, and three steps forward - halt, with the dog heeling each time the handler moves forward and sitting each time the handler halts. (Stationary exercise)

26. Call Front - 1, 2 and 3 Steps Backward - While heeling, the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position (dog sits in front and faces the handler). The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to a sit in the front position. With the dog in the front position, the handler takes one step backward and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in the front position as the handler halts. This is followed by the handler taking two steps backward and a halt, and three steps backward and a halt. Each time, the dog moves with the handler to the front position and sits as the handler halts. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to resume heel position. When returning to the heel position, the dog does not sit before the handler moves forward. (Stationary exercise)

27. Down and Stop – While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to down as the handler comes to a stop next to the dog. Once the dog is completely down, the handler moves forward, commanding the dog to move forward from down position. (Stationary exercise)

28. HALT - Fast Forward from Sit - The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel and immediately moves forward at a fast pace. This must be followed by a normal pace. (Stationary exercise)

29. Left About Turn - While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler makes an about turn to the left, while at the same time, the dog must move around the handler to the right and into heel position. The dog does not sit before moving forward in heel position with the handler.

30. HALT and Walk Around Dog - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay, then proceeds to walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

31. HALT - Down - Walk Around Dog - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to down and stay, then proceeds to walk

around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. The dog heels forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

32. Figure 8 – No Distractions – Two pylons or posts spaced approximately 6-8 feet apart. The team enters the sequence with the posts on either left or right and will perform a complete figure 8 around the posts or pylons, crossing the center point three times.

33. HALT – Left Turn – Forward – Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the left and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. The dog must turn with handler as the handler turns. (Stationary exercise)

34. HALT – Right Turn – Forward - Handler halts, dog sits. With the dog sitting the handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, as the handler turns to the right and continues to move forward in the new direction without hesitation. The dog must turn with the handler as the handler turns. (Stationary exercise)

35. Call Front – Return to Heel – While heeling the handler stops forward motion and calls the dog to the front position. The handler may take several steps backward as the dog turns and moves to sit in the front position. Dog sits in front and faces the handler. The handler will then walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position and pause. Dog must remain sitting as handler walks around dog. (This is a 180° change of direction, about turn.) (Stationary exercise)

36. Halt–Slow Forward from Sit– The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel and moves forward at a slow pace. The dog must maintain heel position as handler slowly moves forward. This must be followed by a normal pace, unless it is the last station on the course. (Stationary exercise)

The following 17 exercises may be used in all Advanced Aged, Open Standard, and Advanced Standard classes.

***Open and Advanced Exhibitors should focus on these exercises**

101. HALT - About Turn Right and Forward - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the team turns 180° to the right and immediately moves forward. (Stationary exercise)

102. HALT - About “U” Turn and Forward - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the team turns 180° to the left and immediately moves forward. (Stationary exercise)

103. *Send Over Jump - Handler Passes By -While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler directs the dog to take the jump as the handler passes by the jump without any pause, hesitation or stopping. When the dog has completed the jump in the proper direction, it is called to heel position and the team continues to the next exercise.

	Jump height	Broad Jump
Under 10" and all Aged or Modified	4"	8"
10" to but not including 15"	8"	16"
15" to but not including 20"	12"	24"
20" or more	16"	32"

104. HALT - Turn Right One Step - Call to Heel - Halt - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to stay. The handler then turns to the right, while taking one step in that direction, and halts. The dog is directed to heel position and must move and sit in the new location before moving forward to the next station. (Stationary exercise)

105. HALT - Stand Dog - Walk Around - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler stands the dog commands and/or signals the dog to stay as the handler walks around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position before moving forward to the next station. In the Advanced Class, the handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog, and may pose the dog as in the show ring. (Stationary exercise)

106. HALT - 90° Pivot Right - HALT - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

107. HALT - 90° Pivot Left - HALT - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 90° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

108. Offset Figure 8—This exercise requires two pylons or posts placed about 8–10 feet apart, around which the team will perform a complete Figure 8, crossing the center point three times without disturbing the distractions. Two distractions will be arranged to the sides of the figure 8 about 5–6 feet apart. Entry may be between the pylons or posts and the distraction on either side (see 3A and 3B). The distractions will consist of two securely covered containers with tempting dog treats; however, dog toys may replace one or both containers, or may be placed next to the containers. The exercise sign may be placed on or near the cone where entry is made into the Offset Figure 8. Pylons or posts may not be shared with other exercises.

109. HALT - Side-step Right - HALT - The handler halts in front of the station sign and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position when the handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just before the exercise sign. This exercise shall be considered a change of direction and the sign shall be placed directly in line with the handler's path, requiring the handler and dog to sidestep to the right to pass the sign. (Stationary exercise)

110. HALT - Call Dog Front - Finish Right - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the dog to front and the dog sits in the front position, facing the handler. On command, the dog then moves from the front position around the right of the handler and sits in heel position. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid the dog during the exercise. (Stationary exercise)

111. HALT - Call Dog Front - Finish Left - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler calls the dog to front and the dog sits in the front position facing the handler. On command, the dog then moves to the handler's left and sits in heel position. Handler must not step forward or backward to aid dog during exercise. (Stationary exercise)

112. HALT - 180° Pivot Right - HALT - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 180° to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

113. HALT - 180° Pivot Left - HALT - Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler pivots 180° to the left and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position. (Stationary exercise)

114. HALT - Down - Sit - Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler commands and/or signals the dog to down, then to sit. (Stationary exercise)

115. HALT – Stand – Handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog. Handler may touch the dog, move forward to stand the dog and may pose the dog as in the show ring. Handler then resumes heel position while the dog stands in place. Handler pauses before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)

116. Halt–Pivot Right–Forward– The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, then pivots to the right and dog and handler move forward. (Stationary exercise)

117. Halt–Pivot Left–Forward– The handler halts and the dog sits in heel position. The handler commands and/or signals the dog to heel, then pivots to the left and dog and handler move forward. (Stationary exercise)

118. Halt–Leave Dog–2 Steps–Call to Heel– Forward – The handler halts, and the dog sits in heel position. While the dog remains sitting the handler takes two steps forward and pauses. The handler moves forward and commands the dog to resume heel position. The dog must move briskly. (Stationary exercise)

The following 13 exercises may be used in Standard Open and Advanced classes only

***Open and Advanced Exhibitors should focus on these exercises**

201. HALT - Stand - Down - Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to down. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the down position. (Stationary exercise)

202. HALT - Stand - Sit - Handler halts and dog sits. With dog sitting in heel position, the handler will stand the dog (without physical handling or moving forward), then command and/or signal the dog to sit. The handler then commands and/or signals the dog to heel forward from the sitting position. (Stationary exercise)

203. Moving Stand - Walk around dog -While heeling and without pausing, the handler will stand the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. Dog must move forward from the standing position.

204. Moving Down - Walk around dog - While heeling and without pausing, the handler will down the dog and walk around the dog to the left, returning to heel position. The handler must pause in heel position after returning to the dog. The dog must move forward from the down position.

205. Backup 3 steps - While heeling, the handler reverses direction walking backward at least 3 steps, without first stopping, then continues heeling forward. The dog moves backward with the handler and maintains heel position throughout the exercise without sitting.

206. Down While Heeling – While moving forward, without pause or hesitation, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to down and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) Dog must return to heel position and sit; the handler must pause before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)

207. Stand While Heeling – While moving forward, without pause or hesitation, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand and stay as the handler continues forward about 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn and face the dog, pause and then command and/or signal the dog to heel. This is a 180° change of direction, about turn. (This sign will be followed within 6 feet by the Call to Heel marker.) Dog must return to heel position and sit; the handler must pause before moving forward. (Stationary exercise)

208. Stand – Leave Dog – Sit Dog – Call Front – Finish – While heeling, the handler will stop and command and/or signal the dog to stand. The dog must stand and stay without sitting first. Then the handler will walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the dog to sit. When the dog sits, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to front. The dog sits in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. Dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise) (This exercise reverses the direction of the team.)

209. Stand – Leave Dog – Down Dog – Call Front – Finish – While heeling, the handler will stop and stand the dog using a command and/or signal, then walk forward approximately 6 feet to the Call to Heel marker. The dog must stand and stay without sitting first. The handler will turn to face the dog and command and/or signal the dog to down. When the dog downs, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to front. The dog must sit in the front position facing the handler. On command and/or signal, the dog will move to heel position. The dog must sit in heel position before moving forward with the handler. (Stationary Exercise) (This exercise reverses the direction of the team.)

210. Send to Jump – At the sign for this station, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to leave heel position to execute the jump. The dog must leave the handler immediately and execute the jump. The handler must maintain a straight path of at least a 3-foot distance away from the jump and may not pass the jump until the dog has returned to heel position. The dog

must jump the jump in the proper direction and return to heel position without pause, hesitation, or stopping. The team then continues to the next station.

211. Double Left About Turn - While moving with the dog in heel position, the handler makes an about turn to the left while at the same time, the dog must move around the handler to the right and into heel position. The handler must take one or two steps forward before performing the exercise a second time. The handler will end up turning 360° to the left as the dog turns 360° to the right around the handler. The dog does not sit at any time during this exercise.

298. Sit Stay – This sign will be used as a marker for the sit stay exercise. The dog must remain in the sit position while the handler retrieves the leash and returns to heel position and the judge says “exercise finished.”

299. *Call to Heel Marker - This sign will be used as a marker for associated exercises.

Score Sheets coming soon!



Section 4: Optional Non-Qualifying Events

These classes are optional for the show staff and will NOT be calculated into the over-all exhibitor score. These classes are for fun purposes only. Handlers that have not completed a level 2 rank must remain on leash at all times.

Dress code for non-qualifying (NQ) classes will be specified in the rules and regulations for each event. Generally, the attire for NQ events are more relaxed and may involve a costume, but the 4-H patch and exhibitor number should always be worn and visible.

Agility

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. Standard Agility is similar to jumpers, but also includes contact obstacles such as A-Frame and Dog Walk. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal. See Page 21 for details. Agility is divided into skill levels. It is run on jump heights and awards are given in age divisions.

Agility is a lot of fun, but it is an intense sport. It is our number one priority to keep 4-H youth and their dogs safe and sound. Exhibitors should work with a veterinarian or professional trainer before beginning agility training and should know and understand the risk of injury and harm if training is done incorrectly. **The Agility Verification Form MUST be submitted with registration in order to compete in any Utah 4-H Dog Agility event! No exceptions!** This form requires the skill level of handler and dog be verified by a club leader or committee member and the age and capability to perform done by a veterinarian.

Agility Evaluation

Point deductions, official score sheets, and obstacles to be used during agility trials are coming soon. Each course will have 5 to 20 stations (based on the level) to be completed. Unlike AKC, 4-H will score agility by time and use time penalties rather than scores. Divisions vary based on skill and experience.

Class Divisions

Exhibitors compete in pre-determined divisions (declared at registration) regardless of handler age. These divisions are based on experience level and skill. Please note that class divisions differ from all other events.

- (A) Standard
 - Novice
 - Pre-Open
 - Open
 - Advanced
- (B) Modified
 - Novice
 - Pre-Open
 - Open

- Advanced
- Novice Primary
- Open Primary
- Novice Aged
- Open Aged
- (C) Modified (exhibition only)
 - Novice Puppy
 - Open Puppy

Equipment

Below are the acceptable collars and leashes accepted in Agility classes. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog. **Exhibitors in the open and advanced classes may choose to remove the lead upon entering the ring.** However, exhibitors in Novice and Pre-Open divisions as well as exhibitors with a puppy must have a leash at all times.

- Slip collar that fits properly
- Flat collar
- Harness
- Leash – 6' leather, nylon, or cotton
- Agility tab

Regardless of lead, the handler should be familiar with the use and proper adjustment of each type. Leashes should be held neatly with the excess coiled if necessary to avoid being drug. If a loop lead or slip collar is being used, it must be placed correctly

Baiting:

No baiting with treat, toy, or anything else is allowed inside the ring. No exceptions! Baiting will result in a 10-point deduction.

Ring Procedures:

The courses will be posted prior to a class and may be posted as early as registration. Handlers will be given time to walk the course. Handlers may walk the course, without their dogs, as many times as they wish during the allotted time. The judge must be available during this time for questions or clarifications. During this time, the judge may also choose to brief the handlers.

The time begins upon attempting the first obstacle and is completed upon crossing the finishing cone after the final obstacle.

If time permits, the course may be ran twice with the fastest score being used as the final score.

Scoring and Point Deductions

All faults will be considered minor, major, or substantial faults. The following point deduction shall apply for each class:

Minor Faults (+ 5 seconds)

- Attempted obstacle (up to 3 tries)
- Displacing bar or panel on jump
- Jumping off the pause table before time
- Running around or refusing an obstacle

- Outside assistance

Major Faults (+ 10 seconds)

- Missing a contact zone
- Handler touching of the dog or obstacle
- Skipping an obstacle

Substantial Fault (+ 50 seconds)

- Eliminating in the ring

Non-qualifying (DQ) (allow to finish, but will receive no time)

- Dog breaks free from handler
- Handler loses control or dog is unable to finish for any reason

Obstacles

Jump heights and widths are as follows:

Height Division	Dog's Height at Withers	Jump Height	Jump Width
A <i>Standard</i>	11" or less	8"	16"
	11.1" to 14"	12"	24"
	14.1" to 18"	16"	32"
	18.1" to 32"	20"	40"
	Novice – 32.1" and over	20"	40"
	Pre – Open and above – 32.1" and over	24"	48"
B <i>Modified</i>	Beginning dogs 12 to 15 months (up to 24)	4"	8"
	Dogs with physical limitations	4"	8"
	Aged dogs (typically 8 years and older)	4"	8"
C <i>Modified</i>	Puppies (6 to 12 months)	Exhibition Only	

All dogs less than 15 months will compete in the beginning division and will NOT be allowed to jump higher than 4" unless they have a vet certificate of health designating they are in condition to compete in the standard division.

A handler may choose to jump their Standard Division dog one jump height higher than designated above in Pre-Open, Open, and Advanced classes if they desire, however, no dog showing on leash in the Novice division be permitted to jump higher than 20 inches, and no dog less than 15 months or in the Aged division will be allowed to jump higher than 4".

A-Frame – The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the judge, cross over the apex and descend the down ramp, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

Dog Walk – The dog must ascend the up ramp in the direction designated by the judge, traverse the cross plank, and descend the other ramp, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the obstacle.

Jumps – The dog must jump over the hurdle in the direction designated by the judge, crossing between the hurdle's two supports and over the pole or planks, without knocking off the bars or planks.

Pause Table – The dog must jump onto the table and remain on the table for a period of 5 consecutive seconds. The judge will count the seconds out loud (count goes 5 & 4 & 3 & 2 & GO), when the dog is fully on the table. If the dog leaves the table before the judge completes the word, "GO," the handler will direct the dog back onto the table. An interrupted count is re-started from the point it was interrupted. The Pause Table will be set at 8" for dogs jumping 4", 8", or 12". The Pause Table will be set at 16" for dogs jumping 16" and 20".

Pipe Tunnel – The dog must enter the opening of the tunnel in the direction designated by the judge and exit the other end of the tunnel.

Teeter – The dog must ascend the teeter in the direction designated by the judge, cross the plank's pivot point causing the teeter to tilt to the ground on the other end, and descend the remainder of the plank, touching the safety contact zone before leaving the plank. The plank shall touch the ground prior to the dog leaving the plank. The dog must be in control of the plank.

Tire Jump – The dog must jump through the tire in the direction designated by the judge. A dog may touch the tire with its feet.

Weave Poles – The dog must weave in and out in a continuous motion down the complete line of poles. The dog begins by passing on the right side of the first pole, crossing the line of poles between poles numbered 1 and 2, then pass the left side of pole number 2, then crossing the line of poles between 2 and 3, and continuing in a sequence down the complete line of poles. A handler/dog team must correct for any missed poles and fully complete the weaving pattern.

Eliminating in the ring will cause a pause on the timer to allow for proper cleanup. The timer should be paused as soon as the dog begins to eliminate. Time will resume on judge's order and the contestant will be allowed to finish the course. There will be a .50 second penalty added to the overall course time.

An odor neutralizer will be available to clean the equipment in the event a dog fouls the ring. Fouled equipment may be removed from the ring at the judge's discretion and all dogs running the course previously may, at the judge's discretion, be required to re-run the course.

Score Sheets coming soon!

Costume

In Costume Contests, exhibitors are encouraged to relax and have fun! This contest is exhibition only and points will not be added into the over-all exhibitor score. A theme may be chosen, or the costume contest may be a free-for-all.

An exhibitor can use a “standard”, “puppy” or “aged” dog to compete in Costume contests. The dog to be used does not need to be declared prior to entering the ring.

Costume Contest Evaluation

Exhibitors will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Showmanship
- Costume design and construction
- Interview/Questions

Class Divisions

Exhibitors compete with their age group in all costume classes, regardless of skill level.

- Junior (3rd through 5th grade)
- Intermediate (6th through 8th grade)
- Senior (9th through 12th grade)

Equipment

Below are the alternative collars accepted in costume classes. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog. **All exhibitors must have a leash at all times.**

- Loop lead
- Slip collar
- Flat collar
- Harness
- Leash – 6’ leather, nylon, or cotton

Costumes/Props

Costumes should adhere to 4-H exhibitor behavior and dress code and be representative of 4-H youth. Costumes and props that depict violence, horror, drugs, or alcohol will not be permitted.

Costumes and props should be created or designed primarily by the 4-H youth although assistance with costume design from parents and leaders is encouraged. It is not appropriate to rent or borrow a costume from a business or professional.

Exhibitors may be in costume with their dog as an accompanying prop, both handler and dog may be in costume, or just the dog.

Ring Procedures

All exhibitors within a class will enter the ring in a single file line, with their dogs on leash and in the heel position. Handlers will make one full circuit around the ring and then line up in the center of the ring, leaving 5 feet between them and the dog beside them. Dogs may sit or lay down, but should remain in the heel position.

The judge will approach each exhibitor for a brief interview and close inspection. Exhibitors should be prepared to answer any questions regarding their costume or prop.

Score Sheets coming soon!

Additional Resources

There are great resources and ideas for inventing and creating costumes. Be creative! There is no wrong or right way to compete in a costume contest.

Trick Free-style

The Trick Free-style contest is a fun way for exhibitors to show off their hard work and show an audience how fun a 4-H dog project can be! This competition is relaxed and fun, but combines elements of showmanship and obedience as handlers and their dogs perform a routine with tricks.

An exhibitor can use a “standard”, “puppy” or “aged” dog to compete in Trick Free-style contests. Exhibitors will need to declare which dog they are using for their Trick Free-style routine and provide a brief description of the routine and the tricks involved must be turned in with registration. A list of pre-approved tricks is found on page (include page number but will follow the costume/prop section below), but exhibitors are free to come up with their own. Show Management may request additional information to accommodate the performance or may veto certain tricks to ensure the safety of participants, dogs, and spectators. Show management may assign performance times or order prior to the show.

Trick Free-style Evaluation

Exhibitors will perform a routine with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 tricks. Each trick may be repeated twice, but tricks only need to be done once. The routine should be 5 minutes or less and may include costumes, music, and props.

Exhibitors will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Showmanship
- Trick difficulty
- Obedience and responsiveness to commands
- Routine length

Class Divisions

Exhibitors compete in pre-determined divisions (declared at registration) regardless of handler age. These divisions are based on experience level and skill.

- Novice
- Pre-Open
- Open
- Advanced
- Novice Puppy
- Open Puppy

- Novice Aged
- Open Aged

Equipment

Below are the alternative collars accepted in Obedience classes. The appropriate lead should be selected based on handler experience, age, and size of the dog. **Exhibitors in the open and advanced classes may choose to remove the lead upon entering the ring.**

However, exhibitors in Novice and Pre-Open and exhibitors with a puppy must have a leash at all times.

- Loop lead
- Slip collar
- Flat collar
- Harness
- Leash – 6' leather, nylon, or cotton

Baiting/Treats/Toys

Baiting dogs into a trick will not be allowed, however treats or toys may be used as a part of the trick (for example holding a tennis ball on top of their nose) or to immediately reward a trick.

Costumes/Props

Costumes should adhere to 4-H exhibitor behavior and dress code and be representative of 4-H youth. Costumes and props that depict violence, horror, drugs, or alcohol will not be permitted. Unlike the costume contest, costumes and props may be store bought, borrowed, or rented.

Exhibitors may be in costume with their dog as an accompanying prop, both handler and dog may be in costume, or just the dog.

Approved Tricks

Below is a list of tricks from Texas 4-H. They are alphabetical, not sorted into difficulty.

- **BANG IN MOTION:** dog must be moving and will drop to the ground upon the verbal command of “bang”. The dog must cease all movement until released by verbal command. Dog may be moving at any speed and may fall promptly or crawl into a mock death. Command may be repeated for dramatic effect. No prop guns will be permitted.
- **BEG or SIT-UP:** Any trick involving the dog sitting on its haunches with both front paws in the air. The dog may wave one or both paws.
- **CATCH:** This involves catching an inanimate object or treat from a moving or stationary position. Dog must readily release the object when asked.
- **CATCH AND CARRY:** Dog must catch an inanimate object that is tossed or thrown into the air and carry it to a directed location or return the item to the handler. Dog must readily release object on command.
- **COMMANDO:** Variation of ROLL OVER. Dog must be moving at any pace and upon command, stop-drop-and-roll, then get up and continue moving forward.
- **WALK:** On command, dog will rise to hind legs and walk at least two steps.
- **DANCE:** On command, dog will rise to hind legs and complete at least one full circle or spin, either hopping or walking.
- **HIGH FIVE:** From a sit or sit up command, dog must raise paw unassisted and give a high-five.

- HELLO: From a sit, dog response to handler by raising one paw unassisted as though waving hello in greeting.
- HOLD AND CARRY: Handler places an uncommon object into dog's mouth for the dog to then carry at least 3 feet. Dog must hold item until commanded to release. Uncommon objects could include an Easter basket, bouquet, flag, or other prop. Common items such as a Frisbee, ball, treats, or other dog toys are not acceptable.
- KISS: Dog may be sitting or standing, or jump into a dance position to lick their owner's face.
- LEAP THROUGH HOOP: Dog jumps through hoop. The hoop must be stabilized so it does not fall. The handler or an assistant may hold the hoop, or it can be secured to a post or rail. Hoop height follows the same guidelines for Agility. (see agility rules or the agility verification form for more info)
- ON TRUST: Dog may be standing, sitting, or in prone position. A treat or toy is placed on the dog's nose or head and the dog must hold still until given release. The dog must catch the treat or toy before it hits the ground.
- PRAY: Dog covers its eyes with one or both paws until released by verbal command.
- PUSH WITH NOSE: Dog is directed to push or roll an inanimate object, such as a beach ball, at least 3 feet.
- PUSH WITH PAWS: Trick involves a wagon, wheel chair, or other object that can be pushed. Dog pushes the object with front paws while walking on hind legs.
- ROLL OVER: Dog may be commanded through sit to down and into command of roll over.
- SHAKE: From the sit command, dog must raise paw unassisted and place it in the outstretched hand of handler.
- SLEEP: Dog may be commanded through the sit to the down and into any prone position such as laying on side or back with feet in the air.
- OBJECT RECOGNITION: Dog may demonstrate its understanding of a vocabulary beyond standard obedience and competition and/or hunting commands. Ex: handler may bring props such as feed sacks, sturdily mounted post representing a tree, and tub of water. Handler uses the word "Mouse" and dog pounces on sack as though trying to catch a hidden mouse. At the word "Squirrel", dog places its paws on mock tree and looks upward. At the word "Fish" the dog will look or leap into the tub of water. Commands will in no way resemble standard command of retrieval, but rather, indicate dog's understanding of uncommon words. At word "Bye-bye" dog might leap into a child-size car, wagon, or other mock vehicle of transportation. Use of boxes, crates, dog toys, sticks, rocks, and devices used to "kennel" dog are not acceptable.
- SERPTINE Dog weaves between handler's legs as the handler is moving.
- SPEAK: Dog barks on cue
- RETRIEVE: Get your _____ (leash, brush, name of toy)

Additional Tricks

- Kennel up (go in crate, stay in until released)
- Shake Hands
- Spin in circle
- Touch it (hand or target stick)
- Jump (through a low hoop or over a low bar)
- Hold (3 seconds)
- Carry (a basket)
- Catch (soft toy, soft ball)
- Fetch it (20 ft)
- Leg Weave (weave around handler's legs)

- Paws up (on handler's arm)
- Rollover
- Sit pretty (sit up or sit w/ head tilted)
- Wave good-bye
- Back up (walk backwards)
- Balance Treat on nose, flip to eat when told "OK"
- Barrel (roll with 2 paws, or stand with 4)
- Bow (as in "Take a bow")
- Circle right, Circle left
- Cover you eyes
- Hide your head (under blanket, front arm overhead)
- Jump over handler's back
- Play dead
- Toys (take and drop in box)

Score Sheets coming soon!

Additional Resources

Section 5: Dog Club Guidelines and Recommendations

Club Guidelines

Review the 4-H objectives at the beginning of this guide and remember that any 4-H program emphasizes positive youth development above all – even above training dogs. Club leaders should take their county volunteer leader training course and attend one of the volunteer courses specific to the dog program. A terrific resource to get started is the Utah 4-H Secretary Handbook. This handbook has all the elements of a successful 4-H club and is useful for club secretaries, leaders, and parent volunteers to review. It can be found on the 4-H website or here: <https://utah4h.org/files/Resources/Programguide/4-HSecretaryHandbook11-30.pdf>

Getting Started

1. Contact your county agent or local extension office to see what opportunities are in your area
2. Visit the Utah 4-H website with the Utah 4-H Dog Program Guide Book and become familiar with it and the other resources available to you
3. Plan to join an existing club and jump in as a co-leader or parent volunteer to learn the ropes
4. Attend general 4-H Volunteer trainings hosted by the county AND plan to attend a dog program volunteer training hosted by the Dog Program Show Committee
5. Join our Facebook group and benefit from the support of other 4-H leaders and volunteers!
6. Let us know how we can help you!

Parent Expectations

The Utah 4-H Dog Program is not a day care for humans. Parents are expected to be present at all club meetings or as often as possible to support their youth and the program as a whole. If a parent or responsible adult is unable to accompany a youth participant, prior arrangements should be made with the club leaders. Parents should be willing to volunteer 10 hours a *year* at minimum to help promote positive youth development and the success of the club. These 10 hours can vary from being a co-leader, presenter, helping at a 4-H dog show, helping at Utah 4-H State Contests in a dog related event, and many other activities.

Club Leaders

Being a club leader and striking out on your own can be a daunting task! But know that you are not truly alone. The Dog Program Committee has prepared several different tools for you. The most important thing will be to reach out to someone who has experience with the Utah 4-H Dog Program and join our terrific community of leaders and volunteers! We will help you every step of the way. If you don't have an existing club in your county, we will help you get the program moving forward. The sections below will be helpful tools to get you started. Remember that 4-H is about positive youth development first and dog training second. The secretary handbook will be a vital tool to help you create an environment conducive to both of those things!

Step 1: Contact your county extension office and find out if there is a dog club in your area
Step 2: Find out what is needed to become a club leader in your county and take the appropriate trainings
Step 3: Recruit members for your club! A club is defined as 5 or more kids from 2 or more families.

Club Meetings

There should be two types of meetings for all of our dog clubs. Some of the club meetings should be without dogs. These meetings are an excellent time for guest speakers, service projects, and leadership opportunities. The Secretary Handbook (<https://utah4h.org/files/Resources/Programguide/4-HSecretaryHandbook11-30.pdf>) and Discover 4-H Dog Clubs (<http://utah4h.org/discover/>) are both excellent resources for a non-dog club meeting and the structure of meetings where youth members bring their dogs.

Obviously a large portion of meetings will be practices where youth exhibitors have the opportunity to work with their dog projects in the group. It is imperative that these meetings are small and controlled and that parent volunteers are willing to help as necessary. Club leaders should make every attempt possible to participate in a training put on by the Utah 4-H Dog Program Committee to help them learn and understand the procedures and be prepared for situations that may arise when dogs and youth are at a meeting together.

Home Training Examples

There are times that a dog may be excused from group practices due to unruly or aggressive behavior. 4-H practice has a lot of benefits for training and is vital to success at a 4-H show, but it is not fair to either the handler or the dog, nor is it safe to other attendees, to allow unmanageable dogs to remain at practice. We never want a youth handler to feel like they are not welcome. It is imperative that club leaders and parents work together to provide options for the youth to come to club meetings and practices, even if it means using a borrowed dog at practice while they complete home training courses with their own project dog at home. Below are examples of home training protocols. Dogs that have been prescribed one of these protocols should be evaluated in a controlled setting before being invited back to group practices or club meetings.

Club Equipment

It is recommended that each club have two different items on hand at every club meeting and practice where dogs and handlers are in attendance: a club bag and a first aid kit. Club leaders should NOT feel responsible to take the financial burden of these items on themselves! Talk to your county extension staff to see what financial aid is available for these materials, and work together as a club to collect the items for each kit.

Club Bag

Each club should have a collection of “club supplies” that aid in the positive atmosphere and learning experience of youth exhibitors and their dog projects. Club leaders should work with parents and youth members to find sponsors to donate or help fund these supplies.



First Aid Kit

Club leaders should have a first aid kit on hand for every club meeting, but youth should be advised to have their own first aid kit as well.

Pet specific Items

- Phone numbers:
 - Vet, Poison Control
- Copies of Paperwork:
 - Rabies
 - Vaccinations
 - Medical Records
- Collar
- Leash
- Poop Bags
- Muzzle or strips of cloth



Basic First Aid Supplies:

- Sturdy Box, Bucket or Bag to Place Items
- Absorbent gauze pads—Various Sizes
- Adhesive tape
- Coban or Vet Wrap
- Antiseptic wipes, lotion, powder or spray
- Blanket (a foil emergency blanket)
- Cotton balls or swabs
- Gauze rolls
- Ice pack
- Non-latex disposable gloves
- Petroleum jelly (to lubricate the thermometer)
- Rectal thermometer (your pet's temperature should not rise above 103°F or fall below 100°F)
- Scissors (with blunt ends)
- Sterile non-stick gauze pads for bandages
- Sterile saline solution (sold at pharmacies)
- Betadine or Novalsan

- Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting—do this only when directed by a veterinarian or a poison control expert)
- Milk of Magnesia or Activated Charcoal (use as directed by a veterinarian or poison control expert)
- Rubbing Alcohol (to clean equipment or as directed by a veterinarian)
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment for Skin
- Ear Cleaning Solution
- Plastic Eye Dropper or Syringe
- Cotton Balls/Q-Tips

Other Useful Supplies:

- Water and Food Bowl
- Grooming Wipes
- Clorox or Hand Wipes
- Nail Clippers
- Penlight or Flashlight
- Tweezers
- Magnifying Glass
- Dish Soap (such as Dawn)
- Towels
- Needle Nosed Pliers
- Temporary Identification Tag
- Kennel or Crate
- Kennel Pad or Blanket
- Sheet or Pillow Case
- Stethoscope

Grooming Kit

Although not necessary, having a grooming kit on hand can be incredibly beneficial when developing new skills and teaching youth to care for their project.

Sturdy Box, Bucket or Bag to Place Items

Various Dog Brushes and Combs

- Bristle Brushes
- Wire Pin
- Slicker Brushes
- Rakes and Matbreakers
- Shedding Tools
- Flea Combs

Nail Trimmer

- Claw-Style Trimmers



- Guillotine Trimmers
- Scissor-like Trimmers

Styptic Powder

Filing Tools

Dog Shampoos

- Tear-free Shampoos
- Oatmeal Shampoos
- Natural Shampoos
- Medicated Shampoos

Dog Ear Care

- Ear Cleansers
- Cotton Balls or Gauze Pads
- Ear Powder
- Ear Medications

Hemostats

Dog Clippers

Grooming Table

Participant Equipment

Required

- Collar and Leash
- Water Bowl
- Portable Kennel or Crate (appropriate size)
 - Dog Bed or Blanket
 - Kennel Cover
- Dog Poop Scoop and Bags (any kind)

Recommended

- Portfolio or notebook
- Personal first aid kit
- Food and Water Bowls
- Dog Food and Water
- Dog Treats

- Dog Toys
- Clorox or Hand Wipes

Personal Equipment:

- Water
- Snacks
- Brush
- Comb
- Hair Ties (if needed)
- White Shirt
- 4-H Patch
- Chair

Section 6: Additional Information and Resources

Overnight Trips for the State Dog Show

Note, when traveling to the State Dog Show, the following items are *required*.

Vaccination records and health certificates (uploaded at time of registration)

Collar and leash

Kennel, liner, and cover

Dog Food and food and water dishes

Pet waste bags

*These items must be inspected and passed off to complete Level 2 in the Utah 4-H Dog Rank Advancements program



Traveling with your Dog

Lanette Sorensen

Traveling with your dog can add more fun to everything you do if you plan ahead. Traveling without having the things that you need can make the trip less enjoyable and create an undue amount of stress on your dog and those you are traveling with.

Always plan ahead and make sure your dog has a safe place to stay. Some hotels, camp grounds, or RV spots do not allow dogs. Make sure that you obey the regulations. If your dog is not used to staying alone all day, he will not be happy being locked in a hotel room, crate, or tied out.

The following is a list of suggested items to make sure you have an enjoyable time:

Vaccination Records and Health Certificates

Making sure you have up to date vaccinations are a must before you leave your house! This will help to protect your dog in the event you come across one that is sick or something someone left behind in the park or rest areas. Vaccination records may also be required for show events. Make sure you have a copy of current records.

In the event you have to do emergency boarding, most locations will only accept vaccination records provided by a certified veterinarian. Don't skip out on your yearly health check and vaccination updates.

Health certificates may be required for airline travel or show events. Make sure you know all the requirements before you go!

Current Contact List

Make sure that you go prepared for an emergency. Keep a current contact list of your personal veterinarian and other animal care providers. They have access to the files of your dog's complete health record and can assist an outside veterinarian if necessary.

Do a bit of pre-planning and look to where you are traveling and find a veterinarian and animal hospital. Keep a list of current phone numbers and hours of operation. This will help to minimize the stress for you and your dog in the event of an emergency.

Current Picture of Your Dog

In the unlikely event that your dog is lost or stolen, you want to have a current picture immediately available and if applicable, microchip ID information. Having an actual picture of your dog and having a lost dog flyer prepared ahead of time with your current contact information will enable local authorities to assist you in your search efforts.

Identification Tags

Check the identification tag on your dog's collar and make sure the information is current. Ask yourself, if someone found my dog, could they contact me? Check and make sure that all the information is readily available.

If you have a permanent form of identification, such as an ID microchip, make sure and bring the applicable information needed to access those services and verify that those numbers provided at the time of chipping are current.

Medications

If your dog is on medications, make sure that you have ample supply for your anticipated trip time. A current medication list should also be kept with your animal health records.

Extra Collars and Leashes

It's always a good idea to have extra collars and leashes on hand in case you need them. Depending on your activities, leashes can be chewed up, lost, equipment may malfunction and you might run across a situation where you need a longer leash or stake out. Taking the time to add a few extra items will help you if there is not a pet store nearby.

Pet Waste Bags

Part of being a responsible pet owner is making sure you are always equipped to clean up after your dog. Some places, such as a dog park, may provide these for your use but make sure you have some available for wherever you take your pet.

If you plan on driving long distances, make sure and take the time for multiple bathroom breaks! This will help to minimize any accidents and a dog that is trying to ride in the car for long distances.

Food, Water and Treats

- Make sure to bring plenty of your own food, water and treats. Traveling may upset the digestion in your dog and being able to have familiar food will help reduce any issues that may occur. Check with your veterinarian for any other tips or tricks that will help reduce the stress of traveling on your dog's stomach.
- Make sure your dog is getting plenty of water. While you may have to take more breaks than usual, having a hydrated dog will help to minimize the stress of being away from home.

Toys and Games

- Make sure to bring your dog's favorite toys plus a few new ones just for the time in the vehicle. Playing games and using the toys as a distraction is a great way to reduce travel stress on both you and your dog. Having small games available will help keep them from getting bored.

Crates, Beds, Blankets and Seat Covers

- If you have room in the vehicle, bring your dog's crate. This is a familiar place to sleep and will provide the perfect area for down time if they get stressed.
- A sheet or blanket to put over the crate will help create a safe place for your dog to be and may help them stress less.
- If you have an extra pet bed or blanket to take with you, this will help to keep your dog in a familiar area while you are at a strange location when they are out and about from their crate.

- Remember your seat covers for your vehicle.

Traveling in a Vehicle

- Know ahead of time how your dog travels. If they experience car sickness, have them travel on an empty stomach then feed and water them when you reach your destination. Small sips of room temperature water will help with any dehydration issues.
- Make sure the vehicle is well ventilated and that the dog has plenty of room to move around. Never leave your dog unattended in your vehicle for any amount of time.
- Try to keep the dog from sticking its head out the window of a moving vehicle or riding in the back of an open bed truck. Serious injury and/or death can occur if they are struck by debris or jump out of a moving vehicle.
- Keep dog toys and activities handy and remind everyone not to tease or agitate the dog.

Good Items to Have on Hand

Here is a list of “good idea” items to have on hand when traveling with your pet. It can also be helpful for you too! These can be stored in a bag, box or storage container:

- Paper Towels
- Zip-loc Bags
- Lint Roller
- Grooming Supplies
- First Aid Kit
- Clorox Wipes
- Pet Wipes

References for Test

All testing materials will come from these resources for any State or Regional show, quiz bowl contest, or similar event.

- Utah 4-H Dog Program Guide
- Discover 4-H Dog Club Guides (all published materials at time of registration)
- Ohio State University Dog Program Resource Guide

A Note to Judges

We know that being an official figure at any event can be a thankless job. We have no doubt that you have agreed to judge because you love dogs and want to promote the team work, partnerships, satisfaction, and fulfillment that showing dogs can bring. That's why we do what we do too! But first and foremost, 4-H is a youth organization focused on positive youth development (PYD). We believe that dog projects are one of the best, and most useful tools for PYD. As a judge for our event, we ask you to remember that our youth exhibitors will look up to you and your example. Please be a good one. We expect you to be a teacher first, and to leave any personal agendas or vendettas for another time and another place. Please be prompt, kind, and appropriately dressed. As a judge you will need to remain impartial. If you co-own a dog at the show or feel you will have bias that may significantly alter the outcome of our show, please respectfully let the show management know so that arrangements can be made if necessary. Again, we know that being a judge is a thankless job at times, and we hope that your experience with the Utah 4-H Dog Program will be a pleasant one. We hope that our gratitude to your time and efforts is obvious and that you will join us again!

Sincerely,
Show Management