DOGS

2026

COMMITTEE: Diana Henderson, chair, Michelle Jordan co-chair, Dave Ackerman, Reese Brown, & Sheri Brown

March 15	**Member Enrollment, Permission to Participate & Dog project(s) registration deadline. Complete in 4honline.**
March 15	**Member must have possession of 4-H dog project(s)**
May 1	**Fair entries, 4-H dog shot record & a copy of the dog license deadline. Upload forms into 4honline. (Members MUST use the state form to turn in shot record & license.)**
May 1	**K-9 Ambassador Applications Due to OSU Extension office**
May 19	**K-9 Ambassador Contest: Thursday, 4:30 p.m. Interviews & Contest at 7:00 p.m. OSUE Office**
July 8	**Dog Poster Judging Drop Off: Wednesday, 8-10 a.m., Fairground-Expo Building**
July 8	**Dog posters must be on display in the Junior Fair Building Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to Saturday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. to be eligible for poster awards.**
July 8	**Agility & Agility Awards: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., LEC**
July 8	**Skillathon: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., LEC**
July 13	**Dog Costume Class & Awards, Monday, 11:00 a.m., Peterson Building**
July 13	**Rally, You and Your Dog, All About Dogs * Grooming, Monday, (Following Cloverbud Costume Dog Show at 12:00 p.m.) Peterson Building (Awards will be announced daily.)**
July 14	**Dog Obedience & Showmanship: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., Peterson Building (Awards will be announced daily.)**
July 18	**Dog Posters Release: Saturday, 9-11 a.m., Fairground-Junior Fair Building**

General Dog Department Rules

1. Exhibitors must be currently enrolled in one of the following dog projects:

Dog Projects

200	**All About Dogs (Must participate in fair interview to qualify for state. Member not eligible for other dog classes. Dog not required to complete this project and can not be brought to the fair.)**
201D	**You and Your Dog**
201O	**Obedience (All levels including Rally, Brace & Team)**
201S	**Showmanship**
201 P	**Performance (Agility, Drill Team, Freestyle, Field Tests, Flyball and Trick Dog)**
201 W	**Working Dogs (Assistance Dogs & Therapy Dogs)**
202	**Dog Achievement Program (Online ONLY project, NO competition & members may participate in an interview.)**

Additional Dog Project Resources

201R	**Dog Resource Handbook-Required (Revised 2018)**
201	**Dog Project Book (Revised 2017, New project book required every year.)**
230	**PetPALS (See small animal guidelines.)**

Multiple Dogs

2. Exhibitors may show one dog in Beginner Novice A, Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice. Exhibitors may show one dog in Novice A or Novice B.

Age of Dog

3. Age of dog must be six (6) months old by the start of the state fair dog show.

Vaccination & Health

4. All dogs participating in the fair shall be immunized against distemper, adenovirus (hepatitis), leptospirosis, parainfluenza, bordetella, parvovirus, and rabies, and be currently licensed in their county of residence. All participants shall have available for examination a certificate of vaccinations and license at the fair show. The required vaccinations must be given by an accredited veterinarian after **Aug. 15, 2025 and before May 1, 2026.** A state fair certificate of vaccination for the 4-H dog show project signed

by a licensed accredited veterinarian is required. Pet record cards or kennel records are not acceptable. The certificate of vaccination, fair entries and dog license application must be uploaded into 4honline by **May 1, 2026.** Dogs in season are not permitted on the fairground and may not be shown. Dogs should be clean, well brushed and in good physical condition appropriate for the dog's age and required activity for class entered. Regulation show clip is not required for purebred dogs.

Dog Project Management & Collar/Leash Guidelines

5. Exhibitors as well as parents will display good sportsmanship with dog projects and other exhibitors at all times.

6. Members are responsible for their animals while on the fairground and must keep their animal in the show area/barn. No dog is to be left unattended. Only dogs enrolled in the 4-H/FFA programs are allowed in the dog show area.

7. All exhibitors will provide their own equipment as needed. Dogs exhibited in obedience must be shown with a well-fitting plain buckle or slip collar of leather, fabric or chain and a six-foot leather or fabric leash for Beginner Novice & Pre-Novice classes. For Novice and Advanced classes, the leash need only be sufficient length to provide adequate slack in the heel on leash exercise. Chain leashes, muzzles and pinch collars are not acceptable. In agility all dogs must wear a plain buckle collar without hanging tags. A 6 ft lead must be used if a member chooses to use a lead in agility. Each exhibitor will keep his/her dog on a collar & leash while on the fairground, except when participating in the ring in exercises that require off leash judging. Showmanship requires a well-fitting narrow show lead, not the same collar and lead used in obedience. No hanging items including tags on collars in ring. Head halters are permitted only in You and Your Dog. All dogs must have a buckle or snap collar with id, dog license and rabies tag attached while traveling to and from fairground. This collar is not to be used in competition.

8. All 4-H/FFA dog exhibitors are encouraged to have a crate available for their dog during shows.

9. Dogs should not be trained at the fair show, but short warmups are allowed. Coaching during a class can cause loss of points or disqualify a contestant.

Aggression

10. Any exhibitor who is showing a dog that shows aggression to people or other animals will be asked to leave the fairground and the dog must be re-evaluated before entering the next year. Exhibitors, along with their parents or guardians, are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and/or children. Any dog or child creating unnecessary disturbances or engaging in unsafe or disruptive behavior may, at the discretion of the Dog Committee chairs or Extension personnel, be asked to leave the event site.

Ownership

11. No one other than the junior fair exhibitor is permitted to show the project dog at any type of dog show, including fun matches on or after the county project enrollment deadline, which begins no later than March 15. Dogs participating in the dog projects must either be owned by the 4-H member or the member's family by March 15 of the current year. Dogs must be housed on the member's premises and be in their continual care for the duration of the project.

12. Exhibitors are expected to clean up after their dogs. The show committee will designate an area to relieve dogs.

13. Only domestic dogs may be shown at the Junior Fair Dog Show. Wolf and wolf hybrids are not permitted.

14. Handler's and dog's appearance: exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the dog. Inappropriate clothing includes T-shirts, jackets, blue denim or other apparel with slogans, **clothing with holes or rips,** 4-H club, FFA Chapter, or dog club names, etc., blue jeans, shorts, sandals, clogs, high heeled shoes, flip flops, and other similar footwear. For showmanship classes it is recommended that girls wear skirts, dress slacks, dresses, dress shorts, collared blouses or similar attire, and boys wear dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. Any exhibitor that is dressed inappropriately will have points deducted or will be dismissed from his or her class. Exhibitors may wear shorts or jeans and club shirts in agility ONLY!

15. Ohio State Fair Junior Dog Rules are used as a guideline for the Clinton County 4-H Junior Dog Program. Possible changes at the state level could change classes and requirements at the county level. Please use the following website for class descriptions: **https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/dog**

16. The Jr. Fair Dog Committee is responsible for the interpretation of these rules and their enforcement.

Obedience Classes

Beginner Novice A
Beginner Novice B
Pre-Novice
Novice A
Novice B
Graduate Novice A
Graduate Novice B
Open A
Open B
Grad Open A

Brace Obedience

Brace Obedience is for exhibition only.

A member must exhibit his or her own two dogs together.

Showmanship

Exercises to be performed in all showmanship classes include:

1. Interview-Age appropriate questions will come from the Ohio 4-H Dog Resource handbook and other resources suggested by the Ohio 4-H Dog Program. Questions are posted at: http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dog
2. Handler appearance and attitude
3. Grooming
4. Handling

Showmanship Junior A, 8-11 years of age, first year in dog project
Showmanship Junior B, 8-11 years of age
Showmanship Intermediate A, 12-14 years of age, first year in dog project
Showmanship Intermediate B, **12-14 years of age,**
Showmanship Senior A, 15-18 years of age, first year in dog project
Showmanship Senior B, 15-18 years of age,

After an exhibitor or dog shows in any Showmanship A class they must show in B level classes. Even at a new age group.

You and Your Dog

Exhibitor is evaluated on interview, member record form, member's appearance and attitude, dog appearance and manners, and exhibit. (For more detailed project information refer to http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dog

Interview will be age-appropriate questions that come from the Ohio 4-H Dog Resource handbook and other resources suggested by the Ohio 4-H Dog Program. Members must complete the project book for the current project year. Nothing can be added to this project record for this section of judging.

You and Your Dog Junior A & B - This class is for 4-H or FFA members 8-11 years of age as of Jan. 1, current year, enrolled in You and Your Dog, Project No. 201D. **A classes are for first year members only.**

You and Your Dog Intermediate A & B - This class is for 4-H & FFA members 12-14 years of age as of Jan. 1, current year, enrolled in You and Your Dog, Project No. 201D. **A classes are for first year members only.**

You and Your Dog Senior A & B - This class is for 4-H & FFA members 15-18 years of age as of Jan. 1, current year, enrolled in You and Your Dog, project No. 201D. **A classes are for first year members only.**

Grooming Show

l. Each member will have five minutes to demonstrate proper grooming equipment and techniques on his/her own dog and provide own equipment (grooming table will be provided). The interview will consist of grooming questions. The questions can come from the dog resource handbook.

2. Grooming is defined as daily and weekly care of the coat, nails, etc.

3. Judging will include:
   - Organization: equipment & knowledge
   - Proper handling of the dog: attention to dog & keeping the dog comfortable
   - Equipment: proper equipment and knowledge of technique in using equipment
   - Knowledge of care: teeth, nails, ears, coat & bath
   - Knowledge of member's dog: what food, amount of food, age of dog and special care for this dog.

4. Individual breed characteristics will be taken into consideration. Members are judged individually.

5. Age and Class divisions are:

Grooming Junior A, 8-11 years of age, first year in dog project
Grooming Junior B, 8-11 years of age
Grooming Intermediate A, 12-14 years of age, first year in dog project
Grooming Intermediate B, 12-14 years of age
Grooming Senior A, 15-18 years of age, first year in dog project
Grooming Senior B, 15-18 years of age

Rally Obedience

Rally is a class for youth taking 4-H/FFA dog projects. It is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the judge. Handlers and dogs work through a set of designated stations at their own pace. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. The handler is permitted to talk, clap, praise, pat their legs, or use any positive verbal means of encouragement. **The handler may not touch, physically correct, or make loud or harsh commands.** If you'd like more information and rules regarding rally please visit the American Kennel Club web site at www.akc.org/rules/rally.cfm.

Rally Classes

Novice A-on leash & no experience
Novice B-on leash
Intermediate A-on leash
Intermediate B-on leash
Advanced-off leash
Excellent-off Leash

Dog Poster Contest

Purposes: To visually demonstrate dog project knowledge, stimulate an interest in dog projects and to demonstrate the diversity of the 4-H and FFA dog projects. **Posters must be put on exhibit during scheduled project move in times for the Junior Fair Building and remain in the Junior Fair Building until the designated release time on the last Saturday of fair to be eligible for poster awards.**

Rules:
1. Each poster must be made by the 4-H or FFA member enrolled in a dog project. Posters will be judged at pre-fair judging.
2. Posters must be made using size 22" x 28" vertical poster board. Posters may be laminated or tightly covered with a thin plastic material. **(No trifold posters.)**
3. Each poster must be clearly labeled with the exhibitor's name and age as of Jan. 1, current year in the lower right corner.
4. Posters will be judged on educational content, 50 pts., neatness & appearance, 30 pts. and originality, 20 pts.
5. Members can repeat an age class.
6. If a member wants to participate in the state dog poster contest a second poster must be created and submitted. Please refer to the state for guidelines and deadline.

Dog Skillathon

Members could be tested on information from the dog skillathon kit, dog resource book, Jr Fair Requirements Book, and the 4-H dog project book. During skillathon members will participate in an interview and stations. Skillathon will be offered Wednesday, July 8 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the LEC. Members will sign up for day of the event. Project book is not required for Skillathon.

Skillathon Junior A, 8-11 years of age, first year in dog project
Skillathon Junior B, 8-11 years of age
Skillathon Intermediate A, 12-14 years of age, first year in dog project
Skillathon Intermediate B, 12-14 years of age
Skillathon Senior A. 15-18 years of age, first year in dog project
Skillathon Senior B, 15-18 years of age

Please study the following chapters and topics to prepare for Skillathon.

Chapter 2	Breeds
Chapter 4	Grooming & Handling Your Dog
Chapter 15	Anatomy, Parts, Skeleton, Etc.
Chapter 16	Heath
Chapter 17	Nutrition & Body Conditioning

Dog & Handler Costume Class

This is fun class open to all 4-H/FFA dog exhibitors. Dog and Handler are both in costume. Dog doesn't have to perform exercises. Remember to keep the comfort of the dog in mind. Dog must be able to move freely. Classes will be judged on originality, creativity, and overall presentation. Only one entry per exhibitor. Participants must turn in contest form with the costume description with a maximum of 100 words.

Dog Agility

- Event is open to all dogs, including purebred and non-purebred, **except bitches in season**, dogs suffering any deformity, injury, or illness which may affect the dog's physical or mental performance, or dogs exhibiting signs of aggression.
- No food, toys, or other aids or devices shall be permitted on the course at any time. The collar can only be a flat buckle collar with no decorations or dangling tags. No training collars of any kind (including, but not limited to, any choke, pinch, shock, or similar collars) are allowed in the rings. Safety shall always be of foremost consideration in actions and conduct by handlers.
- Exhibitors, along with their parents or guardians, are responsible for the behavior of their dogs and/or children. Any dog exhibitor or family member creating unnecessary disturbances or engaging in unsafe or disruptive behavior may, at the discretion of the Dog Committee chairs or Extension personnel, be asked to leave the event site.
- Dogs not entered will NOT be allowed on the event site.
- At the state and county fair no dogs will be allowed in the agility ring prior to the time of their performance. Exhibitors will be allowed to walk the course only during instruction by the judge before the class.
- The handler is not permitted to jump over the jumps with the dog.
- For class descriptions please visit: http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dog
- Classes will be Standard, Jumpers, and Mad-Shape-Dash.

Agility Classes

Standard
Dog Walk
A Frame,
Table (5 Seconds)
Tire Jump
Tunnel
Jumps
Exhibitor must follow course numbers within the allotted amount of time.

Jumpers
Jumps and Tunnels
Exhibitor must follow course numbers within the allotted amount of time.

***Exhibitors may walk the course without the dog and ask questions prior to each class.**
***No change of course.**
***No help during the run.**
***Exhibitor must leave the course when time is called.**

Versatility Award

A 4-H/FFA dog project member must participate in a minimum of 6 of the following classes but may participate in all 8 class offerings to be eligible for the Versatility Award:

Rally	Poster	Grooming	Skillathon
Obedience	Showmanship	Agility	You and Your Dog

A member must receive 65% of the total score per class to receive 1 point in each class.
Exhibitor must have a minimum of 6 class points to qualify for the award.

A member does not have to place or win in a class.
Members will be recognized and awarded on the last day of the dog show during the final awards.
A registration is not required. All scores will be tallied throughout the fair dog show.

Exhibitors may show more than one dog in Rally, Obedience, and Agility and the best score will be used.

All About Dogs

This project is for beginning dog exhibitors wanting to learn and explore about dogs, but not show a dog at the fair. It is a beginning-level book for members who may or may not have a dog. Members taking All About Dogs must participate in an interview during the fair to determine eligibility to compete at the Ohio State Fair on companion animal day. Interview questions available at https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/companion-animals.

Dog Achievement Program

To offer a 4-H dog project that encourages youth to accomplish personal goals and master life skills with their dogs, without competing against other 4-H dog project members. Exhibitors may participate in an interview at fair.

PetPAL Requirements

- More information on 4-H PetPALS can be found at: https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/companion-animals
- See Family Guide for basic project guidelines.
- Youth taking 4-H PetPALS must belong to a 4-H club with a **MASTER** 4-H PetPAL volunteer leader.
- Contact the OSUE Office for Jr. Fair judging date and time.

Cloverbud Fun Costume Class

This event is just for 4-H Cloverbuds. Members may bring a stuffed animal/dog with a leash. Feel free to decorate the stuffed animal and member can dress up, too. Entry is due at the Dog show on Monday at 12 noon in the Peterson Building at the start of the show. Entry form includes: Cloverbud's name and age, stuffed animal's name, what is the costume, 4-H club name, what does the Cloverbud member like about 4-H, and share any hobbies the Cloverbud member enjoys. (This will be read as the member goes around the ring.)