



4-H DOG PROJECT



Happiness is a warm puppy. ~Charles M. Schulz. The dog project helps youth explore what kind of dog fits into their family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of their dog.

- Learn major dog breeds and identify their characteristics.
- Study responsibilities of dog ownership.
- Demonstrate dog care and management in feeding, handling, record-keeping, grooming and fitting.
- Learn dog health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth explore what they love about animals.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how taking care of an animal can make them more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character, or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best dog for your family .
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your dog.
- Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost and/or finding it if it gets lost.
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Train your dog basic commands such as: sit, stay, and heel.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Prepare for participation in a dog show.
- Make a decision about breeding your dog.
- Compare labels on dog foods to make an informed decision on content & price.
- Keep a diary of your dog's health and eating habits.
- Research kennel facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog.
- Keep records of all costs and management practices.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your dog.
- Interview someone who uses a service dog.
- Create a dog ownership budget.
- Volunteer at an ASPCA Adoption Day at your local pet store.
- Talk to an Animal Control Officer about animal cruelty and neglect.
- Understand the role of scientific research in dog husbandry.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Create a map highlighting the origin of different dog breeds. How has this impacted their size, fur, and body shape?
- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals. Create a list of recommendations for competitive dog events.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling/grooming your dog.
- Discuss your dog's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on the rules of safety around dogs.

Citizenship

- Volunteer at a dog kennel or shelter.
- Take a Pet First Aid/CPR course through the American Red Cross.
- Raise a guide dog.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for animals.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader.
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Resources

- Iowa 4-H Dogs
www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/dogs.htm
- American Kennel Club
www.akc.org
- Service Animal
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal)
- Animal Assisted Therapy
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy)
- Learn About Man's Best Friend
www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dog/
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair
www.bigfun.org
- Check out the ANR site for free downloadable curriculum
[//anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu](http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu)

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Presentation Days - Share what you've learned with others through a dog presentation.</p> <p>Field Days - During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>County & State Fair - Enter your dog(s) and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship! Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiggles and Wags, Level 1 • Canine Connection, Level 2 • Pointing the Way, Level 3 • LDR Dog Leader Guide http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-dog/08170.aspx 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit www.ca4h.org/4hbook.</p>

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