



Kenosha County 4-H Dog Project Standards Sheet Rules of Conduct for Handlers In Dog Training Classes

The following standards have been established by the Kenosha County Dog Project Board of Directors as the standards by which the 4-H Dog Project is to be implemented. It is the Board of Director's hope that these standards will be followed all 4-H members and leaders and will result in a positive, educational project experience for all youth in the 4-H Dog Program.

Questions concerning these standards should be directed to the Dog Project Board of Directors. These standards will be reviewed on an annual basis and the Dog Project Board of Directors reserves the option of revision to better meet the needs of the Kenosha County 4-H Dog Project.

1. Care of your dog is YOUR responsibility: feeding, watering, grooming, training, playing and most of all LOVING. It's good idea to go along when your dog is taken to the vet.
2. Dogs must be 6 months of age by the first night of weekly training. Puppies under 6 months of are not ready for training in the 4-H program.
3. Dog Project members MUST attend two of the four monthly informational meetings during non-training months. Members must stay for the complete meeting or they will not receive credit for attending. It is the member's responsibility to inform the attendance leader if they will not be present and they are responsible to find out what information they missed.
4. We will be using AKC and State 4-H Dog Project rules as guidelines; they will be adapted at times to fit our 4-H program.
5. All dogs to be trained and exhibited must provide a veterinarian certificate showing current proofs of vaccinations. Shot and worming records must be turned in before your dog will be allowed on the training grounds. (Vaccination forms will list necessary shots and tests)
6. Dog Project members will be required to participate in weekly dog training meetings which will begin each spring. Weekly training will continue until the County Fair. Be early for class. If a member is ten minutes late or more, member is marked absent and must make-up the classes. Attendance will be taken in each class and member must sign in when they arrive.
7. Since the training of the dog is the member's project and learning experience, during the training season the member will be the only trainer of the dog. Parents are encouraged to assist by reminding the member to practice, by watching practice and calling commands for the dog/member team, etc., but are not allowed to train the dog.
8. **YOU MUST CALL OR INFORM THE ATTENDACE LEADER PRIOR TO ANY ABSENCE. It is also your responsibility to arrange to do a make-up with a junior leader within two weeks of your absence. If three or more weekly lessons are missed and not made up, you will be dropped from the project and will not be allowed to show at the County Fair or at the State 4-H Dog Show. There are no make-ups for**

agility. Missing 3 agility classes results in dismissal in agility class only. Any extended illness or family emergency should be discussed with a leader.

9. You will learn a new exercise each week. Practice the exercise each day for 15-20 minutes. Do not skip a day and train the next day for 40 minutes. Do the exercises exactly as taught. Remember, it will show if you do not work with your dog. Dogs learn by repetition, and if you do not practice, your dog cannot be expected to learn.
10. Training – classifications:
 - a) Any new member/dog; new member/previously trained dog; or previous trained member/new dog team will enter the beginner class for their first year of training.
 - b) Any member/dog team that has had previous training will be entered inot a level B or C class until the member/dog team competes at a class higher than has been previously trained.
 - c) Any dog may be advanced to higher classes or dropped to lower classes for competition and/or training at leader's discretion.
11. Special case dog/member teams, such as two members training the same dog, a member who wants to advance in training and skip a level, etc. must submit a letter to the Board of Directors stating their intent.
12. When a member/dog team completes the graduate novice class, the member can request to withdraw from the obedience class. The member must submit a letter to the Board of Directors stating the reasons for withdrawal from the class. The Board of Directors decision is final within the project.
13. Dogs that are sick or in season will NOT be permitted on the training grounds. If your dog is sick or in season, come to class without your dog, learn the lesson and practice at home.
14. To reduce accidents, dogs should not be fed until after the training classes. **HANDLERS WILL CLEAN UP THE FOULED AREA – NO ONE ELSE!!!** Pooper scoopers and a doggie dooly will be provided for clean-up.
15. All dogs shall wear a training collar of **proper size and fit** and each handler will use a leather leash for obedience and rally class. A flat collar is required for agility. A showmanship lead and collar are required for showmanship class. Any other collar types are not allowed except with the training leader's permission.
16. The only dogs allowed on the training grounds are those dogs that have been signed up in the 4-H Dog Project for the current year and have meet all health and shot requirements.
17. Each owner is responsible for his/her dog's conduct on the training grounds.
18. If at any time a dog attacks or goes after another dog, the dog will be removed from all classes for the rest of the training night. This will be so noted by the leaders and a first

warning will be issued. If after the first warning the dog attacks or goes after another dog, the dog will be removed from the dog project and will not be allowed to show at the fair. The dog will not be allowed to rejoin the dog project. If the member feels that their dog has been unfairly charged, the member may appeal the decision and a meeting will be called by the Board of Directors to hear the case.

- 19.** If at any time a dog attacks or goes after a human, the dog will be removed from the dog project and will not be allowed to show at the fair. If the member feels that their dog has been unfairly charged, the member may appeal the decision and a meeting will be called by the Board of Directors to hear the case.
- 20.** Dog owners will be responsible for injury and/or property damage caused by their dog.
- 21.** A leader reserves the right to expel a dog and/or member from the class and the project.
- 22.** If a member has a question or complaint, the member and their parent should bring the issue to a leader that can help solve the problem. The leader will then setup a meeting with the party or parties involved. At the meeting the member, parent, leader and the involving parties will discuss the issues at hand. If, after the discussion the problem is not resolved, the member may petition in writing for a hearing with the Board of Directors. The decision of the Dog Project Leaders and/or Board of Directors is final.
- 23.** The Kenosha County 4-H Council Rules and Alcohol Policy will be in effect on the training grounds and at all Dog Project activities and events.