

# **2024 Somerset County DOG Division Exhibitor Guide**

## **OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the 4-H Dog Project are to teach basic care for good health and to train a dog so that it will become a well-mannered, happy family member. Members develop patience, persistence, and the value of hard work. The 4-H member learns to make decisions, accept responsibility, and understand a dog's behavior.

## **RULES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION**

Exhibitor must be enrolled in a Somerset County 4-H dog project. Handler must be a registered member of a Somerset County 4-H dog club by Jan 1st of the current year.

- 1) Exhibitor must have attended 70% of all business and training meetings.
- 2) Exhibitor must have completed, and presented a project book for the past year.
- 3) Exhibitor must have proof that the dog's inoculations are up to date.
- 4) Exhibitor must be responsible for and have control of their dog at all times.
  - a) Dogs will be monitored at all times by a 4-H member or a family member
  - b) Members will provide adequate water, food, air circulation and will be aware of potential heat stress
  - c) Members will advocate for their dog when interacting fairgoers
    - i) Members will be the best judge on when it is appropriate for their dog to interact with fairgoers
- 5) Exhibitor and dog(s) are required to be at the Fair as scheduled, all three days from 9:30 am to 10:00 pm.
- 6) Friday night ALL members needs to stay until all dog tents are cleaned.
  - a) If a member leaves the dog division tent, without permission, before Friday night breakdown is finished and finalized by a division chair, the member risks being FEO ONLY next year.
  - b) Members with responsibilities in other division tent
    - o Is expected to assist in the Dog Tent as well
    - o Must make arrangements with the Dog Division Chair prior to the Friday of Fair
  - c) Herdsmen MUST help breakdown until they are required to report for Herdsman Duties
- 7) Exhibitor has given a formal or informal Presentation at the club, county, Community, State or National level.
- 8) Attire for show is as follows: **Consult division chairs for advice**
  - a) Obed. Classes:
    - i) Pants and 4-H T shirt or solid colored shirt.
  - b) Jr. Show.
    - i) Boys: dress pants and a collared shirt. Tie and or suits optional

Girls: Skirt and blouse, dress or pants suit.

**You must wear sneakers or flats.**

**No open toed Shoes (including Crocs)**

Members are NOT allowed to wear shorts, leggings, yoga pants, sweats, or pants with holes into the show ring AT ANY TIME.

- 9) First year exhibitors with extensive outside experience may be put directly in Junior (4th-8th graders) or Senior (9th-13th graders) Handling class, and will enter the obedience class at the level they have been training in rather than beginner's class.
  - 10) Handlers will show in the obedience class in which they have exhibited throughout the majority of the project year (This will be known as "regular class"). Handler may enter a second, higher level class if they have received at least 3 qualifying scores in the regular class or at the discretion of the leader or trainer. Proof of qualifying scores must be included on their entry form. This must be in the current 4-H year.
  - 11) Trainers will give each member a list of obedience classes they are eligible to enter based on the handler's ability and the dog's capability to perform the required exercises. **The 4-H dog TRAINERS have the final say in which obedience classes, the 4-H member can enter.**
  - 12) Top placing scores in each class will receive awards.
  - 13) Participants are expected to be present for and participate in all parts of a class for which they are registered. This includes the presentation of trophies and ribbons at the end of a class. If there is a conflict with another 4-H activity, then he/she must notify ring stewards.
  - 14) Members must declare which dog (s) they will be showing as their project animal by May 1.
    - a) If a member's declared project dog is unable to participate for valid reasons (coming in season, illness, injury, or death) before or during Fair, that member may compete with another current or former County 4-H project dog as approved by the Dog Division Chair. The member is eligible to place in Junior Showmanship and classes denoted as 'fun classes' (including agility). However, the member can only compete FEO for obedience. Under these conditions Grooming can be evaluated by a 4-H Dog leader or trainer.
    - b) In the event that a declared dog's illness or injury would not prevent it from participating in Fair, a veterinarian's note MUST be provided to be kept on file in the dog tent at all times.
  - 15) Every dog must enter the grooming class and be seen by the judge prior to exhibiting in any classes.
    - a) A change in a class during the Fair needs to be brought to the attention of division chairs.
  - 16) No one other than the 4-H member may groom or train the 4-H project dog on the Fairgrounds.
  - 17) There is a mandatory dog division meeting for all members and parents.
    - a) Meetings will be announced in both clubs. Meetings will be at 6:30 pm prior to a meeting in or training of each club during the month of June.
    - b) Members may attend either meeting. A parent must attend with child.
- NOTE:** Members in grades 11 & 12 with 2 years of Fair experience in the club MAY attend the mandatory meeting without a parent.
- 18) No practicing will be allowed in the show ring at any time, unless listed on the Fair Schedule as having a specific practice time with a leader present (i.e. agility practice).
  - 19) Show attire rule still applies during those specified events.

## SAFETY

1. Members are NOT allowed to wear flip flops or open toe/ backless, or high heeled shoes into the show ring AT ANY TIME OR ANY TIME ON THE FAIRGROUNDS.
2. Dogs exhibiting any signs of stress or distress (eg: biting, snapping, aggression, overheating, etc.) should be removed from the Fair immediately. Members should contact their leaders to find the safest way to accomplish this task.
3. Care will be taken around all vehicles on the fairgrounds,
  - a. At no time will ANYONE climb over the hitch connecting a trailer and its tow vehicle.

## CLASSES

**FEO** – A member who exhibits as FEO (For Exhibition Only) and is not in competition but can earn a qualifying score in obedience.

**GROOMING** - Dogs will be judged on how well the dog is groomed. Grooming class is required for ALL dogs that are entered in Fair. Grooming is scheduled to begin before any. If a dog is not present, it is the member's responsibility to schedule a time for the judge or leader/trainer to check the dog.

Prep/Cloverbud Grooming will be conducted by Dog Division Senior Members or Leaders

**PREP/CLOVERBUD EXHIBITION** – Prep/Cloverbud members of the dog Division will Perform a non-competitive exhibition of their skills

**Jr SHOWMANSHIP** - The handlers must properly gait the dogs around the ring, then do a pattern as directed by the judge, and stack the dog.

Food/bait is allowed in during Junior Showmanship Classes

1. Beginner – First Time Exhibitors
2. Juniors 4 - 8 grades. This class may be split. If split, the winner of both classes will compete for Best Junior and will go onto Round Robin.
3. Seniors 9 - 13 grades. This class may be split. This class may be split. If split, the winner of both classes will compete for Best Junior and will go onto Round Robi

## OBEDIENCE

NOTE: Fouling in the ring will result in a NON-Qualified score. Handler/dog may still finish class, but cannot place.

No food/bait is allowed in the Obed ring, with the exception of the Beginner Class

<b>Beginner (all on leash) – First Time Exhibitors</b>	
1. Simple Heeling: 40 points 2. Sit for Examination: 20 points 3. Long Sit (30 seconds): 30 points 4. Long Down (60 seconds): 30 points	
<b>1 - Pre-Novice (all on leash)</b> Pre-Novice -A  1. Heel on Leash: 45 points 2. Figure Eight: 25 points 3. Stand for Examination: 30 points 4. Recall: 40 points 5. Long Sit (1 minute): 30 points 6. Long Down (3 minutes): 30 points	<b>2 - Pre-Novice (all on leash)</b> Pre-Novice- B  1. Heel on Leash: 45 points 2. Figure Eight: 25 points 3. Stand for Examination: 30 points 4. Recall: 40 points 5. Long Sit (1 minute): 30 points 6. Long Down (3 minutes): 30 points
<b>3 - Intermediate Novice (4-H)</b>  1. Heel (on leash): 45 points 2. Figure Eight (on leash) 25 points 3. Stand for Examination (off leash) 30 points 4. Recall (off leash) 40 points 5. Long Sit (off leash) 30 points 6. Long Down (off leash) 30 points	<b>4 - Novice</b>  1. Heel (on leash) and Figure Eight (on leash): 40 points 2. Stand for Examination (off leash): 30 points 3. Heel Free (off leash): 40 points 4. Recall (off leash): 30 points 5. Sit Stay Get Your Leash (off leash): 30 points 6. Long Sit (off leash, 1 minute) & Long Down (off leash, 3 minutes): 30 points
<b>5 - Advanced Novice</b>  1. Heel (on leash): 30 points 2. Stand for Exam and Call Dog: 30 points 3. Heel Free and Figure Eight (on leash): 40 points 4. Drop on Recall: 40 Points 5. Long Sit (handler across ring, 3 minutes): 30 points 6. Long Down (handler out of sight, 3 minutes): 30 points	<b>6 - Graduate Novice</b>  1. Heel (on leash) and Figure Eight (off leash): 40 points 2. Drop on Recall: 40 points 3. Dumbbell Recall: 30 points 4. Recall Over High Jump: 30 points 5. Recall Over Broad Jump: 30 points 6. Stand Stay Get Your Leash: 30 points

## AWARDS

Danish ribbons for all participants.

Trophies and/or rosettes for placements.










Award for Best Junior Handler.

Awards for highest scoring dog in Obedience Classes;

**NOVELTY CLASSES - (There will be fun prizes for these classes.)**

Food/bait is allowed in Novelty Classes

1. Costume - Dog and/or handler will dress in costume.
2. Maze - Dog and handler negotiate a timed agility/obstacle course. Dogs must wear buckle collars, handlers must wear sneakers. Pull tabs or short leashes are encouraged.
3. Switch handler
4. Meet the Breeds
5. Others as the schedule allows

Acceptable Dog Equipment		
		
Choke collar - obedience	Martingale collar - obedience	
		
Buckle collar - obedience	6 ft leash for obedience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leather is better for hands, but nylon okay</li> <li>• Single handle, no lead (extra) handle</li> </ul>	
		
Jr Show collar	Jr Show lead - shorter and thinner than obedience leash	Jr Show loop lead (all-in-one) or martingale lead
<b>Other items for training</b>	<b>Other items for dog shows</b>	<b>Items NOT allowed</b>
Treats for training Water bowl / water Baggies (for cleaning up after your dog, inside or outside) Closed-toe shoes (for you)	Items listed to left <b>Brushes and combs</b> (for last minute grooming touch-ups) <b>Crate or pen</b> for your dog to rest in (dogs may not roam free) <b>Portable Fan</b> <b>Folding chairs or blanket</b> <b>Change of clothes:</b> you will need (dressy clothes) for Junior Showmanship and long pants and shirt for obedience	<b>No</b> collars with tags <b>No</b> prong collars <b>No</b> gentle leaders <b>No</b> halties <b>No</b> harness <b>No</b> retractable leads

