

WALWORTH COUNTY 4-H DOG PROJECT

OVERVIEW

2020

IMPORTANT: READ CAREFULLY!!! SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!!!

Welcome to the 2020 Walworth County 4-H Dog Project! Most people think the dog is the winner in this project because it learns to heel, sit, stay, etc. We think that 4-H'ers are the special ones because they learn responsibility, communication skills, time management, patience, sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, and commitment. Please read the following information carefully as it will help prepare you and your dog for the training experience.

What is Obedience?

Obedience is teaching the dog skills needed to be a good companion. You will teach your dog such things as sit, down, stay, heel, etc.

EQUIPMENT: Obedience requires a choke chain (no tags), six foot leather leash (not nylon, rope or chain), and lots of small, soft treats. Other equipment may be required based on your dog and your training level.

What is Showmanship?

Showmanship is learning to show off your dog. You will learn parts of the dog, gaiting patterns, grooming methods, etc.

EQUIPMENT: A show lead is generally required. Your trainer will help you to find the proper lead for you and your dog. You will also need lots of small, soft treats.

What is Agility?

Agility is an obstacle course that you and your dog will learn to negotiate. You will teach your dog such things as tunnels, jumps, weave poles, etc.

EQUIPMENT: You will need a flat buckle collar (no tags), six foot leather leash, and lots of small, soft treats.

How do I Prepare for Training?

- Your dog needs to practice riding in a vehicle. Take your dog on short trips other than to the vet's office.
- Do not feed your dog before coming to class.
- You MUST clean up after your dogs on the fairgrounds! Please bring plastic bags to make this as simple as possible.
- Bring a bowl and water or ice for your dog as the weather heats up.
- Bring insect repellent for your own comfort.
- Keep your dog on-leash and under control. Dogs are allowed off-leash ONLY during training at trainers' discretion. Members are expected to show courtesy to other training classes in session.
- Dogs cannot be shown or trained by anyone other than the Dog Project member from May 1st to September 10th. **No professional training or showing of any kind is allowed during this time.**

When are Training Sessions?

Training sessions will be held every **Thursday evening** at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, beginning May 7th through August 13th with an optional/makeup session August 20th. The schedule will be as follows:

6:30 p.m.

**Beginner Agility
Showmanship**

Advanced Obedience

7:15 p.m.

**Advanced Agility
Showmanship**

Pre-Novice Obedience

8:00 p.m.

**Intermediate Agility
Showmanship**

Pre-Novice Obedience

Training ends approximately 45 minutes after the last class begins. Please be there to pick up your children.

What About My Attendance at Training?

Members and parents need to know that the dog project is not easy! It requires practice and patience. Because you will be learning a new skill each week, it is important to be here. Even if your dog is ill or in season, you still need to attend class. If you are unable to attend a session, have a member of your family bring your dog. This will keep you up-to-date on the training sessions. A family member can only train the dog twice during the season. This will still count as an absence.

Attendance will be taken at all meetings and training sessions before obedience, showmanship and agility. Any member more than 10 minutes late will be considered absent. This will be unconditionally enforced. Anyone with more than 3 absences from training sessions will not be permitted to show at the Walworth County Fair. There will be one makeup session August 9th.

What About My Dog's Attendance at Training?

- Dogs that are sick or injured should not come to class.
- Females in season are not allowed in class. Seasons usually last about three weeks.
- Nursing females are not allowed in class.
- The trainers reserve the right to remove a dog from the class, which in their opinion poses a hazard to other dogs or members in the class.

Can I Train/Show Multiple Dogs?

Exhibitors will be allowed to show one dog in showmanship and another dog in obedience and/or agility if they choose, or they may show one dog in all classes. Exhibitors having completed three or more consecutive years of obedience training may enter a second dog in obedience, or obedience or agility. (Meaning 3 dogs will be allowed, two in obedience and agility, and one in showmanship.) An exhibitor may not enter two dogs in the same class (except for Brace Team) nor may one dog be entered in two obedience, agility, or showmanship classes handled by the same exhibitor. **Attendance for multiple dogs will be tracked. A member must attend a minimum of 1 training session per month of each class to be allowed to show. Eligible members that are interested in this option, please see a committee member immediately following this meeting for more information.**

What Vaccines Are Required?

Each member in the project will be required to submit verification of vaccines. You will be given a Verification of Vaccines form to be signed by your veterinarian verifying your dog has had distemper, rabies, and parvo vaccinations. The bordetella vaccination, a heartworm test, and fecal check are also recommended. **The completed form must be returned to your trainer by May 21st.** All dogs are required to be licensed by the State of Wisconsin, as this is the law.

What is a Fun Match?

A Fun Match is a practice show. You will be judged just like at the fair. It will give you a chance to see what the show is like and what exercises you need to work on.

The Fun Match will be held August 1st at the WAG Training Center, Spring Grove, IL. Participating in the Fun Match is optional and will make up one absence. If you cannot participate, the absence will not count against you. Judging will begin with showmanship at 8:30 a.m. followed by obedience and agility. We will break for a potluck lunch. There will be a nominal entry fee.

Where and When is the Walworth County Show?

Agility will be judged pre-fair. Agility judging will be Thursday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the indoor horse arena. All obedience and showmanship judging will be during the fair on Wednesday, September 2nd, in the Activity Center, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Where and When is the State 4-H Dog Show?

The 2019 state 4-H obedience and showmanship show details are not yet available. Check <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/state-4-h-dog-show/> for updated information. The 2019 state 4-H agility show details are not yet available. Check <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4haganimalscience/state-4-h-agility-show/> for details. Participation in a state 4-H dog show will make up one absence.