

2022 Richland County 4-H Dog Rules

PREFACE

These rules apply to exhibitors exhibiting a dog at the county level. If you plan on participating in the 2022 Ohio State Fair Dog Show, please refer to the Ohio 4-H Dog Program website at <http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dog> for the rules that apply at the state level.

Project information, opportunities and Ohio State Fair dog information will also be on the Richland County Extension website at <http://richland.osu.edu>.

1. Prior to participating in 4-H dog activities with a dog (which includes the Ohio State Fair Dog Show), a 2022 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims form must be signed by the 4-H member and a parent or guardian for this year's 4-H dog project(s). This form for the current year must be on file in the county Extension office for each youth before they can participate in any Ohio 4-H Dog Program activities with a dog.
2. Individuals who violate any rule and/or exhibit poor sportsmanship during a show will be disqualified from showing.
3. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior at any time before, during or after exhibition must be removed from the fairgrounds and won't be permitted to return for the remainder of the show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
4. A dog that snaps, bites or attempts to bite while in the ring must be immediately excused from the ring and then removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the show.
5. Individuals aren't permitted to have any discussion with judges at any time throughout the dog show. *Note: This doesn't include discussions or questions during Agility, Rally briefings or walkthroughs.*
6. Determinations of the Show Committee and/or Judge(s) are final.
7. Judges' judging and scoring decisions are final.
8. Individuals with concerns must express them in writing and give them to the Show Personal. All concerns will be reviewed by the Show Committee. Confrontations with judges and/or show personnel may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individual(s) from the fairgrounds.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

1. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H and ages 8 and in the third grade, or 9 years old and older regardless of grade level, as of January 1, with the last year of eligibility, or participation in 4-H being the year in which the individual turns 19.
2. 4-H members must be enrolled in the appropriate dog project that they plan to show at the Richland County dog show
 - 201O to show in Obedience and Rally classes
 - 201P to show in performance classes like agility, drill team and freestyle
 - 201S to show in Showmanship classes
 - Any dog project except 200 All About Dogs to show in classes like Open Rally and AKC Trick Dog

3. FFA members are eligible to show, provided they meet school FFA dog project requirements. This includes owner requirements.
4. Youth enrolled in 200 shouldn't be enrolled in any other dog projects as this project doesn't require a dog.
5. 4-H dog registration forms must be turned in to the Extension office by May 1. If you're not registered, you won't be able to participate in any dog activities at the county fair. Registrations are required for the following projects:
 - 201O – Obedience
 - 201P – Performance
 - 201S – Showmanship
6. Project eligibility and class or classes entered must be determined at the county level, based on the experience and ability of the handler/dog team. Extension 4-H educators must verify the youth is in good standing in their county to be able to participate.
7. Prior to showing, the exhibitor is expected to understand and agree to follow the 2022 Richland County 4-H Dog Rules, including the exercises to be performed for the judge, and to be able to perform those exercises prior to the dog show.

DOG ELIGIBILITY

1. Only domestic dogs can be shown. Wolf and wolf hybrids aren't permitted.
2. All dogs exhibited in Obedience and Rally classes must be six (6) months or older by the date of the show. All dogs exhibited in Agility classes must be at least eighteen (18) months or older by the date of the show. Proof of age is the burden of the exhibitor and/or the exhibitor's family. Dogs not meeting these age requirements can't be shown.

OWNERSHIP

Dogs participating in Obedience, Rally, Agility and/or AKC Trick Dog must either be owned by the junior fair exhibitor or the exhibitor's immediate family. Dogs must be in the continual care of the junior fair exhibitor for the duration of the project. The date of ownership must be no later than April 1. Proof of ownership is the burden of the exhibitor and the exhibitor's family. Refer to the Ohio 4-H Dog Program website at <http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/dog> for more information on ownership.

TRAINING

1. Lessons, instruction and advice for the members is encouraged. As long as the member is present in the learning situation and handles or trains the dog the majority of the time present. Such assistance can include occasional handling or training by another person. Only the member can train the dog at any type of training class on or after April 1 of the current year.
2. The judge won't permit an exhibitor to train or practice any exercise in the show ring at any time.

SHOWING

1. No one other than the junior fair exhibitor is permitted to show the project dog at any type of dog show, including fun shows, on or after April 1 of the current year.

2. No one other than the junior fair exhibitor is permitted to take the project dog(s) on animal-assisted activities (pet therapy) visits on or after April 1 of the current year. **Exception:** Any exception must be approved by the county Extension office.
3. Eligibility for showing in an A class is defined as **no training or showing experience for the handler and/or dog prior to the county's current project year.** Handlers and/or dogs not meeting this requirement must show in a B class. Refer to A class information in the rules for each show discipline.
4. An exhibitor isn't required to move to the next level (even if they've won first place) unless they've shown the same dog for three (3) years within the same discipline. Once an exhibitor moves up a level with the same dog, they can't move back down (even if they moved up before the three (3) year timeframe expires).
5. 4-H members in respective activities and classes are expected to perform in those events and demonstrate those skills which are listed in the following resources:
 - Richland County 4-H Dog Rules
 - Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook
 - Ohio 4-H Dog Project and Record Book (various dog 4-H judging score sheets)
 - USDAA Official Rules and Regulations

Score sheets used in judging are posted under Resources at go.osu.edu/dog. Counties must use these score sheets for evaluating 4-dog projects.
6. **Only** dogs shown by junior fair exhibitors are permitted on the fairgrounds. Exceptions can be made for show personnel, judges and volunteers, if requests are made to the Show Committee before the show. All dogs must comply with the 2022 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show health requirements.
7. Exhibitors showing their dogs at any licensed or member obedience trial or at a sanctioned match must show their dog at the same or higher B level class than they're showing in AKC, UKC or other titling show.

SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

1. All youth enrolled in 4-H dog projects are required to sign the 2022 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims document. A parent or guardian is also required to sign the document.
 - This document must be signed each year a youth enrolls in a 4-H dog project and a copy must be kept on file at the county Extension office.
 - Exhibitors and parents/guardians verify they have this signed document on file at their county Extension office, and understand and agree to information provided in this document when signing the 2022 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate.
2. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior at any time before, during or after exhibition must be removed from the fairgrounds and won't be permitted to return for the remainder of the show.
3. The judge or show officials will immediately excuse a dog from the ring that is exhibiting any unsafe or threatening behavior.
 - The judge will immediately excuse any dog that appears dangerous, or that snaps, bites or attempts to bite.

- If a judge determines that a bitch in the ring is in season or appears attractive to males and is a disturbing element, the bitch will be immediately excused.
4. Any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, running away from its handler, etc., will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between exercises, or before or after judging.
 5. Any dog not under its handler's control may be excused from the show.
 6. Any exhibitor or another person(s) abusing a dog will be removed from the fairgrounds.
 7. The judge or show officials will dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing the dog, which will result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal from the fairgrounds.
 8. Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Sportsmanship category on the exhibitor's score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout the 4-H dog show prior to or during judging.
 9. Judges and/or show officials have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the dog show from showing, participating in activities, or from receiving awards.
 10. Any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor's dog will be excused from competition.
 11. Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals verbally and/or physically abusive or threatening to show personnel will be removed from the fairgrounds and exhibitors will be disqualified.
 12. Show officials have the right to order the removal from the fairgrounds anyone showing unsportsmanlike conduct.
 13. Exhibitors **must** check in at their show ring within fifteen (15) minutes after being called to their ring. Exhibitors who don't check in at their show ring with fifteen (15) minutes after being called will have sportsmanship points deducted on their score sheet.
 14. An exhibitor disciplining a dog in the show ring will be excused from further competition in that class.
 15. The judge won't permit any handler to use excessive verbal commands or to move toward the dog to correct it.
 16. Exhibitors are totally responsible for their dogs while on the fairgrounds.
 - Dogs **must** be kept on a leash while on the fairgrounds, except when participating in the ring during judging.
 - Dogs **must** be kenneled in designated areas.
 - Exhibitors **must** clean up after their dogs.
 - Dogs **must** not be left unattended.
 17. Dogs aren't permitted to wear any type of muzzle, prong collar or electric collar while on the fairgrounds. Exhibitors will be disqualified if their dogs are seen wearing any of these devices.
 18. Only the exhibitor's dog, exhibitor and show officials are permitted in the show ring area at any time throughout the show.
 19. **Judges decisions are final.** Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals aren't permitted to talk with judges at any time during the show, except during Agility or Rally briefings and walkthroughs. Discussion and/or confrontation with judges may result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal of individuals from the fairgrounds.

LICENSE AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. All dogs must be currently licensed in the exhibitor's county of residence. *Exception: Assistance dogs as their respective organization will provide the appropriate licensing documentation for exhibitors. If they don't, then the exhibitor is responsible for licensing.*
2. All dogs participating in a county show must be vaccinated yearly by a licensed and accredited veterinarian for the following:
 - Rabies
 - DHLPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus)

Note: While the state doesn't require the Bordetella vaccine because kennel cough isn't a fatal disease, it's strongly recommended that dogs receive this vaccine because of how easily this illness can spread.

3. A County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate must be completed and signed by a licensed veterinarian to show your dog at the county level. Other certificates of vaccination, computerized vaccination records, pet record cards, or kennel records won't be accepted. It's the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure that all vaccination requirements for the exhibition are met. The veterinarian must list the dates of the required vaccinations, or the reason for not giving one or more vaccinations. For example, most dogs, unless it's their first time for a rabies vaccination will receive, or have received, a three (3) year vaccine. **Rabies vaccination is required – NO EXCEPTION.**
4. All vaccinations must be current as of the day of the county show in order to participate in the show.
5. Dogs can't be shown if vaccinations are given by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.
6. Any dogs exhibiting abnormalities or symptoms of sickness, disease or parasite infection aren't permitted to show and must be removed from the fairgrounds. **Exception: If the dog is under veterinary care for a health condition that's not infectious or contagious, the exhibitor must bring a health certificate signed by the attending veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment.**
7. Bitches showing any signs of heat aren't permitted to show and must be removed from the fairgrounds.
8. Pregnant and/or lactating (nursing) bitches aren't permitted to show and must be removed from the fairgrounds.
9. Any dog that is a disturbing element to other dogs will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the fairgrounds.

SHOW EQUIPMENT/HANDLER AND DOG APPEARANCE

1. Exhibitors must provide their own collar, leash, water dish, kennel and any other equipment needed.
2. Obedience collars include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, or slip collars of an appropriate length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings, one on each end. Fancy collars, harnesses, studded collars, or any other special training collars, or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dog aren't permitted. Nothing should hang off the collar.

3. Leashes may be fabric or leather and must be six (6) feet in length for sub-novice classes. For novice, graduate novice, open and graduate open classes, the leash need be only of sufficient length to provide adequate slack in the heel on leash exercise. Chain leashes aren't permitted.
4. Food, treats or toys aren't permitted in the show ring areas during obedience classes. Exhibitors may take dogs out of holding rings and off show floor to give rewards, bathroom breaks, etc., and then return immediately when finished.
5. Dumbbells must be made of one or more solid pieces of one of the heavy hardwoods, or a rigid or semi-rigid, firm, nontoxic, non-wooden material, similar in size, shape and weight to a wooden dumbbell. Metal dumbbells aren't permitted. Dumbbells shouldn't be hollow. They shouldn't have any decoration or attachments, but may bear an inconspicuous mark for identification. The size of the dumbbell should be proportionate to the size of the dog.
6. Exhibitors should be neat, clean and well-groomed in appearance (follow Junior Fair dress code). They should wear clothing that's comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing shouldn't distract, limit or hinder the judge's view of the dog. Inappropriate clothing includes t-shirts, jackets or other apparel with slogans, 4-H club or dog club names, etc., halter tops, tank tops, athletic shorts, sandals, clogs, high-heeled shoes and similar footwear.
7. Dogs should be clean, well brushed and in good physical condition appropriate for the dog's age. Their coat should be free from mats and loose hair. Ears should be clean and free from hair in the ear canal. Their eyes should be free of matter and teeth free from tartar. Some staining on the teeth of older dogs is permissible. Toenails should be trimmed. The hair between the pads isn't required to be trimmed, but is recommended to prevent matting and collecting dirt. It's not required that whiskers be trimmed, but if the dog's face is shaved, the stubble should be removed. Regulation show clip isn't required for purebred dogs.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

- **Obedience Classes**
 - **Beginner Novice A** – This class is for the first-year member and first-year dog with no prior show experience on or before April 1 of the current year. **Beginner Novice A youth aren't permitted to show the same or different dog in another obedience class.** This is like any other A class and can't be repeated by youth or dog. Youth may show one project dog in Beginner Novice A. Once an exhibitor or dog has shown in this class, they must move to the Beginner Novice B or Pre-Novice class.
 - **Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice** –This class is for the exhibitor or dog that's shown in Beginner Novice A, or has had experience at the Beginner Novice level before April 1 of the current year, but hasn't yet progressed to a Novice or higher level. **NEW: Youth may show two or more project dogs in Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice. Youth may have dogs entered in Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice the same year. A dog cannot be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice the same year. A youth can't show in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year with the same dog. A dog can't be shown in both Beginner Novice B and Pre-Novice in the same year.** Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes and/or a different dog in other disciplines/classes, provided they meet those eligibility requirements. Youth may not show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

An exhibitor isn't required to move to the next level (even if they've won first place) unless they've shown the same dog for three (3) years within the same discipline. Once an exhibitor moves up a level with the same dog, they can't move back down (even if they moved up before the three (3) year timeframe expires).

- **Novice A** – This class is for the exhibitor or dog that hasn't had any experience in the Novice level before April 1 of the current year and isn't eligible for a Beginner Novice class. Once an exhibitor or dog shows in this class, they must move to at least the Novice B class. Youth may not show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.
- **Novice B** – This class is for the exhibitor or dog who's shown in Novice A or has had experience at the Novice level before April 1 of the current year, but hasn't yet progressed to Graduate Novice A level or higher. Youth may not show the same dog in another obedience class the same year. Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Novice B level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility.

An exhibitor isn't required to move to the next level (even if they've won first place) unless they've shown the same dog for three (3) years within the same discipline. Once an exhibitor moves up a level with the same dog, they can't move back down (even if they moved up before the three (3) year timeframe expires).

- **Advanced obedience** (page 23) – Youth may show two project dogs in each of the following obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, and Utility provided youth and dogs meet eligibility requirements. Level "A" and "B" in Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility will be combined into single classes, without designation of experience. Classes provided at these levels will be listed as Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open and Utility.
- **Graduate Novice A** – This class is for the exhibitor and dog who have no prior experience at the Graduate Novice level before April 1 of the current year. Once an exhibitor or dog shows in this class, they must move to at least the Graduate Novice B level. Youth may not show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.
- **Graduate Novice B** – This class is for the exhibitor or dog who has shown in the Graduate Novice A or has had experience at the Graduate Novice level before April 1 of the current year, but hasn't yet progressed to Open A level or higher. Youth may not show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.
- **Preferred Novice** (page 13 and 23, state rules) – Youth may show two or more project dogs at the Preferred Novice Level, provided the youth and dog meet class eligibility requirements. Youth may show the same dog in other non-obedience classes. Youth may NOT show the same dog in another obedience class the same year.

An exhibitor isn't required to move to the next level (even if they've won first place) unless they've shown the same dog for three (3) years within the same discipline. Once an exhibitor moves up a level with the same dog, they can't move back down (even if they moved up before the three (3) year timeframe expires).

Teams: Pre-Novice team (page 26) - Youth may enter more than one project dog as a Pre-Novice team competitor as long as they enter each dog on a different team.

Teams: Advanced team (page 26) Youth may participate in a second Advanced Team class provided they use a different project dog.

Drill Team (page 10) Entries must be made online by the team's advisor/coach. Advisor/coach pays for number of team members plus any alternates. See rules for additional information.

- **Rally Classes** – Youth may show a maximum of two (2) project dogs per Rally level. Youth may show the same or different dog in other disciplines/classes, provided they meet those eligibility requirements.
 - Novice – This class is for the exhibitor or dog that have no experience showing in a Rally class before April 1 of the current year. Once the exhibitor or dog shows in this class, they must move to the Intermediate class. *Exception: The exhibitor or dog may have been shown previously in an Open class.*
 - Intermediate (on leash) – This class is for the exhibitor or dog that has experience showing in a Rally class before April 1 of the current year and chooses to show on leash.
 - Intermediate (off leash) – This class is for the exhibitor or dog that has experience showing in a Rally class before April 1 of the current year and chooses to show off leash.
 - Open (on or off leash) – This class is open to all Richland County dog project exhibitors.
Note: Since this is an open class, it won't count toward high point.
- **Showmanship Classes** - Showmanship classes are based on age of youth (broken up by age group as of January 1 of the current year (Junior 8-11, Intermediate 12-14 and Senior 15-18) and show experience of the youth and dog. Therefore, an exhibitor and dog can show in one (1) Showmanship class only. Youth may show the same or different dog in other disciplines/classes, provided they meet those eligibility requirements.
 - Showmanship A – This class is for exhibitor and dog where neither the exhibitor nor dog has had any prior experience in Showmanship, AKC Jr. Handling or like experiences, or a champion title before April 1 of the current year. Once the exhibitor or dog show in this class, they must move to the Showmanship B level.
 - Showmanship B – This class is for exhibitor or dog who has shown in a Showmanship A class or has had prior experience in Showmanship, AKC Jr. Handling or like experiences, or a champion title before April 1 of the current year. An exhibitor who wins first place in this class can return to this class with the same dog every year, provided age requirements are met.
- **Agility Classes** – Youth may enter any number of project dogs in Agility and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Agility class. Youth showing in Agility may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes, provided they meet those eligibility requirements.
 - Novice – This class is for exhibitors and dog that have no experience showing in an Agility class before April 1 of the current year. Once the exhibitor or dog shows in this class, they must move to the Intermediate level.
 - Intermediate (on leash) – This class is for exhibitors or dogs that have experience showing in an Agility class before April 1 of the current year and choose to show on leash.

- Intermediate (off leash) – This class is for exhibitors or dogs that have experience showing in an Agility class before April 1 of the current year. Once the exhibitor or dog off leash.
- **AKC Trick Dog Classes** – Youth may enter AKC Trick Dog classes with the same or different project dog(s) and are permitted to enter more than one dog per Trick Dog class. Youth showing in AKC Trick Dog may show the same or different project dog(s) in other disciplines/classes, provided they meet those eligibility requirements. *Note: Trick classes won't count toward high point.*
 - Novice – This class is for dogs who haven't earned their Novice Trick Dog title. The dog must perform ten (10) tricks from the AKC Novice Tricks Checklist (see <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>). The dog must perform each trick two (2) times for the evaluator.
 - Intermediate – This class is for dogs who have already earned their Novice Trick Dog title, but haven't earned their Intermediate Trick Dog title. The dog must perform ten (10) tricks from the AKC Intermediate Tricks Checklist (see <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>). The dog must perform each trick two (2) times for the evaluator. *Note: Tricks performed must be different than those previously completed and submitted for the Novice Trick Dog title.*
- **Canine Ambassador Classes** - Any exhibitor who applied for canine ambassador must enter the appropriate ambassador class (Obedience or Agility), based on the project they're enrolled in. *Note: The exhibitor may only enter one (1) royalty class.*
 - Ambassador classes will be broken down by age group:
 - Junior – ages 9 (or 8 and in 3rd grade) to 14 as of January 1st of the current year
 - Senior – ages 14-18 as of January 1st of the current year
 - All ambassador classes will be performed on leash. For Obedience class, exercise to be performed will be determined the day of the show. For Agility class, pattern to be performed will be determined the day of the show.
 - Ambassador classes won't be placed.
 - Ambassador classes won't count toward high point.
 - One (1) Junior and one (1) Senior ambassador will be announced at fair.
 - One (1) Junior and one (1) Senior runner-up will be announced at fair.

Notes:

- *Advance classes aren't offered at the county level at this time. If you feel you or your dog are advanced enough to compete in an advanced class, please contact the 4-H Extension office to discuss further.*
- *Any class or exercise descriptions not included in these rules will be conducted/followed as listed in the Ohio State Fair rules. If youth are interested in state fair participation, they should check that both the state and county rules are being met.*

CANINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

In accordance with Junior Fair guidelines, any dog exhibitor in good standings, who is not a parent or expectant parent, is eligible for one of the following titles:

- Senior Division (ages 14 to 18 as of January 1st of the current year)
 - Senior Canine Ambassador
 - Senior Canine 1st Runner-up
- Junior Division (ages 9 (or 8 and in 3rd grade to 13 as of January 1st of the current year)
 - Junior Canine Ambassador
 - Junior Canine 1st Runner-up

The Junior and/or Senior Canine 1st Runner-ups may run again for a Canine Ambassador title if age eligible. Youth may win the Runner-Up Awards until they have been awarded the overall Ambassador Award (each age division), in which case youth are no longer allowed to participate. Senior and Junior Ambassador Awards are a one-time distinction, but runner-ups may run again. Winners will be announced during the Richland County Fair.

Notes:

- *To be considered in good standing, the youth's dog registration paperwork and fees must be submitted by the required deadline to be eligible for the Canine Ambassador program.*
- *If the youth previously held a dog royalty title (King, Queen, Prince, Princess), they're eligible to participate in the Canine Ambassador program.*

The Canine Ambassador program selection progress will include the following:

- Test
- Interview
- Project book score
- Ambassador (Obedience or Agility) class score from the pre-fair dog show.

In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken based on the youth who received (in the following order):

1. An outstanding on their dog project
2. A higher score in their Ambassador class at the pre-fair dog show
3. A higher score on their Ambassador written test
4. A higher score on their Ambassador interview
5. A higher score on their dog project at book judging

Youth will be provided a study guide (available upon request), which will be used for the ambassador exam. The test and interview portion of the program will be held on July 11, 2022 at 7:00PM in the Longview Center.

The announcement of the Canine Ambassadors and 1st Runner-ups will be held August 8, 2022, prior to (or during) the Dog Fun Show in the John Hartz building. **Note:** *Ambassadors shall not wear ambassador items during other competitive events or the livestock sales during fair week.*

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, contact your club's advisor or the Richland Extension office at (419) 747-8755.