

## **DOG PROJECT GUIDELINES**

1. **PROOF OF VACCINATIONS IS REQUIRED!** You **must** bring a photo copy of your dog's rabies certificate and vaccination records before your dog will be allowed into class. Rabies vaccinations are not only required by law, but they protect you and your dog. Rabies vaccine must be administered by a vet, but all others can be self administered. If you give your own 5-way or 7-way shots, you must tape the peel-off label from the bottle onto a piece of paper with the receipt or the date you gave the shots. Bordatella vaccine is also required – you may administer this also and save the label.
2. You will receive handouts during class. It is recommended you keep your project workbook and all handouts in a 3-ring binder.
3. **EQUIPMENT:**
  - \* 6-foot leather or nylon leash. NO CHAIN LEASHES.
  - \* Properly fitting choke chain (or thin chain training collar). If you need help with fitting a collar, take your dog to Neff's Animal Specialties or PetSmart and they will be happy to help.
  - \* Showmanship lead
  - \* Regular buckle collar without any ID/rabies tags (for agility only)
  - \* Water & food bowl
  - \* Plastic bags
  - \* Soft training treats
  - \* Brush or comb or furminator
4. **OUTDOOR CLASS:** Bring a small bowl and water bottle for your dog; several plastic bags; training treats – preferably soft; a brush. A small pack or tote may be helpful.
5. **BE ON TIME!** We have limited time and space to train outside and will start class on time. If you are late, you will miss out. Be early enough to allow your dog to go to the bathroom before class begins. NEVER let your dog foul the training area. Take them away from the training area when you get out of your car. YOU (not leaders or parents) are responsible for cleaning up after your dog – that's what the plastic bags are for!
6. Please be quiet when leaders are talking or working with other handlers and dogs. Pay attention at all times – you can learn a lot from watching others. Especially pay attention to your dog – they get distracted too!!
7. Parents are required to stay and are welcome to watch, but please stand or sit away from the class and don't interfere with the 4H handlers. The dogs need to listen to the 4H members. If you have a dog who won't listen to the child, you may have to hide out of the dog's sight.

8. Do not feed your dog prior to class. Feed either in the morning or after class at night. Some dogs get nervous or excited and if they have just eaten, they may become sick. If your dog eats "free choice", pick up their food dish midday on training days.
9. If you have a dog that is sick or a female in heat, please do not bring it to class. You can still come to class to get instructions and perhaps even work with someone else's dog.
10. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes during class. Flat, rubber soled shoes are best (tennis shoes). No open-toed shoes or sandals.
11. One weekly class is not enough to train your dog. It's important to practice every day. Daily lessons should be for five to fifteen minutes each, up to three times per day. If either you or your dog are not in the mood to train, postpone the lesson until later or even the next day. The number of training sessions is not as important as enjoying what you are doing. Always finish on an "up beat", whether the dog did well or not. When done with training, take a little time to play with the dog – you want her to enjoy working with you.
12. **PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE!** Dogs respond much more quickly to praise than to punishment – and timing is everything. Pay attention to your dog and as soon as it does what you have asked, PRAISE! When she does something wrong, make an immediate correction and give more PRAISE. Think of how you feel when you are scolded or when you are praised – which do YOU prefer?
13. Your dog may be very nervous or excited the first few time he comes to class. **DO NOT** allow your dog to run up to another dog! This can cause dog fights and we do not want you or your dogs getting injured. How would you feel if a complete stranger ran up to you and stood only a few inches away or jumped on you? Keep your dogs on a short leash and under control at all times. Parents may need to assist members the first few times – especially larger dogs with younger members.
14. Sometimes a dog is too big or too strong for the 4H member. In such cases, we may suggest the 4Her wait until next year for this project, taking only Dogless Dog this year, or to borrow a smaller or less assertive dog until the child is either more experienced in dog training or is big enough to handle their own dog. We want this to be fun, not stressful, for both the 4H member and the dog.
15. Our main concern is safety of both the youth and the dogs. We reserve the right to drop any dog if we feel it is jeopardizing the class in any way. Dogs that we determine are overly aggressive, out of control or dangerous will be asked to leave and will not be allowed back into class. **Biting dogs will not be tolerated.**