



Dog Care and Training



PROJECT PLANNING GUIDE

OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H DOG CARE AND TRAINING PROJECT

1. To develop leadership talents and work toward achieving the broad objectives of character and citizenship.
2. To learn about the different breeds of dogs and to be able to identify them by their characteristics.
3. To understand the responsibilities of dog ownership in the home and community.
4. To demonstrate sound dog care and management practices, including feeding, care, handling, grooming and fitting.
5. To keep a complete record of all expenses for each animal.
6. To learn to follow all basic regulations for dog health, including first aid and simple treatments for ailments not requiring veterinary attention.
7. To train the dog to obey and heed established uniform, simple commands.
8. To develop an understanding of the values of scientific research and its influence upon dog husbandry.

EXTENSION RESOURCE MATERIALS

1. Care of Puppies and Dogs, 4H M-1-12P
2. Training Your Dog, 4H M-1-13P
3. Grooming and Handling Dogs, 4H M-1-14P
4. Dog Obedience Training Lessons, Beginners, 4H M-1-15P
5. Dog Obedience Training Lessons, Advanced, 4H M-1-16P
6. Dog Care and Training, L.G., 4H L-1-17P

LEVEL 1
(9- to 11-year-olds)

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
	(Refer to <u>Care of Dogs and Puppies</u>)
1. How many breeds of dogs are recognized by the American Kennel Club?	-- Attend an AKC dog show. -- Talk to breed owners. -- Review dog breeds found on page 4.
2. Know the groups of dogs.	-- Consult dog experts to determine the breed and group of your dog (pp. 4 and 5).
3. What are responsibilities of dog ownership?	-- Keep a record of amount and cost of food, veterinary costs, equipment and other costs. -- Be responsible for taking care of your own dog, using pages 7 and 8 as your guide.
4. How to select equipment for grooming your dog.	-- Tour a pet shop or store that has grooming equipment. Ask the salesperson to show you all necessary equipment. -- Compare equipment costs.
5. How to groom your dog.	-- Observe a grooming demonstration at a pet shop, veterinary hospital or from a private breeder. -- Practice grooming your dog. Brush your dog. -- Bathe your dog. Ask your parents to help cut the nails.
6. How to teach basic manners to a dog.	-- Teach your dog the meaning of "no." Train it not to jump on people. -- Read books on how to properly housebreak a dog. Practice the technique with your animal, if necessary.
7. Learn the advantages and disadvantages of owning a male or female dog.	-- If your dog is female, have her spayed or make sure she is in the kennel during her mating season. -- Visit a dog pound to observe unwanted dogs.

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
<p>8. How an animal is judged in a show.</p> <p>9. How to pose your dog.</p> <p>10. What points of cleanliness a judge looks for.</p>	<p>(Refer to <u>Grooming and Handling Dogs</u>)</p> <p>-- Attend a dog show.</p> <p>-- Talk to a local dog judge/handler/breeder.</p> <p>-- Secure and study <u>Junior Showmanship Handbook</u> by Marsha Hall Brown and Bethany Hall Brown.</p> <p>-- Practice showmanship.</p> <p>-- Practice posing your dog daily after reviewing p. 5.</p> <p>-- Observe and talk to groomers about cleanliness.</p> <p>-- Prepare a dog for a fun-type dog show. Be sure to practice cleaning and grooming the animal before the show (pp. 7 and 8).</p>

LEVEL 2
(12- to 14-year-olds)

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
<p>1. Learn to identify five breeds from each of seven groups.</p> <p>2. Major parts of a dog.</p> <p>3. The legal responsibilities of owning a dog.</p>	<p>(Refer to <u>Care of Dogs and Puppies</u>)</p> <p>-- Study the <u>Complete Dog Book</u> by the American Kennel Club.</p> <p>-- Visit a dog show and talk to owners.</p> <p>-- Visit local breeders.</p> <p>-- Make a list of the five breeds from each group (pp. 4 and 5).</p> <p>-- Locate external parts on your dog (figure 7, p. 6).</p> <p>-- Draw an illustration and label the parts of your dog.</p> <p>-- Check local authorities for county, city or local animal control regulations.</p>

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Make sure your dog has a collar and tag on at all times. -- List grooming and feeding responsibilities (pp. 7 and 8).
<p>4. Nutritional requirements for a dog.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Talk to experienced breeders. -- Do a comparison of 5 brands of dog food. Compare whether each is dry or moist. Look at cost and nutrition. Determine which brand is best for your dog. -- Make a poster of the dog food brands and present it to your 4-H Club. -- Assume responsibility for feeding and caring for your dog.
<p>5. Learn how to determine signs of the heat cycle in the female dog.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Ask a local breeder to help you determine heat cycle. If a dog is in heat, ask the breeder to show you that animal. Note the dog's behavior. -- Observe and keep a record of your dog's heat cycle (pp. 20 and 21). -- Study the pet overpopulation problem and present a program to your 4-H Club.
<p>6. How to select a sire for your dog.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Investigate local studs to determine a compatible mate. -- Visit a local breeder who breeds your dog type. Discuss breeding costs and procedures.
<p>7. Which parasites and diseases can infect a dog.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Study dog diseases and parasites (pp. 25-28). -- Give a demonstration on this topic to your club members. -- Help with a local rabies clinic.
<p>8. How to keep a good set of records</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Complete a <u>My 4-H Plan for Junior Members</u> on your dog. -- Begin compiling a cumulative record on dog care. Your leader can get a National 4-H Report Form for you.

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
9. How to share dog care information with others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Write and present a demonstration to your 4-H Club. -- Present a dog care demonstration at school. -- Prepare a dog care exhibit for 4-H Achievement Night or National 4-H Week.
10. Patterns to use when showing an animal in the ring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Ask a local kennel club for showmanship classes. Practice the patterns for each class. -- Show your club members how to use a pattern in showing. -- Enter a local dog show. -- Encourage your friends to enter a show.
11. Why nails, teeth, ears and coat should be cared for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Ask a veterinarian to explain why nails, teeth, ears and coat must be cared for. Ask the vet to demonstrate how to clip nails, brush teeth and groom ears and coat. -- Read about dog care techniques. Write a 4-H demonstration on pet care.
12. The benefits of animals to senior citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Take dogs to a senior citizens home or center for a petting session. This is a good community service project for your club.

LEVEL 3
(15- to 19-year-olds)

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
1. Learn the functions of the American Kennel Club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Study AKC rules and regulations. -- Ask about registering a purebred dog with AKC. -- See if a local kennel club operates in your area and attend a meeting.
2. The ideal conformation requirements for a particular breed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Read information in books about the breed of dog that interests you.

THINGS TO LEARN

3. The physiological organs of a dog and their function.

4. How to operate and manage a dog care business.

5. The features of a good dog house.

6. How to share your dog information with others.

THINGS TO DO

- Give a talk on the breed to your 4-H Club.
- List conformation requirements. Share these with club members.
- Visit a veterinarian to learn the dog's organs and the function each plays.
- Observe an operation at a local vet hospital. Observe each physiological organ and its relationship to other organs.
- Develop skills in caring for dogs.
- Begin marketing your skills by advertising the business. Use word of mouth to begin. You may grow into media advertisements.
- Keep financial records on your business.
- Design and construct a model dog house. Use the model to demonstrate good features.
- Construct a dog house for your animals.
- Compare a small dog house to a kennel. List differences you find.
- Tour a dog kennel to learn what special provisions are made.
- Write a dog care or training demonstration. Present it at club meetings, in malls and at 4-H competitive events.
- Set up an educational exhibit on information the public should know about dogs. Install the exhibit.
- Write a talk on a popular issue about animal care. Present it to a civic club.
- Organize a local or county pet show. Your library or mall might help you.

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Organize a tour for your 4-H Club to a pet store, kennel or breeder. -- Assist with a local rabies clinic. Call the local health department for times and places. -- Develop educational brochures on dog care and distribute them to consumers.

FAMILY FOCUS

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
1. How to get other family members involved in your project.	-- Teach family members to groom animals. Ask them to help you train the animals.
2. How the family can become involved in shows.	-- Teach the family how to help you prepare for a show. Ask them to attend a show with you to give you moral support.

CAREERS

THINGS TO LEARN	THINGS TO DO
1. What careers are available in dog care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Visit a kennel owner, trainer and groomer to discuss careers. -- Make a list of the skills needed to become a trainer, groomer or owner. -- Ask a pet store owner to present a club program on skills a dog trainer/groomer/owner should have. List where these skills are acquired. -- Read books on pet care professionals. -- Discuss the procedure for becoming a veterinarian with a small animal vet in your area.
2. How to shadow a dog care professional.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Seek someone in the dog care business whom you can observe at work. -- Follow the person around as each task is performed and completed. Begin to assume some of that person's responsibilities for the person.



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