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# The Kentucky 4-H Dog Show

# The Rule Book & Guide

- The 2020-21 Dog Program rule book and guide is an excellent resource for information about participating in the dog show.
- Be sure to review not only the rules and class descriptions but also the other sections under each discipline.
- Discuss any questions with your 4-H leader.

# Definitions

- Discipline – refers to a show category. Each of the following is a Discipline: Fitting & Showmanship, Obedience, Rally, Agility, \*Freestyle, Tricks, Scent Work and Costume.
- Divisions– refers to sub-categories within certain disciplines. For example, Sub-Novice is a division in the Obedience discipline.
- Class – refers to a class within certain disciplines and/or discipline levels.
  - Beginner or “A” classes are for handlers who have never shown at the State 4-H Dog Show.
  - “B” classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog, provided that the Rules do not state otherwise (Refer to each of the show discipline’s rules for rules specific to that discipline.)

# Fitting & Showmanship

- Purpose: To demonstrate the 4-H member's ability to show his/her project dog to the best of their ability, as if they were presenting their dog in the conformation ring at a breed association show.
- The youth's presentation of the dog is being judged, not the dog's conformation.
- In 4-H, the fitting and showmanship discipline also allows youth to test their knowledge about dogs and responsible dog ownership by participating in an interview, which contributes to the overall showmanship score.
- You will be asked to have the dog gait in straight lines and turns, stand, and to allow a stranger to touch the dog. You will be expected to stack (set up) the dog according to the breed standard of the breed or breed it most resembles. You will have individual work and group work.
- Use of Bait - bait (food) is permitted

# Fitting & Showmanship

- Exhibitors - neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance.
  - Clothing that is comfortable to handle in, and that complements their dog.
- Dogs – Show clip not necessary for 4-H.
  - Dog must be clean and its coat free of mats and loose hair.
  - Ears, eyes and teeth should be clean.
  - Toenails must be trimmed. Hair between the pads should be trimmed.

# Kentucky F & S Divisions

- All divisions are split into classes by the handler's age as of January 1.
- Beginner Division. For handlers who have never shown in the showmanship project at the State Fair 4-H Dog Show. [\[limited to one year in this division\]](#)
- Novice Division. For youth and dogs with no experience in conformation and/or showmanship at a sanctioned show
- Open Division. For youth who have shown in a conformation and/or showmanship at a sanctioned show and/or dogs that have obtained Champion in conformation in AKC or UKC (or similar).
- Masters Division. For youth who have shown in AKC Master or Open Showmanship and/or dogs that obtained Champion in conformation in AKC or UKC (or similar).

# Obedience

- Purpose: To demonstrate the dog's usefulness as a companion.
- 4-H obedience competition demonstrates the handler's ability to work as a team with their 4-H dog project, following specified routines in the obedience ring.
- Required exercises include heel, sit, stay, recall, sit or stand for exam.
- Bait (food) is not allowed in the obedience ring

# Obedience Classes

- Sub-Novice: all exercises on leash. Heel and Figure 8 patterns, Sit for Exam, Recall, long sit
  - A: handlers who have never shown in the dog obedience project at the State Fair 4- H Dog Show
  - B: dogs that have never qualified in Beginner Novice or Novice at any recognized trial (i.e., AKC, UKC)
- Beginner Novice - For dogs that have never qualified in Novice at any recognized trial. Same exercises as Sub-Novice A except:
  - Off leash sit, stay, walk around; off leash recall



# Obedience Classes

- Preferred Novice – On leash: Heel and Figure 8 patterns; Off leash: Heel pattern, Stand for Exam, Recall, Sit Stay Walk around, Sit Stay (get your leash)
  - A: For dogs in their first year of NOVICE only. Limit of one year in this class with the same dog and handler team
  - B: For dogs that have a C.D. title or 4-H'ers having shown the same dog for one year in Novice A.
- Graduate Novice – Same exercises as Preferred Novice plus off leash drop on recall and recall over jump

# Progression of Obedience Classes

- Sub-Novice A – one year, then Sub-Novice B or Beginner Novice
- Sub-Novice B – can repeat unless placed first, second or third and won a blue ribbon in Sub-Novice B at the previous year's State Fair Dog Show, then MUST move up to the next class
- Beginner Novice – can repeat unless placed first, second or third and won a blue ribbon in Beginner Novice at the previous year's State Fair Dog Show, then MUST move up to the next class
- Preferred Novice A – one year, then Preferred Novice B
- Preferred Novice B – can repeat
- Graduate Novice – can repeat

# Rally

- Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course of signs that has been designed by the rally judge.
- Each of these signs provides instructions regarding the next skill to be performed via words, directional arrows, colors, and geometric shapes.
- After the judge's order of "Forward," the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. The dog and handler move continuously throughout the course with the dog under control at the handler's left side.
- There is a clear sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during and between the numbered signs; however, perfect heel position is not required.
- Rally signs are available on the AKC's website

# Rally Classes

- On Leash (Sign numbers 1-42)
  - Rally Obedience Beginner- Handlers first year in rally at the State Fair 4-H Dog Show and dogs have not earned an R.N. title or equivalent.
  - Rally Obedience Novice – Dogs cannot have a R.N. title.
- On Leash (Sign Numbers 1-216 [excluding jumps or off leash])
  - Rally Obedience Intermediate – for dogs that have earned a R.N. title or a first or second placing in 4-H Rally Obedience Novice at the Kentucky State 4-H Dog Show (or equivalent show in another state).

# Rally Classes

- Off Leash (signs numbers 1-216)
  - Rally Obedience Advanced - For dogs that have earned an R.N. title or equivalent, or a first or second placing in 4-H Rally Obedience Intermediate at the Kentucky State 4-H Dog Show (or equivalent show in another state)

# Progression of Rally Classes

- Beginner – one year
- Novice – can repeat, unless a first or second placing then must move up to Intermediate
- Intermediate – can repeat, unless a first or second placing then must move up to Advanced
- Advanced – can repeat

# Agility

- 4-H Agility is a team sport that youth and their dogs participate in together.
- This event requires conditioning, concentration, training and teamwork. The dog must have been trained on all pieces of agility equipment for their particular class level.
- 4-H Agility gives opportunities for handler and dog teams to develop confidence, problem solving skills, patience, and responsibility.
- Bait is not allowed in agility

# Agility classes

- Standard Agility – course includes up to 10 obstacles (e.g., A Frame, tunnels, pause table, dog walk, jumps)
  - Agility I – On Lead
  - Agility II – Off lead
- Jumpers - Jumps only (on lead or off lead classes)
- Tunnelers - only tunnels, off lead only



# Collars and Leashes

- Showmanship:
  - Collars - Nylon or very small chain link slip collars, or combination lead and collar, such as a martingale.
  - Leads - fabric or leather, long enough to allow for easy handling.
- All others:
  - Collars: well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, or slip collars (choke, training) of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric, or chain with two rings, one at each end, or properly fitted martingale (limited slip) collars.
  - Leashes may be made of leather or fabric.
    - In rally obedience and sub-novice classes, they should be six feet long.
    - In Novice and Graduate Novice classes leashes need only be long enough to provide sufficient slack in the heel on leash exercise.
- Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

# Resources

- Review the rules for more information on what to expect and for ring procedure information.
- Gaiting patterns for showmanship are outlined in the Rule Book.
- [4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/agriculture/dog-program](http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/content/agriculture/dog-program)
- Helpful information: [AKC.org](http://AKC.org)
- Rally signs: [akc.org/sports/rally/rally-resource-center/](http://akc.org/sports/rally/rally-resource-center/)
- Ohio and Oregon have dog program Youtube videos