** Pima County 4-H Dog Project

** Show Guidelines*

Prepared by the Pima County 4-H Dog Project Show Guidelines Committee
Adopted - March 12, 2003

** To be used in conjunction with or in addition to the dog show rules specific for each 4-H Dog show (i.e. the Pima County Fair Rule Book).
1) **General Guidelines**

2) **Showmanship**
   a) Guidelines
   b) Explanation of Usual Ring Procedures
   c) 4-H Showmanship Styles by Breed
   d) Score Sheets

3) **Obedience**
   a) Guidelines
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4) **Agility**
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6) **Judge’s Guidelines**
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General Guidelines

Foreword

This publication is presented by the Pima County 4-H Dog Project Show Guidelines Committee as a guide for 4-H’ers, 4-H leaders, county extension agents, judges and parents. It is designed to establish uniform guidelines and procedures for the 4-H Dog Project and events throughout the county. Please use this guide when setting up shows and establishing show rules. It should be noted that these are guidelines and that the rules for a specific show will superecede these guidelines.

Objectives

All 4-H projects are designed for youth to gain knowledge and practice skills that revolve around a topic of interest to them. Accordingly, the 4-H Dog Project youth development program is designed so that youth:

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, and sportsmanship
- Develop and practice skills in goal setting and teamwork.
- Develop communication skills and an appreciation for learning.
- Develop public presentation skills.
- Care about and serve others through work in their communities.
- Experience the pride and responsibility of involvement with a dog.
- Demonstrate abilities in dog care, management, feeding, care, handling, grooming and fitting.
- Explore career opportunities within the animal sciences, including dog care.

Good Sportsmanship

As participants in the Pima County 4-H dog program, members represent 4-H to the public. We expect our members to act in a responsible, ethical, sportsman-like manner at all times while participating in a 4-H event. We hold them responsible for reflecting the highest standards of honor and integrity and for promoting the 4-H program and dog project in a positive manner. In addition, older members are expected to model high standards of positive behavior to younger members. We also expect parents and leaders to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting the standards of the Pima County 4-H program.

Disabled Youth

Disabled youths may request special accommodations by indicating their need on the entry form. The show superintendent will work closely with the disabled member’s leader and county/state office to ensure that proper arrangements are made. A member requiring assistance may receive help from another 4-H member. If another 4-H member isn’t available an approved leader, instructor or judge may be asked.

1) Member/dog Eligibility

a) A member’s age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year, is the member’s age all year and does not change with the individual’s birthday.
b) Dogs and exhibitors must be currently enrolled in the 4-H Dog Care Project.
c) Dog care project leaders shall determine and approve participation of their members and dogs.
d) The 4-H member does not need to own the dog, but must be the person who has trained, groomed and cared for the dog since October 1 of the current 4-H year. This may be waived by mutual agreement of three project leaders in the event of illness or death of a dog.
e) The dog may not be trained or shown in the same area in obedience, agility or Junior Showmanship classes by two people during the 4-H year (brace excluded).
f) A dog may be handled by only one 4-H member in obedience classes. The same dog may be handled by another family member in a showmanship class.
g) The dog must be at least six months of age at the time of the show except for agility (see Agility Guidelines).
h) There shall be no discrimination of a dog’s breed whether it is a purebred or mix breed.
i) All dogs must have current rabies vaccines, licensing, and vaccinations (i.e. DHLPP).

2) Disqualification and Ineligibility
   a) No dog shall be eligible to compete if it is taped or bandaged in any way or if it has anything attached to it for medical corrective purposes. Unless there is written confirmation from a veterinarian that the dog is able to compete, upon approval of the show committee.
   b) The judge and/or show committee may excuse any dog attempting to attack any dog or person in the show or ring. Said dog may be disqualified and no ribbon awarded.
   c) No dog shall be eligible to compete with a physical condition that is detrimental to the health of the dog.
   d) Any abuse of dogs on the grounds or in the ring will result in disqualification and no ribbon will be awarded.

3) Show Ground Procedures
   a) No alcoholic beverages or tobacco of any kind are allowed in the show area.
   b) Dogs not entered are not allowed on the show grounds.
   c) No dogs shall be allowed in the rings before or during the show except for those currently being judges.
   d) All waste clean-up for the exhibitor’s dog is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
   e) Foul language will not be permitted in or out of the ring by exhibitors or spectators.

4) Dress
   a) Dress will be determined by the show committee for that show and will be put in the specific show rules. For a 4-H Show and activities “4-H dress” is a plain white shirt, dark pants, green tie and belt if belt loops are present; a vest is optional. Where no dress code is stated a neat and clean appearance will be expected.

5) Disturbances
   a) Female dogs in season may or may not be permitted to compete at some shows. At the county level, female dogs in season may be shown at the discretion of the Show Committee. The dog should be the last dog in the ring and separated from other dogs.
   b) The judge may remove from competition any dog a handler cannot control, any handler who interferes willfully with a competitor or a competitor’s dog, or any handler who abuses a dog. In addition the judge may excuse from competition any dog considered unfit to compete, or any female dog so attractive to males as to be disruptive.

6) Risk
   a) Owners enter dogs in a 4-H show at their own risk and agree to abide by 4-H rules and regulations.

7) Responsibility of Owner/Handler
   a) The owner has sole responsibility for the dog and is liable if the dog damages anyone or anything.

8) Decisions
   a) The judge’s decisions shall be final in all matters affecting the scoring and judging of each class. The Show Committee shall decide all other matters arising at the show.
9) Safety Guidelines
   a) While at a 4-H Dog Show, members must always maintain control of their dogs. They must keep their dogs leashed or crated when not showing and must not take their dogs outside of the immediate dog show area, especially when other livestock or small stock are present. In addition to being a good safety rule, crating dogs between classes gives the animals a rest period.
   b) Only 4-H members actively exhibiting in a class and officials assigned to that ring are allowed in the show ring during a class.
   c) Dogs that show signs of aggression toward humans or other dogs will not be allowed to participate in 4-H Dog Shows. The show superintendent or judge may ask an exhibitor to remove any dog from the grounds that shows aggression.

10) Standardized Judging
    a) Standardized judging is paramount. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but must see that each handler and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these guidelines. A handler familiar with these guidelines should be able to enter the ring under any judge without having to inquire how the particular judge wishes to have any exercise performed, and without being confronted with some unexpected requirement.
    b) The same methods and standards must be used for judging and scoring “A” and “B” classes as well as in judging and scoring the work of dogs of different or mixed breeds.

11) Re-judging
    a) If a dog has failed in a particular part of an exercise, it shall not ordinarily be re-judged or given a second chance, but if in the extreme cases, in the judge’s opinion, the dog’s performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions, the judge may re-judge the dog on the entire exercise. Should the judge find it necessary to re-judge a dog(s) from the group exercises, the dog(s) shall be re-judged immediately following the group or as soon as possible. Should only one dog be re-judged, that dog must do the exercise alone.

12) Ties
    a) In case of a tie for any prize in any class, each dog/handler shall be tested again individually by performing the following:
    b) Obedience – the entire heeling exercise again. The heeling exercise shall be performed on leash for those classes without off-leash heeling. If the class has an off-leash heeling pattern, the off-leash heeling pattern shall be used to break the tie. If, after this exercise, a tie still exists, the judge shall pick an exercise from the class in which the dog was shown.
    c) Showmanship – the pattern that was originally requested. If, after this exercise, a tie still exists, the judge may pick another pattern, ask additional questions as appropriate for that level, or any reasonable request as chosen by that judge.
    d) Agility – tie breaker as per Agility Guidelines.
    e) The original score shall not change. A plus or minus may be added to the score to indicate who won the tie.

13) Announcement of Scores
    a) The judge shall not disclose any score until the entire class has been judged or at the end of the show as designated by the show committee. Score sheets shall be passed out to exhibitors when awards are presented.
14) **Explanations and Errors**
   
   a) Questions, submitted in a courteous manner, may be answered after the results for the class have been announced or at the end of the show.
   
   b) Problems or questions may be addressed to the Show Committee at any time during the show.
   
   c) The judge is not required to explain his/her scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any exhibitor, his or her parents or leaders who appears to be dissatisfied.
   
   d) Any exhibitor, parent, leader or other interested party not displaying courtesy to the judges may result in disqualification of the exhibitor.
   
   e) Any interested person who thinks that there may have been an arithmetical error or an error in identifying a dog may report the facts to one of the stewards or the show committee so it may be checked.

15) **Misbehavior**
   
   a) Any display of fear, nervousness or uncontrolled behavior by the dog such as snapping, barking or running away from the handler, whether it occurs during an exercise, between exercises, or before or after judging, may be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior. However, the judges will keep in mind that the dog has been trained by a child and that this is probably a family pet with no other formal training.

16) **Training on the Grounds**
   
   a) There shall be no training or practicing in or near the rings. There shall be no training within 100 feet of the show rings.

17) **Additionally**
   
   a) The rules of the American Kennel Club (Obedience and Junior showmanship) and NADAC (agility) should be used where there is no 4-H rule to cover the situation and where the AKC rule would apply to the 4-H show.