

# 4-H

## Dog Care Proficiency Program

### A Member's Guide

#### OVERVIEW

The 4-H Dog Care 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. Through your project, you will acquire an understanding of the principles of dog handling and care.

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 Lassen County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there are any local dog groups or organizations in your community that conducts educational activities for you and your dog. Local breeders and veterinarians are excellent sources 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 dog care.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in owning and caring for your dog.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become experienced in dog care.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of Dog Care, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

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.

# DOG CARE

## Level I - Explorer

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. 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 the 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. Demonstrate the stay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Describe the basic requirements a dog needs every day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. List three items you would feed your dog. List three items you should never feed your dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for the daily and weekly care of your dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Identify at least six external body parts of the dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Discuss the importance of vaccinations. Show your project leader proof that your dog's shot records are current. Name two diseases preventable by vaccination.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Present a project meeting report to your club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Attend any 4-H event outside of your county.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Participate in a community service or citizenship activity related to the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Show an understanding of the following terms:
  - Dog
  - Bitch
  - Puppy
  - Dam
  - Sire
  - Choke collar
  - Pinch collar
  - Halter collar
  - Groom
  - Dewclaw
  - Pads
  - Heel
  - Lead

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOG CARE**  
**Level II - Producer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name three things that are poisonous to dogs. Name three signs of poisoning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Name three internal and external parasites. Discuss the symptoms that your dog may exhibit. Discuss preventative measures.  
Submit project form for management records that show how often you provided
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. fresh water, food, and money spent keeping your dog, or show a listing of your research on the care, handling and training of a dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Teach the external body parts of the dog to members of your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Demonstrate the safe way to greet a dog and be able to predict a possible outcome of screaming, running and hugging.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Name and describe the characteristics of the seven breed groups as defined by the American Kennel Club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Demonstrate understanding of exercises used in novice obedience.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Discuss do's and don'ts for showmanship classes. Give at least three examples of each.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Demonstrate an "I" pattern or an "L" pattern as used in showmanship classes. Show "about" and "reverse" turn and demonstrate how to stack your dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Do something creative with your project outside of your club.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Participate in a community service or citizenship activity with your dog project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. 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 CARE**  
**Level III - Consumer**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed \_\_\_\_\_

1. Lead an obedience or showmanship class for your project.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of the following:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Parvovirus                      Heartworm                      Tapeworm
3. Name five internal organs and their functions.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Describe the terms spay and neuter (using proper terminology) and the advantages of each.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe the development of a 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. Explore a different type of activity with your dog.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Define the concept of leadership with respect to your dog. Research and report to your project on specifics.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Teach and present to members of the project the internal organs of the dog.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Create a list of local resources for dog-related topics and make available to members of your project.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. With the approval of your project leader, organize or assist in organization of a community service or citizenship activity related to the dog project.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Assist in organizing a county, state or regional event.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Show an understanding of these terms:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Canine Teeth
  - Merle
  - Haw
  - Ruff
  - Breed standard
- Brindle
  - Mask
  - Feathering
  - Breed
  - Gait
- Tri-color
  - Cropping
  - Hackles
  - Group
  - Condition

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOG CARE**  
**Level IV - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Teach and present to members of the project the internal organs of a dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Prepare and give a demonstration relating to dogs outside of the project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Explain why it is important to understand the dog's genetic background before bringing it into a new home. Give two breed examples.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Give an example of a dog breed that would be suitable for each of the following:
  - Companion for an elderly person
  - Agility
  - Herding
  - Search and Rescue
  - Tracking
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Explore and report to your project some dog-related career and industry options.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain in detail how to housebreak a puppy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Explore the economics of keeping a dog over its lifetime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Explore some aspect of your project through the historical perspective.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Teach and present to members of your project group the skeletal system of a dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Define the following terms:
  - Gestation
  - Retrieve
  - Trail
  - Double coat
  - Whelp
  - Gun dog
  - Point Set

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DOG CARE**  
**Level V - Researcher**

Date  
Completed

1. Report on the results of two different methods of which you used to teach the same exercise. Compare the results.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - The American Kennel Club
  - How can your dog become an obedience trial champion?
  - History of your dog's breed
  - Service dogs and their training
  - How to choose the right breed for you and find your next dog.
3. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Explore a local, state or national affiliations and opportunities association with the dog project, like breed associations, training clubs, AKC. Share your findings with your project group.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Continue to demonstrate skills in record keeping by submitting records including feeding, cleaning, grooming, and training of your dog.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Dog Care Proficiency  
in Lassen County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Consumer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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