

Waupaca County Dog Project Rules

Effective 2012, 2016, 2019, **Updated 2023*****

General Requirements

1. Members must train their own dog or a dog that is a pet of their immediate family unless otherwise arranged with a Key Leader. Key Leaders should confer with each other prior to final decision. This arrangement needs to be discussed and made prior to the start of training. A signed agreement will be kept on file.
2. Vaccination records **MUST** be turned in to the project secretary before dog(s) will be allowed in training class.
 - a. The following vaccinations are **required** to be current during any 4-H sponsored dog event or activity (State 4-H Policy).
 - Rabies vaccination as required by state law (DATCP).
 - DLHPP vaccination – Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, ParaInfluenza, and Parvovirus.
 - Bordetella (Kennel Cough) – This is required by Waupaca County Dog Project
 - b. A copy of vaccination records must be maintained by the host organization for at least 3 years past the current year.
 - c. Exceptions may be accepted in writing from a veterinarian for Leptospirosis, antibody tests (titers), or dogs unfit for vaccination.
3. A signed enrollment form including release of liability must be returned to the project secretary before training can begin. Dog owners will be responsible for anyone injured by their dog(s).
4. A training fee and fundraising are required to cover some of expenses incurred by the dog project:
 - a. Training Fee
 - \$10.00 per member
 - Child non-member will be \$20.00/per dog - \$10.00 each additional class *****As space allows*****
 - Adults 18 years and older will be \$35.00/per dog/per class. *****As space allows *****
 - b. Fundraising
 - \$30 per member (can participate in fundraiser; Culver's fundraising night; get a sponsor via a friend, family or business; or just pay it outright)
5. Dogs should be at least 6 months or older at the date of the show/fair to be eligible for this project. Please contact one of the Key Leaders for any questions. Dogs that are very close to this age may be considered, much depends on the dog and handler experience. Key Leaders will have final say on dogs under this age requirement. AKC rules do not allow dogs younger than 6 months to show.
6. Visitors, parents and prospective 4-H members are encouraged to observe training sessions as long as they do not disturb the training session. **Due to space, please be advised additional people may be asked to wait outside of the training areas.**
7. Each family is required to volunteer their time to help during the project year. This could be during training sessions, graduation, or at the fair show. (examples: groom checks, training aids, setup of training sessions, graduation, or fair show, etc.)
8. Agility- the handler and dog **must have completed** 1 year of obedience training or given prior approval by the leaderboard.

Project attendance requirements

1. You must attend 7 training sessions for each class you plan to show in at the fair (graduation will count as one). Makeup sessions will be available, but if you do not make 7 training sessions you will not be allowed to show your dog at the fair and will automatically be eliminated from receiving a graduation certificate and/or recognition of project completion.
2. Any extended illness or family emergency should be discussed with a member of the leader panel.
3. Female dogs in season should be kept at home during training sessions; however the 4-H handler is expected to come to class. The dog may compete at the graduation and fair. Please see a Key Leader to find out the special requirements for a female in season.
4. State Eligibility – In order to participate in State Dog Show Opportunities, members need to be in good standing with county project rules. For Waupaca County this will include all required paperwork to be turned in, dues and fundraising requirements met, and regular attendance at the training sessions. Depending on dates of events and registration deadlines, individual situations will be discussed by the leader panel on a case by case basis.

Before training sessions

1. Do not feed your dog right before the training session. Feed either in the morning or after class in the evening.
2. Walk your dog at home before class to prevent accidents.
3. Check your training box/bag to be sure that you have all the equipment needed for class; this includes treats that are used during training sessions.
4. Bring a supply of water for your dog.

Training sessions

1. You **MUST** clean up after your dog at the fairgrounds. Cleaning aids will be available so everyone can clean up after their own dogs. All waste must be removed to the dumpsters.
2. First and second year handlers will have groom checks at every meeting. Please plan to arrive **15 minutes early to allow time for groom checks before scheduled start of classes.**
3. Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Don't let your dog sniff other dogs. Dogs that are strange to one another will sometimes fight when crowded together. You must maintain a safe distance between dogs.
4. The best shoes for dog training are low ones with rubber soles. Bare feet, sandals, flip-flops or cowboy boots are **UNACCEPTABLE** footwear for dog training. The instructor may ask you to watch and not participate if your footwear is unacceptable.
5. The instructor reserves the right to drop any dog if he/she feels it is in the best interest of the class-i.e. aggressive dogs. This is absolutely at the discretion of the leader training each group.

6. If a member is too small or young to handle their dog, they will be asked to postpone training for another year.

Between sessions

1. The weekly training sessions are not sufficient to train your dog. It is very important to practice DAILY for 15 minutes.
2. As training progresses and more exercises are introduced, two 15 minute sessions daily may be needed. 30 minute training sessions are discouraged because the dog becomes bored and the handler will become frustrated.
3. Parents are asked to encourage their children to follow this training program.

Training equipment

Showmanship

1. A special "show lead and collar" are required for all dogs. These vary with breed and size of dog. Your instructor can help you select the proper equipment. Some may be available for purchase from the project.

Obedience

1. A 6-foot leather or cotton web leash and a proper fitting chain or nylon collar are required training tools. Your instructor can help you select the proper equipment. Some may be available for purchase from the project.
2. In Pre-Open and above each handler must have their own equipment such as a dumbbell, articles, gloves etc.

Agility

1. A buckle collar (no tags or accessories hanging from collar) is needed for running agility.
2. 6-foot leash or slip lead.
3. Should wear running type shoes- you WILL be running.

Awards-qualifications for graduation and fair

1. The dog with the most grooming points at the conclusion of the training year will receive "best groomer" award. The points are earned during the groom checks.
2. Requirements to advance to the next training level for the year in obedience:
 - a. Final score at graduation (qualifying score of 170 or better)
 - b. Final score at fair (qualifying score of 170 or better)
 - c. Final score at 4-H State Dog Show (qualifying score of 170 or better)