Pima County 4-H Dog Project Rulebook

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Pima County 4-H & FFA Dog Project

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Other important documents:

Showmanship Guidelines

Agility Guidelines

Obedience Guidelines

Rally Regulations

Judging Guidelines

Dog Leaders' Committee Bylaws

Projected Calendar:

Dog project meetings are held during the monthly Small Stock meetings or as needed via virtual meeting format.

- August Meeting- Rule Changes are submitted and discussed/ tabled for next month to vote.
- September Meeting- Only Rule Changes submitted at the August meeting are discussed, voted on, and passed (Only voting members may vote).
- October Meeting- General business is conducted
- November Meeting (if needed)- General business is conducted
- December Meeting- No meeting
- January Meeting (if needed)- General business is conducted
- February Meeting (if needed)- General business is conducted
- March Meeting- General business is conducted
- April Meeting- No meeting, Pima County Fair
- May Meeting- Fair critique and Committee Officer Election
- June Meeting- No meeting
- July- No Meeting

Membership and Attendance:

Committee Membership:

- Max number of members varies by clubs offering project
- Minimum number of members varies by clubs offering project
- Percentage of youth membership on the committee: 50%
- Percentage of adult membership on the committee: 50% Committee members come from:
- One youth from each club that has the project that the committee represents (i.e.: Dog Committee – clubs that have the dog project will have 1(one) youth on the Dog Committee to represent that club)
- One adult certified volunteer from each club that has the project that the committee represents (i.e.: Dog Committee – clubs that have the dog project will have 1(one) adult certified volunteer on the Dog Committee to represent that club)
- Two additional adults or youth may be added to the committee at the approval of the full committee.
- The club that the committee's Project Coordinator oversees may have one additional adult member as the Project Coordinator is a non-voting member except in tie-breakers.

- Established Clubs will submit their members to PCCE 4-H staff once a year by September 30th on committee representation form
- New Clubs will submit their members to PCCE 4-H staff by December 1 of the current 4-H year on committee representation form
- If a 4-H Club is not going to be represented on a committee in which they have a project, they must explain their reasoning on the committee representation form
- Anyone may attend a committee meeting for the purpose of sharing information or concerns and asking questions. At-large attendees will be asked to speak for these purposes at a specific time during the committee meeting.
- At-large attendees may not vote.
- Extension Staff will serve as advisors to the committee and the extension office will ensure that all County, State, and National policies are adhered to, which may result in a committee decision being overturned.

Meeting Attendance:

- It is expected that committee members will attend at least 80% of committee meetings. If a committee member does not attend 80% of committee meetings, the committee may contact the Community Club Leader of that club and encourage them to communicate with that representative.

Committee Tenure:

- Each member will be appointed to the committee each year by their 4-H club as designated on the committee representation form. Committee Officer Team and Elections:

Each committee will have the following officers:

- Project Coordinator: one adult certified volunteer
- Marketing Chair: one youth member and/or adult certified leader
- Youth Reporter: one youth member Committee Elections:
- Election of officers will be held by ballot once a year at the May meeting.
- There must be a quorum of 51% of the membership in order to conduct officer elections.
- The entire committee will vote for the officer positions.
- A committee member can only hold a specific officer role once per year.
- Potential officers may be nominated (but must agree to run) or may volunteer themselves the meeting prior to elections.
- Only committee members appointed by their club may vote in the election in a ballot-style election.

Officer roles/responsibilities include:

- It is encouraged that an Officer Team communicate prior to the regularly scheduled committee meetings in order to be better prepared for the meeting.
- If an Officer Team meets outside of the regularly scheduled committee meetings to prepare for the meeting, they may not make decisions on behalf of the committee.

Project Coordinator:

- The Project Coordinator is a non-voting member unless a tie-breaker is needed.
- Guide committee through the process of developing and facilitating committee goals and objectives and events for the 4-H year.
- Create a meeting agenda with time frames for each meeting agenda item and submit to staff for input at least seven days before the meeting.
- Send approved meeting agenda and meeting reminder at least four days before the meeting to all members and staff.
- Facilitate the meeting following the meeting agenda and time frames on agenda items
- Communicate with the committee and staff as necessary between meetings regarding committee business/events.
- Serve as liaison with the Pima County 4-H Executive Council.
- Copy the meeting agenda or ask staff for a specific number of copies.
- Ensure that all meeting/event attendees are treated respectfully and within 4-H behavior guidelines. All committee member tasks:
- Work as a committee to develop goals and objectives and ensure all events/shows meet these goals and objectives.
- Plan project-related events with staff approval to include: Clinics/Workshops and Competitions
- Develop project area show/exhibit guidelines for youth. o All project area guidelines must be sent to 4-H Staff for final approval.
- Ensure that all meeting/event attendees are treated respectfully and within 4-H behavior guidelines.

Staff Roles:

- Assist with recruitment of committee members.
- Screen, orient, and train all committee members.
- Maintain committee member database, tenure, and email list (provide email list to committees).
- Approve meeting agendas.
- Attend at least 2/3 of committee meetings.
- Maintain committee meeting agendas and minutes for five years and committee financial documents for seven years.
- Serve as overall financial account manager and reviewer on all committee accounts and oversee accounts.
- Attend/Check-in on several committee events throughout the year.
- Provide input, support, and guidance to committee.

Committee Guidelines and Expectations:

- Committee members/officers will treat one another, staff, 4-H members, parents, and guests with respect. They will not bully or harass anyone they interact with as representatives of the 4-H committee.
- Committee members and officers are advisory members. They have input opportunities for all committee items. Staff have final authority.

- Committee members and officers must have staff input and approval on all project guidelines, rules, additions, or deletions.
- Work cooperatively with youth, other volunteer leaders, families, Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, and others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate to a positive role model for youth.
- Communicate honestly and directly with other volunteers, Extension personnel and youth.
- Volunteers must exhibit the highest ethical standards. Adult and youth volunteers are expected to take actions that ensure that the 4-H program develops in a positive, constructive direction.
- Keep the best interests of youth and families as a priority. Any type of harassment or hazing will not be tolerated.
- Obey the local laws as well as the laws of the state and federal government.
- Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws. Make all reasonable effort to assure that 4-H Youth Development programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation or disability.
- Recognize that verbal and/or physical abuse and/or neglect of youth is unacceptable in 4-H Youth Development programs; physical or verbal abuse is prohibited. Incidents of reported, suspected or observed abuse should be reported immediately to law enforcement or Child Protective Services.
- Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
- Operate motor vehicles (including machines or equipment) in a safe and reliable manner when working with 4-H youth, and only with a valid operator's license and the legally required insurance coverage.
- Abide by the same rules as the youth regarding no use of alcohol, tobacco products and illegal drugs/substances at all official 4-H functions, regardless of duration, nor allow youth participants under supervision to do so. At 4-H hosted or sponsored events which last several days, this code of behavior is expected to be observed at all times.
- No firearms possession is allowed during 4-H events and activities unless it is part of an approved 4-H program which involves firearms. Use, respect and care for all property. Charges will be assessed for any misuse or damage.
- Know and follow established rules and expected behaviors for all programs and activities in which you participate.
- Always use appropriate language. Abusive or profane language is prohibited. ● Represent the Arizona 4-H Youth Development program with pride and dignity.

Voting Rights:

- All appointed committee members may vote on all committee decisions except the Project Coordinator.
- All rule changes will require a majority vote of the quorum.
- Committee members may call into a meeting if physical presence is not possible

DATES AND DEADLIINES:

PROJECT ENROLLMENT set by 4-H Enrollment Deadline each year December 15th.

OWNERSHIP DEADLINE *January 15th, 2027,* submitted via Google Ownership form:

https://forms.gle/NuEJHKfJaEi3ntdA9

FAIR REGISTRATION DEADLINE

April 1st each year- submitted via Google form.
Fair registration form will be sent to all youth who have submitted an ownership form.

SHOW TIMES-

RALLY AND OBEDIENCE SHOWS:

Thursday, April 15, 2027

- CHECK-IN TIME: 8:00-9:00 AM
- START TIME: 9:00 AM

AGILITY SHOW:

Friday, April 16, 2027

- CHECK-IN TIME: 3:30-4:00 PM
- START TIME: 4:00 PM

SHOWMANSHIP SHOW:

Friday, April 16, 2027

- CHECK-IN TIME: 3:30-4:00 PM
- START TIME: after the conclusion of Agility

PROJECT RULES & REQUIREMENTS:

A. Members and dogs must be actively enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project by January 15th each year, in order to participate in the 4-H County Fair Dog Show.

B. All dogs participating in the dog project and shows must be licensed with Pima County Animal Control and be current on their annual and rabies vaccinations. C. Aggressive dogs are not permitted in the 4-H Dog Competitions. Dogs that have shown some signs of aggression but have been worked can be shown, permitted they have the following:

1. Three (3) leaders have signed off on the Dog attesting to having witnessed a change in the Dog's behavior and have tested the Dog and found that the behavior is no longer aggressive.

D. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to approach a Dog Show Judge or Ring Steward with a dispute or problem during the show. The official Judge's decisions will be considered final for that day. All grievances should be taken to the Dog Project Coordinator or Superintendent. Any grievances will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled Dog Project Leaders' Meeting.

E. Exhibitors are responsible to be ready at ringside when their class is called, or they will miss the class. If an exhibitor is exhibiting in another project or class which conflicts with the dog show, members should notify the Project Coordinator for all of the projects involved including the Dog Project Coordinator to work out flexibility in both show schedules.

F. DOGS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ENTERED IN THE 4-H/FFA DOG SHOW MAY NOT BE AROUND THE DOG SHOW AREA.

G. <u>The following pertain to Ownership, Show & Training:</u>

1. Dogs must be trained and shown exclusively in obedience and showmanship by the 4-H member during the project year.
2. Dogs must be owned by youth or immediate family members. Other situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. A 4-H member must show one dog in the appropriate Novice or Open showmanship class. Other situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
4. Classes may be combined in an effort to expedite the show providing that it maintains the 12-dog limit for long sits and downs. Changes will be announced, and members will be given a five-minute (5) warning. Classes will be scored separately.
5. All classes will be judged by the Pima County Judging Guidelines.
6. All Pre-Novice members will hold their leashes in their hands.
7. Posters and other educational displays will be shown in accordance with the

Old Pueblo Hall Building Rules and Guidelines. Exhibits must be of an original idea and must be original work to be eligible for competition. Others may be entered for exhibition only. Posters and displays entered in Old Pueblo Hall must be picked up on the last day of the Pima County Fair at 6:00 PM by designated club representative (only one per club). Any posters etc. not claimed may be lost. See Old Pueblo Hall Projects Rules for more info (pg. 28).

H. The following pertain to Elimination Guidelines:

1. Female dogs in or coming into season are not allowed on show grounds for any dog or round robin events. Pregnant, within 4 weeks of the due date, or bitches with a litter 8 weeks of age or older but still lactating (producing milk) must have veterinarian approval before being shown. A letter of approval from a veterinarian must be submitted at the time of check-in.
2. For the protection of the other project dogs, the Project Coordinator or County 4-H Extension Staff, jointly with a veterinarian, if available, have the right to reject any exhibit showing evidence of disease or parasites and to include lameness or malnourished and improperly cared for dogs.
3. For the protection of the 4-H members, their dogs, and spectators, aggressive behavior by the dog will disqualify the dog from further competition at the current Pima County Fair. This decision will be made by the Project Coordinator or County 4-H Extension Staff. Aggressive behavior will be considered as a dog that continues to show aggression when removed or isolated from other dogs.
4. Any display of poor sportsmanship on the part of the handlers will eliminate the handler from further competition at the current Pima County Fair Dog Show. This decision will be made by the Project Coordinator.
5. Dogs must be on a leash, crated, and attended at all times when not in the show ring. Any loose dog or one which is tied and left unattended may be excused from any further competition that day. This decision will be made by the Project Coordinator. For all shows, an area away from the immediate show area or barn will be designated as a warmup and exercise area where dogs may be outside of their crate. Dogs may also be out of the crate for regular bathroom breaks, grooming sessions, exercise breaks, and warmups as long as they are away from the immediate show vicinity and practice proper spacing around other dogs.
6. The Pima County Fair, Pima County Cooperative Extension, and Pima County 4-H and their representative will not be responsible for the loss of, damage by, or accidents to dogs, exhibitors, or spectators.
7. Exhibitors may not accept coaching or training while in the show ring. Acceptance will result in disqualification from that class. This decision will

be made by the judge, Project Coordinator, and County 4-H Extension Staff.

I. The following pertain to Equipment and Care:

1. All care, handling, and grooming the day of the show must be done by a 4-H member.
2. Pronged or spiked collars will NOT BE ALLOWED on the Pima County Fairgrounds on show days.
3. Dogs must be shown only on a flat buckle collar, a chain, gentle leader, or a martingale collar, with a 6-foot leash or a show lead. Nothing except the leash may be attached to the collar in the ring. Dog licenses should be removed prior to entering the show ring. All equipment including collars must be quality approved and signed off on by your project leaders at the show check-in prior to any show. Only leader approved collars and chains will be allowed to enter the show
4. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own shade, water, crate, and feed for their dogs. Additionally, exhibitors are responsible for allowing adequate time for their dogs to relieve themselves prior to entering the ring. ALL MEMBERS MUST CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR DOGS.

J. The following pertain to the Dress of the Exhibitor:

1. 4-H members are expected to wear the following attire when exhibiting or performing Obedience and Showmanship at a Pima County Fair Function:
    - Dark solid-colored pants or skirts (jeans are fine). Closed-toed shoes are required.
    - Collared and long/short-sleeved shirt or blouse and tie combination in 4-H Colors.
    - Club vests are optional. Belt, if loops are provided.
    - No treat bags, hats, or sunglasses will be allowed in the show ring.
    - FFA Members should see the General Animal Science Rules for
    - Exhibitor Dress (page 10).
2. Agility and Rally:
    - 4-H members may wear 4-H Dress, no tie, or club/county t-shirt (unaltered, sleeved) and long pants/skirt. Closed-toed shoes are required. Dogs may not wear clothing or other adornments
3. Drill Team:
    - Team members may be in 4-H dress; or Project or club t-shirts.
    - Costumes are also allowed which may include appropriate costumes on handlers and/or dogs as long as they do not interfere with the performance and do not cause a safety issue.

Dog Project Discipline Classes & Guidelines

Pima County Dog Agility Guidelines

- All exhibitors must agree to abide by all rules and regulations, as outlined in the Agility Guidelines. Read the full Pima County Dog Project Agility Guidelines here.
- Dogs must be 1 year old by the Pima County Fair to compete in obedience, showmanship, agility, and rally.
- Handlers should indicate a veteran (senior) dog status when registering for show if the dog is older than 7 years at time of show.
- 4-H members and their dogs must qualify by:
    - Any dog to be shown in Agility MUST also be entered and shown in the appropriate Obedience class for the same 4H year
    - Leader must submit a certificate of readiness and agility release signed by parent or guardian.
- All exhibitors enter at their own risk and risk of their dog.
- There is a two (2) dog limit for Agility Levels 2 and 3.
- For the Agility Classes Levels 2 and 3, the dog must be at least 18 months old.

Pima County Dog Obedience Guidelines

- If you are unsure about which class you should be in, check with your project leader, show superintendent, or the Project Coordinator
- All exhibitors must agree to abide by all rules and regulations, as outlined in the Obedience Guidelines. Read the full Pima County Dog Project Obedience Guidelines here.
- Dogs must be 1 year old by the Pima County Fair to compete in obedience, showmanship, agility, and rally. Handlers should indicate a veteran (senior) dog status when registering for show if the dog is older than 7 years at time of show.
- A 4-H member may show as many dogs as wished in Obedience classes, however, all 4-H members are limited to one regular Obedience class per dog and one dog per class.
- Obedience and showmanship rings should be no less than 40 Feet by 50 Feet, with at least a 4-foot buffer.
- Pre-Novice A: This class is for first-year members with first-year dogs only.
- Pre-Novice B: This class is for any exhibitor that has:
    - Trained a dog, any dog, in 4-H at that level.
    - A dog that has not received a qualifying score of 170 at the Pima County Fair.
    - Experienced dog with a new handler.
- Pre-Novice C Open: This class is for an exhibitor that has shown a dog in 4-H and that dog has received a qualifying score of 170 at the Pre-Novice Level at the Pima County Fair but is not ready for advancement.
- Novice A: This class is for members who have never shown a dog (any dog) at the Novice level ONLY. This should be a dog that has previously received a qualifying score of 170 at the Fair.

- Novice B: This class is for any exhibitor that has:
    - Trained any dog in 4-H in that level
    - A dog has not received a qualifying score of 170 points at the Pima County Fair at the Novice Level
- Pre-Graduate Novice: This class is for any dog that has not yet received a qualifying score of 170 points at the Pima County Fair at the Pre-Graduate Novice level but has received a qualifying score at the Novice level.
- Graduate Novice, Open, and Utility: are open to any age, any experience handler or dog.
- In Obedience, dogs that receive a qualifying score of 170 or above must move up to the next show level. Dogs are not allowed to move down levels.
- All classes will be judged by the Pima County Obedience Guidelines and Judging Guidelines

Pima County Dog Rally Regulations

- All exhibitors must agree to abide by all rules and regulations, as outlined in the Rally Regulations. Read the full Pima County Dog Project Rally Guidelines here.
- Dogs must be 1 year old by the Pima County Fair to compete in obedience, showmanship, and rally.
- Handlers should indicate a veteran (senior) dog status when registering for show if the dog is older than 7 years at time of show.

Pima County Dog Showmanship Guidelines

- All exhibitors must agree to abide by all rules and regulations, as outlined in the Showmanship Regulations. Read the full Pima County Dog Project Showmanship Guidelines here
- Dogs must be 1 year old by the Pima County Fair to compete in obedience, showmanship, and rally. Handlers should indicate a veteran (senior) dog status when registering for show if the dog is older than 7 years at time of show.
- A 4-H member MUST show one dog in the appropriate Novice or Open showmanship class. Other situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Showmanship rings should be no less than 40 Feet by 50 Feet, with at least a 4-foot buffer.
- Please Note: There are no universally accepted standards for judging a showmanship class, and the winner is the one who, in the judge's estimation, does the best job of showing their dog. In showmanship, as opposed to obedience classes the heaviest emphasis is placed on the handler's performance, presentation, knowledge and grooming of the dog. Conformation of the dog is specifically not to be considered.
- All classes will be judged by the Pima County Obedience and Judging Guidelines

Obedience Team Guidelines

- Obedience Team is an event where a club, or members from several clubs compete together in tandem in the
- Obedience exercises. The team completes the same exercises as the individual version of the obedience class (i.e. heeling, figure 8, stand for exam, recall and long sits and down) as a group team. In addition to being judged on individual skill you are also judged on how cohesive your team looks as a whole.

    1. All regular rules and guidelines listed for the standard Obedience classes above apply to Team classes
    2. Dogs entered in Obedience Team must also enter the individual handler-dog class at the appropriate level.
    3. At least two (2) of the four (4) dogs must be trained no higher than the level at which the team is entered.
    4. No dog may be entered in a class more than 1 step below what they are being shown at.
    5. All teams will be a minimum of three members.
    6. Exhibitors will wear 4H show dress (or otherwise match club t-shirts if approved for the particular show).
    7. Any item worn by dogs must look cohesive as the team and must not impede the movement of the dog or the fit of the collar on the dog.
    8. Scorecards will be the same as the obedience level with the addition of up to 25 points added for cohesiveness of team unit. The awarding of these 25 points or portion thereof will be at the judge's discretion.

Pima County Dog Drill Team Guidelines

- All exhibitors must agree to abide by all rules and regulations, as outlined in the Obedience Guidelines. Refer to these guidelines for a complete list of Drill Team Guidelines.
- A dog shown in drill team must be the same dog the 4-H handler completed the project within Obedience Training. Dogs must be 1 year old by the Pima County Fair to compete. Six-foot leads must be used for on lead exercises and may be used for all exercises. It is not necessary to switch to a showmanship lead to perform a showmanship exercise within the routine.
- Teams consist of a minimum of 2 exhibitors and a maximum of 6. Clubs may have more than 1 team. Teams may be formed across clubs to meet minimum number of exhibitors or other requirements. The individual obedience level of a team member is to be disregarded when they are a member of a drill team. Any team member may perform any obedience exercise.
- Performance time will be minimum 2 minutes up to a maximum of 3 minutes. Loss of 1 point for each 15 seconds over or under the limits, an additional 5 points off for an over 60 second deviation.
- Bait cannot be used in drill team competition or in the staging area.
- Tie scores in Drill Team will be broken by the judges.

CLASSES AND LOTS

CLASS 1: OBEDIENCE LOTS:

1- PRE-NOVICE A- FIRST YEAR IN PROJECT
2- PRE-NOVICE B- OPEN
3- PRE-NOVICE C- OPEN
4- NOVICE A- FIRST YEAR IN THE NOVICE LEVEL
5- NOVICE B- OPEN
6- PRE-GRADUATE NOVICE OPEN
7- GRADUATE NOVICE- OPEN
8- OPEN
9- UTILITY- OPEN
10- PRE-NOVICE TEAM OPEN
11- NOVICE TEAM- OPEN
12- PRE-GRADUATE NOVICE TEAM
13- DRILL TEAM

CLASS 2: SHOWMANSHIP (BASED OFF OF AGE OF EXHIBITOR) LOTS:

1- JUNIOR NOVICE- CLASS OPEN TO 1ST YEAR EXHIBITORS 8-11 YEARS
2- INTERMEDIATE NOVICE- CLASS OPEN TO 1ST YEAR EXHIBITORS 12-14 YEARS
3- SENIOR NOVICE- CLASS OPEN TO 1ST YEAR EXHIBITORS 15-18 YEARS
4- JUNIOR OPEN – 8-11 YEARS OLD
5- INTERMEDIATE OPEN- 12-14 YEARS OLD
6- SENIOR OPEN- 15-18 YEARS OLD

CLASS 3: AGILITY LOTS:

1- LEVEL I: HOOPS AND TUNNELS, PAUSE TABLE
2- LEVEL II: FIRST YEAR WITH CONTACTS
3- LEVEL III: ADVANCED HANDLERS IDENTIFIED BY LEADER'S DISCRETION

CLASS 4: RALLY LOTS:

1- NOVICE A
2- NOVICE B
3- ADVANCED A
4- ADVANCED B
5- EXCELLENT

CLASS 5: DRILL TEAM

CLASS 6: GUIDE DOG LOT:

1- GUIDE DOG RAISER, AGES 8-18 YEARS OLD

CLASS 7: EDUCATIONAL POSTER & DISPLAY LOTS:

1- JUNIOR POSTER (8-11 YEARS OLD)
2- INTERMEDIATE POSTER (12-14 YEARS OLD)
3- SENIOR POSTER (15-18 YEARS OLD)
4- CLUB EXHIBIT