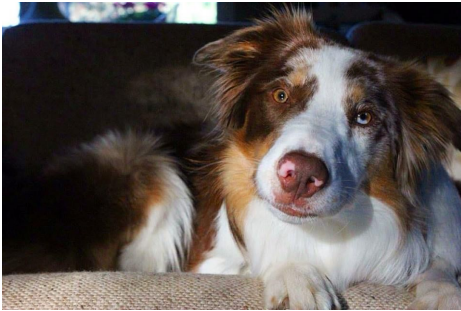


# 2020 Dane County 4-H Dog Rules and Guidelines

*Revised November 2019*



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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 the Dane County 4-H Dog Project for all handlers to perform at competitive events.**

## Preparing for Training:

1. Before training begins, make sure to take your dog on short vehicle rides so they don't think they are going to the vet.
2. Do not feed your dog before class. Your dog will respond better to treats at training.
3. Make sure your dog potties before class and you clean up after them.

# Handler/Dog Expectations

## Handler's Expectations:

1. Do not allow your dog to greet another dog or handler. Keep your dog at a reasonable distance from people and other dogs at all times.
2. Clean up after your dog. Handlers/exhibitors not cleaning up after their dog may place them "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/equipment, 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. Examples include but are not limited to: listening to the trainer/committee members when communicating, looking at demonstrations when presented, being fully engaged when training your dog, etc.
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. If you do not come to practice with the correct footwear this will result in you sitting and watching your class instead of participating.
7. No cell phone use during training classes. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate during training classes.
8. **Do not run with your dogs on the training grounds.**
9. **Practice your obedience at home.** This means practicing the exercises you learned at training daily. Example: use a TV commercial break to practice your dogs sit.
  - a. If you miss class check the Dane County 4-H Dog Project website to see what you missed.
10. **Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.**
11. Beware of your dog, if they are feeling overwhelmed or tired it is okay to take a break and/or go home for the night.

## Handler Attendance:

1. Because you are learning new skills at training, it is important that you attend training regularly and practice with your dog at home.
2. If your dog is ill, in season (heat) or injured or stressed you are encouraged to attend class without your dog.

- a. Attendance with or without your dog counts toward the attendance requirements
3. 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.
  - a. Videos are posted on the Dane County Website of the different exercises we cover: <https://sites.google.com/view/dane-county-4h-dog-project/>.

### 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 12, 2020**, 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:

1. Dogs will not be allowed in the Dane County 4-H Project
  - a. if dog has a record of biting anyone including in bite sports.
    - i. Examples but not limited to: Dogs trained in Schutzhund or similar training styles (military or police)
  - b. If your dog is judged at any time by the Committee Members to be:
    - i. Uncontrollable
    - ii. Vicious
    - iii. unmanageable in or out of a group setting
  - c. Intact females who are in heat or nursing
    - i. 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

- d. Dogs who are sick or injured should not attend class.
2. 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.
3. 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.

### 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 of 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.

Other treatments suggested for your dog:

- Lyme disease vaccination – Transmitted by bite from a Deer Tick. May cause arthritis and lethargy.
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough) – Highly contagious airborne disease. Bacterial infection affects the respiratory system.
- Heartworm Preventive – Transmitted by bite from mosquitoes. Blood test performed every year to test for disease. Prevention given every month.
- **Flea and Tick Preventive – Once per month application to control fleas & ticks. Highly suggested**

### 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.

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

1. After the 1st qualifying score of 170 or above at Dane County Fair or State 4-H Dog Show you will be encouraged to move up a class level. After the 2nd qualifying score of 170 or above the dog/exhibitor will be required to move up a class level.
2. Agility: After the 1st qualifying score of 70 or above at Dane County Fair or State 4-H Dog Show you will be required to move to Division B.
3. Showmanship: If you receive a blue ribbon in a Novice Class you will be required to move to Open Showmanship.

# Training Information

## Private Trainings:

Dane County 4-H committee members and volunteers DO NOT offer private lessons. We encourage you to make use of the trainings we offer and the videos we provide on the website. Do not ask for private lessons, we will not give them. Also we work with the dogs that are coming through our program only.

Outside of 4-H events like AKC, UKC, etc are not associated with 4-H training.

## 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 well-fitting, plain buckle collar (including a quick release collar, well-fitting slip collar or martingale of chain, fabric, or leather or any combinations. There should be no objects hanging from the collar during training.

Freedom harness, Easy Walker Harness, SenSation Harness, (Gentle Leader) are allowed for training but will not be allowed for competition at the Dane County Fair and State 4-H Shows.

**Dumbbells:** The dumbbell will be made either of wood or white plastic

## Training Treats:

**Treats:** at first you will have to use higher tiered (highly motivating treats) such as chicken breasts, hot dogs, cheese sticks. We need the motivation of the treat to outweigh the distracts. Think of it as a salary.

**Tiered treats:**

- **Tier 1:** The irresistible treats in smell, texture, and taste. Common Tier 1 treats: hot dogs, cheese sticks, steak, peanut butter, chicken breast, freeze dried minnows. Use this level treats when initially introducing new commands, new challenges, or if you need to have your dog's attention.
- **Tier 2:** Transition to this tier when he/she is starting to get the hang of what we are asking of them. Most treats will be from this tier and can include: natural balance food log, pupperoni, or other soft easily breakable treat.



- **Tier 3:** Only transition to this tier when she fully understands what you are communicating to her. These treats may not be as exciting but at this point we still want to reward what we are asking of her. Tier 3 treats include: popcorn, kibble, charlie bears.

***Any Training Tool that negatively impact you/your dog other members or their dogs are not allowed.***

***Examples may include but are not limited to: shock devices, whips, shaker, shoe spurs, etc.***

## 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. Pre-Novice Trial A: Handler and dog combination that has never previously trained.
  - ii. Pre-Novice Trial B: Handler or a dog that have previously trained in a Pre-Novice class.
  - iii. Pre-Novice Trial C: Handler and dog that has trained in Pre-Novice dog and cannot advance to Off Lead classes.

### 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. Novice Trial A: Handler and dog combination that have not trained in Novice.
  - ii. Novice Trial B: Handler or dog that has previously trained in a Novice class.
  - iii. Novice Trial C: Handler and dog that have trained in Novice and is not ready to advance.

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. Graduate Novice Trial A: Handler and dog combination that have not previously trained in Graduate Novice.
  - ii. Graduate Novice Trial B: Handler or dog that has previously trained in Graduate-Novice.
  - iii. Graduate Novice Trial C: Handler and dog that have trained in Graduate Novice and is not ready to advance.

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: Handler or dog that are not ready to move to Open.
  - ii. Open: Handler or dog that are not ready to move to to Pre-Utility.

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: Handler or dog that are not ready to move to Utility.

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: Handler or dog that are ready to show at the highest level.

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: Two dogs shown in tandem, trained by the same exhibitor or family members. There are two levels in Brace competition: Pre- Novice and Novice. If exhibitor has one or both dog(s) that is in Novice or above, they must enter in Novice Brace.

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. 1st Year members are not allowed to participate in Team.

- i. Team Dog: There will be two levels of team: Pre-Novice and Novice. Only one dog and handler combination can sign up for Team Dog. All dogs in the team must be showing at that level of exercises.

9. Veteran Dog:

- a. Veteran Dog is for the dog that does not need training anymore and is not moving up in level. Dog must be at least 7 years old. Novice exercise will be judged.

10. Rally:

- a. Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that the dog and handler proceed 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.

It is required that your dog is cleared to participate in agility by the Veterinarian at one of the check in dates. **The Fee for Agility is \$60.** 1st year members are not permitted to participate in agility. Dogs must be approved by one of the committee members. Dogs that are aggressive or reactive 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.

Members and dog combinations will be placed in classes based on the Dane County 4-H Dog Committee prior to training. Members are required to attend an agility check in date in

April. If you can't make the agility check in date, you will be placed in the beginner class. Once members are placed they will not move from the class for the entire summer.

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.

**\*\*\*\*On leash agility is not allowed at Dane County or when you are representing Dane County at the State 4-H Agility Dog Show.\*\*\*\*\***

## Requirements for showing at the Dane County Fair

### Obedience Training:

All new 4-H members: must attend **at least 6 of the 8** 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 8** 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 8** 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.

### Agility Training:

- All agility members: Any 4-H member and dog combination must attend **4 of the 8** training sessions.

### 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 **2020** Dane County 4-H Dog Obedience Rules and Guidelines.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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4-H Member Signature

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Date