



4-H DOG PROGRAM



Image: A. Gibson Photography

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Are you Into It?

Ashley Osborne,
Extension Specialist for 4-H Youth Development

Explore dog care, health, training, and much more!

- Learn about dog breeds, anatomy, and conformation.
- Practice grooming, training, and showing.
- Demonstrate responsible dog ownership.
- Participate in 4-H Camp Canine.
- Learn about dog-related careers and service opportunities.

Communication

- Give a presentation on responsible dog ownership.
- Create a poster on that compares purebred and mixed-breed dogs.

Citizenship

- Plan and conduct a pet food and supply drive.
- Organize and plan an animal-assisted activity with your club to a local nursing home.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Identify dog body parts.
- Learn about different dog breed groups.
- Research famous dogs from books and movies.
- Create a dog care plan.
- Learn about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a mixed breed dog.
- Investigate dog parasites and diseases.
- Explore basic obedience commands.
- Create a training plan.

Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Learn about the country of origin of different dog breeds.
- Research different boarding kennels in your area.
- Create a dog care budget.
- Investigate inherited diseases and conditions in dog breeds.
- Learn about dog showmanship and prepare and participate in a dog show.

Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Learn how to assess a dog's vital signs.
- Organize and lead a puppy training class.
- Participate in the Canine Good Citizen program.
- Interview a person who has a service dog.
- Research different dog-related careers.
- Plan and conduct a dog costume contest.
- Investigate diseases that can be spread from dogs to people.

Leadership

- Lead a dog-related activity at a 4-H Cloverbud Club.
- Write an article for a local newspaper about the importance having dogs spayed or neutered.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning **leadership** **citizenship** and **life skills**.

Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.





Take the Dog Program Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore dogs:

- Enter a dog poster in the county and state fair.
- Participate in the Dog Bowl and Skillathon Competition.
- Attend 4-H Camp Canine held annually each May at the J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp in London, Kentucky.
- Assist a dog groomer for a day, and create a video demonstrating proper dog grooming techniques.
- Create a game to lead at dog club to help club members learn the different body parts of a dog.
- Compete in the State 4-H Dog Show that takes place each August at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Prepare a dog-related speech or demonstration and compete in the 4-H Speech and Demonstration Contest in your county.
- Job shadow a small animal veterinarian.
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter.
- Plan and lead a dog skillathon event in your county or district.

Exhibit Ideas

Prepare a dog poster for county and state fair:

- Dog breed groups
- Advantages and disadvantages of purebred and mixed-breed dogs
- Dog nutrition
- Dog vaccinations and parasite control
- Dog behavior and body language
- Basic obedience training
- Proper dog grooming
- Creating a dog care budget
- Dog breed-related diseases
- Breeding responsibility
- Dog showmanship
- Care and needs of senior dogs
- Service dogs
- Canine-related careers

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiggles and Wags – Level 1 • Canine Connection – Level 2 • Leading the Pack – Level 3 • Helper’s Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 4-H Dog Curriculum Website - http://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/dog/ • American Kennel Club http://www.akc.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record time each day spent feeding, grooming, exercising, training, playing with, and cleaning up after your dog. • Record costs associated with owning and caring for your dog, including veterinary expenses, grooming, training, food, supplies, etc. • Record veterinary and health care provided for your dog, including vaccinations, sicknesses, parasite control, etc.

