



4-H DOG PROGRAM



Image: A. Gibson Photography

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Are you Into It?

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Explore dog care, health, training, and much more!

- Learn about dog breeds, anatomy, and conformation.
- Practice grooming, training, and showing.
- Demonstrate responsible dog ownership.
- Participate in 4-H Camp Canine.
- Learn about dog-related careers and service opportunities.

Communication

- Give a presentation on responsible dog ownership.
- Create a poster on that compares purebred and mixed-breed dogs.

Citizenship

- Plan and conduct a pet food and supply drive.
- Organize and plan an animal-assisted activity with your club to a local nursing home.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1

- Identify dog body parts.
- Learn about different dog breed groups.
- Research famous dogs from books and movies.
- Create a dog care plan.
- Learn about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a mixed breed dog.
- Investigate dog parasites and diseases.
- Explore basic obedience commands.
- Create a training plan.

Learning More Intermediate/Level 2

- Learn about the country of origin of different dog breeds.
- Research different boarding kennels in your area.
- Create a dog care budget.
- Investigate inherited diseases and conditions in dog breeds.
- Learn about dog showmanship and prepare and participate in a dog show.

Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3

- Learn how to assess a dog's vital signs.
- Organize and lead a puppy training class.
- Participate in the Canine Good Citizen program.
- Interview a person who has a service dog.
- Research different dog-related careers.
- Plan and conduct a dog costume contest.
- Investigate diseases that can be spread from dogs to people.

Leadership

- Lead a dog-related activity at a 4-H Cloverbud Club.
- Write an article for a local newspaper about the importance of having dogs spayed or neutered.

4-H is a community of young people who are learning **leadership** citizenship and life skills.

Learn more at www.kentucky4h.org or contact your county extension office.





Take the Dog Program Further!

Here are some other opportunities to explore dogs:

- Enter a dog poster in the county and state fair.
- Participate in the Dog Bowl and Skillathon Competition.
- Attend 4-H Camp Canine held annually each May at the J.M. Feltner 4-H Camp in London, Kentucky.
- Assist a dog groomer for a day, and create a video demonstrating proper dog grooming techniques.
- Create a game to lead at dog club to help club members learn the different body parts of a dog.
- Compete in the State 4-H Dog Show that takes place each August at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Prepare a dog-related speech or demonstration and compete in the 4-H Speech and Demonstration Contest in your county.
- Job shadow a small animal veterinarian.
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter.
- Plan and lead a dog skillathon event in your county or district.

Exhibit Ideas

Prepare a dog poster for county and state fair:

- Dog breed groups
- Advantages and disadvantages of purebred and mixed-breed dogs
- Dog nutrition
- Dog vaccinations and parasite control
- Dog behavior and body language
- Basic obedience training
- Proper dog grooming
- Creating a dog care budget
- Dog breed-related diseases
- Breeding responsibility
- Dog showmanship
- Care and needs of senior dogs
- Service dogs
- Canine-related careers

Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiggles and Wags – Level 1 • Canine Connection – Level 2 • Leading the Pack – Level 3 • Helper’s Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National 4-H Dog Curriculum Website - http://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/dog/ • American Kennel Club http://www.akc.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record time each day spent feeding, grooming, exercising, training, playing with, and cleaning up after your dog. • Record costs associated with owning and caring for your dog, including veterinary expenses, grooming, training, food, supplies, etc. • Record veterinary and health care provided for your dog, including vaccinations, sicknesses, parasite control, etc.

