

4-H

Dog Obedience Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Dog Obedience 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, obedience, and working on and off a leash.

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 Solano 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 and dog shows. Local breeders 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 obedience.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in a Canine Good Citizenship Certificate.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become experienced in on and off leash work.
- ◆ 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 Obedience, 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 OBEDIENCE
Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

(Sub Novice – all work is done on leash)

- _____ 1. Explain how to choose an appropriate training (choke) collar.
- _____ 2. Explain how to choose an appropriate leash.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate how to put the training collar on correctly.
- _____ 4. Demonstrate how to hold the leash correctly.
- _____ 5. Demonstrate the proper heel position.
- _____ 6. Demonstrate the proper sit position.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate the figure 8.
- _____ 8. Demonstrate the stand for examination.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate the recall and finish.
- _____ 10. Demonstrate the long one minute sit.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate the long three minute down.
- _____ 12. Explain the safety rules regarding this project.
- _____ 13. Explain what vaccinations your dog is required to have to participate in this project.
- _____ 14. Enter your dog in the Sub Novice class at a 4-H show or fair.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG OBEDIENCE
Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

(AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate)

- _____ 1. License your dog with the appropriate agency (animal control, humane society, city, etc.)
- _____ 2. Explain what the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program is.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate that your dog will "accept a friendly stranger".
- _____ 4. Demonstrate that your dog will "sit politely for petting".
- _____ 5. Demonstrate that you maintain your dog in a good health by his "appearance and grooming"
- _____ 6. Demonstrate that your dog will "go out for a walk" on a loose leash.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate that your dog will "walk through a crowd".
- _____ 8. Demonstrate that your dog will "sit and down on command/staying in place".
- _____ 9. Demonstrate that your dog will "come when called".
- _____ 10. Demonstrate that your dog will "not react to another dog".
- _____ 11. Demonstrate that your dog will "not react to distractions".
- _____ 12. Demonstrate that your dog will behave during "supervised separation".
- _____ 13. Enter your dog in, and successfully pass, the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG OBEDIENCE
Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

(Novice – on and off leash work)

- _____ 1. Demonstrate the correction for forging.
- _____ 2. Demonstrate the correction for lagging.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate the correction for heeling wide.
- _____ 4. Demonstrate the correction for crowding.
- _____ 5. Demonstrate the temptation correction.
- _____ 6. Demonstrate the off leash heeling.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate off leash figure 8 pattern.
- _____ 8. Demonstrate the off leash recall, from 30 feet away.
- _____ 9. Demonstrate the off leash long one minute sit, from 30 feet away.
- _____ 10. Demonstrate the off leash long three minute down, from 30 feet away.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal.
- _____ 12. Share your knowledge by giving a demonstration to your project on one aspect of novice training.
- _____ 13. Exhibit your dog in the novice class, and receive a qualifying score, at a 4-H, AKC, fair, or fun match.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG OBEDIENCE
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

(graduate novice – all work off leash)

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in constructing needed equipment for this project.
- _____ 3. Teach other members Obedience and Showmanship.
- _____ 4. Do a demonstration, at the training classes, related to the obedience project.
- _____ 5. Assist at a show as a ring steward, or set up, registration, etc.
- _____ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate the long three minute sit, handler out of sight.
- _____ 8. Demonstrate the long five minute down, handler out of sight.
- _____ 9. Exhibit your dog in the graduate novice class at a 4-H, AKC, fair or fun match.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DOG OBEDIENCE
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.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Dog Obedience Proficiency

in Solano County.

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

Initials

