

2019 Dane County 4-H Dog Rules and Guidelines

Revised December 2018

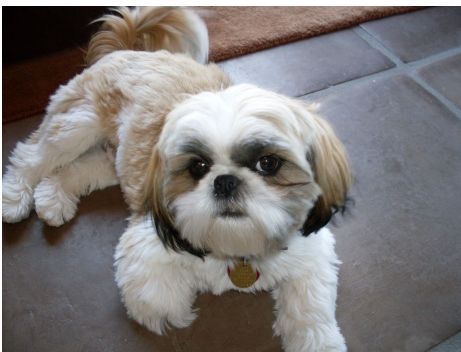
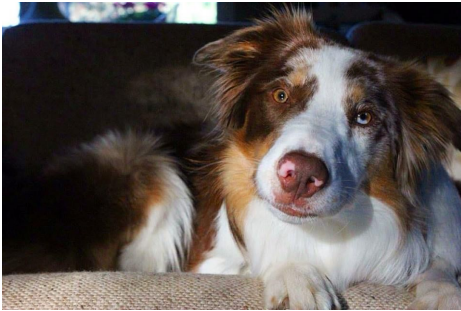


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Why Do We Train?

Purpose of Obedience Training:

Dane County 4-H provides a program to teach the 4-H member/handler and their dog to work together to become better companion and family members, through responsibility, communication, patience, sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, and commitment. The dog obedience training program teaches the simple basic commands such as sit, stay, heel, and recall. There are many levels of obedience in the 4-H program.

The purpose of obedience training is not merely to train a dog to follow certain commands or routines, but to train and condition dogs to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other people and other dogs in a manner that will reflect the importance of the sport of obedience. Obedience is also a great way to build trust, effective communication, and a bonding relationship between you and your dog. 4H members/handlers, parents, instructors and committee members need to remember that it is not the goal of all handlers to perform at competitive events.

Preparing for Training:

1. If your dog has little or no experience riding in a vehicle, take your dog on short car trips before the first training class. If your dog has only been in the vehicle to go to the vet's office, he/she may be confused or upset when you arrive at your first class.
2. You may want to limit food and water before coming to training. Your dog may get nervous, especially the first few training classes, and limiting food and water before class may avoid problems. Your dog may also respond better to treat rewards during training if he/she isn't already full. Feed your dog when you get home as a reward.
3. Socialize your dog. Keep in mind socializing doesn't mean letting your dog run up to other dogs. This should be a controlled event where owners can remove a dog if needed. Providing regular exposure to other dogs before training begins may help to reduce any social problems your dog has during the training program.
4. When arriving on the grounds for training, you need to give your dog some potty time prior to coming to class. Please clean up after your dog.

Handler/Dog Expectations

Handler's Expectations:

1. Control the actions of your dog while on the grounds at all training classes. Do not allow your dog to "greet" another dog without the consent of that dog's handler. Do not allow your dog to "greet" other handlers or people without their consent. Do not touch, pet or give treats to another handler's dog without their consent. Do not reach out and touch another handler; some dogs are protective and may "react" to your touching of their "family member". Keep your dog at a reasonable distance from people and other dogs at all times.
2. Clean up of your dog's feces is required while on the grounds at all training classes. The 4-H member/handler should always carry a bag on their person. Bags will also be available from your Committee Members. Handlers/exhibitors not cleaning up after their dog may place that 4-H member/handler in a "not in good standing" position with the Dane County 4-H which will prevent your ability to show at fair.
3. Physical abuse or neglect of a dog will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the training program and result in a "not in good standing" position with the Dane County 4-H. **This may include but is not limited to: hitting, kicking, yelling, lifting animal by body parts and/or leash, using equipment incorrectly, not caring for a dog etc.**
4. No willful disrespect for others, use of profane language or behavior unbecoming to a Dane County 4-H member will be allowed. Have respect for your group trainer, Dog Committee members, and others.
5. Damage to any public or private property beyond its normal use is at the expense of the 4-H member.
6. Wear appropriate footwear. No open toe shoes. No open back shoes. No flip-flops. No cell phone use during training classes. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate during training classes.
7. Do not run with your dogs on the training grounds.
8. Practice your obedience at home.
9. Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.

Handler Attendance:

Because you are learning new skills at training, it is important that you attend training regularly and practice with your dog at home.

If your dog is ill or in season (heat), you are encouraged to attend class without your dog. Attendance with or without your dog counts toward the attendance requirements as long as you are attentive and/or actively participating in the class. You should practice the training exercises at home with your dog.

If you are not able to attend, talk to your instructor prior to the start of the next class you

do attend to find out what was missed. Videos are posted on the Dane County Website of the different exercises we cover: <https://sites.google.com/view/dane-county-4h-dog-project/>. Be sure to practice those exercises with your dog at home. You need to attend the minimum number of classes required in order to exhibit your dog at the Dane County Fair. Parents of younger members are encouraged to stay on the training grounds while training classes are in session.

Dog Check-In:

Each year, prior to the first obedience class, your dog will attend check-in. Watch your e-mail or 4-H calendar for the dates, times and location. Please bring your project dog (s) on leash(es), bags for clean-up, two copies of your dog's rabies vaccination record current through **July 14, 2019**, your completed Dane County 4-H Dog Training Informational form, your Educational Requirements form with your goals completed, the signature page from the Dane County 4-H Dog Project Rules and Guidelines packet signed by the youth and parent stating you read and understand the guidelines, and your **\$15** Obedience/Showmanship registration fee per dog and/or **\$60** agility training fee (exact change in the form of a Check, cash or money orders made out to the Dane County 4-H preferred).

Please tell the Check-in staff the secret password: I love my dog.

Dog Attendance:

If your dog has a record of biting anyone, the dog will NOT be accepted into training. If your dog is judged at any time by the Committee Members or Instructors to be uncontrollable, vicious, or unmanageable in or out of a group setting, the dog will be excused from the training program. The Handler may continue to attend class without the dog and do the training at home. Please refer to the Behavior Management Plan page at the end of this document for more information.

Intact female dogs who come into season (heat) during training can not attend training until she is out of season (usually three weeks). Nursing females are not allowed at training class. Dogs who are sick or injured should not attend class. In these situations, the handlers should still attend classes and train the dog at home. Attendance, with or without your dog, counts toward attendance requirements. Any 4-H member/handler who attends without their dog must have that date signed off on their Educational Requirement form by a Committee Member immediately following their training class.

Education Day:

Education Day is mandatory for every 4-H member enrolled in the Dog Project that is planning to train through our program. As a part the Dane County 4-H Dog Project we require that EVERY member attend the Education Day or go through the online course. No dogs are allowed at the face to face Education Day.

Members who take the online course will watch videos from the face to face Education Day. EVERY member will be required to take a short quiz on what was covered during the face

to face course. Members need to receive an 80% on the quiz in order to train. The quiz can be taken as many times as it takes to pass it. The quiz needs to be taken before training starts in May.

Dog Information

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations are probably the single most important part of your dog's health. There is nothing more tragic than a wonderful, loyal pet coming down with a deadly disease that could have been prevented.

Rabies vaccination is required. Rabies is a highly contagious disease transmitted by the bite of infected animals. All dogs are required by law to have this vaccination.

The following vaccinations are highly recommended.

- DHLPP – Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, ParaInfluenza, and Parvovirus.
- Distemper – Infectious viral disease causes destruction of nerve tissue.
- Hepatitis – Highly contagious viral disease affecting the liver and other organs.
- Leptospirosis – Contracted by skin to skin contact or coming in contact with urine from infected host. It travels through the bloodstream and affects the kidneys.
- Parainfluenza – Highly contagious bacterial or viral disease causes inflammation to the trachea, bronchi and lungs.
- Parvovirus – Infectious viral disease, affects the digestive system, may also cause heart failure.
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough) – Highly contagious airborne disease. Bacterial infection affects the respiratory system.

Other treatments suggested for your dog:

- Lyme disease vaccination – Transmitted by bite from a Deer Tick. May cause arthritis and lethargy.
- Heartworm – Transmitted by bite from mosquitoes. Blood test performed every year to test for disease. Prevention given every month.
- Flea and Tick – Once per month application to control fleas & ticks.

Dogs That Have Previously Been Trained:

4-H Members/Handlers may train dogs that have previously been trained and/or shown

by other family members or other 4-H members; however, they will be required to begin training at the appropriate level.

A dog with prior training in an organized class or previously shown in obedience trials prior to enrolling in 4-H obedience classes cannot compete in Pre-Novice A or Novice A, however, they can compete in any other class based on the dog's current abilities.

If the dog has been trained and/or shown previously, it may drop to a lower training level only with the approval of the youth's parents and the 4-H Dog Committee.

Once a dog competes in Veteran at the county show level, it can never again be shown in any regular obedience classes (other than Brace, Rally & Team) at the county level, even if being trained by another Handler.

Handlers should be aware that upon an instructor's or Committee Member's discretion, they may be encouraged or required to move to a more advanced class based on prior experience and training

Training Information

Equipment:

- Leashes/Leads: Leashes shall be six feet long and made of leather, nylon or cotton webbing. Leather leashes are highly recommended. All dogs must be kept on leash at all times except if required during training classes.
- Collars: During training, dogs must wear a plain, well-fitting slip collar of chain, nylon, or leather, a well-fitting, plain buckle collar, or a well-fitting training or pinch collar. There should be no objects hanging from the collar during training. Harnesses and halters are highly discouraged.
- Dumbbells: The dumbbell will be made either of one or more solid pieces of wood, of a rigid or semi-rigid, firm, nontoxic, non-wooden material similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells are not permitted for the following exercises: willing retrieve from hand, dumbbell recall, retrieve on flat, and retrieve over high jump. Dumbbells will not be hollowed out. They may be unfinished, coated with a clear finish, painted white, or any other color. They may not have decorations or attachments, but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell will be proportionate to the size of the dog.
- Hula Hoop: As a part of training an exercise that all dogs will be required to do is a stay. Beginner dogs in Pre-Novice should bring a hula hoop with them to class. Make sure your dog can fit in the hula hoop while they are sitting.
- Training Treats: Use of treats is permitted. Small, soft treats are recommended.

Classes Offered/Descriptions:

Handlers may skip training lots with approval from youth's parent(s) and Committee Members, and with input from your previous instructor.

Showmanship: Any handler or dog combination. Showmanship is how you handle your dog. You will be taught parts of the dog, gaiting patterns, ring procedure, showmanship equipment and attire. Showmanship training will be offered either immediately before or immediately after your obedience classes. Check your training class schedule for further details.

Obedience Classes : (Some classes may have prerequisites)

1. All Pre-Novice Classes:

- a. All exercises on lead, heel, figure 8, stand for inspection, long sit (1 minute), and long down (1 minute).
 - i. Trial A: For the first time handler. (Handler/dog with no previous experience.)
 - ii. Trial B: Handler or dog that has previously trained in Pre-novice A or have any prior professional obedience training.
 - iii. Trial C: For the dog that has trained in Pre-Novice and cannot be advanced to off lead.

2. All Novice:

- a. On lead – heel, figure 8. Off lead – heel, stand for inspection, heeling, recall with finish, long sit (1 minute), and long down (1 minute).
 - i. Trial A: Handler and dog who have passed the Pre-Novice class but have no prior Novice training.
 - ii. Trial B: Handler or dog that have previously trained in Novice A.
 - iii. Trial C: Handler who has trained in Novice. Dog is unable to advance to Graduate Novice Trial.

3. All Graduate Novice:

- a. On lead – heel. Off lead – stand for inspection, figure 8, heel, recall with drop and finish, long sit (3 minutes), long down (5 minutes).
 - i. Trial A: Handler and dog that have passed the Novice class but have no prior Graduate Novice training.
 - ii. Trial B: Handler or dog who has previously trained in Graduate Novice A.
 - iii. Trial C: Handler who has trained in Graduate Novice. Dog is unable to advance to Pre-Open Trial.

4. Pre-Open & Open:

- a. All exercises off lead: heel, figure 8, stand for inspection, drop on recall, retrieve dumbbell on flat, retrieve dumbbell over high jump, broad jump, long sit (3 minutes), long down (5 minutes).
 - i. Pre-Open: Dog who has trained in Graduate Novice
 - ii. Open: Dog who has trained in Pre-Open

5. Pre-Utility:

- a. Retrieve dumbbell over high jump, retrieve glove, signal exercise, direct jump (1), stand for inspection, long sit (3 minutes), and long down (5 minutes).
 - i. Pre-Utility: Dog who has trained in Open.

6. Utility:

- a. Scent discrimination, directed retrieve, signal exercise, direct jump (1), moving stand for examination, long sit (3 minutes), and long down (5 minutes).
 - i. Utility: Dog who has trained in Pre-Utility.
- 7. Brace:
 - a. Brace is showing two dogs in tandem with the aid of a coupler. A 4-H Member/Handler enrolled in the dog project may participate in this class. Preparation and training for this class is separate from the obedience classes but will be at the Pre-Novice and Novice levels. A 4-H Member/Handler may participate in this class indefinitely. 4-H Members/Handlers interested in participation in this class are encouraged to discuss it with a Committee Member. The only additional equipment required is a coupler.
 - i. Brace: Handler and two dogs (**Pre-Novice** or **Novice** exercises)
- 8. Team Dog:
 - a. There are two levels in team competition; Pre-Novice and Novice. Team consists of four handlers and four dogs working together as a team to accomplish obedience commands simultaneously.
 - i. Team: Made up of 4 handlers and four dogs (Pre-Novice and Novice Levels)
- 9. Rally:
 - a. Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that the dog and handler precede at their own pace through a course of designated 10-15 stations to complete with no more than five stationary exercises. The exercises performed vary from turning 360 degrees to changing paces during the course. Handlers at this level may clap their hands and pat their legs through the course. Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed.
 - b. The dog and handler move continuously at a brisk pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. A rally course is set up during training nights for Handlers/Dogs to practice at their own leisure. There are two levels in competition; Novice, Advanced and Excellent.
 - c. **To see sample Rally Signs refer to the Dane County 4-H Dog Project website**

Agility:

Agility can be any dog/handler combination. Agility is a sport in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race for both time and accuracy. Obstacles include; tunnels, tables, jumps, A-Frame, Dog Walk, Teeter and Weave poles. For training purposes dogs train with incentives like treats, praise and toys. Handler's control their dog(s) movement

by their voice, movement, and various body signals. By the end of training dogs run off leash without any incentives except for the handler's voice.

Before attending agility classes dogs have to go through check in process at one of the check in days. **The Fee for Agility is \$60.** Dogs must be approved by one of the committee members. Dogs that are aggressive towards people or other dogs will NOT be allowed to train. Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.

It is highly recommended that you get prior approval from your veterinarian to participate in agility classes. This is to insure that your dog will not be injured by the exercises they are asked to perform.

If there is a member that does not have access to a dog that can participate in agility, a committee member *MAY* help to provide access to a dog.

Requirements for showing at the Dane County Fair

Obedience Training:

- All new 4-H members; must attend **at least 6 of the 9** Obedience Training classes which start end of April beginning of May.
- Returning members; that are changing training levels must attend **at least 4 of the 9** Obedience Training classes which start end of April beginning of May.
- Three years or more training; Any member and dog combination that has trained in the Dane County 4-H program for 3 or more years and is not changing training levels, training will be optional.

Showmanship Training:

- All new/returning 4-H members; wishing to show in any showmanship class at the Dane County Fair must attend **at least 6 of the 9** showmanship training classes which start the first training day in May.
- Three years or more training; Any 4-H member and dog combination who have trained in showmanship for 3 years in the Dane County 4-H program, showmanship training is optional.

Team Training:

- All 4-H members must meet the minimum requirements for their obedience training in order to show on Team.

Behavior Management Plan

New this year, the Dane County Dog Project will be implementing a new Behavior Management Plan for not only the handlers but also for the dogs coming through our program. In past years our committee members have noticed an increase in unacceptable behavior from members and/or their dogs. This plan is to insure the safety of not only the handler and dog combination but also the committee members, trainers, and other handlers that come through our program.

We will be using a color code system to better help our committee members better serve our 4-H members. How this system works; if a member or dog exhibits the following behaviors, a colored card will be documented in their folder. If a handler/dog exhibits these behaviors more than once, it could be grounds for dismissal, Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.

Color Code System:

- Red - aggressive dog (growling, excessive targeting, lunging and biting)
- Yellow - mild reaction (locking eyes, charged at another dog/person but nothing else happened)
- Blue - dog is scared
- Purple - dog is scared and reactive
- Pink - Child was mishandling dog

Parent/Guardians will be notified through email/phone call/in-person whichever is the fastest mode of communication. This notification will include the following:

1. What date & time
2. Where it happen
3. Account for what happen
4. Who was present during situation

This Behavior Management Plan is for the safety of everyone: committee members, trainers, members, dogs, and other bystanders.

Signature Page

I have read and understand the **2019** Dane County 4-H Dog Obedience Rules and Guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

4-H Member Signature

Date