

## DEPARTMENT 11 - DOG

Events/times are subject to change.

July 20 @ Dog/Activity Tent, Showmanship and Rally  
8:30 AM: Registration  
9 AM: Dog Showmanship and Rally

July 22 @ Dog/Activity Tent, Obedience  
8:30 AM: Registration  
9 AM: Obedience

Senior Fair Board: \*Melissa Holstein, Doug Marine  
\*denotes chairperson

Junior Fair Board: \*Chairperson: Laine Holstein  
\*Co-Chairperson: Carter Weade



All 4-H Dog Projects participants must have a signed "Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims Form" on file at the Extension Office.

All dog exhibitors must be active members of a Fayette County 4-H dog club. Sharing a dog at the county level or state level is not permitted, however, family members may exhibit a dog at the county fair and the same dog can be taken as a project 201D "You and Your Dog" which is done prior to the fair.

4-H Project Book 201D (You and Your Dog) - Classes are based on the age of youth. Therefore, each member and dog may compete in ONE class only. Youth may share one project dog with a sibling for this show discipline ONLY. Both siblings may enter a You and Your Dog project class.

4-H Project Book 201S (Showmanship) - Each member may enter one dog per class. Any individual dog may be shown in only one showmanship class, providing the dog is 6 months of age or older. The dog and member may show in either Showmanship A or B depending on the age and experience level of the exhibitor. Each dog will be inspected for proper care and grooming. In addition, the 4-H member will be evaluated on dog care knowledge which is taken from the Dog Resource Handbook (Covers the basics of showmanship). Each Showmanship exhibitor will be asked questions by the judge in an interview portion of the class, which will factor into their final Showmanship score. The number of questions and which questions are asked are at the discretion of the judge. All rulings of the judge are final.

4-H Project Book 201O (Dog Obedience) - Each member may enter one project dog in Beginner Novice A and Novice A Obedience classes. Each member may enter 2 or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B, Pre-Novice, Preferred Novice, Novice B, Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility Obedience classes provided that youth and dogs meet eligibility requirements. All dogs must be 6 months of age or older. Any individual dog may be shown in only one obedience class. Each member may enter a maximum of 2 project dogs per Rally Class. In addition the dog will be inspected for proper grooming in both Obedience and Rally classes.

4-H Project Book 201P (Performance) - Exhibitors showing in Obedience or Showmanship may also show in Drill Team Competition, Agility (Dogs exhibited in agility must be 18 months or older on the day of exhibition—proof of age is the burden of the exhibitor or exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs not meeting age requirements cannot be shown.) Dogs shown in Brace must be the 4-H member's project dogs.

4-H Project Book 201W (Working Dogs) - Include assistance dogs like Pilot Dogs, Canine Companions and other service dog organizations.

### **GUIDELINES**

- 4-H members must be enrolled in the correct project and level; 201S Showmanship, 201O Dog Obedience and 201P Performance. ALL 4-H members taking a Dog Project are required to complete the Dog Skillathon (Thursday, June 25, 5-7 pm at Extension Office).
- Dogs must be owned either by the 4-H member or a member of their immediate family no later than April 1, 2026. The dog must be in continual care of the 4-H member for the duration of the project.
- Continued care is defined as the 4-H member being responsible for and involved in the feeding, cleaning, and caring of the dog.
- Lessons, instructions and advice for the 4-H member are encouraged, as long as the 4-H member is present in the learning situation and handles or trains the dog the majority of the time present. Such assistance can include occasional handling or training by another person. Only the 4-H member can train the dog at any type of training class on or after April 1, 2026. No one other than the 4-H member is permitted to show the 4H Project Dog at any type of dog show including fun matches.
- Criteria for participation:
  - a. All dogs are required to be vaccinated yearly for Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus and Rabies by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. 4-H members must have either an ODA Official Health Certificate or the Certificate of Vaccination for the 4H Dog Project. Other certificates of vaccinations, pet record cards or kennel records will not be accepted.
  - b. Make sure when getting the ODA Official Health Certificate or the Certificate of Vaccinations for the 4-H Dog Project, that the dates of the required vaccinations, including the rabies vaccinations are listed. Make certain it is signed by the veterinarian. The veterinarian must also provide their license number or their name/address stamp in the space provided.
  - c. All required vaccinations must have been given after August 16, 2025 and prior to July 17, 2026.

- d. All dogs participating in the Fayette County Junior Fair Dog Show must be currently licensed in the 4-H members' county of residence. The 4-H member must bring a certificate of license to registration.
- e. Upon arrival at the Junior Fair Dog Show area all 4-H members will need to stop at the check in table. 4-H members will need to have their health certificate and dog license.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash while on the fairgrounds, except when participating in the ring during judging. Dogs must be kenneled in designated areas. 4-H members are expected to clean up after their dogs.
- Each dog must go through a check station where all females will be checked for signs of heat. If a female dog shows signs of heat, the dog may be shown with the judges' permission. Decisions at the check-in station are final.
- All 4-H members will provide their own equipment as needed, such as collar, leash, water dish, kennel etc.
- Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior at any time before, during or after exhibition MUST be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time during the Dog Show. A dog that snaps, bites or attempts to bite while in the ring must be immediately excused from the ring and then removed from the fairgrounds. The judge or show officials will dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing a dog, which will result in disqualification of exhibitor. Determinations of show committee and/or judge are final.
- Previous participants and or dogs in classes Beginner Novice A, Novice A, Open A and Graduate A may not enter the same class again.
- 4-H members showing their dogs at any licensed or Member Obedience Trail or at a Sanctioned Match must show their dogs at the same or higher B level classes than they are showing in AKC, UKC or other titling shows. Dogs completing their Companion Dog (CD) title prior to or anytime during the project year must show in the Graduate Novice Classes at the very minimum. Those completing their Companion Dog Excellent title must show in Open, Graduate Open or Utility Classes. For Showmanship Classes, dogs with AKC Junior Handling or like experience must show in the age appropriate B classes.
- All dogs exhibited must be six months of age by the date of the show. This includes Pilot Dog puppies and other assistance dogs. Dogs exhibited in Agility must be 18 months or older on or before the first day of the Agility trial. Proof of age is the burden of the exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs not meeting this requirement cannot be shown.
- Only the exhibitor, exhibitor's dog and show officials are permitted in the show ring area at any time throughout a show.
- 4-H members only taking Dog Projects 201D You and Your Dog must participate in the Miscellaneous Judging to be held on Monday, June 22 at the Mahan Building.

SHOW EQUIPMENT AND HANDLER'S & DOG'S APPEARANCE:

- Obedience collars include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, or slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end. Leashes may be of fabric or leather and should be 6 feet in length for sub-novice classes. For novice, graduate novice classes, open and graduate open classes, the leash need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack in the heel on leash exercise. Chain leashes are not acceptable. Showmanship collars include a chain or fabric slip collar, or martingale-type show lead. Nothing should be hanging from the collars. Leashes may be of fabric, leather or show chain and long enough to allow for easy handling of the dog.
- Handler's appearance should be neat, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for the dog show. Clothing should not distract, limit or hinder. It is recommended that girls wear skirts, dresses, skorts, dress shorts or similar attire and boys wear dress shirts or polo shirts, and dress slacks or shorts.
- Dog's appearance should be clean, well brushed and in good physical condition appropriate for the dog's age. The coat should be free from mats and loose hair. Ears should be clean and free from hair in the ear canal. Eyes should be free from matter, and teeth should be free from tartar. Some staining on the teeth of older dogs is permissible. Toenails should be trimmed and hair between the pads should be trimmed to prevent matting and collecting dirt.
- Dogs are not permitted to wear any type of muzzle, prong/pinch collar or electronic collar while on fairgrounds. Exhibitors will be disqualified if their dogs are seen wearing any of these.

Classes:

**SHOWMANSHIP:**

DO1. Senior Showmanship A - Member must be 15-18 as of January 1. (Neither handler nor dog has had any prior experience in Showmanship).

DO2. Senior Showmanship B - Member must be 15-18 as of January 1, who have shown in Showmanship A or has prior experience in Showmanship, AKC Junior Handling or like experience.

DO3. Intermediate Showmanship A - Member must be 12-14 as of January 1. (The handler or dog has had no experience in Showmanship.)

DO4. Intermediate Showmanship B. - Member must be 12-14 as of January 1, who have shown in Showmanship A or has prior experience in Showmanship, AKC Junior Handling or like experience.

DO5. Junior Showmanship A - Member must be 9-11 as of January 1. (Neither handler nor dog with prior show experience in Showmanship).

DO6. Junior Showmanship B - Member must be 9-11 as of January 1, who have shown in Showmanship A or has prior experience in Showmanship, AKC Junior Handling or like experience.

**Overall showman may participate in the Showman of Showmen Contest, but the following animals will not be represented, only the showman - dogs.**

## **OBEDIENCE**

### Progression of Obedience Classes:

DO7. Beginner Novice A - 1 year, then move to Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice (Beginner Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog).

Beginner Novice A: Heel on Leash, Figure Eight (on leash), Sit for Exam (on leash), Sit Stay (45 sec), and Recall.

DO8. Beginner Novice B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, OR can show in Pre-Novice unless class winner. Once class winner in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, then move to Novice A.

Beginner Novice B: Heel on Leash, Figure Eight (on leash), Sit for Exam (on leash), Sit Stay (leash attached, on ground), and Recall (off leash).

DO9. Pre-Novice - can repeat class with same or different dog unless class winner, OR can show in Beginner Novice B unless class winner. Once class winner in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice, then move to Novice A.

Pre Novice: Heel on Leash, Figure Eight (on leash), Stand for Exam (on leash), Recall (on leash), Long Sit (on leash), and Long Down (on leash).

DO10. Preferred Novice - can show one project dog at the Preferred Novice level, provided the youth and the dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

Preferred Novice: Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, Stand for Exam (on leash), Heel Free, Recall, Stay - Sit or Down, Sit Stay (Get Your Leash).

DO11. Novice A - 1 year, then move to Novice B (Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog).

DO12. Novice B - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Graduate Novice A - 1 year, then move to Grad Novice B (Grad Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog).

Novice A & B: Heel on leash, Figure Eight (on leash), Stand for Exam (off leash), Heel Free (off leash), Recall (off leash), Long Sit (leash attached on ground), and Long Down (leash attached on ground) 1 minute.

DO13. Graduate Novice - can repeat class with same dog or different dog unless class winner, then move to Open A.

Graduate Novice: Heel Free and Figure Eight (off leash), Drop on Recall, Dumbbell Recall, Dumbbell Recall over High Jump, Recall over Broad Jump, and Stand, Stay - Get Your Leash.

DO14. Open - can repeat class with same dog regardless of winning if not moving to Graduate Open.

Open: Heel Free and Figure Eight, Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit), Drop on Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Long Sit, and Stand, Stay - Get Your Leash.

DO15. Graduate Open - can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning if not moving to Utility.

Graduate Open: Signal Exercise, Scent Discrimination, Go Out, Directed Jumping, Moving Stand & Examination, and Directed Retrieve.

DO16. Utility - can repeat this class with same dog regardless of winning.

Utility: Signal Exercise, Scent Discrimination - Article 1, Scent Discrimination - Article 2, Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Exam, and Directed Jumping.

## **RALLY:**

\*\*Youth may show a maximum of two project dogs per Rally level. Rally levels include Rally Novice, Rally Intermediate, Rally Advanced, and Rally Excellent.

### Progression of Rally Classes:

DO20. Rally Novice A - 1 year, then move to Rally Novice B class (Rally Novice A class can never be repeated by handler OR dog).

DO21. Rally Novice B - for exhibitor and/or dog with previous experience showing at the Rally Novice level prior to the county's current project year. If winning first place in Rally Novice B, handler and dog must move to Rally Intermediate A at minimum for next project year.

Rally Novice: All exercises are judged on leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Novice A and B must have 10 to 15 signs (Start and Finish not included)

with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary signs per class. There are no jumps in this class.

DO22. Rally Intermediate A - 1 year, then move to Rally Intermediate B class (Rally Intermediate A class can never be repeated by handler or dog).

DO23. Rally Intermediate B - for exhibitor and/or dog with previous experience showing at the Rally Intermediate level prior to the county's current project year. If winning first place in Rally Novice B, handler and dog must move to Rally Advanced A at minimum for next project year.

Rally Intermediate: all signs are judged on leash. Rally Intermediate must have 12 to 17 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary signs. Intermediate courses will have a minimum of three (3) Advanced level signs. There are no jumps in this class.

DO24. Rally Advanced - can repeat class with same dog or different dog until handler and dog win first place; then MUST progress to Rally Excellent level the next year.

Rally Advanced: all signs are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced must have between 12-17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises per class. Courses shall have a minimum of three Advanced level signs plus one required jump per class. The dog is required to jump once in this class.

DO25. Rally Excellent - can repeat class with same dog or different dog.

Rally Excellent: All signs are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call marker not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises. The dog is required to jump twice utilizing one or two jumps. Courses shall have a minimum of two (2) Advanced level stations and a minimum of three (3) Excellent level stations, plus the two (2) required jumps and the Sit Stay sign.