

# JUNIOR FAIR DOG PROGRAM

## Department 900

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 @ 11:00 am – Main Show Arena

### **Requirements:**

1. Before showing at the Defiance County Fair, Dog Matches or State Fair Competition, the dog and handler must attend a **MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) Dog Committee training sessions** or be observed and approved by a Dog Committee Member. Lessons, instruction and advice for the exhibitor are encouraged. As long as the exhibitor is present in the learning situation, and handles or trains the dog the majority of the time present, such assistance can include occasional handling or training by another person
2. **Entry is limited to two dogs.** 4-H members may exhibit more than one dog as long as they only exhibit one dog in each level (Example Pre Novice A & B are one level). They are permitted to exhibit the same dog in an obedience class, a rally class, agility, and a showmanship class. Exception to this is brace class (see Brace Rule) and agility and Rally. They may show more than one dog in the same agility class and Rally Class.

### **Specific Dog Show Discipline Rules**

Defiance County will follow the rules and regulations described in each of the rulebooks that can be found on the Defiance County dog exhibitors may obtain a copy of the rules from the Defiance County Ext Office.

- All participants in the Junior Fair Dog show must be dressed in proper attire, have necessary health papers and checked in at registration.
- Leashes must be 6 feet in length for sub novice classes.
- Advancement Rule: All shows will follow the class advancement rules as listed in the Ohio State Fair Dog Show Guidelines. Members who win at the County Level must advance to the next class. All "A" class participants must advance the following year and all "B" class participants must advance after two years in the same class.

### **4-H Dog Project Eligibility & Completion:**

1. Members must have a current health form on file with the Extension Office by June 15.
2. Youth must own or co-own dog or be owned by immediate family. Youth may not lease a dog project. Dogs cannot be shared by siblings or other individuals.
3. Hardship cases/replacement of dogs will not be considered.
4. Only domestic dogs can be shown; no wolves or wolf hybrids.
5. Dogs must be six months old by show date.
6. Female dogs cannot be in heat.
7. Members must sign the Permission to Participate/Project Registration Form (yellow).
8. If a dog has been or becomes aggressive toward people and/or other dogs, that dog CANNOT be take or continue as a 4-H dog project.
9. Dogs must be in youth's continual care by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. No one other than the 4-H member is permitted to show or handle the project dog at any type of dog show on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>.
11. On or after April 1, only the youth can train the dog at any kind of training class.
12. All members exhibiting an animal project at the Defiance County Fair must complete a dog skillathon.

### **Junior Fair Entry:**

1. The Permission to Participate/Project Registration Form (yellow) will serve as the member's Junior Fair Entry. Members not participating in the Junior Fair show must notify the Extension Office by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

2. Eligibility for showing in an “A” class is defined as “no training or showing experience for the handler and/or dog prior to the county’s current project year.” Handlers and/or dogs not meeting this requirement MUST show in a “B” class.

### **Recommend Show Attire:**

Handler’s appearance: Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing should not distract, limit or hinder the judge’s view of the dog. Inappropriate clothing includes T-shirts, jackets or other apparel with slogans, 4-H club, FFA Chapter, or dog club names, etc., halter tops, tank tops, blue jeans and shorts, sandals, clogs, high-heeled shoes, and other similar footwear. For Grooming and Handling classes it is recommended that girls wear skirts, dresses, skorts, dress shorts or similar attire, and boys wear dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. For Obedience, Dog Care, Brace and Team classes colored dress jeans and dress shorts are appropriate. Club shirts, jeans and shorts are acceptable for Agility. Jeans and shorts are acceptable for Rally.

### **Ohio State Fair Dog Show:**

1. The Ohio State Fair no longer requires a qualifying show for youth to attend the State Fair.
2. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to make the entry for the Ohio State Fair Dog Show.
3. All entries for the Ohio State Fair Dog Show must be approved/signed by the 4-H Extension Educator.

### **Safety & Sportsmanship**

- Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior at any time before, during, or after exhibition must be removed from the Fairgrounds
- Judges must excuse any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors, that snaps, attempts to attack, or attacks any person or dog while in the show ring. They have the right and responsibility to do so
- Dogs cannot wear muzzles, prong collars, electronic collars, etc. on while on the Fairgrounds
- Youth exhibiting poor sportsmanship will have points taken off in the appropriate section on their score sheet, and may be excused from the show ring and asked to leave the Fairgrounds.

### **Disciplines:**

- Showmanship (used to be called Grooming & Handling)
- Obedience (beginning and advanced)
- Rally (a form of obedience)
- Agility
- You & Your Dog, Assistance Dogs, 4-H PetPALS, Drill Team, Canine Freestyle, Skillathon, Poster Contest

### **Difference Between “A” and “B” Classes**

- \* “A” classes are for FIRST year youth and FIRST year dogs with NO prior show experience at that level
- \* “A” classes can NEVER be repeated by the youth OR the dog under any circumstances
- \* “B” classes can be repeated by youth and dog
  - \* Until winning first place (at State Fair)
  - \* County rules may be more strict
  - \* Youth cannot just stay in same level “B” class because they do not want to train at a higher level

Once a youth and/or dog has shown in an “A” class, neither can ever go back to that same “A” class. This is true with a different dog also. Once a youth and/or dog has shown in a “B” class and has moved to a higher Level, they can never go back to the lower Level “B” class with the same dog. Youth can go back to lower Level “B” class with a different dog. If a 9-year-old, inexperienced youth joins 4-H with a dog that has shown at the Graduate Novice Level, then they have to show at the Graduate Novice B level, regardless of the youth’s experience.