



TULARE COUNTY DOG CARE & TRAINING PROJECT GUIDELINES

Welcome
4-H Members, Leaders, and Parents

Welcome to the Tulare County Dog Care & Training Project. We hope your participation in its activities will be a rewarding and pleasurable learning experience for both you and your dog. The overall program will provide you with excellent opportunities to learn basic care, management, training, and handling of your dog.

The Dog Care project leaders as well as the Agricultural Advisory Board continue to work together to make the Dog Care program more helpful to you. The program is flexible and always open to the consideration of new ideas. So, if you have any suggestions and are willing to work towards their implementation, please let us know.

YOUR LOCAL CLUB

You must be a member of a local Tulare County 4-H community club and enrolled in the Dog Care & Training Project. If your local club does not have a Dog Care Project, perhaps there is a nearby club which does. Talk with your community club leader about project sharing.

Your Dog Care & Training Project leader will set up his/her own schedule of meetings. This will differ from club to club. You must participate in these activities regularly, and if for any reason you are unable to attend, let your leader know ahead of time. **Remember**, your leader is volunteering his/her time and knowledge to help you!

YOUR DOG

You must own a dog, have a long-term lease, or borrow a dog from a family member. (A family member may be a parent, sibling, uncle, aunt, grandparent, including the corresponding step and half relations, or a member of the same household). You may have more than one project dog, as long as you keep records on each dog. It is recommended that you continue with the same dog during the entire club year. It is recommended that it is the members responsibility to do the majority of feeding and care of the dog, as well as the upkeep of the kennel or yard, and the equipment for the entire year. Your dog may have only one 4-H handler during the 4-H year.

****NOTE****

Dog Identification: All Dogs that are to be exhibited at Small Animal Achievement Day are required to have a Dog Identification Certificate on file at the Cooperative Extension 4-H Office by **January 1 of the program year**. If there are circumstances in which a change of dog is necessary, (example: death, illness etc.), after January 1 a dog ID certificate must be in place 60 days prior to the event. After the 60 day period, upon written request of the member and his/her project leader, changes can be approved by a committee comprised of Tulare County Dog leaders. If a dog is approved by the committee after the 60 day period, and the member wishes to participate at Small Animal Achievement Day with the new dog a medal cannot be awarded.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

Obedience & Showmanship - This is the primary objective of the program and shall emphasize safety in handling the dog both for obedience and showmanship. It is divided into the following categories:

Obedience -

Sub-Novice A, B, C, and D. Novice A and B. Graduate Novice, Novice Open A and B, and Utility, with each division increasing in difficulty and scope. (Refer to pages 3 and 4.)

Showmanship - grades 4, 5 and 6 novice, pre-novice, and open; grades 7 and 8 novice and open; grade 9 and up, novice and open. (Refer to page 4.)

Classes and activities for each division will be offered at Achievement Day.

NOTE: A member may participate in more than one obedience division per year. However, the member may not participate in more than one level in showmanship. If multiple dogs are trained, a separate annual dog project report should be prepared for each dog. (Please note, if multiple dogs are trained, member is enrolled in only one Dog Care Project.) You may show the same dog in both obedience and showmanship or you may show 2 dogs for the separate classes.

Junior and Teen Leader - This is available to members with at least two years in the Dog Care Project and who are in the 6th grade and above upon Leader approval. Members help countywide by conducting training sessions, proctoring the written tests, and stewarding at Achievement Day.

COUNTYWIDE ACTIVITIES

Dog Care and Training Play days and Fun days - Play days and fun days offer an opportunity for the member and dog to participate in an activity that is strictly for fun. The activities are organized by interested leaders and project groups.

Field Days - A field day is an educational event. They are organized by interested project leaders and groups and are held to help members learn a variety of skills related to training and caring for dogs.

Rally and Agility Events: Rally and Agility events will be available throughout the program year and at dog achievement day. Some events may be just for fun and others a competition. Both Rally and Agility is taught at the club level at the discretion of the leader.

DOG ACHIEVEMENT DAY

This is the pinnacle for Dog Care Project activities. It provides an opportunity for each member to demonstrate what s/he has learned during the year and to receive an objective critique of his progress. The event is generally held prior to the Tulare County 4-H Fair.

Rules Governing the Event

1. Members participating in the Dog Care Achievement Day must take a written test covering material from the project manual and supplements (or its equivalent for more advanced members). This test is usually given prior to Achievement Day at a designated location(s) in the county.

2. Rules for judging and scoring will be based on American Kennel Club (AKC); however, this is not an official sanctioned AKC show. The Danish system of judging will be used for Obedience and the American system of judging will be used for Showmanship.
3. All repeating medalists using the same dog at Achievement Day must progress to the next class the following year, unless special approval of the Agricultural Advisory Board is obtained upon written request of the member and his/her dog care project leader.
4. All non-medalists may repeat a division as many times as necessary to become competent in its requirements.
5. A passing score on the written test is 75%. Members who achieve a 75% or higher on the written test must progress to the next level.
6. The organizing committee of this event may remove or discharge any dog from the premises on account of disease, viciousness, or unruliness. The dog will be automatically disqualified, and no one shall have any claim of recourse against any official thereof.
7. At Dog Achievement Day or at any other 4-H Dog show, the 4-H member is the only one to handle and prepare their dog(s) for show. This includes grooming, readying for obedience, agility and rally competitions.
8. Your dog may not be under the care of a professional trainer for more than 60 days during the 4-H year and not within 60 days of Achievement Day.
9. No bitches in season may be shown in obedience and showmanship classes. However, a dog that must be withdrawn for good and sufficient reason, such as a bitch in season or veterinarian's excuse, may be replaced by another dog meeting the ownership requirements stated under page 1. Such substitution must be requested in writing, stating the reason for the substitution, and submitted to the organizing committee of the event no later than one hour prior to the opening of the show.
10. No dogs are allowed in the restrooms. Dogs must be contained at all times. Grooming must be done away from the show rings. Practice only in designated area(s).
11. If high school aged 4-H members, who have knowledge and experience in the Dog Care Project, are needed to judge a class, they must judge in a team of three.
12. The following equipment will not be allowed at Achievement Day: prong collars, chain leashes, whips or quirts, and wire or chain gimmicks.
13. Obedience equipment consists of a choke collar and 6 ft lead. Showmanship equipment can be a designated show lead or fine gauge choke collar and short thin lead. Obedience equipment will be checked prior to entering the show ring at any 4-H show or competition.

Incentives and Recognition for Achievement Day

Each participant will receive a ribbon in the Obedience Class based on his/her scores for each class that s/he participates in. Additional awards are as follows:

1. For each obedience class, ribbons will be awarded accordingly: 1st place, 85 % and above; 2nd place, 75 to 84%; 3rd place, 74% and below. Medals awarded in each obedience class, at the discretion of the judges, are: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Champion. Medalists will be selected from the blue ribbon group.

2. Medals awarded in each showmanship class, at the discretion of the judges, are: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Champion . Ribbons will be given to the first 10 places.
3. Potential medals awarded in each written test class are: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Champion. Certificates will be given to each participant upon completion of the test.
4. Sub-novice obedience is scored to 160 possible points with a qualifying score of 136 or above. A high sub-novice award will be given. All other obedience classes will be scored to 200 possible points with a qualifying score of 170 or above. A high in trial award will be given to the high score in the regular obedience divisions.
5. A best junior showmanship handler award will be given.
6. The first award winner in each showmanship class is eligible to compete for best junior showmanship handler. The first award winner in each of the three novice groups advances to his / her perspective open showmanship class. The first award winner in each open showmanship class is then eligible to compete in small animal round robin at the Tulare County 4-H Fair.

Achievement Day Classes

Obedience Classes

Sub-Novice Obedience - All exercises on a 6-foot leash, heeling, figure eight, recall, stand for examination, 1 minute long sit, and 3 minute long down. Dog has never been shown in novice obedience at any obedience competition (4-H or other).

Sub-Novice A - 1st year exhibitor and 1st year dog in project.

Sub-Novice B - 2nd year and over exhibitor and 1st year dog in project.

Sub-Novice C – 2nd year exhibitor or higher and 2nd year dog

Sub Novice D – Third Year exhibitor or higher and 3rd year or higher dog not ready for off leash

Novice Obedience - Heel and figure 8 on leash, stand for examination, heel free, recall, one minute long sit, 3 minute long down second or third year dog.

Novice A – For a dog that is ready to go off lead and the only dog exhibitor has trained and the member is exhibiting for the first time in a Novice Class.

Novice B - For a dog that is ready to go off lead and the exhibitor is in their 2nd year or above showing in a Novice Class.

Graduate Novice - Heel on leash, stand for examination, heel free and figure 8, drop on recall, 3 minute long sit, 5 minute long down out of sight.

Open Obedience - Heel free and figure 8, drop on recall, retrieve on a flat, retrieve over high jump, broad jump, 3 minute long sit, 5 minute long down out of sight.

Open A - For exhibitors who have never progressed beyond open.

Open B - For exhibitors who are in their 2nd year or above showing in an Open Class.

Utility - Signal exercise, scent discrimination article #1, scent discrimination article #2, directed retrieve, directed jumping, group examination.

Showmanship Classes

1. Pre Novice – 4th, 5th and 6th grades who have never shown any animal species
2. Novice Novice - Exhibitors in grades 4th, 5th, and 6th who have show experience in any animal species.
3. Novice Junior Showmanship - Grades 7th and 8th
4. Novice Senior Showmanship- Grades 9th and over.

Open Showmanship: Exhibitors who have won 2 or more 1st place awards in competition showing a dog (4-H or other). Divisions are:

1. Open Novice: Grades 4th, 5th, and 6th
2. Open Junior: Grades 7th and 8th
3. Open Senior: Grades 9th and over

The pre novice winner is eligible to advance to the Novice class and the first award winner in each of the three novice groups advances to his/her open showmanship class. The first award winner in each of the three Novice Novice, Novice Junior and Novice Senior showmanship classes are eligible to compete for best junior showmanship handler. The first award winner in each open showmanship class is then eligible to compete in small animal round robin at the Tulare County 4-H Fair.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Check with your own Dog Care Project leader or with the Cooperative Extension Office (4437-B S. Laspina St., Tulare 93274, (559)-685-3303. A catalog is available at the Cooperative Extension Office that lists the 4-H curriculum that is available at the state level.

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