

Guide to the UConn 4-H Dog Program and 4-H Dog shows



Contents

Connecticut Guide to the 4-H Dog Program and 4-H Dog shows	1
Section 1: Objectives of the 4-H Dog Program	4
Section 2: Eligibility of 4-H Member	4
Section 3: Dog Project Requirements	5
Section 4: Sharing of Project Dogs	5
Section 5: Eligibility of Dog	6
Section 6: Verification and Lease Forms	7
Section 7: Member and Adult Rules for Conduct	7
Section 8: Ribbons and Awards.....	8
Point System for Danish Ribbons.....	8
Section 9: Problems regarding Placements/Awards/Judging	8
Section 10: County Dog Show Entry.....	9
Section 11: Dog Show Classes and Explanations	9
Introduction to Showing	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fitting and Showmanship	11
Obedience.....	12
Section 12: General Knowledge/Canine Challenge/Dog Knowledge	15
Section 13: Eastern States Eligibility	16
Section 14: 4-H Judges	17

Introduction

The primary purpose of this manual is to serve as a guide for 4-H members and leaders interested in the 4-H Dog Program in Connecticut. It provides an overview of what should occur in both the fitting and showmanship and obedience rings at a 4-H Dog Event.

The secondary purpose of this manual is to provide more uniformity among the Connecticut 4-H Fair Dog shows that are held in the state. By doing this, members will be better prepared for regional competitions, such as the 4-H Dog Show at Eastern States Exposition, and have an understanding of what is expected at each county 4-H fair they may attend in Connecticut.

Finally, this manual may be used to help 4-H Dog Project leaders to better understand what is expected of their members in competitive activities. It can be used as a valuable tool in giving direction to educational programs carried out in 4-H Club meetings and during training sessions.

The 4-H Dog Show is the high point of the year for many 4-H dog project members. It gives the members an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned throughout the year in caring for, training, and grooming their dog, as well as the general dog knowledge they have acquired during this process. The dog show serves as a tool to develop good sportsmanship. It is also an excellent opportunity to show to the public what is being accomplished through 4-H work and shows that any dog, purebred or mixed-breed can be a well-behaved member of the community.

The 4-H Dog Project encourages young people to set goals and by doing this helps to develop self-confidence, problem solving techniques, self-discipline, and a feeling of self worth in members. The dog project also teaches the 4-H member the responsibilities of caring for another living thing, while emphasizing the skills and accomplishments of each individual.

Section 1: Objectives of the 4-H Dog Program

All 4-H projects are designed for youth to gain knowledge and practice skill that revolve around a topic of interest to them. Specifically these are:

- 1) Develop and practice skills in setting goals, self-responsibility, teamwork, and leadership
- 2) Develop communication skills and an appreciation for learning
- 3) Develop integrity, sportsmanship, decision-making skills, and public presentation skills
- 4) Care about and serve others through community service projects
- 5) Learn about general dog care and maintenance
- 6) Identify dog breeds and learn their characteristics
- 7) Demonstrate abilities in dog care, management, feeding, care, first aid, handling, grooming, and training
- 8) Explore career opportunities within animal science, specifically dog-related fields
- 9) Learn to keep accurate records of their project

Section 2: Eligibility of 4-H Member

- 1) Member must be at least 7 years old (by January 1st of the current 4-H year) to participate with a dog
- 2) Members must not have reached their 19th birthday by January 1st of the current 4-H year
- 3) Members must have registered online at 4-H Online (<https://www.4honline.com/>) and have filled out a Connecticut 4-H Enrollment form and have it on file in their county office for the current year
- 4) Members must have a current, signed Code of Conduct form on file for the current 4-H year
- 5) Members must keep a Project Record (record book) for each dog that they are using as a project animal
 - a) Project Records are available through each county office or can be obtained online from the Connecticut 4-H website (<http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/>) from the “Resources>Record Keeping” tab or directly from: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/record.php>
- 6) Members may carry projects in more than one county or across state line in order to take advantage of the dog program. However, they may only be enrolled in the dog project in one county. (*For example: Susie can live in Massachusetts and enroll in the dog project in Hartford County or Susie can be enrolled in the dog project in Hartford County and the sheep project in Tolland County. But, Susie cannot be enrolled in the dog program in BOTH Hartford and Tolland County.*)
- 7) Members must have completed an Animal Verification Form-Large Animal for each project dog on file in their county office by June 1st of the current 4-H year. Verification forms and guidelines can be found at: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php>
 - a) Verification forms may be submitted late in accordance with county regulations. However, Verification forms submitted after June 1st of the current year, regardless of county regulations, are NOT ELIGIBLE for entry at the Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dog Show.
- 8) Leased animals must have a signed lease agreement on file in the county office by June 1st of the current 4-H year. Lease agreements can be found at: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php>

- 9) Enrollment is open to all interested youth meeting the age requirements, without discrimination on account of race ethnicity, religion, sex, age, marital status, national origin ancestry, sexual orientation, disabled veteran status, physical or mental disabilities, and criminal records that are not job related.
- 10) Members with special needs (physical, learning, etc.) may request accommodations by informing their leaders or county extension agents or by indicating their need on their entry forms for a show. The leaders, county and or state 4-H office, and show committee will work with the member's county and/or state 4-H office to ensure the proper arrangements are made. *Indicating this need as early as possible will greatly aid both the member and leaders/4-H office in making the necessary accommodations and giving the member an enjoyable and educational experience.*

Section 3: Dog Project Requirements

- 1) Member must have access to a dog for training purposes. Dog(s) may be owned by the member, member's family, or leased by the member (see section on Animal Verification).
- 2) Only the enrolled 4-H member is allowed to train the project dog. Training assistance in the learning situation can include occasional handling or training by another person, as long as the 4-H member is present, but the majority of the training must be done by the 4-H member.
- 3) The project dog may only be trained by the 4-H member at training classes. This includes both 4-H training classes and classes taken outside of the 4-H Program.
- 4) The Dog Project involves general dog care/knowledge, fitting and showmanship, and obedience with the same dog. Members are not allowed to use one dog for fitting and showmanship and a different dog for obedience. When showing, the scores for only one dog will count towards the points for that day.

Section 4: Sharing of Project Dogs

- 1) Dogs may be shared by 4-H members
- 2) Should 2 members with the same project dog be eligible for the same class, a "Conflict Class" should be utilized.
 - a) A conflict class can be held before the start of the regular show or at any other point where it will not be in direct conflict with any classes, but before the class(es) for which the Conflict Class is being held. The Conflict Class should be judged by the judge that is scheduled to judge the class that is in conflict.
 - b) Fitting & Showmanship and Group exercises can be combined into one group, provided the requirements for the judge are followed from Section 4:2a above.
 - c) Each member in the Conflict Class will be judged according to the requirements for the class in which it is entered.
 - d) At the end of the Conflict Class, the scoresheet will be held until the judging of the appropriate class, and placed accordingly.

- 3) In the event that there should be a tie between two handlers sharing a project dog, one handler will have to forfeit the tie and accept the lower placing.
- 4) Shared dogs may be used by each 4-Her in a different category or division, provided the dog and/or handler meet the requirements for each individual class.
- 5) In the event that both handlers become eligible for a Champion class (*example: fitting and showmanship Champion*) only one member may take the shared project dog into the Champion class. The second handler must forfeit competition in the Champion class.
- 6) At shows, a handler may only be entered competitively ONCE in the same class.

Section 5: Eligibility of Dog

- 1) Dogs do not need to meet an age requirement in order to be a project animal, but MUST be at least 6 months old on the day of the show in order to be shown at a 4-H fair. Dogs participating in Agility activities must be at least one year old (12 months) on the day of the show.
- 2) Dogs may be purebreds or mixed breeds (All-American), with no preference given to either.
- 3) Dogs may be male or female, neutered or intact.
- 4) Females in season are NOT allowed on show grounds or at 4-H events. (Lactating and pregnant females are allowed at the event committee's discretion, but it is NOT recommended.)
- 5) Dogs with disabilities, such as blindness or deafness, are allowed to participate in 4-H events provided they have a letter from a veterinarian stating the disability and any permanent conditions (such as a permanent limp) which may be present and need to be taken into consideration in the dog's performance or ability to participate in 4-H activities.
 - a) The letter must be sent with the dog's other health paperwork to the event superintendent. The letter must be updated yearly. Failure to provide a veterinarian's letter may result in the dog being refused entry or participation in events or the loss of points in judged events.
 - b) The 4-H member must carry a copy of the letter with them to all 4-H events.
- 6) Dogs that show aggression towards a person or other dog on show grounds or at a 4-H event will be asked to leave the event and future participation of that dog is subject to leader and/or event committee decision.
 - a) If a dog is asked to leave the grounds because of an aggression incident, a "**CT Dog Incident Form**" should be filled out and sent to the county 4-H office of the dog's home county to be kept on file.
- 7) All 4-H dogs MUST be vaccinated against Rabies in accordance with state law and members must carry a current certificate with the veterinarian's signature.
- 8) Dogs must also be vaccinated against Distemper and Parvovirus (either 1 year or 3 year vaccines are acceptable) and show proof of such vaccination. Titers are acceptable and must be done yearly, or within twelve months of the show or event date. *It is highly recommended that dogs also be vaccinated against Hepatitis/Adenovirus, Leptospirosis, Coronavirus, Parainfluenza, Kennel Club, and Canine Influenza, depending on their veterinarian's recommendations.*
- 9) Dog eligibility is the same whether the dog is owned, leased, primary dog, or alternate dog.
- 10) Wolf dogs, wolf-hybrids, coyotes, or coyote-hybrids are NOT eligible to be used as a 4-H dog project.

Section 6: Verification and Lease Forms

- 1) Each Dog/Member team must have a completed Connecticut Animal Verification Form-Large Animal on file in their county office by June 1st of the current 4-H year. (Forms may be found at: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php>
 - a) Verification Forms may be submitted late in accordance with state regulations.
 - b) Verification Forms submitted AFTER June 1st, regardless of late acceptance, ARE NOT eligible for participation at 4-H events at Eastern States Expositions. See <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php>
- 2) If a member is training and working with more than one dog, one dog must be designated as the “Primary” project and the other must be designated as the “Alternate” project.
- 3) If a dog is leased, a completed “Contract for Lease of 4-H Project Animals” must be on file in their county office by June 1st of the current 4-H year. The form may be found at: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php> . *It is strongly encouraged for the member and the dog’s owner to have a written agreement, outlining what is expected from both parties.*
- 4) No more than two leased animals are allowed in one project area.
- 5) All necessary forms can be obtained from each county 4-H office or online at the Connecticut 4-H website: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/index.php> under the tab “Resources>Forms” or directly from: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/resource/form.php> .

Section 7: Member and Adult Rules for Conduct

- 1) Dress Code:
 - a) Members and adults must dress appropriately for 4-H events. This includes, but not limited to: no bare midriffs, skirts or shorts of appropriate length (no more than 3 inches above the knee), no overly revealing clothing.
 - b) At events, 4-H members may not have clothing advertising a kennel or a breed
 - c) NO open-toed shoes, flip-flops, sandals, or clogs are allowed while participating in a 4-H dog event. Properly secured sneakers or closed-toe shoes are allowed.
 - d) At CT 4-H dog shows, suggested uniform is: green bottoms (skirt, pants, culottes, jumper) and a white top.
- 2) Behavior
 - a) Drinking of alcoholic beverages or smoking at 4-H events is not allowed
 - b) All those attending a 4-H event (members, parents, guardians, siblings, guests) must follow the Code of Conduct set forth by those running the event.
- 3) Members are expected to participate fully in the events for which they are taking part.
- 4) At events, 4-H members are responsible for 100% of the care, feeding, training, and safety of their dog. 4-H members may ask other 4-H members for assistance in completing these tasks if necessary. ***Exception: Anyone, preferably an adult, should immediately assist in the event of an emergency (i.e. dog fight, loose dog, other emergencies)***

- 5) **Adults are not allowed to handle or groom dogs while at a 4-H Dog Show.**
- 6) Coaching from ringside is not allowed at 4-H events and may result in forfeiture of all prizes or premiums.
- 7) Only 4-H members and show committee are allowed in the show rings at any time.
- 8) 4-H members MAY receive assistance from another 4-H member at 4-H events. If a member is not immediately available, assistance may come from an approved leader, instructor, or judge.
- 9) Anyone mistreating an animal will be asked to leave the 4-H event.
- 10) Members and adults that violate any of these will be asked to leave the event and any prizes, ribbons, or awards will be forfeited.
- 11) 4-H members are expected to follow these rules as well as those items as appear and were signed by the member in the 4-H Membership Form Code of Conduct.

Section 8: Ribbons and Awards

- 1) All 4-H dog shows are judged under the Danish system or the Dual-Merit System.
 - a) Under the Danish system, each exhibit is judged on its own individual merits. Danish ribbons are awarded based on the number of points the exhibit earned.
 - b) Under the Dual-Merit System, an exhibit is judged both on the Danish system and the Standard system, which judges an exhibit against the other exhibits in a given class.
- 2) Members receiving coaching or help from outside the ring (including double handling) will forfeit all awards for that class.
- 3) Danish Ribbons will be awarded using the following point system:

Point System for Danish Ribbons

Ribbon Color	Fitting & Show	Obedience	Dog Knowledge	Intro. to Showing
Blue	100-90 points	200-170 points	100-80 points	100-85 points
Red	89.5-90 points	169.5-130 points	79.5-60 points	84.5-70 points
White	79.5-70 points	129.5-100 points	59.5-40 points	69.5-55 points
Yellow	Below 70 points	Below 100 points	Below 40 points	Below 55 points

Section 9: Problems regarding Placements/Awards/Judging

- 1) All questions regarding a judge's placements or scores should be brought to the attention of the show committee as soon as possible.
- 2) Under no circumstances should a judge be approached by an exhibitor, parent or guardian in regard to questioning a placement or score of a given class. Such problems or concerns should be brought to the show committee.
- 3) The decision of the judge is final.
- 4) Members should review their scoresheets before leaving the show. If a mathematical error is found, they will be taken care of ONLY at the end of the show ON show grounds.

Section 10: County Dog Show Entry

- 1) All entries must be made in accordance with each fair's specific rules and regulations
- 2) Each fair's classes are listed in the fair's fair book
- 3) Copies of each fair book can be obtained from the county 4-H office of either the fair's county or the member's home county
 - a) The contacts for each county office can be found at: <http://www.4-h.uconn.edu/contact.php>
- 4) It is the responsibility of the **member** to read and understand the rules for each fair and enter the appropriate classes.
- 5) All members must send a **copy** of their Verification Form with their entry to the show superintendent as proof that they are exhibiting their project animal.
- 6) Once a member and dog move up to a new class, the member and dog may not drop back to a previous (lower level) class. Progression from class to class must always be towards an advancement of skills.

Section 11: Dog Show Classes and Explanations

Introduction to Showing

- 1) General Rules
 - a) The objective of the class is to demonstrate that the member's dog has learned how to sit, stay, come when called, and walk calmly on leash, as well as a basic gaiting pattern and basic exam that will be used in the Fitting & Showmanship ring. The member will demonstrate general knowledge of dogs and dog care, including home care, feeding, health, and their dog's breed (or most predominant breed in the case of All-Americans).
 - b) 4-Hers entering this class may NOT enter any other classes at the 4-H Fair Dog show except for the Dog Knowledge Event and/or the gymkhana or games classes, if offered.
 - c) Members that win the Introduction to Showing classes ARE NOT eligible to compete for Champion Showman (or Premier Showman, if offered) or High Overall (award that combines scores for Dog Knowledge, Obedience, and Fitting & Showmanship).
 - d) Members who have shown in a regular 4-H obedience class or in a non-4-H obedience class (AKC, UKC, ASCA, AMBOR) in previous years are NOT eligible to participate in Introduction to Showing.
 - e) Members may show in this class for 1 year. (Members ARE NOT required to show in this class if they feel they and their dog are ready for the challenges of the Sub-Novice or more advanced obedience classes.)
 - f) The class will be divided into Junior and Senior (ages based on each fair's rules and ages).
 - g) Members are eligible to show in Novice, Sub-Novice A or Sub-Novice B Fitting & showmanship for one year after they have shown in Introduction to Showing.
 - h) Members that show in Introduction to Showing are NOT eligible for participation at the Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dog Show with a dog the year in which they participate in the Introduction to Showing class. (For example, if an exhibitor shows in Introduction to Showing for the 2015-

2016 4-H year, they cannot enter a dog at the ESE Dog Show for the 2015-2016 show.) They may participate as a steward, if they meet the age requirement and enter.

- i) Danish Ribbons will be awarded as follows: Blue- 100-85 points, Red- 84.5-70 points, White- 69.5-55 points, Yellow- below 55 points.

2) Evaluation

a) Dog Behavior

- i) Walk on Leash/Sit- handler must walk around the ring at least twice, with 2 sits performed. No points are to be taken off for lagging, extra commands, or poor sits. The handler just has to demonstrate that the dog can walk calmly around the ring and sit when asked.
- ii) Come When Called/Recall- Handler will ask dog to sit and stay and go to the end of the 6' leash. Handler will then call the dog. No points are to be taken off for no sit in front, poor sits, or no finish. This exercise only demonstrates that the dog will come when called.
- iii) Sit or Stand for Exam- Handler will choose the position for the exam. The handler may remain in heel position. The judge approaches the dog and touches the dog on the head. Dog should not attempt to excessively greet or excessively shy away from the judge. No points will be taken off if the handler gives extra commands or the dog makes slight changes in position.

b) Cleanliness and Condition- Judge will examine the overall condition and cleanliness of the dog including the coat, ears, teeth, and that the toenails are trimmed.

c) Showmanship Skills- For both age groups, the dog should sustain a trot for the duration of the pattern. No points will be deducted if the handler chooses to hold the leash in both hands rather than just the left.

- i) Junior Exhibitors: The dog and handler will complete a "down & back" pattern.
- ii) Senior Exhibitors: Dog and handler will either complete a "down & back" pattern or a "triangle" pattern. Whichever pattern is chosen, it should be the same for each Senior exhibitor entered in the class.

d) Member's Knowledge- the judge will assess the handler's knowledge regarding health, nutrition/feeding, their dog's breed, and general 4-H knowledge. Questions can come from the list below:

i) Health

- (1) What do you use to keep your dog clean?
- (2) What do you do to play with your dog?
- (3) What is a dog's normal temperature? (Answer: 101-102.5 degrees)
- (4) How many teeth does an adult dog have? (Answer: 42)
- (5) Which vaccine is required by CT state law? (Answer: Rabies)
- (6) Name one external parasite (bug that lives on your dog). (Answer: fleas, ticks, lice, mites, flies)
- (7) Name one internal parasite (bug that lives inside your dog). (Answer: Round, tape, hook, whip, heartworm)

ii) Nutrition/Feeding

- (1) What do you feed your dog?
- (2) What should always have available for your dog? (Answer: water)

- (3) Name 3 types of dog food (NOT brands). (Answer- moist, semi-moist, dry)
- iii) General Knowledge
- (1) What is your dog's name?
 - (2) What is your dog's breed? For All-Americans, what mix of breeds do you think your dog is?
 - (3) What is a group of puppies born at the same time (with the same mother) called? (Answer: litter)
 - (4) What is the name for the father of puppies called? (Answer: Sire)
 - (5) What is the name for the mother of puppies called? (Answer: Dam)
 - (6) Name one of the AKC breed groups. (Answer: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, Herding. Also accepted, Miscellaneous)
 - (7) What are the 4-H colors? (Answer: green & white)
 - (8) What is the 4-H motto? (Answer: To make the best better)
 - (9) Name one of the "H" in 4-H? (Answer: Head, Heart, Hands, or Health)
- e) Handler- Exhibitor should be neat and meet the show's dress code, as outlined in each show's rules or regulations. Exhibitor should be attentive to the judge and his/her dog, and be able to follow basic directions.
- 3) A sample score sheet can be found at the end of this manual

Fitting and Showmanship

- 1) Purpose: to demonstrate the 4-H member's ability to show his/her project dog to the best of their ability, as if they were presenting their dog in the conformation ring at an AKC, UKC, or other breed association show. The member should present a clean, healthy dog, well-groomed dog, must have a basic understanding of general conformation in order to show off the dog's best points, while minimizing any faults, demonstrate proper ring procedure, and the proper way to present their dog for examination by a judge. In no way should the dog's conformation be considered when scoring an exhibitor.
- 2) Acceptable patterns for gaiting include: "around the ring" or the "O", the "I" or "up and back", the triangle, the "L", the "T", and the down and back with 2 dogs gaiting side by side. Also acceptable are the reverse patterns of the triangle, "L", and "T" patterns. (Please see gaiting patterns at the end of this manual for explanations.) In the "up and back" patterns, handlers may choose to either turn towards their dog or away from their dog, as long as the movement is done smoothly and efficiently.
- 3) Courtesy turns may be done at the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern and are encouraged. If performed, they should be done smooth and efficiently.
- 4) Dogs should be stacked or posed as their breed would be in an AKC conformation event. All – Americans should be presented as closely as possible to the breed that they most resemble.
- 5) Dogs should be clean, free from parasites, and free from mats and excessive loose hair. Show clips will not be considered, although grooming scores should strive to recognize the efforts in grooming.
- 6) Baiting is allowed at the judge's discretion. When done, baiting should not hinder nor distract others in the ring.
- 7) Dogs may be shown on a show lead (such as a one piece martingale, Resco-type lead, etc.) or on a slip collar (leather, chain, or fabric) and attached leash. The handler's ability to control the dog's

show equipment in a non-distracting manner is more important than the actual equipment being used by the handler.

- 8) Judges may (and are encouraged) to ask questions in the fitting and showmanship ring. Sources for classes are listed under the General Knowledge section of this manual, but can cover general dog care, dog first aid, AKC Obedience Rules & Regulations, and the exhibitor's dog's breed history and original purpose. Questions regarding the specific show's rules and 4-H rules may also be used as sources of questions.
- 9) When and if classes are divided based on experience, it is based on the number of years the HANDLER has been showing dogs, either in 4-H events OR other recognized dog activities (i.e. AKC, UKC, breed associations, etc.) not the dog's age or previous show experience.
- 10) Classes for Fitting and Showmanship
 - a) Should be divided based on handler's age and experience level, if the entry is large enough. An example of classes would be:
 - i) Novice (1-2 years experience)
 - ii) Intermediate (3-4 years experience)
 - iii) Advanced (5 or more years experience)
 - iv) Open (anyone who has shown at least 3 times at non-4-H shows OR those that handle dogs for others as a job (i.e. professional handler or professional handler's assistant))

Obedience

- 1) Generally, AKC rules will be followed, with modifications for 4-H, for all obedience classes unless otherwise noted.
- 2) Acceptable collars include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars or slip collars (also known as choke or training collars) of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric, or chain with two rings, one at each end, or properly fitted martingale (limited slip) collar. Leashes may be made of leather or fabric. In Sub-Novice and Beginner Novice classes, leashes should be six feet in length. In Preferred Novice, Novice, Pre-Graduate Novice, Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, and Utility classes, the leash need only be long enough to provide sufficient slack in the heel on leash exercise. Chain leashes, retractable leashes, prong collars, spiked collars, any type of electric collars, harnesses, and head halters are not acceptable in the show ring. Head halters may be used for training purposes only. In Assistance Dog classes, head halters, harnesses, or vests/capes/jackets may be worn in the ring while showing accordance with the assistance dog school's regulations.
- 3) In classes that are divided into "A" and "B" divisions, the "A" division is for those exhibitors that are exhibiting in that level for the first time. A member and/or dog is only eligible to show in the "A" division for one year. If they show at the same level (i.e. sub-novice) in subsequent years, they must be entered in the "B" division the second year. Also, if the 4-Her gets a new dog, and the new dog is shown at the same level where the previous dog was shown, the new dog must be entered in the "B" division of the level. *For example, if Tim shows his first 4H dog, Fluffy, in Novice A, and then gets another dog, Spot, and Spot is showing at the novice level, Tim & Spot must enter in Novice B.*
- 4) Dogs must be shown in the class they have been trained for (and have competed in), independent of the handler's experience. If a dog has been trained or shown by a different handler in previous years

(or the same year, in the case of shared project animals), the dog must be shown in the level it has been shown in previously.

- a) Once a dog has been shown competitively in a particular 4-H obedience class, that dog can no longer be shown at a lower class or level
- 5) Handlers and dogs that have shown at non-4-H shows, including, but not limited to, AKC, UKC, ASCA, or sanctioned matches, are required to enter the “B” division of the class.
- 6) In classes requiring jumps, jumps are to be set according to AKC rules for the class or according to these regulations, whichever is lower. 4-Hers may opt to have their dogs jump higher than those stated in these regulations, but will neither be penalized nor rewarded.
 - a) Dogs with a documented medical condition may jump at heights lower than those stated in these regulations, with no penalty, as long as they have followed the regulations in Section 5.5.
- 7) In 4-H shows, dogs that foul the ring will receive a zero for that exercise, but are allowed to complete the class and be scored. Their score sheet is marked “NP-fouled ring” for “non-placement-fouled ring” . The dog and handler will not receive a placement (according to the standard system of judging, i.e. 1st -4th).
- 8) In 4-H shows, dogs that run around the ring “uncontrollable” will receive a zero (0) for that exercise and will complete the remaining exercises on leash. Dog and handler will receive a NP (non-placement) score.
- 9) Examples of scores sheets for the classes are included at the end of this manual.

Obedience Class Descriptions

- 1) Sub-Novice- ALL exercises are performed on leash. These include: heel on lead (45 points), Figure 8 (25 points), Stand for Examination (30 points), Recall (40 points), Long Sit- 1 minute (30 points), Long Down- 3 minutes (30 points).
 - a) Divided in “A” and “B” sections . (See Section 11. Obedience, 3)
 - b) Dogs must not have been shown competitively in Sub-Novice C or more advanced classes
 - c) This is considered an “on leash” class
- 2) Assistance Dog Sub-Novice- For those dogs that are to be utilized in an assistance dog program and are part of a bona fide assistance dog program. The same rules for “A” and “B” divisions hold true for assistance dog classes. Exercises are the same as those in the Sub-Novice class, but are to be judged in accordance to the assistance dog organization’s specific puppy- raising guidelines (i.e. guide dog puppies might be expected to “forward” when heeling and are not to sit when doing a halt)
 - a) This is considered an “on leash” class
- 3) Sub-Novice C- Performed according the United Kennel Club (UKC) rules for the Sub-Novice class. Complete rules may be found under “Obedience Rules” at:
<http://www.ukcdogs.com/Web.nsf/WebPages/DogEvents/Obedience> . All exercises are done on leash. Exercises include: Honoring (40 points), Heel on Leash and Figure 8 (40 points), Stand for Examination (40 points), Recall Over Jump (40 points), Long Sit- 1 minute (40 points)

- a) Minimum jump heights will be as follows in the table below:

Height of Dog at Withers	Jump Height
Under 10 inches	4 inches
10 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches
20 inches and over	16 inches

- b) Dogs must not have been shown competitively in Beginner Novice or more advanced classes
- c) This is considered an “On Leash” class
- 4) **Beginner Novice**- Exercises include: Heel on Leash (40 points), Figure 8- on leash (40 points), Sit for Exam- on leash (40 points), Sit stay- dog’s leash is attached to collar and dropped at dog’s side. Handler walks forward, and then around the entire perimeter of the ring, back to front, then returns to dog (40 points), Recall- handler removes leash and carries leash, walks 20 feet away, and calls the dog on the judge’s signal. There is no finish (40 points). *An example of how this class is run can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8vG8izORnk> or <http://www.akc.org/events/obedience/getting-started/> and find the link for “Beginner Novice Video”*
- a) Dogs in this class must not have been shown competitively in Preferred Novice or more advanced levels
- b) This class *may* be divided into “A” and “B” divisions (See Section 11. Obedience, 3)
- c) This is considered an “On Leash” class
- 5) **Preferred Novice**- Exercises include: Heel on Leash & Figure 8 (40 points), Stand for Examination- off leash (40 points), Heel Free (40 points), Recall-off leash (40 points), Stay- sit or down. Handler walk around ring (40 points)
- a) Dogs entered in this class must not have been shown competitively in Novice or more advanced levels
- b) This class *may* be divided into “A” and “B” sections. (See Section 11. Obedience, 3)
- c) This is considered an “Off Leash” class
- d) Once a dog has earned 3 qualifying scores (lifetime) or earned 3 blue Danish ribbons in this class, the dog and handler must progress to a more advanced class for the following 4-H year.
- 6) **Novice**- Exercises include: Heel on leash & Figure 8 (40 points), Stand for Exam-off leash (30 points), Heel of Leash (40 points), Recall-off leash (30 points), Long sit- 1 min, leash dropped at dog’s side (30 points), Long Down- 3 min, leash dropped at dog’s side (30 points)
- a) Dogs entered in the class must not have been shown competitively in Pre-Graduate Novice or more advanced classes
- b) This class is divided into “A” and “B” sections (see Section 11. Obedience, 3)
- c) Dogs that have completed their CD or equivalent must enter the “B” section.
- i) If a dog has completed its CD or equivalent after the time the entries have closed, the dog & handler must be moved to the “B” section before the start of the show or event.

- d) Once a dog has earned 3 qualifying scores (lifetime) or earned 3 blue Danish ribbons in this class, the dog and handler must progress to a more advanced class for the following 4-H year.
- 7) Pre-Graduate Novice- Exercises include: Heel on lead (40 points), Stand for Exam off lead (30 points), Heel Free & Figure 8 (40 points), Drop on Recall (30 points), Long Sit- 3 minutes, handler out of sight (30 points), Long Down- 5 minutes, handler out of sight (30 points)
 - a) Once a dog has earned 3 qualifying scores (lifetime) or earned 3 blue Danish ribbons in this class, the dog and handler must progress to a more advanced class for the following 4-H year.
- 8) Graduate Novice- Exercises include: Heel on Leash and Figure 8 off leash (40 points), Drop on Recall (40 points), Dumbbell Recall (30 points), Recall Over High Jump (30 points), Recall Over Broad Jump (30 points), Long Down- 3 minutes, handlers out of sight (30 points)
 - a) Once a dog has earned 3 qualifying scores (lifetime) or earned 3 blue Danish ribbons in this class, the dog and handler must progress to a more advanced class for the following 4-H year.
 - b) Exhibitor is required to provide their own dumbbell
- 9) Open- Follows AKC Open Rules. Exercises Include: Heel free & Figure 8 (40 points), Drop on Recall (30 points), Retrieve on Flat (20 points), Retrieve Over High Jump (30 points), Broad Jump (20 points), Long Sit- 3 minutes, handler out of sight (30 points), Long Down- 5 minutes, handler out of sight (30 points)
 - a) May be divided into "A" and "B" sections
 - i) Dogs entered in "A" classes must not have completed their CDX or equivalent, or have earned 3 blue Danish ribbons in the Open class.
 - ii) Dogs entered in the "B" classes may have completed their CDX, equivalent, or have earned 3 blue Danish ribbons, but must not have completed their UD title.
 - b) Exhibitor is required to provide their own dumbbell
- 10) Utility- Follows AKC Utility class rules. Exercises include: Signal Exercise (40 points), Scent Discrimination Article #1 (30 points), Scent Discrimination Article #2 (30 points), Directed Retrieve (30 points), Moving Stand and Examination (30 points), Directed Jumping (40 points)
 - a) May be divided into "A" and "B" sections
 - i) Dogs entered in the "A" section must not have completed their UD, its equivalent, or earned 3 blue Danish ribbons
 - ii) Dogs entered in the "B" section may have completed their UD or higher degrees
 - b) Exhibitors are required to provide their own articles for the scent discrimination exercises

Section 12: General Knowledge/Canine Challenge/Dog Knowledge

- 1) All 4-H members are encouraged to learn dog knowledge, including, but not limited to: general care & maintenance, diseases and disease prevention, basic first aid, common medical problems, dog breeds (AKC-based), training techniques, grooming, dog-related careers, and any other dog-related topics. Questions can also come from each fair's particular rules and regulations, or the 4-H program in general.
- 2) 4-H members are expected to demonstrate their knowledge by taking a written test at county fairs and at Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dog Show covering topics listed in Section 12.1, plus visuals

(breed identification, equipment identification, identification of dog activities) with focus on specific topics named yearly. The topics will include at least one AKC group (i.e. working group) and some other aspect of dogs. These topics are determined in October/November at the New England 4-H Dog Show Committee meeting . These topics can be viewed and downloaded from the 4-H Dog Packet on the Big E website, www.thebige.com, after February 1st.

- 3) Members are expected to answer questions as part of the fitting and showmanship class. These questions can be based on any of the topics listed in Section 12.1 or the member's particular dog's breed and original function.
- 4) Sources for questions may come from any of the following: *AKC Complete Dog Book*, www.akc.org; *American Red Cross Book Dog First Aid, Safety Series, vol. 2-* distributed by the American Red Cross; *Dog Resource Handbook* (OSU Extension) available from <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=201r> , *AKC Dog Care & Training; Meet the Breeds: A Guide to More than 200 AKC Breeds*, Lumina Media; 5 edition (March 1, 2016), **ISBN-13:** 978-1621871170, *AKC Canine Citizen*, by Mary Burch
- 5) Scores for the written tests should be based on the number or percentage correct, not the number or percentage incorrect
- 6) If a 4-H member has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at school, the member's parent/guardian may submit a written request to be submitted with the dog show entry in order for a test to be offered that follows a specific IEP
 - a) If pre-entry is not required, such request should be submitted to the 4-H program coordinator of the county in which the dog show will take place **at least 21 days before the fair.**
 - b) It is the understanding of the 4-H member and his or her parent/guardian that a reasonable attempt will be made to offer such a test and will follow the IEP as closely as possible
 - i) There is no guarantee that the person making the test adaptation has any special training and is making the adaptations to the best of his or her ability with the information provided. The member, or parent/guardian cannot hold such person responsible for not following the IEP exactly.
- 7) Awards and placements are made according to age divisions (Junior and Senior)

Section 13: Eastern States Eligibility

- 1) Member must be 12 years old as of January 1st of the current year
- 2) Member must have a Verification Form on file in the county office by June 1st. No exceptions or late verification forms will be considered for ESE eligibility.
- 3) If a member is planning on entering a dog at the ESE 4-H Dog show, the 4-H Member must show their project dog(s) at a qualifying 4-H fair
 - a) A "qualifying" fair must: Be open to all 4-H dog project members and offer the dog show classes as listed in Section 11 of this manual, as well as a written dog knowledge test as outlined in Section 12 of this manual.
 - b) If the 4-H member is planning on entering a primary and an alternate or assistance dog, all dogs must be shown at a qualifying fair. Alternate or assistance dogs may be shown in a conflict class and be considered "shown to qualify"

- c) Members that have shown only in Introduction to Showing Classes are NOT eligible to enter a dog at the ESE Dog show, but may enter as a steward
- 4) ALL 4-H members must submit proof that they have completed a Project Record for their project animals for the current year. The form "Proof of Record Book" can be used for this purpose and is found at the end of this manual and must be signed by the 4-H County Program Educator for the member's county. *This can be done at the member's county fair if their Project Record book is entered for judging at the fair.*
- 5) Members must submit a "Dog Activity Signature Form" for each dog to their county office by the specified deadline on the form.
 - i) Forms and Rules may be obtained from each county's 4-H office or online at www.thebige.com then "Competitions>4-H>Packets" page
- 6) Entries for the ESE Dog show are done online through the Big E online entry found on the Big E website, www.thebige.com then "Competitions>4-H>Packets> 4-H Dog Form" page
 - a) Entries must be completed by the deadline stated on the website. NO EXCEPTIONS OR LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED
- 7) Entries for Stewards (members that attend the 4-H Dog Show without Dogs) will be allowed, as long as the member is an actively enrolled 4-H Dog project member for the current year. Members that have shown a dog in the Introduction to Showing class are eligible to participate in the Big E 4-H Dog Show as stewards ONLY!
- 8) Those wishing to enter the ESE 4-H Dog Show as stewards, must fill out the 4-H Steward Page and submit one copy to their 4-H office and one copy to the Show Superintendent by the specified dates
- 9) Stewards must also enter online at: www.thebige.com then "Competitions>4-H>Packets> 4-H Steward Form".
 - a) Entries must be completed by the deadline stated on the website. NO EXCEPTIONS OR LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED
- 10) If the member plans on entering more than one dog at the Big E 4-H Dog Show, the member must designate one dog as the "Primary" dog and the other dog as the "Alternate" at the time of entry.
 - a) The primary dog must be shown at the Big E 4-H Dog Show in both fitting and showmanship and obedience.
 - b) If the primary dog becomes sick, injured, or comes into season before the start of the Big E 4-H Dog Show, a veterinarian's letter must be sent to the Show Superintendent either before the show or immediately upon arrival to the Big E 4-H Dog Show. Once this letter has been received, the Alternate dog may be used to compete.
- 11) The 4-H member must follow all rules as stated in the 4-H Dog Show Packet or set by the New England 4-H Dog Committee.

Section 14: 4-H Judges

- 1) Judges for 4-H dog events should be familiar with the 4-H show rules for the classes for which they will be asked to judge. This should include having an example of the score sheets they will be using at the show.

- 2) Judges should not show partiality for purebred dogs or All-American (mixed breed) dogs. Preference should not be given for show clips or trims, rather that an effort has been made by the exhibitor to present his or her dog in a clean and neat manner.
- 3) Judges should not be familiar with the 4-H exhibitors they are to judge. This includes training a 4-Her in class (with or without their project dog), being a club member with the 4-H exhibitor anytime within the past five years of the show date, owning or leasing a dog with the 4-H member or a member of the 4-Her's family.
- 4) If judge's are recent 4-H graduates (within the past five years), they should be from a different county than the one they were asked to judge. It is preferable that the judge come from a different state than that in which they are asked to judge.
- 5) Judges should be informed to write constructive comments on score sheets. If time allows, judges, at their discretion, can meet with individual exhibitors to discuss strengths and weaknesses.
- 6) Judges should judge according to the requirements for the class. Each dog and handler team should be judged the same way.
- 7) Judges should not disclose any score to anyone except the show committee, and even then, only on a need to know basis, before a class is completed. Announcements of scores at the end of a class are at the judge's discretion, but judges should keep in mind the sensitivity of scores to some exhibitors.
- 8) Judges are in control of their ring from the time that the class starts until its completion.
- 9) Judges decisions are final in all aspects of scoring and judging of a class. All other matters are to be decided by the show committee.
- 10) Judges should give directions and or signals in a clear and understandable manner.
- 11) If in the judge's opinion, a dog has had its performance prejudiced by peculiar and unusual circumstances, the judge may re-judge the dog on that particular exercise. If the judge finds it necessary to re-judge a dog(s) from a group exercise, the dog(s) should be re-judged immediately following the group or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 12) Judges should not enter into discussion with any exhibitor, parent, guardian, or guest who appears to be dissatisfied with the judging or scoring of a particular class or exhibitor.
 - a) If there is a question regarding scoring, placement, or judging procedure, the concerned individual should contact a member of the Show Committee, who will examine the problem and approach the judge if necessary. This includes mathematical errors.
 - b) Any problem with judging or scoring must be handled ON EVENT GROUNDS on the DAY OF THE EVENT. Once the exhibitor or show committee has left the grounds, all scoring and placements stand as is.
- 13) Judges should remember that 4-H should be a positive learning experience. The judge must remember that a 4-H show is an opportunity for a 4-H member to learn "how to make his best better" the next time. Judges should offer encouragement and advice, in addition to placements and scores.

Glossary

AKC- American Kennel Club. The largest purebred dog registry in the US, hosting a multitude of different canine events. Used as a resource. Website: www.akc.org

UKC- United Kennel Club. Another purebred dog registry in the US hosting a variety of different canine events. Website: www.ukcdogs.org

Electric collars- includes any collar that uses a battery, emits a sound, spay or electric charge either through vibration or by hand held remote. These types of collars are banned from 4-H events.

Fitting and Showmanship- a class where 4-Her is judged on their presentation, general knowledge, and the cleanliness and condition of their dog

Qualifying Score- in obedience, it is at least 170 out of 200 points, and 50% of each exercise.