

Dog

4-H Project Newsletter

This DOG Project Newsletter contains information specific to the DOG Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.

Welcome to the 4-H Dog Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the Dog project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project, and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Dog project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

Project Work Requirements

On Achievement Day, Dog members must complete showmanship with their registered 4-H Dog. Please note the dress code for all Dog classes is dress pants or skirts, shirt or blouse. **No jeans or t-shirts are permitted.** Sneakers may be worn but hard soled boots are encouraged for member's safety. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area. The dress code will be enforced at 4-H Nova Scotia 4-H Shows.

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year, and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, dog project level (ie. Pre-novice, novice, etc), sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day

may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show Class & Sections:

Each county is eligible to send the top junior and top senior members in each section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

The sections are as follows:

CLASS #2: SHOWMANSHIP

Section 8:	Junior Dog
	Senior Dog

CLASS #54: DOG

SECTION 1:	Obedience – Pre-Novice – Junior
SECTION 2:	Obedience – Pre-Novice – Senior
SECTION 3:	Obedience – Novice – Junior
SECTION 4:	Obedience – Novice – Senior
SECTION 5:	Obedience – Graduate Novice – Junior
SECTION 6:	Obedience – Graduate Novice – Senior
SECTION 7:	Obedience – Novice Intermediate – Junior
SECTION 8:	Obedience – Novice Intermediate – Senior
SECTION 9:	Obedience – Open – Junior
SECTION 10:	Obedience – Open – Senior

LEADER RESOURCES

There are many resources available locally to the dog project members. For more information on training and showing dogs, check out some of the following resources:

- 4-H Dog Project Leader Manual - The Leader manual provided by the NS Department of Agriculture contains a bulk of information about caring for and showing dogs in 4-H.
- Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) - CKC members can be very helpful. They can help by sharing their experiences with dogs and are very good resource people for 4-H Dog Project Leaders. Check the CKC website for up to date information on showing dogs in Canada (www.ckc.ca).
- Canadian Kennel Club Obedience Trail Rules & Regulations - This booklet can be obtained by contacting the Canadian Kennel Club at: 89 Skyway Avenue, Suite 100, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9W 6R4 or by calling 416-657-5511.
- CKC Canine Good Neighbour Program - The Canine Good Neighbour Program teaches the dog and owner to demonstrate good manners at home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. More information on this program can be found at the Canadian Kennel Club Website (www.ckc.ca).

PROJECT IDEAS

Your club can plan many special activities to add to the 4-H Dog Project. Besides learning about showmanship and the obedience trial, you may want to work on some of the following:

- Nutrition - A very important part of keeping a pet; study your dog's nutritional requirements.
- Pests and diseases - Visit a local vet for a presentation and discussion. Study life cycles of common pests such as fleas and worms.
- Judging - Go to a kennel to practice judging different types of dogs.
- Grooming - Hold sessions to learn proper grooming techniques for your dog.
- Breeds - Visit local breeders to learn about different breeds and their uses. Attending a dog show to see the different breeds is interesting.

Some Important Rules and Regulations

- **CKC has updated their obedience sections.** Please note the following changes: in the Pre-Novice levels members no longer perform the circle left/right but instead perform a figure 8. As well in the Novice Intermediate class the point distributions have changed and honour has been replaced with recall over high jump holding dumbbells. Please see the obedience expectations which are on page 2 of this newsletter.
- Dogs should be shown on a six (6) foot flat lead (leather or other material) for obedience classes. The collar can be a buckle or link collar. In Showmanship classes, a smaller, shorter lead is used. Ideally, the length should be from the show person's hip to the dog's neck (with head held erect). Acceptable collars are: link collar, choker chain, or a nylon collar.
- **Vaccinations:** It is recommended that dogs be vaccinated every year for Distemper, Canine Parvovirus (Parvovirus), Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Corona Virus (optional), and Rabies vaccination-every three years. **Members can include the vaccination information regarding their dog on the Veterinary Record Section of the Dog Record Sheet.**
- Members are only allowed to show one dog.
- A member who qualifies for Grand Champion Showmanship Class participates. Their dog does not.
- At the 2000 NS 4-H Council Annual Meeting, it was resolved that **"With the approval of the leader** there be no restrictions on the number of years' experience of either the member or dog in the dog project."
- It was accepted at the 2005 NS 4-H Council Annual Meeting that the Nova Scotia 4-H Dog Project be revised to reflect the **obedience** guidelines set out by the CKC except for the CKC rules pertaining to the requirements of being purebred and in regards to neutering and spaying of the dogs.

- It was accepted at the 2006 NS 4-H Council Annual Meeting that the 4-H Dog Obedience classes be judged according to the CKC Junior Handling Rules and Regulations, which state;
- "Each exercise shall be scored by the point system in place under CKC rules. However, the judge will score 75% of the total marks on the basis of the handler's performance, and 25% of the total marks on the performance of the dog/handler team. Scores shall be awarded on the basis of the handler's performance".
- It was accepted at the 2007 NS 4-H Council Annual Meeting that the 4-H Pre-Novice level have the same requirements according to CKC rules with the exception of **off leash** changed to **on leash** at the 4-H Pre-Novice level.
- The 2013 4-H NS Annual Meeting approved a resolution that a 6-foot leash must be used for the recall exercise and the long sit exercise in the dog project.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

SHOWMANSHIP - All Levels

- Dogs should be under control
- Members should be able to show dog's teeth
- Dogs should be clean and conditioned
- Members should be able to move their dog through ring patterns including but not limited to: simple round, diagonal, T- pattern, and L- pattern. This should be done smoothly and professionally
- Members should be able to perform a courtesy turn and move up and stack dog (according to breed)
- Members should be in constant control and eye contact with judge

OBEDIENCE - Pre-Novice Class

- Heel on Leash (60 points)
- Figure 8 (12' between posts) (35 points)
- Sit for Examination (35 points)
- Recall (40 points)
- Long Sit-30 seconds (30 points)
- OBEDIENCE - Novice Class
- Heel on Leash and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Stand for Examination (30 points)
- Heel Free (40 points)
- Recall (30 points)
- Long Sit-1 minute (30 points)
- Long Down-3 minutes (30 points)

OBEDIENCE - Graduate Novice Class

- Heel on Leash-No Figure 8 (40 points)

- Stand for Examination-Off Leash (30 points)
- Heel Free and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Drop on Recall (30 points)
- Long Sit-3 minutes handler out of sight (30 points)
- Long Down-3 minutes handler out of sight (30 points)

OBEDIENCE - Novice Intermediate Class

- All exercises are off leash.
- Heel Free and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Stand for Examination (30 points)
- Drop from Heel (35 points)
- Recall Holding Dumbbell (30 points)
- Recall over High Jump holding dumbbell (40 points)
- Recall over Broad Jump (25 points)

OBEDIENCE - Open

- All exercises are off leash.
- Heel Free and Figure Eight (40 points)
- Drop on Recall (30 points)
- Retrieve on Flat (25 points)
- Retrieve over High Jump (35 points)
- Broad Jump (20 points)
- Long Sit-3 minutes handler out of sight (25 points)
- Long Down-3 minutes handler out of sight (25 points)

CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE:

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local vet immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.