



An Introduction to the NH 4-H Dog Project Fact Sheet

UNHCE 4-H Youth Development 4-H Animal Science Work Team

Dogs have been part of the NH 4-H animal project offering since the late 1940's. Though they are available in many breeds, a purebred dog is not required in 4-H. All that is required is that the child cares for the dog properly. In the dog project, members learn about dog and puppy care, training, nutrition, health and careers. Knowledge can be gained by attending club meetings, clinics and dog camps. A youth can exhibit their knowledge by doing demonstrations, posters, displays and exhibiting and participating at county and state events, fairs and dog shows. Classes for youth at 4-H shows and fairs:

Family Dog (8 to 11 year olds only)

Fitting & Show, Obedience, Service Dog

Youth 12 and older may participate at the 4-H Dog Show at Eastern States Exposition in September if they have exhibited in at least one dog show and have obtained a score of 310 in the Knowledge Quiz, Fitting & Show and Obedience combined. The ESE Dog qualification form must be signed by the Show Superintendent to verify participation at show.

Required Participant Age: 8-18 as of January 1 of the current year (12 and older for ESE)

Required Animal Age: 6 months or older to be shown

Recommended Animal Vaccinations: Distemper, Bordatella, (Kennel Cough), Lyme, Rabies (required)

Recommended Animal Identification: There is no permanent identification required although it is strongly suggested (microchip, tattoo).

Forms

Approval Forms: Must be complete with animal information and all signatures. Must list proposed show class (Obedience Level).

Due Date: May 1st

Owned/Leased Form: Ownership or Lease form must be complete with animal information and all signatures. **Due Date:** May 1st

Policies

NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Animals - If a 4-H member's ONLY project animals dies, is critically ill to the point of being "unusable", or is deemed unsafe for the 4-H member to use as a project, after having been properly listed on their approval form, the Extension Educator or Program As-

sociate may verify the loss or condition, and allow the 4-H member one replacement project animal. A new approval form is to be submitted. In this instance, the replacement animal can be shown at all fairs (except Eastern States).

If a 4-H member's animals are unable to be exhibited for any reason (illness, death, etc.) and they have other project animals listed on their approval form that are eligible, then there is never any substitution allowed. They may only show the remaining animals on their approval form only.

Should a county have a member who misses an appropriate deadline, due to their not owning an animal at the time of the deadline or their only project animal(s) is (are) sick the county may make an exception for their county only. When a County makes the exception the youth's approval form must be marked that these animals can be shown at their county fair only.

Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Animals - Upon the recommendation of the New Hampshire State Veterinarian, all mammals shown or exhibited at New Hampshire 4-H events **including fairs, shows, clinics, 4-H club meetings, county activities day or any other event sponsored by 4-H**, must have a current inoculation for rabies given at least 30 days prior to the event. A licensed veterinarian administered rabies vaccination is recommended. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND we require the vaccination be given at least 30 days prior to exhibiting an animal. Other health requirements vary by species and show. Individual shows and fairs may have additional vaccination and health requirements as recommended by the New Hampshire State Veterinarian's office. *Always check the fair book for additional health requirements.*

Resources

- UNHCE 4-H Dog Project Page - extension.unh.edu/4H/NH4-HDogProject.htm
- Questions? Call Maryann Kasprzak (862-2188) staff liaison to State 4-H Dog Curriculum Committee
- If you have any questions - Call Jolee Chase (641-6060, staff liaison to the State 4-H Live-stock Curriculum Committee)

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