

Chippewa County
4-H Dog Obedience
Training Booklet



UW
Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Dog Project Calendar

2016

All Training will be on Thursday Nights

May 5 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 12 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 19 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 26 Obedience Training Fairgrounds

June 2 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 9 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 16 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 23 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 30 Obedience Training Fairgrounds

July 7 Obedience Training Fairgrounds
 15 Dog Show ~~ NWSF
 8:30 a.m. Registration
 9:00 a.m. Show

July 28 – July 31 Bloomer Fair

** Please note ~~ if you do not show in obedience at the Chippewa Fair you MUST do a poster or demo to achieve in the dog project. Posters may also be shown at the Bloomer Fair

Training Times:

6:15 to 7:00 Beginner dogs/children

7:00 to 8:00 Older dogs/children

Dog Training Schedule

Dog training begins in May, it will in the 4-H Youth building. Please dress yourself and your dog suitable for the weather. (Rain coat, sweatshirts, gloves etc.). If Chippewa County is under a severe weather warning, classes will be cancelled. If you have questions, please call the Leader, Missy Klenke at (715) 404-5072.

Project Fees

Project Fees, application fees and vaccination records are due at time of the first training night. Please make checks out to the Chippewa County Leaders Council. There is a \$20.00 fee per 4-H member or \$30.00 per family. There will be a \$50.00 fee for non 4-H members.

Rules for the Chippewa County 4-H Dog Project

1. All parents are expected to pick members up promptly after training. Leaders will assume **NO** responsibility after 8:15.
2. All dogs must have proof of distemper, rabies and parvo vaccine. All dogs must have a vet check. (A copy needs to be turned in.)
3. All dogs must be at least 6 months of age to show at the fair.
4. All handlers must be in the 3rd grade or older to participate.
5. All dogs must show in obedience to compete in showmanship.
6. Each dog must be equipped with flat buckle collar and a 6 foot nylon or leather leash. Pronged or spiked collars will NOT be allowed.
7. Dogs are not allowed to be off leash unless they are in the show ring. Just as a reminder ~~ The City of Chippewa Falls does have a leash law.
8. Each 4-H member is responsible for cleaning up after his or her own dog. Please bring all the proper equipment. Failing to clean up after your dog may result in losing the training grounds. (This could be up to a \$280 fine as well.)
9. The care of the dog should be your responsibility; feeding, watering, grooming, training, playing and loving your dog as well.
10. All training methods used are to be positive.
11. No female dogs "in season" will be allowed to come to trainings. However, the handler should come to the training session to get credit and to observe.

12. Each member must attend 6 training sessions. Members need to be an active participant for at least 30 minutes of the session to count as an attended session. (Coming late or leaving early is ok BUT cannot be disruptive.)
13. If your dog has a tendency to be sharp or snappy, please inform the leaders so they can be ready to help you and protect the other members of your class.
14. Good sportsmanship is expected at all training classes and the day of show. ANY disruptions or unsportsmanlike behavior by parents could cause temporary or permanent dismissal of the 4-H member.
15. Parents, siblings, and friends are encouraged to watch, providing there is **NO** interference or disruptions on the member or dog's part. There is but one trainer for the class; that is the instructor giving the class. **Please do not bring any animals that are not participating in the dog project unless preapproved.**
16. Please wear flat shoes that are easy to walk in. No sandals or open-back shoes are permitted.

While we anticipate no trouble, the dog program cannot be responsible for any injuries to dogs or people that might occur during training or exhibiting of the dogs.

Obedience Classes

Each dog in obedience walks into the ring with a perfect score of 200. Judges deduct points for dogs that walk out of the heel position, that sit too slowly or not at all, and break position on the stand, sit, or down exercises. Judges also deduct points for handler errors, such as tugging on the leash or giving more than one command for a single exercise. A dog scores zero for an exercise if he refuses to do it or if he walks away after being told to stay in place.

Suggested Attire

Casual attire is acceptable. Tennis shoes are recommended. **NO** open toed sandals or flip flops are allowed in the show ring. You should always be neat and clean when presenting your dog. Your dog should look at its best as well.

Tips for Successful Training

Always talk to your dog while training. Coax, encourage, and be POSTIVE!!

Use motivators such as food treats, balls, squeaky toys and positive words.

Correct your dog immediately. Show or place your dog in the correct position using the leash or treats.

Use commands frequently when training your dog. Say the command and then show your dog what you would like them to do.

Practice obedience daily with your dog. They learn through repetition.

If you begin to feel frustrated with your dog while training, take a break and come back to it later.

Always remember that the obedience should be fun for both the handler and dog.

Showmanship

In showmanship, the handler is being judged on their ability to present their dog. Handlers will move their dogs around the ring as a group; will complete an individual pattern of the judge's choice. Questions may be asked concerning the dogs body parts, history, or care.

Showmanship Attire

When dressing for showmanship, the handler should take extra care to look nice. The first impression is often the appearance of the handler and dog. Be neat, attractive and pleasant to watch. Hats, flip flops, sweats and short shorts should not be worn. Remember to keep your hair out of your face so the judges can see the eye contact and smiles. Judges have individual opinions that may vary, but staying close to standards is recommended. If you have questions, please ask!!

What the Showmanship judge is looking for?

1. Is the dog responsive to the handler? Does the dog & handler work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear posed or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Does the dog move correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Are the dog's main faults being minimized?
6. Do both the dog and handler appear to be relaxed?
7. Is the dog presented with an apparent minimum of effort?

General Dog Knowledge

What breed are you showing your dog as?
What AKC group does your dog belong to?
What country did your dog originate from?
For what purpose was the breed developed for?
What vaccinations are required to participate in the dog show?
How do you care for your dog?
How often do you groom your dog?
What does AKC stand for?
Be able to identify the parts of the dog.

Grooming

In showmanship, dogs are required to be well groomed. The coat should be clean, brushed and free of mats and loose hair. The dog's ears should be cleaned, free of parasites and excessive hair. Eyes should be cleaned and not matted. The dog's toenails should be trimmed correctly.

What the judge is looking for

Posture

While gaiting, keep your back straight, your head up and watch where you are going.

Smoothness

In the ring you should be calm, cool and collected. Remember not to rush.

Attentiveness

Look confident. Remember to smile and enjoy what you are doing. Look casual not "fake". It is not appropriate to talk to other exhibitors or spectators. Your attention should always be focused on what is happening in your ring including your dog, the judge and other

exhibitors. Know where the judge is located and always keep your dog between you and the judge.

Sportsmanship

Think positively as you enter the ring. If the judge gives you feedback, listen attentively and thank them.

For the Parents

Please supervise your children when they are working with their dogs. It is recommended that you work with your children at least 15 minutes every day. We also ask that parents set a good example when handling or working with or around dogs and children.

REMEMBER ~ you are always welcome to watch the training sessions **ONLY** if there is **NO** interference or disruptions on the member or dog's part or you may be asked to step outside.

After reading the handbook, please take a few minutes and discuss it with your child. Then please sign the agreement below and bring to orientation.

I, _____, a participant in the Chippewa County 4H Dog Project, agree to the guidelines as stated in this handbook. If problems occur, the member, parent and leaders will meet and discuss consequences.

Date

Participant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature