4-H
Dog Proficiency

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Dog Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. You will learn basic principles of animal husbandry by owning and/or caring for and keeping records on one or more dogs.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

◊ The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.

◊ The Del Norte County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, dvds, and reference materials that can be checked out be members and leaders.

◊ Check to see if there are organizations in your community that conduct educational activities and shows. Local artists can be an excellent source of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

♦ Level I - "Explorer", you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising dogs.

♦ Level II - "Producer", you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising dogs.

♦ Level III - "Consumer", you become an experienced raiser of dogs.

♦ Level IV - "Leader", allows you to show your own leadership potential.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

DOGS
Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 1.

_____ 2.

Demonstrate basic dog knowledge:
   a. Show how to correctly put a collar and leash on your dog. Demonstrate how to walk your dog safely.
   b. Identify the pinch, choke, and flat buckle collar. Be able to correctly fit the collar and the correct placement on dog.
   c. Have knowledge of the types of equipment needed for obedience and showmanship.
   d. Demonstrate heel position, forward, and halt. Explain why leading with your left leg is important.

_____ 3.

Describe the basic requirements a dog need.

_____ 4.

List three items you would feed your dog. List three items you should never feed your dog.

_____ 5.

_____ 6.

What type of housing is necessary for a dog?

_____ 7.

Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for the daily and weekly care of your dog.

_____ 8.

Tell why fleas must be controlled and some problems they cause.

_____ 9.

Identify at least six external body parts of the dog.

_____ 10.

Complete and submit a project record sheet for the year, including how often you provided fresh water, food immunizations and medications, and other time spent caring for your dog.

_____ 11.

Discuss the importance of vaccinations. Show your Project Leader proof that your dog's shot records are current. Name two diseases preventable by vaccination.

_____ 12.

Present a project meeting report to your Club.

_____ 13.

Explain how to tell if your dog is ill and needs veterinary attention. Name three signs of a healthy dog. Name three signs of a sick dog.

Attend any 4-H event out side of your Club.

_____ 14.

_____ 15.

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 16.

Participate in community service or citizenship activity related to the project.

_____ 17.

Show an understanding of these terms:

a. Dog	b. Bitch	c. Puppy
d. Dam	e. Sire	f. Choke (or correction collar)
g. Groom	h. Halter collar	i. Pinch (or prong collar)
j. Dewclaw	k. Pads	l. Heel
m. Lead		

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG
Level II - Producer

Date
Completed   Name: _____

_____ 1.   Name three things that are poisonous to dogs. Name three signs of
                  poisoning.

_____ 2.   Name three internal and three external parasites. Discuss the symptoms
                  that your dog may exhibit. Discuss preventative measures.

_____ 3.   Submit project form for management records that show how often you
                  provided fresh water, food, money spent keeping your dog, or show a record
                  listing of your research on the care, handling, and training of a dog.

_____ 4.   Explain the terms: conformation, cowhocked, occiput, feather, docked tails.

_____ 5.   Teach the external body parts of the dog to members of your project.

_____ 6.   Demonstrate the safe way to greet a dog and be able to predict a possible
                  outcome of screaming, running, and hugging.

_____ 7.   Discuss the equipment used in obedience and showmanship. Compare and
                  analyze the different collars and leashes. Describe when it is appropriate to
                  use each of them.

_____ 8.   Name and describe the characteristics of the seven breed groups as defined
                  by the American Kennel Club.

_____ 9.   Demonstrate understanding of exercises used in novice obedience.

_____ 10.   Discuss "do's and don'ts" for showmanship class. Give at least three examples
                  of each.

_____ 11.   Demonstrate and "I" pattern or an "L" pattern as used in showmanship class.
                  Show "about" and "reverse" turn and demonstrate how to stack your dog.

_____ 12.   Do something creative with your project outside of your Club.

_____ 13.   Participate in a community service or citizenship activity with the Dog
                  Project.

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 14.   Obtain contact information for the American Kennel Club and identify at least two types of information you can obtain from them. Also identify and obtain contact information for two dog-related resources.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG
Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 1. Lead an obedience or showmanship class for your project.

_____ 2. What are the causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of:
   A. Parvovirus
   B. Heartworm symptoms
   C. Tapeworm

_____ 3. Name five internal organs and their function.

_____ 4. Describe the terms spay and neuter (using proper terminology) and the advantages of each.

_____ 5. Describe the development of dog from birth to adulthood and how and why you care for the animal at each stage.

_____ 6. Present to your project three different breeds including origin of the breed, breed specific characteristics, e.g., size, coat type, uses, life span, temperament, etc.

_____ 7. Demonstrate to your project one aspect in caring for the health of your dog.

_____ 8. Explain the problems of hip dysplasia and the type of dogs affects by it. How can it be detected and can it be prevented?

_____ 9. Explore a different type of activity with your dog.

_____ 10. Define the concept of leadership with respect to your dog. Research and report to your project on specifics.

_____ 11. Assist younger members in the design and use of project needed materials and/or equipment.

_____ 12. Prepare and give a demonstration relating to dogs outside of the project group.

_____ 13. Create a list of local resources for dog-related topics and make available to members of your project. The list must contain a minimum of ten resources for three different areas of interest.

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 14.   Explore local, state, and national affiliation and opportunities associated with the Dog Project, e.g., breed organizations, training clubs, AKC. Share your findings with your Dog Project members.

_____ 15.   Continue to demonstrate skills in record keeping by submitting records including feeding, cleaning, grooming and training.

_____ 16.   With the approval of your Project Leader, organize or assist in organization of a community service or citizenship activity related to the Dog Project.

_____ 17.   Assist in organizing a County, State or Sectional event.

_____ 18.   Show an understanding of these terms:

a. Canine Teeth	b. Brindle	c. Tri-color
d. merle	e. Mask	f. Cropping
g. Haw	h. Feathering	i. Hackles
j. Ruff	k. Breed	l. Group
m. Breed Standard	n. Gait	o. Condition

_____ 19.   Complete one year as a Junior Leader in any project.

DOG
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

Name: _____

_____ 1.

Create a checklist of supplies you would need to take with you to a dog show.

_____ 2.

Explain why it is important to understand the dog's genetic background before bringing it into a new home. Give two breed examples.

_____ 3.

_____ 4.

Give an example of a dog breed that would be suitable for each of the following:
A. Companion for an elderly person
B. Tracking
C. Agility
D. Search and Rescue
E. Herding

_____ 5.

_____ 6.

Describe the nutrient requirements of your dog using proper terminology as it relates to a puppy, mature, pregnancy, and senior.

_____ 7.

List normal pulse, respiration, temperature, and number of teeth for a dog.

Explore and report to your project some dog-related career and industry options.

Explain in detail how to housebreak a puppy.

How do you make a training session interesting to your dog so it does not become bored?

Explore the economics of keeping a dog over its lifetime.

Learn the correct vaccination program to protect your dog throughout its lifetime. Give a presentation to members of your project that outlines the schedule and lists the diseases to be prevented.

Explore some aspect of your project through the historical perspective.

Teach and present to members of the project the skeletal system of the dog.

Prepare and present a presentation about dogs to a group outside of your local Club.

With the approval of your Project Leader, learn courtesy and appropriate etiquette by inviting and introducing a speaker on a project related subject. Describe five things to consider when inviting, introducing and thanking a guest speaker.

Date
Completed

_____ 1.

_____ 2.

_____ 3.

_____ 4.

_____ 5.

_____ 6.

_____ 7.

Name: _____

1. Design or improve some aspect related to the project, e.g., marketing, equipment, teaching materials, etc.

2. Complete one or more years as a Junior or Teen Leader in the Dog Project including the development of a special activity related to the project area. Create a plan, chart progress, analyze successes and problems, and report results.

3. Improve upon an aspect of your project and contribute it to the county resources for others to use, e.g., CD, record keeping forms, etc.

4. Participate in planning a 4-H County, Sectional, or State event.

5. With the approval of your Project Leader, organize or assist in organization of a Community Service or citizenship activity related to the Dog Project.

6. Show an understanding of these terms:
   - a. Canid
   - b. Dentition
   - c. Pedigree
   - d. Conformation
   - e. Fault
   - f. Overshot
   - g. Gestation
   - h. Whelp
   - i. Gun Dog
   - j. Point Set
   - k. Retrieve
   - l. Trail
   - m. Double Coat

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Dog Proficiency

in Del Norte County.

Producer	*Consumer*	*Researcher*
Date	*Date*	*Date*
Initials	*Initials*	*Initials*

Explorer

Leader

Date

Initials