



South Dakota 4-H Dog Project

Dog

Showmanship

Rulebook



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Purpose of showmanship

Showmanship helps 4-H members develop skills and knowledge in dog show handling. It allows 4-H members to learn about breeds of dogs and general grooming responsibilities. In showmanship; versus obedience, rally obedience and agility, the judge evaluates the handler's knowledge and experience. The guidelines and score sheets outline the minimum expectations for performance; however, this may vary somewhat with each judge. In contrast, in agility the handler guides the dog through the course and the dog either can do the obstacle or not, a very clear result. This difference in evaluation takes into account the team's readiness to move up to the next level of showmanship; for example, confidence, poise, knowledge, and lead handling.

Showmanship competition

Showmanship competition provides 4-H members with a meaningful experience where they can practice and improve their handling and sportsmanship skills. Showmanship gives each 4-H member the opportunity to present themselves and their dog to the best of their ability. This is exemplified by a handler working as a team with his or her dog, so the dog is stacked, alert, and under control, while at the same time the 4-H'er appears confident and in control. It is important to remember at all times that the 4-H showmanship ring is not the AKC showmanship ring. (In the AKC showmanship ring the dog is being judged, while in 4-H the handler is being judged.)

Showmanship will be evaluated on the following five basic areas:

1. Proper breed presentation
2. Ring procedure
3. Knowledge
4. Grooming of dog
5. 4-H'ers appearance and conduct

Competition Rules

Eligibility for Participation

Any dog may be shown in 4-H showmanship, regardless of breed or cross. Conformation of the dog is not evaluated in 4-H showmanship. A mixed breed dog should be shown by the breed standard it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed.

No dog in season may be shown.

Classes

There are two showmanship classes:

- **Novice:** For 4-H members who have never earned a purple ribbon at the county or state show level.
- **Open:** For 4-H members who have earned purple ribbon at the state show level in Novice. Because showmanship is based on the 4-H'ers ability, they may not drop back to novice if they use a new dog for showmanship. If a member chooses not to go on to the State Dog Show the County Project Leader and Member may use their own discretion and advance to the next level.

In 4-H showmanship, members advance from novice to open through each age level.

Beginner Class will be for ages 8-10

Junior Class will be for ages 11-13

Senior Class will be for ages 14-18

Special State Award:

There will be a top five ranking with awards for only the Senior Open Showmanship Level at the State Dog Show. This will be determined by a run-off of the two highest scores in each Senior Open Showmanship class. Note: the stewards of these classes will tell the top scorers in each class that they are required to return for the final run-off.

Hardship Clause

If a 4-H'ers dog should get injured, killed, or an intact female come in season after the county Achievement Days, he/she is allowed to substitute another

dog for the South Dakota State 4-H Dog Show. This is *only* allowed in the Showmanship area of the dog project.

Eliminating in the Ring

The 4-H'er will be docked one ribbon placing for any dog that eliminates in the ring.

Leads

There are several types of showmanship leads. They come in many styles, sizes, weights, and colors. Some include:

- loop lead – this type has a loop at the end that slips over the dog's head. Caution should be used when showing with this lead, so that it does not slip off the dog's head.
- martingale – this type has an additional loop at the end of the first loop and the dog's head is placed between the two loops. This allows the handler to have more control with the dog.
- slip collar with a short leash/lead – this type is like those sometimes used in obedience but with a lead of four feet or less. The size of links should be appropriately matched to the size of the dog. It is appropriate for beginning and/or large and/or strong dogs to be shown with a slip collar.

A showmanship lead is preferred, but no deduction shall be made for obedience leashes **AT THE BEGINNER LEVEL ONLY**. The size/weight of the lead should be appropriate for the size and/or breed of the dog. Most large dogs should not be shown on lightweight leads.

Regardless of which lead is used, the handler must be in control of the dog and the lead shall be held and used neatly. Deductions shall be made for leads hanging down or flapping about the dog. The handler's lead should be ready at all times and deductions shall be made for time spent wrapping leads and getting ready to move out.

In the 4-H showmanship ring, the lead should never be removed when presenting the dog to the judge.



Lead held correctly.



Lead held incorrectly.



Lead placed correctly on dog.



Lead placed incorrectly on dog.

Use of Bait

In the 4-H showmanship ring, baiting of dogs with food is allowed at the Open Level. If a 4-H'er uses bait, it must be used discreetly, with no deliberate baiting near other dogs. If the bait is dropped in the ring and not immediately picked up OR is used to deliberately distract other dogs, the 4 H'er will automatically receive a white ribbon. Small toys are allowed in the 4-H showmanship ring, and a squeaker may be used only during individual examination.

The purpose of baiting is to animate the dog when stacking it in the line up or during individual presentation to the judge. Dogs show animation and/or expression by either wagging their tail or perking up their ears. Bait is also used to free stack the dog and keep his attention. (For a description of "free stack" look under the heading titled "stacking".)

- Baiting is to be done discreetly, without a lot of fanfare and flare. Never stretch an arm out when holding the bait so that it catches any other dog's

attention. Be respectful of the others in the ring.

- The size of the food bait pieces should be appropriate for the size of the dog. Semi-moist food chunks work best because they can be easily handled and quickly broken off without too much mess. Dry/hard bones or food cannot quickly be broken into smaller pieces. Bait should not be messy or gooey.
- “Mouth bait” (like hot dogs) that is actually kept in your mouth is not permitted in the 4-H ring. This is to prevent any accidental choking. While this type of bait certainly has its merits, it is not appropriate in 4-H for safety reasons.
- Keep bait in a bait bag or in a skirt, pants, or jacket pocket until ready to use it.
- Do not take the bait out of the pocket or bait bag until in the ring and the judge has placed the group in the order he/she wants it to be in. If free stacking the dog, use the bait as needed to stack. If hand stacking the dog, bait is not needed until after the dog has been stacked, for animation, as the judge is looking the group over.
- Be sure to put the bait back in a bait bag or pocket before gaiting around the ring in a group. Never, ever leave the bait in the hand when not using it.
- Put any bait away right before the judge approaches for the individual examination of the dog.
- When doing an individual gaiting pattern, keep the bait in a pocket or bait bag. While completing the pattern and returning to the judge, take the bait out to present the dog to the judge.
 - Bait should be held directly in front of the dog. At what height/level to hold the bait depends on the size of the dog and experience of the handler. Again, think of the overall picture being created for the judge. If bait is held too high for a big dog, it will throw the balance of the dog totally off – big dogs have a habit of reaching for something high.
 - If small dogs are baited too low, they do not respond.
- Never, ever throw the bait while in the 4-H showmanship ring. Never toss the bait in the air, expecting to catch it while trying to get the dog’s attention. (You may not catch the bait.) This is just common courtesy and respect to other dogs and 4-H’ers in the ring.

Clothing

At the State Dog Show all exhibitors are required to follow the Livestock dress code:

4-H livestock exhibitors will receive a 4-H t-shirt for the South Dakota State 4-H Dog Show. The t-shirts will be made available to all livestock exhibitors. The t-shirts are donated by Farm Credit Services of America to recognize the participants' importance to the 4-H program and the South Dakota State Fair.

The t-shirts will be required for all youth wishing to participate in showmanship opportunities while exhibiting at the South Dakota State 4-H Dog Show; they emphasize the importance of proper dress and equal representation of all youth. In addition, the t-shirts will provide a uniform recognition of 4-H youth participating in livestock programs at the State Fair.

If the above requirement is ever lifted, the following guidelines should be followed:

The 4-H'er should be neatly and appropriately dressed when exhibiting in the show ring. All shirts must have sleeves and be tucked in. Dark colored jeans, pants, shorts (fingertip length) or skirt (fingertip length) are acceptable. No torn blue jeans, no commercial advertising on shirts or equipment and no caps are allowed in the show ring. Wearing closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes is necessary when showing any animal.

All clothing should be appropriate for moving when handling a dog. Choose attire that allows free movement of the arms and legs. No special consideration shall be given to a handler because of the color of clothing. Avoid wearing jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling. Shoes should be flat and easy to walk in. Low heeled, rubber-soled shoes are best since they provide good traction. High-heels and flip-flops, sandals or open heeled shoes such as clogs are not appropriate. No deduction shall be made for wearing tennis shoes.

These clothing rules also apply to anyone judging the Dog classes.

Ring Procedure

Individual judges vary their judging routine and the following components may be mixed in any order. Basic procedure includes:

1. Gaiting by group and individual
2. Stacking (posing) the dog
3. Individual examination of dog

Gaiting

Make gaiting smooth, straight, and the correct speed. When in motion, the dog should move naturally and freely. Avoid traveling ahead of or behind the dog.

Always keep the show lead in the hand that is beside the dog. Unlike in Obedience, the arm should be extended out from the side, held above the dog's head. Do not keep the lead too tight or too loose for the breed or individual dog. The lead should never be so tight as to pull the dog's feet off the ground.

Avoid unnecessary motions or noises that detract from the gaiting procedure. Use the entire ring unless the judge instructs otherwise. If a mat is used, it is for the dog to gait on without slipping. The dog should be centered on the mat while gaiting with the 4-H'er off to the side. If the mat is wide enough, the handler should gait on the mat, too.)

The dog is to be kept between the judge and handler at all times. It is a major fault if the 4-H'er is between the judge and the dog for a significant amount of time (examples: an entire side of the ring, entire pattern, all the way around the ring). It is a minor fault if the handler is between the judge and the dog for a minimal amount of time and he/she corrects the mistake.

It is very important for the handler to have economy of motion and minimize hand switching as much as possible.

A courtesy turn is optional in 4-H, but is recommended to get the dog moving or to reposition the dog during a pattern. As the courtesy turn is completed the handler continues directly into the designated pattern with no stop in between. At this point it is acceptable for the 4-H'er to briefly pass between his/her dog and the judge. If the courtesy turn cannot be executed smoothly, it should not be done because it then detracts from the overall presentation.

Group Gaiting

Enter the ring in the order assigned by the steward. The judge may choose to rearrange the dogs according to size and/or speed.

During group gaiting, the 4-H'er and dog will always move counter-clockwise around the ring. Under no circumstances will a judge direct the group to move clockwise around the ring. Gaiting is usually done around the perimeter of the ring with dogs on the left side of the handler. Passing should never be done except at the judge's request.

Showing 4-H Dogs on the Table

- The use of the table is optional at the county level, but will be used at the state level. See the list of dogs that are usually tabled at the end of this section. The judge will forego the table if a handler's size is too small to lift their dog safely.
- The showmanship table is a regular grooming table, without the grooming arm. The suggested size is 18 inches wide and 30 inches long.
- There is no hard and fast rule for the placement of the table in the show ring. It should be placed sensibly, to prevent a lot of wasted time and wasted steps for the judge. It should not be placed in a spot that would be in the way of the gaiting dog and handler.
- After the handler places his/her dog on the table he will stand on the far side of the table facing the showmanship class, the judge will stand with her back to the class. The judge may move from her side to the front or back of the table but never on to the same side of the table as the handler.
- The dog is stacked according to the breed (See: AKA Breeds by Group at www.akc.org). The Judge will usually observe the side of the dog from the middle of the ring, then move to the front of the table. At this point the judge may ask the 4-H'er to show the bite, and will then check the grooming.
- The dog should be carefully lifted onto the table and then stacked. Don't expect perfection right away, when working with dogs that are not used to being on the table, be patient. This takes some training for the dog to get used to it. Use praise, and occasional treats, to help the dog feel comfortable.

The front feet should be placed near center front edge of the table, they should be close to the edge but not touching the metal edging. It is permissible to carefully lift a small breed by its chest and gently set it into position. Never use the dog's tail to lift him up or to put him in position. Great care when lifting the dog down from the table as some dogs may get excited and try to jump. **NOTE:** If a Whippet is shown on the table, they jump on and off on their own – do not lift them.

The end of the lead should be placed over the handler's shoulder – it is also acceptable to hold the lead in the hand.

The dog's head should be up and the dog should remain quiet and still in order for the judge to go over it for grooming.

Breeds Usually Shown on the Table

Non-Sporting Group:

- American Eskimo
- Bichon Frise
- Boston Terrier
- French Bulldog
- Lhasa Apso
- Lowchin
- Poodle (miniature)
- Schipperke
- Tibetan Spaniel
- Shiba Inu
- Tibetan Terrier

Hound Group:

- Basenji
- Beagles
- Dachsund
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
- Whippet

Sporting Group:

- Cocker Spaniels
- English Cocker Spaniels

Herding Group:

- Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi
- Puli
- Shetland Sheepdog
- Swedish Vallhund

Working Group:

- No dogs

Toy Group:

- All dogs are usually tabled.

Gaiting Patterns

Pattern Key:

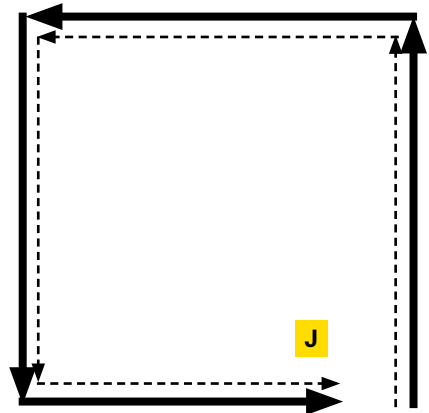
Solid line with arrows = Handler

Broken Arrows = Dog

J = Judge

It is important that handlers leave space between themselves and the dogs in front of them for safety reasons and to give the judge the best view of their dog). Crowding other dogs is a major fault.

During group gaiting, when the faster dogs are at the front of the line and “catch up” to the smaller dogs at the end of the line, it is appropriate for the 4-H'er to slow down the gait of his/her dog. Those with a faster/larger dog should continue gaiting at a slower speed, even if it is not the proper speed for his/her breed.



Individual Gaiting

During individual gaiting, the 4-H'er should move the dog at the correct speed for its breed. He/she needs to move at a speed that will match the dog's appropriate gait. Trotting is when one front leg and the opposite rear leg move forward at the same time.

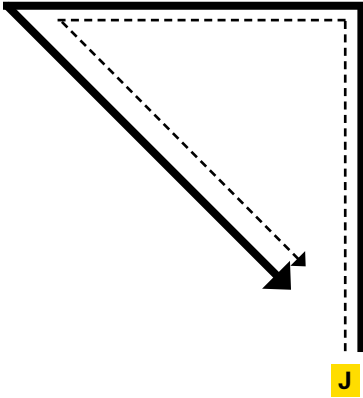
Pacing is when the legs on the same side of the dog move forward at the same time. Gaiting will allow the judge to evaluate the dog's side, front, or rear movement. The judge needs to be able to see how the dog's legs move along a straight line. The 4-H'er will be asked to perform one or more of the following patterns:

1. Triangle pattern All Levels except for Cloverbuds
2. "L" pattern Beginner Open, Junior Novice & Open; Senior Novice & Open
3. "T" pattern Junior Open; Senior Open
4. Down and Back Cloverbuds only

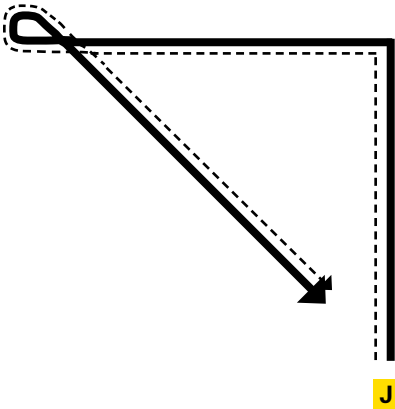
“Triangle” Pattern

This pattern is performed in the shape of a right triangle. The handler and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. Then one of three turns may be made before proceeding up the diagonal and back to the judge. Under no circumstances may a judge direct a handler to do a reverse triangle where the s/he would go down the diagonal first.

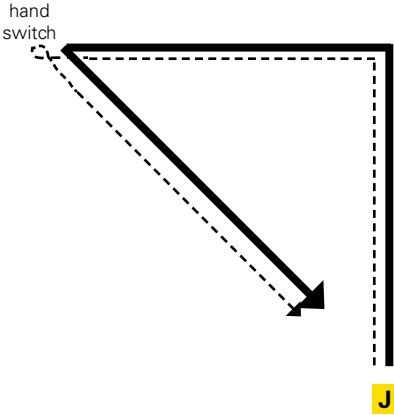
Here are the three variations to the triangle pattern turn:



1. The easiest option is to simply make a left turn onto the diagonal. The handler does not switch hands with the lead and the dog stays on the handler's left side.



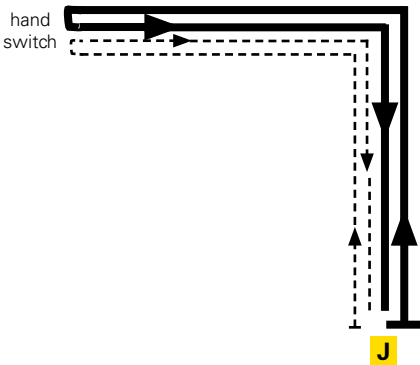
2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner (called a courtesy turn) with the dog always remaining on the handler's left side. The 4-H'er does not switch hands with the lead. At this point it is acceptable to briefly pass between the dog and the judge.



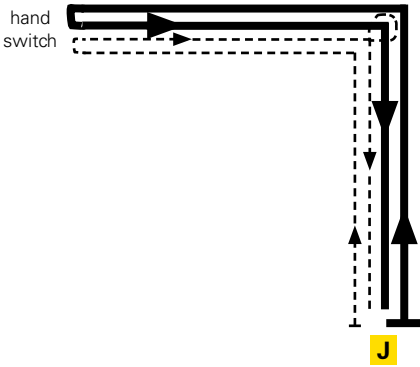
3. The third option is for the handler to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed up the diagonal with the dog on his/her right side.

"L" Pattern

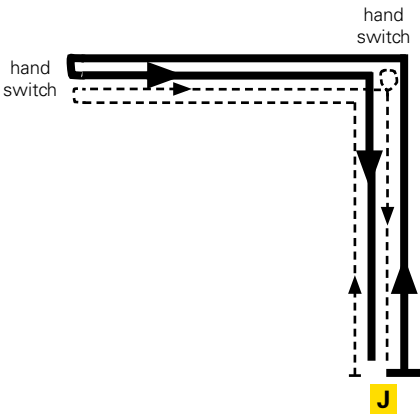
This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter "L". The handler and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner, switching hands with the lead. The handler and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the other end of the ring. At the final corner, the handler again has three options for executing the final turn.



1. The easiest option is to simply make a right turn and proceed back to the judge. The 4 H'er does not switch hands with the lead and the dog stays on the 4 H'ers right side.



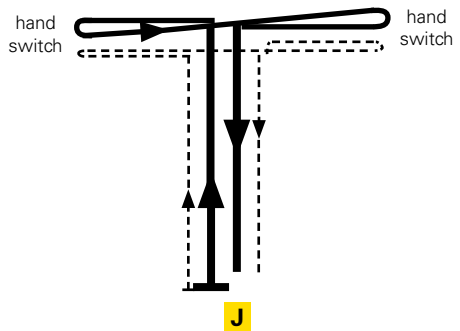
2. The second option is to make a circle in the corner (courtesy turn) with the dog always remaining on the 4-H'er's right side. Do not switch hands with the lead.



3. The third option is for the 4-H'er to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the the handler and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the judge with the dog on the his/her left side.

"T" Pattern

This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter "T". The judge will indicate where to start the "T" pattern. The 4-H'er and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. The handler should turn to which ever side the dog is on and proceed to the corner of the ring. He/she then switches hands with the lead.



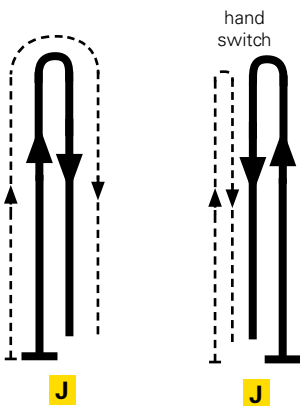
The 4 H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. At the other end, he/she again switches hands with the lead. The handler and dog again turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the center of the ring.

The 4-H'er then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.

Down and Back

The 4-H'er and dog will be asked to gait across the ring either on the diagonal or from end to end. At the opposite end of the ring, the 4 H'er has the option to do (1) an about turn or (2) to switch hands with the lead.

- If an about turn is executed, the dog stays on the same side (left or right) and goes around the outside of the handler.
- If the handler switches hands with the lead, he/she and dog turn into/ toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. The dog ends up on the opposite side of the handler from where it originally started (left to right or right to left).
- Executing a U-turn (where the 4-H'er goes around the dog) is a major fault.
- This will be used only at the Clover Bud level.



Switching Hands

It may be necessary in some patterns to switch the lead from one hand to the other to ensure the dog is always between the judge and the handler. These changes should be done gracefully at the corners of the patterns only as necessary to be sure the judge has an unobstructed view of the dog.

Completion of the Pattern

It is customary for the 4-H'er to stop a few steps back from the judge. Some judges will use a hand signal to designate when to stop, others may not.

If a judge does not signal, be sure to stop six feet from the judge. Most breeds should stop and stand with all four feet square. This is called "free stacking".

The dog should walk into the stack squarely, without the handler moving the dog's feet by hand. Using hands to stack the dog upon the completion of an individual pattern is considered a major fault.

Stacking

Stacking dogs should be done when the class stops gaing around the ring. It should be maintained while the judge is doing individual examinations of other dogs in the class. The exception would be that occasionally the judge may give

direction “to relax your dog” due to large class size, etc. This means that it is ok for the dog to sit or lie down; HOWEVER, the 4-H'er must remain attentive to both the judge and his/her dog's needs.

In the 4-H showmanship ring, handlers whose breed of dog is customarily shown in the AKC ring on a table may stack their dog on the floor, or may request a table.

When stacking the dog, it is acceptable for the handler to either kneel on one or both knees or stand depending on individual preference and comfort level. Minor deductions shall be made for any 4-H'er who is not able to move gracefully and quickly around the dog. Major deductions shall be made for crawling on both knees.

4-H'ers may lift from underneath the chest or mandible and hips to stack their dog.

- Never use the tail to stack the dog (as is done with some breeds in the AKC ring). It is considered a major fault to use the tail to stack a dog.
- Never lift all four feet of the dog off the floor at the same time. It is considered a major fault to lift all four feet of the dog off the floor at the same time.

Table stacking guidelines

Lift the dog to the table so that the hindquarters of the dog approach the table first. This may help the dog to correctly position the front feet at the edge of the table. It is considered a major fault to lift the dog to the table by the tail (as done with some breeds in the AKC ring). Free stacking is walking the dog into the proper stack and keeping his attention. The breeds that are stacked square are the easiest to work with and look the best free stacked.

As the judge moves to various locations in the ring, it is important that the 4-H'er keep the dog between himself/herself and the judge. The handler should not at any time block the view of the dog from the judge (hands on tail, hands over muzzle, etc.). It is acceptable for him/her to stack the dog by reaching over the dog to position the feet furthest from him/her. For safety reasons, under no circumstances may a judge leave the ring in order to make the handlers switch sides. If a judge wants to observe the group switching sides, they should move the “line up” to the diagonal.

It is each member's responsibility to find out how their breed is customarily stacked. For specific information on stacking, see the "Proper Breed Presentation" section of this book. While stacking the dog, handlers will be evaluated on the correct stack for the breed. All breeds are stacked with their front feet positioned evenly with each other.

It is each handler's responsibility to leave sufficient space between themselves and the dog in front of them. Sufficient space means there is enough room for the judge to walk between the dogs without touching either dog or feeling crowded.

4-H'ers should work to develop proficiency in speed and ease of stacking. To begin learning this process, begin by practicing walking the dog into a stack until the dog will automatically place its front feet squarely.

The judge may request that 4-H'ers move to a different location in the ring or restack their dog facing another direction. When this occurs, it is important to be able to turn the dog gracefully and to re-stack the dog quickly.

Individual Examination of the Dog

Individual examinations of each dog will be conducted, usually from the group stack. The judge may look at the dog from a few steps back and then move forward to examine the dog. While the judge is doing this, the 4-H'er should be attentive to the judge while maintaining full control over the dog.

Some judges may ask the handler to show either the dog's bite or their teeth. To show the bite, lift the front lips of the dog to show how the teeth come together. To show the teeth, lift the side lip and expose the side teeth. The judge will be looking for cleanliness. 4-H'ers should be careful not to get his/her hands or head in the way of the judge's view.

If the judge moves off-side, the 4-H'er should move, so the dog stays between the handler and the judge, while keeping the dog under control. The handler should remain on the off-side as no judge should cross behind a handler. (The recommendation is that the handler step back from the dog remaining on the off side but still allowing the judge to view the entire side view of the dog's off side).

4-H'ers Handling Skills

Handlers should appear prepared, confident, and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and fellow exhibitors. Handlers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting other 4-H'ers or their dogs. Those who crowd or disturb other dogs must be faulted.

Handlers should be aware that judges will excuse any dog that: (1) is out of control, (2) injured (healed injuries that do not cause the dog pain are excluded), or (3) shows aggression toward other dogs or people. If there is any question about an injury and the ability of a dog to be shown, the 4-H'er should plan ahead and provide the show committee and the judge with a document from a licensed, practicing veterinarian that states that it is okay for the dog to be shown. Those who exhibit impatience or mistreatment of their dogs will be faulted.

Posture

- While gaiting, the handler's back should be straight, head up and watching where he/she is going.
- If choosing to kneel while stacking, try to keep the body straight and use the legs to raise and lower oneself to the dog's level. When showing large breeds, bend at the waist only when necessary and as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Smoothness

- In the ring remain calm, cool, and collected. Remember not to rush.
- All actions should be smooth, controlled, and purposeful. Jumpy and jerky actions make one appear nervous and unsure.

Attentiveness

- Look confident. Remember to smile and enjoy the show.
- It is NOT appropriate to talk to other exhibitors or spectators. One's attention should always be focused on what is happening in the ring, including the dog, the judge, and other exhibitors.
- Know where the judge is located and always keep the dog visible to the judge.

- While gaiting, it is appropriate to make occasional eye contact with the judge. Eye contact should be subtle and natural. It should not be forced nor look “fake”.
- It is important to listen to the judge’s instructions. If unsure of an instruction, it is appropriate to ask the judge for clarification.

Sportsmanship

- Think positively when entering the show ring.
- No matter the placing, be humble and gracious. It is appropriate to sincerely congratulate the class winners. In a like fashion, class winners should accept congratulations from others graciously.
- If the judge provides feedback, listen attentively and thank him or her.
- It is courteous to express personal appreciation to those who are involved with the show including show committee members, 4-H staff and volunteers, judges, award donors, etc.

While competing, 4-H’ers should remember that the judge will consider the following questions:

1. Is the dog responsive to the handler? Do they work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear stacked or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Is the dog gaited correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Do both the dog and 4-H’er appear relaxed?
6. Is the dog presented with an economy of motion that gives the appearance of ease and minimum effort used to present the dog?

Judging the competition

- Judges should evaluate the general conduct of the 4-H members in the showmanship ring.
- When judging 4-H showmanship classes, judges shall utilize patterns and procedures outlined in the South Dakota 4-H Dog Showmanship Rulebook.
- Each judge may vary their routine from class to class. Within a class, judges must be consistent in the initial examination of each handler, using the same individual gaiting patterns, the same procedural requests, and allowing approximately the same amount of time for each handler. More challenging variations may be used as tie-breakers, call-backs, or the final judging of a class.
- It is suggested that the judges ask the questions either at the time of the examination of the dog, or after the handler and dog do their individual pattern. Once a question is posed, the judge should do it the same way the whole day of judging.
- Under no circumstances should a 4-H judge ever ask two handlers to complete the down and back pattern (side by side) at the same time.
- The 4-H judge shall be inside the ring at all times when judging. At no time shall the judge ask the handler to perform any gaiting patterns with the judge on the outside of the ring.
- A main principal of 4-H Showmanship is to learn the spirit of competition. Judges shall be aware of sportsmanship in the ring and serious deductions shall be made for deliberate rudeness or unsportsmanlike conduct. Winning is important but secondary to the development of sportsmanship during competition. Judges who reward unsportsmanlike conduct or action compromise the very premise of 4-H! The South Dakota 4-H Dog project uses the American Kennel Club (AKC) categorized dog breeds as a guide for the eight dog groups. They are: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, Herding and Miscellaneous.

Proper breed presentation

A mixed breed dog should be shown by the breed standard it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed. The South Dakota 4-H Dog project uses the AKC and UKC standard breeds as guides for each dog's breed.

When the judge asks a 4-H'er what breed he/she is showing the dog as, he/she should reply with the breed's proper name. For example: say "Shetland Sheepdog" rather than "Sheltie".

The following guidelines apply to all breeds:

- If the tail of the breed being shown is supposed to be up, and stays up, it is better if the handler leaves it alone.
- The South Dakota 4-H Dog Project recognizes that many dogs in 4-H competition may not measure up to breed standards, especially around tail carriage. Many dogs may have low tail sets and some high tail sets, which makes it fairly difficult to make the tail "an extension of the topline". In those cases, 4-H'ers should present the tail to the best of their ability, but not "crank" the tail over the dog's back.
- In all breeds, when the stacking guidelines mention that the rear legs should be stretched out, it is important to consider the dog's structure. If a dog is not structurally able to stretch out its rear legs, the 4-H'er should do the best he/she can to present the best overall picture.
- In all breeds, when the gaiting guidelines mention gaiting speed, dogs will be shown at a trot. This means that the dog is trotting but the dog is always under control. The 4-H'er needs to move at a speed that will match the dog's appropriate gait.
- There is no set speed to gait any breed, it is at the speed the dogs look best.



Showmanship Knowledge Questions



In 4-H, questions will be asked by the judge. Questions may only be asked about information contained in the current 4-H Dog Curriculum. Members should be prepared to answer questions (in accordance with their age class), about general dog knowledge, specific questions about their dog, and about their breed of dog. If the dog is a mixed breed, answer questions based on the breed standard it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed. Handlers shall not be expected to answer questions about any breed other than their own.

Beginner novice level

1. How do you care for your dog?
2. How often do you groom your dog?
3. What breed are you showing your dog as?
4. To what AKC group does your breed belong?
5. In what country did your breed originate?
6. For what purpose was your breed developed?
7. What vaccinations are required for your dog to participate in 4-H dog shows?
8. Name one internal parasite and one external parasite.
9. What is one sign of poor health?

Beginner open level

General:

1. How old is your dog?
2. There are over 300 breeds of dogs. What breed are you showing your dog as?
 - What AKC group is he/she in?
 - How many groups are listed on the AKC website? (8)
3. How much of your dog's care are you responsible for?
 - How often does your dog get food & water?
 - How much does your dog eat and drink?
4. Know one example of how to correctly groom your dog.
(See: Dog Grooming section)

Health & Nutrition:

1. What vaccinations has the dog been given?
 - Rabies?
 - Distemper/Hepatitis/Parvo/Parainfluenza ?
 - Dewormed ?
 - Bortetella?
 - Lyme?
2. What is Rabies? (A fatal disease transmitted by bites from infected animals. It causes signs of nervousness and erratic behavior.) – Treatment is unsuccessful and always fatal.
3. Know the dog body parts (See 1-8 in Body Parts section)
4. What is one sign that a dog is sick?
5. A healthy dog should have:
 - Clear & alert eyes
 - Glossy coat
 - Good appetite
 - Well muscled limbs
 - Neither too thin or overweight
6. The normal temperature for a dog is 100.5°–102.5° F
7. How does one handle a flea or tick problem on a dog.
8. A well balanced dog food should be the main food a dog eats.
9. Dog have very few taste buds, they rely on their sense of smell to determine taste preference.
10. Dogs don't need human food for treats.

For Example:

- *If a 20# dog is fed a small oatmeal cookie; it is like a human eating 1 whole hamburger or an entire candy bar!*
- *A Chihuahua's average weight is 4#; if that dog is just 2# over-weight it is like an extra 63# on a human!*

Reproduction:

1. A dog has puppies in 58–63 days.
2. The puppy can smell, eat and vocalize as soon as it is born.
3. What sex is your dog? Is it spayed or neutered?
 - A female is "spayed" (the uterus and ovaries are removed).
 - A male is "neutered" or "castrated" (the testicles are removed).

Junior level

(Know all of the Beginner dog information as well as the Junior Information)

General:

1. Of the 300+ breeds of dogs; - know 10 (see www.akc.org)
2. Know the 8 dog groups in the AKC (see www.akc.org)
 - Sporting
 - Hound
 - Working
 - Terrier
 - Toy
 - Non-sporting
 - Herding
 - Miscellaneous class
3. What is the original purpose of this dog's breed (or main breed if showing a mixed breed dog) & what group does it belong to?
4. Know three examples of how to correctly groom this dog. (See: Dog Grooming section)
5. A dog's sense of smell is two million times stronger than a human's.

Health & Nutrition:

1. 1) Be able to describe two of the following diseases and which vaccination can help prevent it.
 - Rabies: A virus that infects the CNS (Central Nervous System, causing erratic behavior – always fatal - Rabies vaccine
 - Distemper: Causes pneumonia and seizures. Picked up by contact with secretions from an infected dog's nose. Treatment is difficult – most die. – DHLPP Combo vaccine.
 - Parvovirus: Causes vomiting and diarrhea. Transmitted by exposure to contaminated feces. Treatment is intensive, requiring intravenous fluids and medications. Mainly a disease of unvaccinated puppies and dogs; younger pups more likely than older dogs to die. – DHLPP Combo vaccine
 - Hepatitis: Causes fever, vomiting, and diarrhea. Virus is found in feces and saliva. Treatment consists of aggressive fluid therapy – often fatal. –

DHLPP Combo vaccine.

- Parainfluenza: Causes coughing and sneezing. Transmitted by nasal secretions. Antibiotic treatment helps speed recovery. – DHLPP Combo vaccine.
2. What is the best weight for this dog? (See the Standard Weight Chart).
 - Is the dog overweight, underweight, or just right? (See the Canine Body System Chart for assistance).
 3. Know the dog body parts (See 1 – 15 in Body Parts section).
 4. Normal heart rate 70–140 beats per minute depending on the dog's size.
 - Know how to take a dog's heart beat. Place a hand over his chest, just behind the elbow. Count the number of heart beats during for 15 seconds and multiply by 4.
 5. Name one external and one internal parasite
 - External (Fleas, ticks, mange, lice, mites, ringworm)
 - Internal (Roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm, whipworm)
 6. A well balanced dog food should be the main food a dog eats
 - The amount of dog food depends on how active and how large the dog is and the caloric content of the dog food.
 - Know how much food this dog requires to maintain a healthy weight.
 7. Dogs do not need human food for treats.
For Example:
 - *If a 20# dog eats 1 hotdog on a bun; It is like a human eating 2 hamburgers or 2 whole chocolate bars.*
 - *A Boston Terrier's average weight is 19#. If that dog is just 4# overweight, it is like an extra 26# on a human.*

Reproduction:

1. Whelping, is when a female dog has her puppies
2. The puppy will open his eyes in about 15 days.
3. Heat and Estrus reference the female breeding season, a female dog will have her first heat cycle as early as 6 months.

Senior level

(Know all the Beginner & Junior Dog information as well as the Senior information)

General:

1. Know the 8 AKC dog groups and One breed from each group.
2. Know how to correctly groom your dog. (see Dog Grooming section) and be ready to explain how you groom your dog.
3. Know how to figure the age of your dog. (see enclosed chart)
4. Know the history of your dog's breed. (or main breed if showing a mixed breed dog)
5. What are the breed standards for your dog's breed? (or main breed if showing a mixed breed dog)

Health & Nutrition:

1. 1) Normal breathing rate 10–30 respirations per minute
 - Know how to check your dog's breathing rate. You can either check his sides, or hold your wet finger in front of his nose for 15 seconds, counting the breaths and multiplying by 4.
2. Know the internal & external parasites. (see "Junior Level"); And how you check for them
 - External: physical exam
 - Internal: blood work, stool sample
3. "Zoonosis" –is a disease (such as Rabies or Worms) which can be transmitted from animals to humans.
4. Know all of the dog body parts listed in Body Parts section
5. Which vaccinations and wormers do you give your dog and why?
6. How many teeth does your dog have?
7. Be able to describe any of the following diseases and which vaccination can help prevent it.
 - Rabies, Distemper, Parvovirus, Hepatitis & Parainfluenza (see: Junior level; Health & Nutrition #1)
 - Bordetella: Causes coughing and sneezing. Transmitted by nasal secretions. Antibiotic treatment helps control symptoms. – "Bordetella" vaccine.

- Lyme Disease: Causes fever and joint inflammation. Transmitted by ticks. Treatment with antibiotics usually successful. – “Lyme vaccine”
 - Leptospirosis: Causes kidney and liver disease. Picked up from water contaminated by infected urine. Many infections go unnoticed; severe infections are often fatal. – DHLPP Combo vaccine.
8. A well balanced dog food should be the main thing your dog eats:
 - There are different choices of food for different ages & weights of dogs. What kind of dog food do you feed your dog if he is over weight or older?
 9. By using the enclosed charts Standard Weights and Canine Body Condition System, be able to describe which body condition score your dog has and the characteristics of that score.
 10. Dogs do not need human food for treats.

For Example:

 - *If a 20# dog eats 1 ounce of cheddar cheese: It is like a human eating 2½ hamburgers or 1½ chocolate bars!*
 - *A Border Collie’s average weight is 35#. If that dog is just 6# overweight it is like an extra 25# on a human!*
 - *A Golden Retriever’s average weight is 70#. If that dog is just 8# overweight it is like an extra 14# on a human!*

Reproduction:

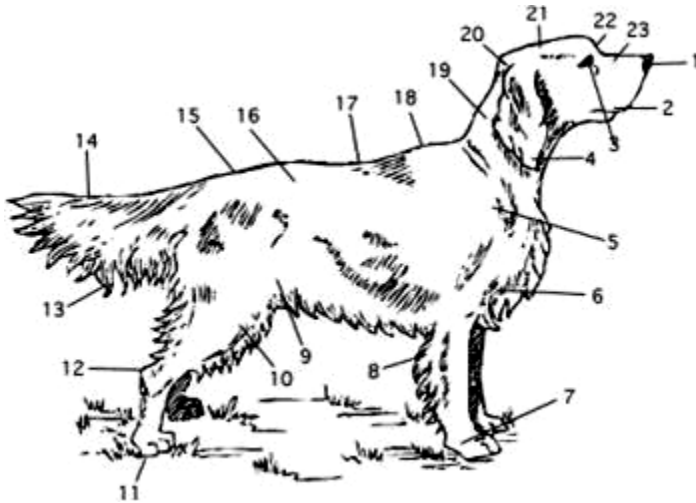
1. The puppy’s ears will open in about 21 days.
2. If a female dog comes in heat twice a year and has six to ten puppies each time, theoretically, in six years she and her offspring could be the sources of 67,000 dogs.
3. “Gestation” a period of about sixty-three days in the dog, from fertilization to whelping.



Knowledge Question Resources



Dog body parts



- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. nose | 9. tuckup | 16. loin |
| 2. flews | 10. stifle | 17. back |
| 3. eye | 11. toes | 18. withers |
| 4. ear | 12. hock | 19. neck |
| 5. shoulder | 13. feathers (not on
all breeds) | 20. occiput |
| 6. brisket | 14. tail | 21. skull |
| 7. pastern | 15. croup | 22. stop |
| 8. elbow | | 23. muzzle |

Dog Grooming

In showmanship dogs are required to be well-groomed. 4-H'ers are allowed assistance from a professional groomer, but are strongly encouraged to learn these skills as they advance in experience. Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge's attention will be considered a minor fault. Use of a brush or comb to reposition messy hair is acceptable but should be done very discreetly.










- Coat—The dog's coat must be clean, not scaly, free of mats, and free of loose hair. It is a major fault if a dog has mats or external parasites.
- Ears—The dog's ears should be free of dirt, parasites, and excessive hair.
- Eyes—The dog's eyes should be clean and free of matter.
- Toenails—The dog's toenails should be trimmed. It is a major fault if the dog's toenails are excessively long.



Toenail trimmed correctly.

Any dog with hair over its eyes that interferes with its vision may have the hair tied back with up to four rubber bands or plain, straight, rectangular-shaped barrettes that have a solid exterior color. No ribbons or bows are allowed.

Charts

Snacks fed to a 20 lb dog	Human Equivalent	
	No. of Hamburgers	No. of Chocolate Bars
 1 small cookie		
 1 oz. cheddar cheese		
 1 hot dog		

Relative Age of Your Pet in Human Years				
Adult Size in Pounds				
Age	0-20	20-50	50-90	>90
1	15	15	15	15
2	24	24	24	24
3	28	28	28	28
4	32	32	32	32
5	36	36	36	36
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123

Standard Weights per Breed and Sex

		Male	Female
	Cairn Terrier	14	13
	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	13-18	13-18
	Chihuahua	3-8	3-8
	Italian Greyhound	9-16	9-16
	Shih Tzu	9-16	9-16
	Toy Poodle	5-8	5-8
	West Highland White Terrier	15-21	15-21
	Yorkshire Terrier	4-7	4-7
	Border Collie	30-45	30-45
	English Bulldog	50	40
	Cocker Spaniel	24-38	34-32
	French Bulldog	21-28	21-28
	Chinese Shar-Pei	45-60	45-60
	Siberian Husky	45-60	35-50
	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	35-40	30-35
	Whippet	20-40	20-40
	Belgian Malinois	60-65	60-65
	Briard	75-100	50-65
	Doberman Pinscher	65-90	65-90
	German Shorthaired Pointer	55-70	45-60
	German Shepherd	75-95	75-95
	Golden Retriever	65-75	55-65
	Irish Setter	70	60
	Labrador Retriever	65-80	55-70
	Weimaraner	55-90	55-90
	Bernese Mountain Dog	90-120	70-100
	Bloodhound	90-110	80-100
	Great Dane	130-180	100-150
	Great Pyranees	115	85-90
	Irish Wolfhound	100-120	90-105
	Mastiff	175-190	175-190
	Newfoundland	130-150	100-120
	Rottweiler	85-135	80-100
	Saint Bernard	120-200	120-200



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BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN

1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3 Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.

IDEAL

4 Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5 Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.

TOO HEAVY

6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7 Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8 Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



1



3



5



7



9

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Handley D, Berges JW, Meyers T, et al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and distention scale dilation in client-owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lafreniere DP. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kaaly, et al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 220 1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT



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