



## Introduction to the New Hampshire 4-H Dog Project Fact Sheet

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 4-Her 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 are: Family Dog (8 to 11 year old members only), Fitting & Show, Obedience, and Service Dog.

Youth 12 and older may participate at the 4-H Dog Show at Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in September/October 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 (The Big E))

**Required Animal Age:** 6 months or older to be shown

**Required Vaccinations: Rabies vaccination** – initial vaccination must be current, and at least 30 days prior to shows or events. Animals must be healthy/free from signs of communicable disease prior to attending any show or event. Certificate of veterinary inspection may be required by some events and is required to bring an animal outside the state of NH.

**Recommended Animal Vaccinations:** Distemper, Bordatella, (Kennel Cough), Lyme. Check with your veterinarian as vaccination and biosecurity recommendations change frequently.

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

### Forms

**4-H Dog Intent to Show Form/Online Animal Registration:** Must be complete with dog information and all verifications unless the animal is registered with a breed registry (such as AKC) solely in the member's name by the deadline. **Due Date:** June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**Animal Borrowing Form (formerly Lease):** Borrowing form must be complete with dog information and all signatures.

**Due Date:** June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

### Policies

**NH 4-H Policy on Replacement Dogs:** If a member's only project dog dies, becomes unhealthy or unsuitable, a replacement animal may be shown immediately after completion of a new Intent to Show,

provided the member had the original project dog verified on/before the June 1 deadline, however substitute animals are not allowed at Eastern States Exposition (Big E).

If a 4-H member has other project dogs listed on their intent to show form that are eligible, then there is no substitution allowed. They may only show the remaining dogs on their intent to show form only.

Newly enrolled members may complete the process after the June 1 deadline, but will not be eligible for ESE and may show in NH 4-H fairs and shows 30 days after completion.

**Rabies Requirements for NH 4-H Dogs:** 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 **must** have administered the rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccinations cannot be given to 4-H animals under three months of age AND vaccination must 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 or show paperwork for additional health requirements.

### Resources

[New Hampshire Guide to 4-H Dog Shows](#)

[NH 4-H All About the Dogs Weekend](#) or more information [here](#)

NH 4-H Dog Project Overview webpage <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/4-h-dog-project-overview>

#### **If you have any questions or for more information:**

Call Mary Davis, State 4-H Animal and Agricultural Science Program Manager at (603)862-2188 or [Mary.Davis@unh.edu](mailto:Mary.Davis@unh.edu), Jolee Chase, Program Associate, (603)641-6060, email [jolee.chase@unh.edu](mailto:jolee.chase@unh.edu) or contact your County 4-H staff member.

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March 2021