



K-STATE

Research and Extension

4-H Youth Development

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Kansas 4-H Dog Project Families,

This letter includes information about getting started in the Kansas 4-H Dog Project, rules for level advancement for each event and information about qualifying for the Kansas State Fair 4-H Dog Show, which will be held Saturday, August 31, 2024.

If you are new to the Dog Project, welcome! The Kansas 4-H Dog Project is unique in its emphasis on the bond between handler and dog (quality of the training, grooming and handling of the dog) instead of conformation (quality of dog based on comparison to a breed standard). Any dog can be a 4-H dog from the rescued stray to the pedigreed champion and every dog in between. 4-H members may even share dogs. Every handler/dog team can find a place to shine in the four events offered at 4-H dog shows: Showmanship, Obedience, Rally Obedience and Agility. Full event descriptions and rules can be found in the Kansas 4-H Dog Show Rules. If your club, county or district has Dog Project meetings, participation is highly recommended. Some counties require attendance at a minimum number of meetings in order to be eligible to show at the county fair, so you should check with your extension office as soon as possible to learn the local requirements.

Before taking your dog to any meetings or shows, you will need a completed Kansas 4-H Dog Show Immunization Record signed by a veterinarian showing that your dog is current on all required vaccinations, including: Rabies, Bordetella, Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Parainfluenza. It is also recommended that your dog receive the Leptospirosis and Coronavirus vaccines. In addition to showing this to the project leader before meeting attendance, the immunization record will be checked at every show or event you attend with your dog.

Each of the four dog show events has multiple levels. Here is a guide on where to start and rules for level advancement:

In Showmanship, level is determined by age as of January 1, 2024. For shows that align with Kansas State Fair age divisions, those levels are: Pre-Junior for ages 7-8, Junior for ages 9-11, Intermediate for ages 12-14 and Senior for those ages 15 and up. Pre-Juniors are not eligible for the Kansas State Fair. In Obedience, Agility and Rally Obedience, handler/dog teams should start out with the following on-leash levels that are not eligible for the Kansas State Fair: Pre-Novice Obedience, Pre-Agility or Rally Obedience I. Pre-Novice Obedience is further divided into up to three sub-categories A, B and C, as defined locally, because these are not Kansas State Fair classes. In Obedience or Rally Obedience a handler/dog team must advance to the next level the program year after receiving their second blue or purple ribbon score, 135+ points for Pre-Novice Obedience, 170+ points for Obedience levels Novice and above, or 80+ points for Rally Obedience. For example, a team receiving

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a purple at the county fair and a blue at the Kansas State Fair last year in Rally Obedience II must enter Rally Obedience III this year.

In Agility a handler/dog team must advance to the next level the program year after receiving their second purple ribbon score of 190+ points.

A handler may decide to advance levels with a dog prior to mandatory advancement, but cannot return to a lower level after advancing.

In the case of a shared dog, each handler advances through the levels with the dog as a team separately from other handlers working with the same dog. For example, if an older sibling has advanced to Graduate Novice Obedience with a dog and a younger sibling starts showing the same dog, the younger sibling will start on Pre-Novice Obedience with that dog.

Here are the 2024 Kansas State Fair Dog Show qualification requirements:

4-H members must have turned at least 9 years old by January 1, 2024.

Enter a Dog Qualifier Show that uses a certified Kansas 4-H Dog Show Judge, a list of statewide opportunities is available at this link: [Dog Qualifier Shows](#).

Many county fairs use certified judges, but be sure to check with show officials before entering a show intending to qualify for state.

Enter Kansas State Fair eligible class(es), including:

Showmanship – Junior, Intermediate or Senior

Obedience – Novice, Graduate Novice, Open A or B, or Utility A or B

Agility – off-leash levels I, II, III or IV

Rally Obedience – off-leash levels II or III

Earn a blue or purple ribbon score as a handler/dog team.

Showmanship – 90+ points

Obedience – 170+ points

Agility – 170+ points

Rally Obedience – 80+ points

Please note, each 4-H handler/dog team must qualify in each event they plan to enter at the Kansas State Fair each year. Handlers must take the same dog they used for qualification. In addition, each handler must qualify with the dog separately in the case of a shared dog.

For additional information on the Kansas State Fair Dog Show, see the Dog Show section, starting on page 117 of the 2024 Kansas State Fair 4-H Exhibitor Handbook. As a reminder, the Kansas State Fair Dog Show will be using the updated agility rules and obstacles this year. See complete details at this link: [Kansas 4-H Agility Update 2023](#). Show fees will be \$10 per class and should be paid to your local extension office when submitting your entries by your local Kansas State Fair entry deadline.

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