



Dog Care and Training Project



This project is for youth who are interested in learning more about dogs, how to care for a dog, and how to train a dog in basic or advanced commands. Any kind of dog may be used in this unique project, which is not designed to conform to the American Kennel Club or other organization standards. Members without dogs may wish to participate in quiz bowls, educational sessions, and other activities that do not require dog ownership.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Choose the right dog for your family.
- Explore dog behavior and body language.
- Learn grooming basics.
- Begin obedience training.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Select nutritious dog foods.
- Identify dog breeds and their purposes.
- Show your dog in showmanship.
- Calculate costs of dog ownership and care.

Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Continue advanced obedience training.
- Learn local dog laws and ordinances.
- Explore the value of assistance dogs and careers with working dogs.

Inspire Kids to Do

Explore

"I might like to do this."

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

Learn

"I can do this."

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

Practice

"I'm interested in this."

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

Experience

"I will be this."

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

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Expand Your Experiences!

Healthy Living

- Research the importance of washing your hands before and after handling/grooming your dog to prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases.
- Discuss your dog's life expectancy, how to care for a dog as they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on dog body language.
- Research the importance of daily exercise for you and your dog. Make an exercise plan.

Science and Agriculture

- Create a map highlighting the origin of different dog breeds. How has this impacted their size, coat, and body shapes?
- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals. Create a list of health and safety recommendations for competitive dog events.
- Research common internal and external parasites and design a prevention plan for your dog with your veterinarian.

Community Vitality

- Volunteer at a dog kennel, shelter, or rescue.
- Take a Pet First Aid/CPR course through the American Red Cross.
- Raise a service dog puppy.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for animals.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of a Junior/Teen Leader.

Career Development

- K-State College of Veterinary Medicine
- USDA APHIS Center for Animal Welfare
- K-State Pet Food Program
- K-State Global Campus Veterinary Technology Program

Local Contact Information

| Resources and Events | Curriculum and Resources | 4-H Record Keeping | Project Exhibit Ideas |
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| <p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation Days: Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.• County and State Fair: Enter your dog(s) and show the judge what you and your dog have learned in showmanship, obedience, rally obedience, or agility. | <p>Reasonably priced materials are available for every project in Kansas 4-H. You can order the materials for your project online or contact your local Extension Office.</p> <p>Dog Care & Training (DG100)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wiggles 'n Wags (ages 7-10)• Canine Connection (ages 11-13)• Leading the Pack (ages 14+) <p>Kansas 4-H Dog Project</p> | <p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100)• Kansas 4-H Record Keeping | <p>General Dog Care & Training Resources and Quiz Bowl Contest Resources:</p> <p>https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/dog/index.html</p> <p>Kansas 4-H Dog Show Rule Book, 4H1120</p> |

