

DEPARTMENT – O-46 – Dog Care and Training

SUPERINTENDENT

A 4-H or FFA member must be enrolled in a dog or veterinary science project to enter the Dog Training Department at the Fair.

Entries must be completed on line at www.carrollcountyfair.com. Entry fees need to be paid by credit card only. No late entries will be accepted.

Due to proposed Maryland budgetary constraints that are beyond the control of the Carroll County 4-H/FFA Fair Board, Inc., the Board reserves the right to withhold a portion of premium monies, up to and including all of an exhibitors earned premium payment, for the 2025 4-H/FFA Fair.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – DOG TRAINING DEPARTMENT

1. Exhibitors and their exhibits must comply with the “General Carroll County 4-H & FFA Rules & Regulations”, “General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations”, “Animal Rules & Regulations”, these “Division Rules & Regulations” and the applicable “Section Rules & Regulations”.
2. All dogs must be registered as exhibitor’s project animal with the Extension Office by May 1st of the current year. Dates for sign-up for the Dog Training Program will be announced in the 4-H newsletter “Tribune”. ABSOLUTELY NO ONE WILL BE ACCEPTED for participation in the Dog Training Program after the close of sign-up.
3. All dogs exhibited at the Dog Show must be immunized to prevent Rabies. Proof of up-to-date inoculations must be provided on the Fair entry form.
4. All dogs must have a current County Dog License /Tag.
5. Any dog with a known history of aggression or requiring a muzzle will not be allowed in this 4-H Show. Owners will be liable for any dog that bites. A dog that bites will be disqualified immediately and MUST be removed from the grounds after the owner completes a report with the superintendent.
6. Owners are required to clean up after their own dog. Failure to do so can result in loss of premiums or disqualification. This includes all areas of the fair grounds.
7. All participants are required to attend Carroll County 4-H Dog Training Sessions for participation in either Obedience and Fitting and Showing classes. Participants must attend 60% of the Training classes to participate in the Dog Show, unless other arrangements have been approved by the Superintendent of the show. The Superintendent has the discretion to accept a certificate stating a participant and their dog together have successfully completed an advanced Obedience Class or Handling Class outside 4-H in lieu of 4-H Dog Training.
8. Exhibitors are limited to showing no more than 2 dogs in Fitting and Showing and Obedience (1 in Obedience and 1 in Fitting and Showing).
9. FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS at the Dog Show must enter both the Obedience and Fitting & Showing classes. All other exhibitors are encouraged, but not required to show in both Obedience and Fitting & Showing.
10. Female dogs in season are not permitted to compete.
11. Mixed breed dogs or unregistered dogs may be entered in this competition.

12. Exhibitors will compete according to their 4-H age as of January 1 of the current year: Junior (ages 8-10 years), Intermediate (ages 11-13), and Senior (ages 14-18 years). An exhibitor may exhibit in a class above their age level, but not below their age level. If an exhibitor competes in an AKC, UKC or any other similar sanctioned dog event, they must compete at or above the same level with the dog in all 4-H events.
13. Exhibitors must check in on the day of the show at 8:30 a.m. Armbands/Catalogs will be distributed at the sign in table.
14. Exhibitors shall be neatly dressed in attire that is suitable for showing a dog (Boys- slacks, shirt and tie; Girls- skirt or slacks and blouse or shirt). Girls should not wear heels, shirts or dresses with spaghetti straps or open backs. No jeans.
15. Good sportsmanship will be expected of all exhibitors and all family members. **NON-EXHIBITORS SHOULD NOT APPROACH JUDGES.** Address all concerns and questions to the show superintendent(s). The judge and /or superintendent may excuse from the ring or facility any dog or handler who falls in these categories: (a) any handler who willfully interferes with another participant or their dog; (b) any dog which cannot be controlled by its handler; (c) any obviously ill or lame dog; (d) any handler who abuses their dog in or out of the ring.
16. **First year** classes are open only to exhibitors who are in their first year of training and /or exhibiting any dog.
17. Eligibility to participate in the State Fair is based on results of this show. The Extension Office will notify all qualifying exhibitors.
18. AKC rules that are in effect as of January 1 of the current year will be used as a **GUIDE** in judging all Obedience and Fitting & Showing classes. Class placement may be at the discretion of the superintendent.

Section 001 RULES- Obedience

1. Dogs must be trained by the 4-H or FFA member exhibiting the dog.
2. A dog that has won their Obedience class in a previous Carroll County /State 4-H show, with competition (more than 3 exhibitors per class), may not compete in that same class again. The dog must move up to a higher level obedience class (i.e. Pre-Novice to Novice). Advancement will be at the discretion of the local 4-H Dog Project Leader. Each dog must be shown in the appropriate obedience class that it is PREPARED for. Once a dog advances to a higher level, it cannot move back to a lower level. An exception will be made for First Year Pre-Novice.
3. All exercises will be done individually except long sit & down (these will be done in convenient groups).
4. All dogs in the Obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the 4-H Dog Training Project Leader. No special training collars, such as electronic or prong collars will be allowed. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.
5. Placement order in all Obedience Classes/Division Champions/Grand Champions will be based on highest to lowest score.
6. An Overall Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Obedience will be selected based on highest overall scores

7. Class Descriptions – EXERCISES & JUDGING CRITERIA WILL FOLLOW AKC GUIDELINES AND RULES THAT ARE IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1 OF CURRENT YEAR, UNLESS MODIFIED AND PUBLISHED IN THE CURRENT STATE FAIR CATALOGUE. Carroll County will follow the Maryland State Fair Rules.
- a. **First Year Sub-Novice Obedience:** Exhibitors who are in their first year of showing any dog. Dogs that have earned one leg toward AKC CD title or other professional equivalent are not eligible for 4-H Sub-Novice Obedience classes. All work will be done on 6' leash. Exercises include: 1. Heel on Leash, 2. Figure 8 (on leash), 3. Stand for Exam (on leash), 4. Recall (on leash), 5. Long Sit (on leash), 6. Long Down (on leash).
 - b. **Sub-Novice Obedience:** Dogs that have earned one leg toward AKC CD title or other professional equivalent are not eligible for 4-H Sub-Novice Obedience classes. All work will be done on 6' leash. Exercises include: 1. Heel on Leash, 2. Figure 8 (on leash), 3. Stand for Exam (on leash), 4. Recall (on leash), 5. Long Sit (on leash), 6. Long Down (on leash).
 - c. **Beginner Novice Obedience:** Dogs that have earned one leg toward AKC CD title or other professional equivalent are not eligible for 4-H Beginner Novice Obedience classes. Exercises include: 1. Heel on Leash, 2. Figure Eight (on leash), 3. Sit for Exam (on leash - dropped), 4. Sit Stay (on leash - dropped), 5. Recall (off leash). Division K | Page 2
 - d. **Novice Obedience:** Dogs that have earned an AKC CD title or other professional equivalent title are not eligible for 4-H Novice Obedience classes. Exercises include: 1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight, 2. Stand for Examination (off leash), 3. Heel Free (off leash), 4. Recall (off leash), 5. Long Sit (off leash), 6. Long Down (off leash).
 - e. **Graduate Novice Obedience:** Dogs which have not obtained one (1) leg toward CDX title from the AKC or an equivalent title from another registry but have obtained a CD title from the AKC or an equivalent title from another registry are eligible to compete in this class. Exercises include: 1. Heel on Leash & Figure Eight, 2. Drop On Recall (off leash), 3. Dumbbell Recall (off leash), 4. Recall over High Jump (off leash), 5. Recall over Broad Jump (off leash), 6. Long Down (off leash).
 - f. **Open Obedience:** These classes represent advanced obedience and any Exhibitor who has trained a dog to complete the respective class exercises may compete in this class. All entries in the open classes must indicate the appropriate dog jump heights (Open-High and Broad). Exercises include: 1. Heel Free & Figure Eight (off leash), 2. Drop on Recall (off leash), 3. Retrieve on Flat (off leash), 4. Retrieve over High Jump (off leash), 5. Broad Jump (off leash), 6. Long Sit (off leash), 7. Long Down (off leash). Exhibitors who are showing at this level may continue showing at this level indefinitely.
 - g. **For Exhibition Only (FEO) Status:** Exhibitors that have earned an AKC CDX (or equivalent) on the dog they are entering in this fair may only participate in the Open class as FEO.

Rules- Fitting and Showing

- 1. All fitting (grooming) must be done by the exhibitor except where help is need with specialized breed grooming (e.g. clipping, stripping). Young 4-H'ers may have assistance with grooming procedures such as clipping nails so as to prevent injury to the dog.
- 2. Dogs must be clean (including ears) with coats well brushed and free of mats. Dogs should be free of external parasites.

3. Fitting of the dog (body condition, grooming) and Showing in the Ring (performance of dog, presentation of dog, alertness of exhibitor, personal appearance of the exhibitor, and knowledge of dog) will be judged.
4. Exhibitors should be able to show their dogs at an appropriate gait, show the dog's bit upon judge's request, stand their dogs in an acceptable pose to permit examination by judge. Exhibitors should be able to answer questions on care, grooming, and background of their breed(s).
5. Performance of the dog shall not count against the exhibitor unless in the judge's opinion it interferes with another exhibitor's dog. The ability of the exhibitor to show their dog to its best advantage, whether the dog is cooperating or not, will be evaluated. It is expected that the exhibitor will have worked with their dog adequately prior to the show and have developed a working relationship with the dog.
6. An Overall Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Fitting & Showing will be selected from the 1st place winners of each division.
7. Class Descriptions- Fitting and Showing. Please read the following class descriptions very carefully.
 - a. First Year Novice: Exhibitors who are in their first year of showing any dog in Carroll County 4-H Fitting and Showing classes.
 - b. Novice: Exhibitors (Handlers) who have previously placed 1st in a Novice Fitting & Showmanship class are not eligible for this class and must compete in the appropriate Open Fitting & Showmanship class. Exception – 1st year Fitting & Showmanship Exhibitors who are regarded as Open Junior Handlers by the AKC, as of August 1 of the current year, are not eligible for this class.
 - c. Open: This class represents advanced fitting & showmanship. Once an exhibitor competes in an Open Fitting & Showmanship class they may not compete in a Novice Fitting & Showmanship class at a future Carroll County 4-H Fair Dog Show.
 - d. Carroll's Champion Challenge: Exhibitors who have been named Champion at the Maryland State 4-H Fair Dog show Fitting & Showmanship may compete in this class. These 4-H'ers already automatically have the ability to compete in the Dean's Champion Challenge at the Maryland State Fair.

Section 001 – Dog Training Classes

Jr. (8-10)	Int. (11-13)	Sr. (14-18)	
1001	2001	3001	Obedience – First Year Sub-Novice
1002	2002	3002	Obedience- Sub-Novice
1003	2003	3003	Obedience – Beginner Novice
1004	2004	3004	Obedience – Novice
1005	2005	3005	Obedience – Graduate Novice
1006	2006	3006	Obedience – Open
1007	2007	3007	Fitting & Showing - First Year Novice
1008	2008	3008	Fitting & Showing – Novice
1009	2009	3009	Fitting & Showing – Open

Section 002- Rally

1. An exhibitor may show 1 dog in Rally. A dog that has won a Rally class in a previous State Fair 4-H Dog Show may not compete in that same class again. The dog must move up to a higher Rally class (i.e. Novice to Advanced) or the Exhibitor must move to the next age level (i.e. Junior to Intermediate). Advancement will be at the discretion of the Local 4-H Dog Project Leader.
2. Once a dog advances to a higher level it cannot move back to a lower level.
3. All course runs will be done individually.
4. Exercises and Judging Criteria for all divisions will follow AKC rules that are in effect as of January 1 of the current year.
 - a. Novice Rally: Dogs which have earned their RN (Rally Novice) title from AKC or an equivalent title from another registry may not compete in this class. All work will be done on lead.
 - b. Advanced Rally: Dogs which have earned their RA (Rally Advanced) title from AKC or an equivalent title from another registry may not compete in this class. All work will be done off leash.
 - c. Excellent A Rally: Dogs which have won this class, with a qualifying score in prior years, or have earned their RE (Rally Excellent) title from AKC or an equivalent title from another registry may not compete in this class. All work, with the exception of the Honor Exercises will be done off leash.
 - d. Excellent B Rally: For dogs that have won Excellent A class at the Fair in prior years, with a qualifying score or have the AKC RE (Rally Excellent) title. All work with the exception of the Honor Exercise, is done off-leash.

CLASSES

Section 002 – Rally Classes

Jr. (8-10)	Int. (11-13)	Sr. (14-18)	
1010	2010	3010	Novice Rally
1011	2011	3011	Advanced Rally
1012	2012	3012	Excellent A Rally
1013	2013	3013	Excellent B Rally

Section 003 – Dog Training Special Awards

- 4011 Champion & Reserve First Year Pre-Novice Obedience
- 4013 Champion & Reserve Pre-Novice Obedience
- 4015 Champion & Reserve Novice Obedience
- 4017 Champion & Reserve Graduate Novice Obedience
- 4019 Champion & Reserve Open Obedience
- 4021 Overall Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Obedience
- 4025 Champion & Reserve First Year Novice Fitting & Showing
- 4027 Champion & Reserve Novice Fitting & Showing
- 4029 Champion & Reserve Open Fitting & Showing
- 4031 Overall Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Fitting & Showing
- 4033 Champion & Reserve Novice Rally
- 4035 Champion & Reserve Advanced Rally
- 4037 Champion & Reserve Excellent A Rally
- 4039 Champion & Reserve Excellent B Rally
- 4041 Overall Grand Champion & Reserve Rally