



Weld County 4-H

Dog Project

Handbook

Revised 1/3/24



2024 Important Information

- Practice Nights: Wednesday Nights

Sign-up is required at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DABA928A5FCC07-47026961-2024>

- This is Dog PRACTICE not Dog TRAINING. While there will be training techniques used throughout the classes members will still need to work with their dogs outside of the class times. In some cases, dogs may need additional training help outside of practice for behavioral issues
 - Practice Requirements: Members are required to attend **5 county sanctioned practices** between February and July to be eligible to show at the Weld County Fair. The Poudre River Dog Show does count towards a practice.
 - NEW: Members who attend an AKC/UKC show can count ONE towards a practice but must provide proof of competing
 - Dog Evaluation: Required for ALL dogs. Evaluation will take place January 31st and March 3rd
 - There are two **Mandatory** meetings scheduled: January 31st and March 3rd; you must attend one of these meetings
 - Vaccines: Parainfluenza (include with Parvo Vaccine), Bordetella, and Canine Influenza
 - Fair Dog Show: It will be Saturday, July 20th; Poudre River Dog Show June 1st
 - Display Board at Fair: Required 3' x 4' display board covering any topic related to dogs. This can be nutrition, breeds, diseases, training, etc. to be judged at Interview Judging Day July 22nd with completed Record Book
 - Dog Eligibility Rules: These have been adjusted to better align with State Fair. Requirements to move up at the County Level are 180 in Obedience and 80 in Rally; State Fair requirements are 170 in Obedience and 70 in Rally. If a member earns a qualifying score at State Fair they are required to move up regardless of the score received at County. County Fair will serve as the qualifying event for State Fair.

Welcome to the Weld County Dog Project!

The information in this handbook will help dog project members successfully complete their 4-H Dog Project. Your tips for success:

- ◆ Read all of the information in this packet
- ◆ Updates will be published in the Weld County 4-H Newsletter either accessed at www.weld4H.org or through member mailings and emails.
- ◆ Updates and information are available on the private Facebook Group for the Weld County 4-H Dog Project. When you join the Dog Project, request access to the private group.
- ◆ Ask questions! We welcome questions and are here to help you be successful!
- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact the individuals below:

Extension Consultant:

Kim Eastwood—Weld County 4-H Youth Development— 970-400-2079; keastwood@co.weld.co.us

Dog Key Leader

Emily Bink— emily@pawpackdogtraining.com; 970-430-1015



General Project Requirements:

Members may not be left at the training facility without prior knowledge of the Key Leader. Parents are required to stay on grounds during all events. At the training sessions, children may not run around in the buildings or training area. Please closely supervise children that are not in the Dog Project class. *Playing in the front rooms of the Exhibition Building is strictly prohibited.*

If a dog has prior training the member and dog will be moved to a class level appropriate due to the prior training.

- ◆ All training at practices *must* be done by the 4-H member.
- ◆ The dog and member must be entered in the level of training the **dog** has completed, and is not based on the training the member has completed.
- ◆ The project dog must be owned by the 4-H member or an immediate family member.
- ◆ The dog must live in the home of the 4-H member.
- ◆ The dog must have vaccinations current at the time of county training.
- ◆ A Dog ID Form must be filled out through 4-H Online for all dogs you want to use this current year. This includes any dog ID's from previous years. The Weld County deadline for the **Dog ID Form is May 1st of each year.** 4-H Online will remember all of the Dog ID's you have entered.

Obedience and Showmanship

All classes with the exception of the Senior Class can be found on the Colorado State 4-H website.

Senior Class: This class is for older dogs that are not capable of training or competing in regular obedience classes. The purpose will be to work on and show the obedience exercises without the stress of perfection typically seen in regular obedience classes. Older/Senior dogs may enter this class if they are not able to perform the exercises in other classes, but must have approval from the Key Leader. Senior dogs in this class will train along puppies that are working in the Puppy Class also.

Rally Obedience

All classes may be found on the Colorado State 4-H website.

Homework:

A quick 10-15 minute training session every night with your dog will result in fast success. It's as simple as putting your dog on a sit or down stay during the commercials of your favorite TV show! Work on that thing that doesn't seem to be clicking and make it fun. Enlist the help of friends and neighbors to work on sit and stand for exam or help with distraction during a long sit or down stay. Family and friends can also be your "judge" in the practice showmanship ring. Work the triangle and "L" shaped patterns so you and your dog are comfortable with both. Print off some rally signs (cdn.akc.org/Rally/2017-rev-rally-minisignswdescriptions-1-2018.pdf) and create your own course in the back yard or basement. Switch up the signs every time so your dog pays attention to your commands. Put treats and your dogs favorite toys on the ground and create an obstacle course through them—you should be able to do it without Fido reaching for a treat or toy. Go for a walk and practice slow and fast pace, left and right turns, about turns, halt and sit in random places, and always work on a loose leash. If your dog seems to be getting bored, switch things up and teach him/her a new trick, a skill that is the next level up, or play a game. The more bonding time you can get with your dog, the better team you will be in the show ring. Ask questions and for homework from your trainers and most importantly, have fun!

BEHAVIOR RULES:

Dogs that have an aggression problem towards either other dogs or humans cannot be used as project dogs. Dogs can be excused from the training sessions and/or the Weld County Fair at any time for behavior that in the opinion of the leader and/or superintendent puts people and/or other dogs at risk. Temperament Test Certificates received may also be revoked at any time for such inappropriate behavior. **All 4-H members must keep their dog on a leash at all times, unless directed otherwise by a training leader, superintendent, clerk, or judge.**

Members must keep their dog at a reasonable distance from other dogs. This is approximately 6 feet from your dog. If you are using a 6-foot leash and your dog is at the end of the leash, then assume the other member also has a 6-foot leash. This means that you, the human, are approximately 12 feet from the other human.

4-H E-Record Books:

The Dog e-Record Project Book is specifically designed for the Dog Project. A new version of the e-Record book is available at <http://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/projects/e-records/>. From there, select the appropriate Dog e-Record link for your age group (Junior—ages 8-10; Intermediate—ages 11-14; or Senior—ages 14-18) (based on your age as of December 31 of the previous year. 4-H Dog Project members will complete their record books immediately following the Weld County Fair Dog Show. The following day, members will bring their record books to the project interview. Dress in nice pants and a shirt for this interview and be prepared to discuss what you have done with your project throughout the year.

Record Book Tips:

1. Start early, set your goals for your project in March (or as soon as you can)
2. Work on the record book throughout the year
3. Document everything you do with your dog including the cost, travel distance, etc.
4. Your record book must include proof of current parvo and rabies vaccinations.
5. Your record book must include a current Temperament Test certificate obtained by passing the test with your key leader in May or June.
6. Document what you work on when you train with your dog and include it in your record book
7. Have someone take photos of you at dog training night or working your dog at home
8. Look for community service opportunities that are related to your project—serve as an AKC Ring Steward, volunteer at your local animal shelter, put together a food drive for your local animal shelter, etc.
9. Learn! Study the 4-H resources as well as breed specific information for your pet.
10. Give your 4-H demonstration speech about your dog project and include it in your record book.
11. Make sure your writing is concise and complete.
12. When it is time to put it all together, type your information into the record book. Make your 4-H story personal and include your challenges as well as your successes in your project.
13. Make sure your record is complete, including your county fair results.
14. Keep your record books and judging sheets from year-to-year for future reference.

What to bring:

	Dog
	Water
	Water Bowl
	Kong or Bully Sticks
	Tug Toy
	Crate
	Treats (steak, chicken, cheese, hotdogs, etc) cut into pea size portions
	4—6 ft Nylon or Leather Leash
	Closed Toe Shoes
	4-H Appropriate Clothing
	Treat Pouch
	Poop Bags

Remember:

- ◆ No tags on collars (Show requirement)
- ◆ Study for tests and know the rules for the classes you are entered in
- ◆ Six foot leash required
- ◆ Refer to 4-H Dog Manual for acceptable equipment for individual classes

Show tips:

- ◆ Be on time. Arrive at least 30 minutes early to get set up
- ◆ Shows are not a time to train, they are a time to display what you have accomplished.
- ◆ Wait for the judge's instructions
- ◆ Don't be afraid to ask if you are uncertain about what to do. Don't guess at what the judge said.
- ◆ Don't rush. Present a calm and positive attitude.
- ◆ Know the rules.
- ◆ Relax, breath, and SMILE!
- ◆ Be a good sport. Support your fellow 4-Hers.
- ◆ This is a DOG show—praise your dog and care for him/her as the most important creature at the show. Make sure your dog has a great day.
- ◆ Learn by watching other handlers and dogs.

Supply Companies:

- ◆ www.jjdog.com

Weld County Fair

Date: July 20, 2024

Location: Island Grove Park, Greeley, CO—Exhibition Building

Check in is at 7:30 a.m. Crating areas for this show are assigned; the building will open at 7:00 a.m. for crating set-up. If you have more than one dog, it is strongly advised that you bring a crate for the extra dog so they both have a place to unwind and relax. There are no concessions at the fairgrounds on this day so plan accordingly. The rings will break for lunches at the direction of the judges.

Dog Project Interviews (Monday, July 22, 2024)

All dog project members exhibiting at the Weld County Fair will participate in interview judging the day after the Fair Dog Show. Project members will be required to bring their completed display boards (3 ft x 4 ft) and record books to the interview. Interviews are conducted throughout the day at reserved times, watch your newsletter for updates.

Showmanship and Written Exam

All participants in the showmanship class will also take a written exam. Watch for an email before fair with a guide on what to study based on your age. The exam will be given on the same day as the County Fair Dog Show usually at 8:15 a.m.

Small Animal Round-Robin Showmanship Competition—July 28th

Intermediate and Senior Dog Showmanship champions and reserve will move on to the Small Animal Round-Robin Showmanship Competition. All showmanship contestants must confirm that they can compete in the Round-Robin and be willing to bring their dog (and allow others to show their dog). The contest consists of showing a rabbit, poultry, and dog. The best showman of all three species will be awarded the Small Animal Showmanship Champion in each age group.

Premier Dog Exhibitor Contest

The Premier Exhibitor Dog Contest requires participants to enter via the Fair Book. All ages are invited to participate. Exhibitors are scored in the following areas: presentation and cleanliness of dog area during the County Fair Dog Show, educational poster display (different than Interview Judging board), score on the general knowledge dog test, number of dogs exhibited and scoring in each class, and record book placing. The Premier Dog Exhibitor written test will be scheduled based on participants.

Colorado State Fair

Location: Pueblo, Colorado

All registration for the Colorado State Fair is done by the Dog Project leaders and the Cooperative Extension Office. Weld County State Fair Dog Team members are given the opportunity to purchase team shirts, crate together during the show. This team will be invited to State Fair Dog practices in August. If you need assistance in finding hotels near the fairgrounds, please ask.

Note: Please check your 4hOnline Enrollment to make sure that you have signed the Code of Conduct.

COLORADO 4-H CODE OF CONDUCT

4-H members, leaders, parents, and other adults participating in 4-H activities will:

1. Adhere to program rules, curfews, dress codes, policies, and rules of the facility being used.
2. Conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and provide positive role models.
3. Abstain from illegal behaviors, use of alcohol, illegal or illicit drugs, and tobacco during 4-H events and activities.
4. Fully participate in scheduled activities.
5. Respect other's property and privacy rights.
6. Abstain from child abuse (physical and/or verbal) and harassment.
7. Accept personal responsibility for behavior including any financial damage.
8. Be responsible for any financial damage caused by inappropriate behavior.
9. Adhere to rules of safety.

Consequences for violating any part of this code of conduct may include, but are not limited to: removal from participation in the event in which the code of conduct has been violated (at the individual's expense); sanctions on participating in future 4-H events; forfeiture of financial support for the event; removal from offices held, etc.

Behavior outside of 4-H activities can affect "member in good standing" or "volunteer in good standing" status.

It is the responsibility of all program participants to reinforce the code of conduct and intervene when necessary to enforce the rules



Weld County 4-H Dog Calendar

All 2024 Dates

Exhibition Building: 525 N 15th Ave, Greeley

6:00 p.m.	Obedience/Rally Beginners Advanced Showmanship
7:00 p.m.	Obedience/Rally Advanced Beginner Showmanship

Sign up for practices at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DABA928A5FCC07-47026961-2024>

Date	What (All in Exhibition Building unless noted)
29-Jan	Mandatory Meeting/Dog Evaluation
31-Jan	Practice
14-Feb	Practice (4-H Building)
21-Feb	Practice
28-Feb	Practice
3-Mar	Dog Sports Day and Mandatory Meeting/Dog Evaluation
6-Mar	Practice (4-H Building)
13-Mar	Practice
20-Mar	Practice
27-Mar	Practice (4-H Building)
3-Apr	Practice
10-Apr	Practice
17-Apr	Practice
24-Apr	Practice (4-H Building)
1-May	Practice
8-May	Practice
15-May	Practice
22-May	Practice
29-May	Practice
1-Jun	Poudre River Open 4-H Dog Show
5-Jun	Practice
10-Jul	Practice (4-H Building)
17-Jul	Practice
20-Jul	Weld County Fair Dog Show
22-Jul	Weld County Fair Interview Judging