Dog
4-H Project Newsletter

This Dog Project Newsletter contains information specific to the Dog Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Leadership Forum.

Welcome to the 4-H Dog Project! This newsletter will give you an overview of the project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Dog project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator (RPC).

Project Work Requirements

Showmanship is the project work requirement for the Dog Project. On Achievement Day, Dog members must complete showmanship with their own 4-H registered animal to complete the project work requirement. Please note the dress code for all Dog classes is dress pants or skirts, shirt or blouse. No jeans or t-shirts are permitted. Sneakers may be worn but hard soled boots are encouraged for member's safety. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area. The dress code will be enforced at 4-H Nova Scotia Shows.

Livestock Registration

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year and must submit livestock registration information to 4-H Nova Scotia by May 15th of the current 4-H year. Livestock Registration will only be accepted through the online Livestock Registration Form; if you need assistance with this form, please contact your RPC directly. Information in this form is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, sex of animal, breed of animal, class section, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease, or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted before Achievement Day, pre-approval from the RPC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show Class & Sections:

Each county is eligible to send the top junior and top senior member in each section to the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.

Class #2: Showmanship

Section 8:	Junior Member Dog Showmanship
	Senior Member Dog Showmanship

Class #56: Dog

Section 1:	Obedience – Pre-Novice – Junior
Section 2:	Obedience – Pre-Novice – Senior
Section 3:	Obedience – Novice – Junior
Section 4:	Obedience – Novice – Senior
Section 5:	Obedience – Graduate Novice – Junior
Section 6:	Obedience – Graduate Novice – Senior
Section 7:	Obedience – Novice Intermediate – Junior
Section 8:	Obedience – Novice Intermediate – Senior
Section 9:	Obedience – Open – Junior
Section 10:	Obedience – Open – Senior

Leader Resources

There are many resources available locally to the dog project members. For more information on training and showing dogs, check out some of the following resources:

- 4-H Dog Project Leader Manual - The Leader manual provided by the 4-H Nova Scotia contains a bulk of information about caring for and showing dogs in 4-H.
- Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) - CKC members can be very helpful. They can help by sharing their experiences with dogs and are very good resource people for 4-H Dog Project Leaders. Check the CKC website for up to date information on showing dogs in Canada (www.ckc.ca).
- Canadian Kennel Club Obedience Trail Rules & Regulations - This booklet can be obtained by contacting the Canadian Kennel Club at: 89 Skyway Avenue, Suite 100, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9W 6R4 or by calling 416-657-5511.
- CKC Canine Good Neighbor Program - The Canine Good Neighbor Program teaches the dog and owner to demonstrate good manners at home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs. More information on this program can be found at the Canadian Kennel Club Website (www.ckc.ca).

Project Ideas

Your club can plan many special activities to add to the 4-H Dog Project. Besides learning about showmanship and the obedience trial, you may want to work on some of the following:

- Nutrition - A very important part of keeping a pet; study your dog's nutritional requirements.
- Pests and diseases - Visit a local vet for a presentation and discussion. Study life cycles of common pests such as fleas and worms.
- Judging - Go to a kennel to practice judging different types of dogs.
- Grooming - Hold sessions to learn proper grooming techniques for your dog.
- Breeds - Visit local breeders to learn about different breeds and their uses. Attending a dog show to see the different breeds is interesting.

Some Important Rules and Regulations

- CKC has updated their obedience sections. Please note the following changes: in the Pre-Novice levels members no longer perform the circle left/right but instead perform a figure 8. As well in the Novice Intermediate class the point distributions have changed and honour has been replaced with recall over high jump holding dumbbells. Please see the obedience expectations.
- The 4-H Nova Scotia Dog Project was revised to reflect the obedience guidelines set out by the CKC except for the CKC rules pertaining to the requirements of being purebred and in regards to neutering and spaying of the dogs.
- The 4-H Nova Scotia Dog obedience classes are judged according to the CKC Junior Handling Rules and Regulations, which state:

  "Each exercise shall be scored by the point system in place under CKC rules. However, the judge will score 75% of the total marks on the basis of the handler's performance, and 25% of the total marks on the performance of the dog/handler team. Scores shall be awarded on the basis of the handler's performance".
- Dogs should be shown on a six (6) foot flat lead (leather or other material) for obedience classes. The collar can be a buckle or link collar. In Showmanship classes, a smaller, shorter lead is used. Ideally, the length should be from the show person's hip to the dog's neck (with head held erect). Acceptable collars are: link collar, choker chain, or a nylon collar.
- Vaccinations: It is recommended that dogs be vaccinated every year for Distemper, Canine Parvovirus (Parvovirus), Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Corona Virus (optional), and Rabies vaccination-every three years. Members can include the vaccination information regarding their dog on the Veterinary Record Section of the Dog Record Sheet.
- Members are only allowed to show one dog.
- A member who qualifies for Grand Champion Showmanship Class participates; their dog does not.

Performance Expectations

Showmanship

All Levels

- Dogs should be under control
- Members should be able to show dog's teeth
- Dogs should be clean and conditioned
- Members should be able to move their dog through ring patterns, including but not limited to: simple round, diagonal, T-pattern, and L-pattern. This should be done smoothly and professionally
- Members should be able to perform a courtesy turn and move up and stack dog (according to breed)
- Members should be in constant control and eye contact with the judge

Obedience

Pre-Novice Class

- Heel on Leash (60 points)
- Figure 8 (12' between posts) (35 points)
- Sit for Examination (35 points)
- Recall (40 points)
- Long Sit-30 seconds (30 points)

Novice Class

- Heel on Leash and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Stand for Examination (30 points)
- Heel Free (40 points)
- Recall (30 points)
- Long Sit-1 minute (30 points)
- Long Down-3 minutes (30 points)

Graduate Novice Class

- Heel on Leash-No Figure 8 (40 points)
- Stand for Examination-Off Leash (30 points)
- Heel Free and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Drop on Recall (30 points)
- Long Sit - 3 minutes handler out of sight (30 points)
- Long Down - 3 minutes handler out of sight (30 points)

Novice Intermediate Class

- All exercises are off leash.
- Heel Free and Figure 8 (40 points)
- Stand for Examination (30 points)
- Drop from Heel (35 points)
- Recall Holding Dumbbell (30 points)
- Recall over High Jump holding dumbbell (40 points)
- Recall over Broad Jump (25 points)

Open Class

- All exercises are off leash.
- Heel Free and Figure Eight (40 points)
- Drop on Recall (30 points)
- Retrieve on Flat (25 points)
- Retrieve over High Jump (35 points)
- Broad Jump (20 points)
- Long Sit - 3 minutes handler out of sight (25 points)
- Long Down - 3 minutes handler out of sight (25 points)

Contagious/Infectious Disease & Quarantine:

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H Achievement Days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

Brochures, "Skin Infections of Particular Concern to 4-H Calves: Ringworm, Warts and Lice" and "Fact Sheet: Animal Health and Safety Best Practices" are available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your Regional Program Coordinator. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

Livestock Insurance

4-H Insurance does not cover project animals. Insurance coverage for animal liability, injury or death is the animal owner's responsibility.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Activity Involving Animals</th></tr>
<tr><td>Involving Animals refers to activities in which members are working directly with animals or in a location with animals.

(Examples: Livestock members training, fitting and showing, clubs hosting livestock shows or petting farms, groups visiting fairs, farm tours.)</td><td>High-risk Activity
The nature of the activity or the presence of hazards pose a foreseeable risk of harm, illness, or injury to participants.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Risk Management Strategies
Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practice to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for livestock handling.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Training and Preparation
☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of potential risks involved in the activity, as well as the safety rules and procedures.
☐ Instruction on safety precautions is received from a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of demonstrating the skills and safety precautions.
☐ Animal behavior and handling techniques are reviewed by a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of explaining animal behavior and handling techniques.
☐ All sessions are conducted in a safe environment.
☐ Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation.
☐ Skills/movements are learned in proper progression.
☐ All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of the equipment/clothing required for the activity.
☐ Emergency contact and medical information for all participants will be on hand throughout the event, as well as dedicated phones for emergencies.
☐ A first aid kit will be available.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Supervision
☐ Adheres to Youth Safety Supervision Policy, Rule of Two and Supervision Ratios.
☐ Safety rules and procedures are enforced throughout the activity.</td></tr>
</table>

- ☐ Emergency action plan is in place to deal with accidents/injuries.

Facility

- ☐ Respect biosecurity protocols of the facility.
- ☐ Ensure activity area is free of hazards/debris.
- ☐ Proper lighting and ventilation, when applicable.
- ☐ Safety rules/regulations are posted/reviewed prior to the activity.
- ☐ Indoor facility has a clearly marked emergency exit.
- ☐ Animals should be worked with in an enclosed space, with proper safety exits, such as an arena or pen to prevent animals from getting loose.
- ☐ When in a public venue, use gates and signage to separate the public traffic flow from animal movement.
- ☐ When in a public venue have signage regarding handwashing and touching animals.
- ☐ Animals should be safely and securely tied or caged when not being handled according to animal welfare standards to keep animals and people safe.
- ☐ Animals should have access to food and water according to animal welfare standards.
- ☐ Handwashing stations to be available for members and the public after handling animals.

Animals

- ❑ Ensure animals are healthy and suitable for use in the activity.
- ❑ Where applicable, follow all animal transportation regulations.
- ❑ Where applicable, ensure animals are tagged properly.
- ❑ Where applicable follow quarantine recommendations after an event.
- ❑ Ensure animal owners are aware of their responsibility to have insurance coverage for their animals, 4-H Canada holds no insurance coverage for animals.

Equipment

- ☐ Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition.
- ☐ Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized following best practices.
- ☐ Equipment is checked by a qualified person before every session.
- ☐ Halters and collars to be properly fitted to ensure good control and animal comfort.
- ☐ Instructions are given regarding the proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- ☐ Leaders check to ensure that each youth has the required materials prior to participation.
- ☐ Leaders ensure that there is a First aid kit and a designated emergency phone are available

Clothing/Footwear

- ☐ Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn. For example, steel toed boots are recommended for large livestock.
- ☐ Appropriate clothing is worn. For example: Helmets are recommended for horseback riding.

Inclusion

- ☐ The activity is suitable to all participating youth member's age, ability, mental condition, and physical condition.