

2025 DOG PROJECT HANDBOOK

Outagamie County 4-H



Welcome to the 2025 Outagamie County 4-H Dog Project! This handbook outlines project expectations, offers guidelines for participation and contains important dates for training events and activities. Please retain for reference until December 2025. Our main training areas of focus are obedience, showmanship and agility. We look forward to an exciting project year with the ultimate goal of creating a better working relationship between member and dog.

Project Checklist

- ✓ Current health papers proving up to date **Rabies, DHLPP and Bordetella vaccinations**
- ✓ Training fee of \$15.00 per family
 - Health papers and fee must be submitted before member can participate in training
- ✓ Six (6) foot training lead for obedience and agility
- ✓ Showmanship lead
- ✓ Training collar for obedience
- ✓ Flat collar for agility (no tags or other attachments)
- ✓ Clean up bags
- ✓ Training treats in a treat bag, vest or sweatshirt pocket with easy access
 - Treats should be soft, no hard kibble
- ✓ **TIE SHOES** must be worn by members while working with their dog (no flip flops, sandals, heels or barefoot allowed)
- ✓ Parents must be present for duration of training sessions

CONTACTS

Superintendent

Mary Jo Plamann
(920)757-5465 *call or text is preferred method of contact
maryjoplamann@gmail.com

Records Keeper

Joann Zeka
W2361 Snowberry Dr
Appleton, WI 54915

A copy of health papers and fee(s) must be brought to the first training you attend or submitted via mail to Joann Zeka by January 20, 2025.

Training Cancellations

Training sessions are held rain or shine. Please dress appropriately for weather conditions. If a cancellation is necessary for any reason, an email will be sent to all project members.

Training Sites

Winnegamie Dog Club (WDC)
2043 Manitowoc Rd
Menasha, WI 54952

Plamann Farm
4770 N McCarthy Rd
Appleton, WI 54913

Calendar

New Member Orientation

Held during the January 5 training session

- All first year members are encouraged to make every effort to attend

WDC Training

Sundays | 3 - 4:45 pm

- January 5, 26
 - February 9, 23
 - March 2, 23
 - April 6, 27
 - May 4 – Fun Show
 - June 8
- Obedience and agility stations will be on a 20 minute rotation
 - Showmanship, scent work and rally will be offered whenever there is a trainer available

Clean Up at the Winnegamie Winter Dog Show

January 12 | Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh

- All members are expected to help with this. We offer our services in return for use of the WDC facility over the winter months. Parents are encouraged to help too!
- Meet at the Expo Center main entrance at 4:00pm.

Shot Records and Fees Due

January 20

- All members must submit a copy of their dog's up-to-date shot records and pay project fees by this date.
- Members can submit at the first training session they attend or mail to Joann Zeka.
- If dog's yearly exam occurs after this date, updated papers must be submitted at that time.

4-H Family Learning Day

February 15 | FVTC

- Dog Project session will feature dog toy making! Please see the county 4-H newsletter for full details.

Plamann Farm Training

Tuesdays & Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Agility

June 3, 10, 17

Obedience and Showmanship

June 4, 11, 18

Show Dates

Agility Fair Show

June 19 at WDC | 7pm

Obedience, Showmanship & Rally Fair Show

June 22 at WDC | 9am

Project Demonstration at the Outagamie County Fair

June 29 | 1:30pm in the Dairy arena

Project Requirements

1. Member must be willing to work as a team with their dog. Daily practice at home is strongly encouraged.
2. **Member and dog must attend a total of seven (7) obedience and showmanship training sessions, including three (3) out of the first five (5) sessions held during the normal spring/summer training season.**
3. **If member chooses to participate in agility, member and dog must attend a total of seven (7) agility training sessions, including three (3) out of the first five (5) sessions held during the normal spring/summer training season.**
4. Members who have been in the dog project for more than three (3) years and are unable to make the required number of classes due to work may speak with the dog project Superintendent to discuss alternatives. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
5. All members must participate in obedience classes and the obedience show in order to take part in agility. Showmanship is optional, but strongly encouraged.
6. **All dogs must be current for Rabies, DHP, and Bordetella vaccinations.** It is strongly encouraged that dogs be tested and treated for heartworm. Three-year vaccination records are allowed for Rabies and DHP. A blood titer screen for vaccines will also be accepted.
7. A member may exhibit two dogs in obedience if the dogs are at different training levels. Member must attend at least seven (7) training sessions with both dogs. Only one dog per member may be shown in showmanship.
8. Under special circumstances, a dog may be shown by two members of the same family. Arrangements must be made with Superintendent prior to the start of project year.
9. No dogs having any legs toward a CD degree can be shown in Pre-Novice or Novice class. No dogs having any legs toward a CDX degree can be shown in Novice or Pre-Open class.
10. At the Fair show, dog must be shown in the class in which it has been trained during the current project year.
11. If you received a qualifying score the previous year, you must advance to the next level of training. Exemptions must have prior approval from Superintendent.
12. All dogs must be equipped with a martingale or buckle collar with no tags or attachments and a six (6) foot leather or web leash with nothing other than a metal snap attached. No dogs will be shown in a prong collar, head collar or chain leash unless at the discretion of the Superintendent. Dogs will not be permitted off leash except while showing. Member must keep dog under control at all times.
13. A parent or guardian must be present for the duration of all training sessions.
14. The safety of training session attendees is of utmost concern. Trainers have the right to remove aggressive dogs from training sessions and at the Fair show. This includes aggressiveness towards another member, trainer or dog.
15. Members are required to wear tie shoes for training and showing.
16. All dogs must be at least one (1) year of age by April 30th to participate in agility show.

17. Agility training sessions will include both beginners and advanced members. No one is allowed in the agility yard without a trainer's supervision. The agility yard will be open after obedience training for practice of agility participants only.
18. **A current copy of your dog's health papers and a training fee of \$15.00 per family must be submitted at a winter training session, new member orientation or via mail to Joann Zeka no later than January 20, 2025.** Fees must be paid by check made out to the *Outagamie County 4-H Dog Project*.
19. Training sessions are held rain or shine. In case of severe weather, check email for notice of cancellation or delay.
20. All members are expected to participate in at least one community service activity to showcase the dog project. As activities become available, announcements will be communicated via 4-H online or at training sessions.

Entry Information

Outagamie County 4-H fair entry information can be found at outagamiecountyfair.com/junior-fair/

Department 109 – Dog

Class A - Dog Obedience

Lot #

1. Beginner Pre Novice Grades 3 - 5
2. Pre-Novice Grades 3-5
3. Pre-Novice Grades 6-8
4. Pre Novice Grades 9 -13

Pre Novice exercises all on leash; healing, figure 8, recall, stand for exam, long sit 1 min/down 3 min on leash

5. Novice Member, Grades 3 – 8

6. Novice Member, Grades 9 – 13

Novice exercises; healing on leash, long sit and down on leash, figure 8 on leash, healing off leash, stand for exam off leash, recall off leash

7. Graduate Novice

Graduate novice exercises: heal on leash, heal off leash, figure 8 off leash, stand for exam off leash, drop on recall off leash, long sit and down

8. Pre-Open

9. Open

10. Pre-Utility

11. Utility

Class B – Team/Brace

Exhibitor may enter one brace and one team class at current level of training, must practice with an instructor prior to the show.

12. Pre-Novice Team (4 members work together at same time)

13. Novice Team (4 members work together at the same time)

14. Pre-Novice Brace (1 member and 2 dogs working together)

15. Novice brace (1 member and 2 dogs working together)

Class C – Showmanship (We strongly encourage everyone to sign up for showmanship. Judging is based on how member handles dog and their knowledge of dog project.)

16. Member grades 3 - 4
17. Member grades 5 – 6
18. Member grades 7 – 8
19. Member grades 9 – 13

Class D – Agility and Jumpers (Standard & Jumps/Tunnels)

20. Agility, on leash (dog remains on leash through complete exercise) (Jumps and Contacts)
21. Agility, off leash (Jumps and Contacts)
22. Jumps and tunnels, on leash (dog remains on leash through complete exercise)
23. Jumps and tunnels, off leash

Project members are eligible to enter dog related Educational Exhibits at the Fair. See Dept. 110, Class I in the Junior Fair Premium Book for more information. This is a great alternative option for members who joined the project, but end up unable to participate in training or the Fair show with their dog for whatever reason.

Training Information

All first year project members will start out learning the exercises listed below.

Beginner's Pre Novice Class Description

AKC's Beginner Novice is the basis for these exercises. However, they have been modified for the Wisconsin 4-H program. If you choose to compete in AKC, please be aware that there are differences in the requirements of some of the exercises between the two programs.

Beginner's Pre Novice Maximum Score

1. Heel on Leash 40 points
2. Figure Eight (on leash) 40 points
3. Sit for Exam (on leash) 40 points
4. Recall (on leash-no finish) 40 points
5. Sit Stay (on leash) 40 points

Heel on Leash

The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate the ability of the handler and dog to work as a team. Orders for this exercise are "Forward," "Halt," "Right Turn," "Left Turn," "About Turn," "Slow," "Normal," and "Fast." All "About Turns" will be right about turns. Orders for halts and turns will be given only when the handler is moving at normal speed. The other orders may be given in any sequence, and turns and halts may be repeated.

The leash must be a 6 foot leash and may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and/or signals will be penalized.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will say to the handler, "Are you ready?" The handler should answer either "Yes," "No," or "Ready." When the handler is ready, the judge will give the order, "**Forward.**" The handler and dog walk briskly, and in a natural manner, with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler's left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The area from the dog's head to shoulder should be in line with the handler's left hip. The dog must not interfere with the handler's freedom of motion at any time. The handler may give a verbal command OR signal to heel, NOT both.

Remaining Orders given by the Judge:

Halt: When the judge says, "Halt," the handler stops. The dog should sit straight and promptly in the heel position. The handler should not give a verbal command OR signal to the dog. The dog should not move until the handler again moves forward on the judge's command. After each halt, the handler is permitted to give a command OR signal to heel before again moving forward.

Right Turn: When the judge says, "Right Turn," the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the right. This turn should be made squarely.

Left Turn: When the judge says, "Left Turn," the handler and dog make a ninety-degree (90°) turn to the left. This turn should be made squarely.

About Turn: When the judge says, "About Turn," the handler and dog make a one-hundred-eighty degree (180°) turn to the right.

Slow: When the judge says, "Slow," the handler and dog walk at a noticeably slower pace than normal.

Normal: The handler and dog begin the heeling pattern at a normal pace. After the judge gives the order to walk "Slow" or "Fast," he/she will give the order, "Normal." The handler and dog then return to a normal pace.

Fast: When the judge says, "Fast," the handler and dog must run, moving forward at a noticeably accelerated pace.

At the completion of the Heel exercise, the judge will say, "**Exercise Finished.**" At this time it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog.

Figure Eight

For this exercise, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards who will be standing eight (8) feet apart. The judge will ask, "Are you ready?" The handler will say, "Yes," "No," or "Ready." After the handler and dog are ready, the judge will give the order, "Forward." The handler may choose to go in either direction. The handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. The judge will order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. There will be no about turn, fast, or slow during this exercise. Upon completion of the Figure Eight exercise, the judge will say, "Exercise Finished." At this time, it is appropriate for the handler to praise his/her dog.

Sit For Exam

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: "Sit your dog and leave when you are ready," "Back to your dog" and "Exercise finished." This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash.

On the judge's order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command OR signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash and then turn and face the dog. The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog's head.

On the order "Back to your dog," the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, "Exercise finished."

Recall on Leash (with no finish)

The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly. Orders are: "Leave your dog," "Call your dog," and "Exercise finished."

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command OR signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, to the end of the 6-foot leash, and turn to face the dog.

On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command OR signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, and sit in front of the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot.

Sit Stay on Leash – 45 seconds

The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position for 45 seconds.

This is not a group exercise and is done in the ring individually.

Orders for this exercise are: "Sit your dog," "Leave your dog," "Return to your dog," and "Exercise finished."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. When the judge gives the order "Sit your dog," the handler will command OR signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order, "Leave your dog," and the handler will give a command OR signal to stay and immediately proceed to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. The dog will remain seated for 45 seconds.

At the judge's command of "Return to your dog," the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order "Exercise finished." The judge should not deduct points if the leash either touches or does not touch the ground.

Additional information about advanced training can be found in the Outagamie County Junior Fair Premium Book.