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Kenosha County 4-H Dog Project

Project Guidelines

“Where Kids And Dogs Go Hand In Paw”

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Kenosha County 4-H Dog Project

This booklet is intended to be used a general guideline and does not cover every aspect of the project. We will discuss the items listed in this booklet during our monthly meetings in greater detail.

Requirements

The Kenosha County 4-H Dog Project is open to all 4-H members who are in the 4th grade or above and either own or have access to a dog. All dogs enrolled in the project must be at least six months of age by the time training begins in May.

Monthly Meetings

First-year members must attend three of the four monthly meetings in order to participate in the dog project. All other members must attend at least two of the four monthly meetings.

Paperwork

The following paperwork must be completed in order to train:

- Standards Signature Sheet
- Emergency Health form
- Dog Profile
- Class Sign up Sheet (Advanced or First Year)
- Dog Activities
- Donations
- Vaccination Requirement Form,
- Veterinary Receipt and Proof of Heartworm Preventative

The following paperwork is optional:

- Catalog Cover Contest Entry
- Equipment Order form

All required paperwork must be turned in no later than the March meeting. Members who have not turned in all required paperwork will not be allowed to participate in training until they have everything turned in.

***All forms are available on the 4-H website to download:
<http://kenosha.uwex.edu/4-h/4-h-dog-project/>***

Vaccinations

4-H guidelines require each dog in the project have proof of vaccinations and heartworm preventative. Each member will receive a current list of required vaccinations. This to ensure the safety of all members and their dogs.

If your dog is unable to receive any of the vaccinations listed above, we require a letter from the veterinarian.

Donations

Each member is required to obtain a minimum donation of \$25.00. We encourage all donations to be turned in by the March meeting.

Weekly Training

YOU MUST EMAIL THE DOG PROJECT PRIOR TO ANY ABSENCE (email address is kenosha4hdog@ymail.com). If three or more weekly lessons are missed and not made up, you will be dropped from the project and will not be allowed to show at the County Fair or State Dog Show. MEMBERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MISS ANY MORE THAN 3 TOTAL CLASSES – MAKE-UPS MUST BE DONE ON ALL WEEKLY LESSONS THAT ARE MISSED. Make-up lessons must be completed within two weeks of the absence. There are no make-up lessons for agility. Missing 3 agility classes results in dismissal for agility class only. (Any extended illness or family emergency should be discussed with a leader.)

Set Up and Take Down of Rings and Agility Equipment

Members and their families are expected to help set up and take down all training equipment. We expect members to help out during their classes when it is needed. If you are not able to help with the physical moving of equipment, we do need help in other areas.

Areas where help is needed:

- Prior to the first class of the night, all rings must be set up
- After the last class of the night, all equipment must be put away
- Every hour, Agility equipment must be set up or moved in and out of the building. **If you are in the agility program, you will be REQUIRED to assist with the set up and/or take down of the equipment. See sign up sheet for class details.**
- Rally Obedience courses must be laid out
- Obedience classes will need help with certain exercises such as being part of a “crowd” for CGC or being a “post” for general obedience classes. (Not usually needed for the first few classes.)
- We also have families who help out with lawn mowing. If you are interested, please contact one of the project leaders for more information

First-year Members

All first-year members are required to take the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) class. Advanced members who are training a new, untrained dog will also be required to take this class. Members will participate in the Canine Good Citizen test at the fair.

Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program Test:

This is a non-competitive test provided by the AKC for purebred and mix breed dogs. The intent of the CGC program is to ensure that the dog can be a respected member of the community because it is trained to act mannerly in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs. All dogs must pass all 10 items of the test to receive a certificate from the AKC. This testing is for our first-year members as an introduction to obedience competition.

Second Year and Advanced Members

After completing the first year in the project, members will be allowed to take showmanship and agility classes in addition to their required obedience class. Members who did not pass the CGC test at the fair or who are training a new dog should talk to one of the leaders prior to signing up for classes. Generally speaking, all new dogs need to participate in the Canine Good Citizen class.

All members must take an obedience or rally obedience class.

Exception: Members who have completed either Graduate Novice level obedience training or Advance Rally obedience training may write a letter to the board of directors requesting to discontinue obedience training. The final decision will come from the board.

Obedience

The dog and handler complete a series of exercises which show the handler's ability to control the dog in real life situations. The highest point value that can be achieved in a class is 200; points are deducted from this perfect score as the team makes errors. As the handler and dog team advance, exercises become more difficult.

Classes are listed in the order that they must be taken. In order to move to the next level, members must receive a qualifying score at the county fair. There are certain instances where a member may be advanced or held back at the trainers discretion.

- Beginner Obedience for second-year members

- Pre-Novice
- Novice
- Graduate Novice
- Pre-Open
- Open
- Pre-Utility
- Utility

Rally Obedience (must complete beginner obedience class above to enroll in Rally)

A rally course includes 10 to 20 stations, depending on the level. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. Communication between handler and dog is encouraged and perfect heel position is not required, but there should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler.

Classes are listed in the order that they must be taken. In order to move to the next level, members must receive a qualifying score at the county fair. There are certain instances where a member may be advanced or held back at the trainers discretion.

- Pre-Novice
- Novice
- Pre-Advanced
- Advanced
- Excellence

Agility

Agility began in England in the mid 1970s. It is described as a combination of military dog's obstacle course, a horse's Grand Prix jumping event and the local park's playground. Agility is run against time and is judged upon the accuracy in which the dog performs the obstacles.

Classes are listed in the order that they must be taken. In order to move to the next level, members must receive a qualifying score at the county fair. There are certain instances where a member may be advanced or held back at the trainers discretion:

- Beginner/Senior Dog
- Advanced
- Masters

Showmanship

Showmanship is based upon the member's ability to show his/her dog. In this class, the member is being judged more so than the dog. Members are judged on presentation of the dog, showing the dog's bite, running assorted patterns and knowledge of the anatomy.

Judges look for more refined showing ability as the members advance.

Members will be placed into the appropriate class at the fair based on experience. The Champion class is for members who have won Best Junior Handler at the county fair. The Masters class is for members who have won Best Junior Handler at two or more county fairs. The Masters will not compete for Best Junior Handler, but will compete against the winner of the Best Junior Handler award for the Best Overall Handler award.

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Open
- Champion
- Masters

Equipment

Each class has its own requirements for equipment. The trainers will discuss what is needed for each particular class. If you feel that your dog has special requirements, please consult with a trainer.

We will take orders for equipment at our general meetings. The equipment will be delivered in time for training. Please note that you can purchase your training items anywhere, this is just a convenience that we offer.

Training Ground Rules

Please abide by the following general rules while on the training grounds.

- **NEVER stop just inside the gate to drop off or pick up anyone. Proceed directly to the marked parking area.**
We have had more than one car accident and several close calls with traffic on Highway K.

- Always pick up after your own dog
- Cell phone use is prohibited during class time
- Do not jump ring gates or run on the training grounds
- **Dogs that are not enrolled in the Dog Project are not allowed on training grounds**

Board of Directors

The board is made up of the trainers, Junior Leaders and the parents or guardians of members who wish to help out with the general duties involved with running the project.

Junior Leaders

- Any member who is in their second year or above in the project and is in the sixth grade or higher, may be a Junior Leader.
- Junior Leaders assist the trainers by giving make-up lessons for the classes they are qualified to help with.
- They assist the trainers when help is needed during class time by demonstrating new skills and helping their classmates.
- Junior Leaders are junior board members and should attend the board meetings.

Point Sheets

It is the members responsibility to keep track of their points. Please keep track of the dates that we train as well as those dates when training is cancelled.

- Point Sheets are due at the last night of training.
- DO NOT TURN THESE IN AT THE FAIR.

Kenosha County Fair

Only members who have fulfilled the Dog Project requirements will be allowed to show at the fair. On our last night of training, we will discuss the rules for showing at the fair and what we expect of you while at the fair.

We will hand out permission slips so that you will be allowed to bring your dogs onto the grounds. All members must stay in the show area during the show and may not take their dogs anywhere else on the grounds.

Any member who is caught in the buildings or in other unauthorized areas will not be allowed to show at next years fair and will lose the ability to participate in the end-of-year banquet activities.

Important Contact Information

If we need to cancel or adjust our meetings or training sessions, we will send an email with pertinent information.



We also will post updates on facebook. Friend us at Kenosha 4H Dog Project.

email: kenosha4hdog@ymail.com

<http://kenosha.uwex.edu/4-h/4-h-dog-project/>

