

MARICOPA COUNTY 4-H Canine Project

Guidelines for Leaders, Parents and Volunteers



Revised for Maricopa County – August 2011

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General Guidelines

Foreword

This publication is presented by the Maricopa County 4-H Dog Project Committee as a guide for 4-Hers, 4-H leaders, county extension agents, judges and parents. It is designed to establish uniform guidelines and procedures for the 4-H Dog Project and events throughout the county. Please use this guide when setting up shows and establishing show rules. It should be noted that when no guideline or show rule exists, AKC rules may be used.

Objectives

All 4-H Projects are designed for youth to gain knowledge and practice skills that revolve around a topic of interest to them. Accordingly, the 4-H Dog Project youth development program is designed so that youth:

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance and sportsmanship
- Develop and practice skills in goal setting and teamwork
- Develop communication skills and an appreciation for learning
- Develop public presentation skills
- Care about and serve others through work in their communities
- Experience the pride and responsibility of involvement with a dog
- Demonstrate abilities in dog care, management, feeding, handling, grooming and fitting
- Explore career opportunities within animal sciences

Good Sportsmanship

As participants in the Maricopa County 4-H Dog program, members represent 4-H to the public. We expect our members to act in a responsible, ethical and sportsman-like manner at all times while participating in 4-H sponsored events. We hold them responsible for reflecting the highest standards of honor and integrity and for promoting the 4-H program and dog project in a positive manner. In addition, older members are expected to model high standards of behavior to younger members. We also expect parents and leaders to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting the standards of the Maricopa County 4-H program.

Disabled Youth

Disabled youth may request special accommodations by indicating their needs on enrollment forms and entry forms. Leaders and show superintendents will work closely with the disabled member's leader and county office to ensure proper arrangements are made. A member requiring assistance may receive help from another 4-H member. If another 4-H member isn't available, an approved leader, instructor or judge may be asked.

Eligibility & Requirements

Member Eligibility

- 1) Members must be 9 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year in order to participate in the Dog project.
- 2) The 4-H year begins October 1 and ends September 30. Deadline for enrollment is December 14th in order to compete at the Maricopa County Dog Project County Finals.
- 3) A member's age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year is the member's age all year, and does not change with the member's birthday.
- 4) Members must be enrolled in the Dog Project in order to participate in practices and shows.
- 5) Members must be a resident of Maricopa County in order to participate in County events.

Dog Eligibility

- 1) Dog Project Leaders shall determine and approve participation of members and dogs in their project.
- 2) Dogs must be 6 months old in order to compete in shows. Younger dogs, 3 months to 6 months old, may attend practices.
- 3) Dogs must be up to date on age appropriate vaccinations, and have a current rabies certificate from a licensed vet or clinic.
- 4) All project dogs must be enrolled via a Dog ID form, and include copies of vaccination records. The final turn in date for Dog Project ID forms is December 16th for the dog to be eligible for County Finals. (Holiday dog ID forms due by January 9th)
- 5) There shall be no discrimination of a dog's breed, or purebred/mixed breed status.
- 6) No dog shall be eligible to practice or compete if it is taped, bandaged, injured, or ill, or if it has anything attached to it for medical purposes, unless there is written confirmation from a licensed veterinarian that the dog is able to work without further damage. Subject to approval by leadership.
- 7) Any abuse of dogs on practice or show grounds, or in the ring, will result in dismissal from the practice or event. 2 warnings will be given, on the 3rd occurrence, the member and dog will be asked to leave the project.
- 8) Female dogs in season are requested to not come to practices, and may not compete in shows while in season.

Dress Code

- 1) For practices and non-competitive events, please wear clothing appropriate to the activity. Close toed shoes are recommended.
- 2) For competitions, dress shall be clean and neat and appropriate to the event.
 - a. Showmanship dress is “business” or “business casual” style, suits, skirts, slacks, blouses, shirt and tie for boys. Members may also wear standard 4-H show dress of black slacks, white long sleeve shirt and green tie. Shoes may be tennis shoes, or nonslip dress shoes. No sandals, no flip-flops are allowed in the show ring.
 - b. Obedience should be clean, neat and conservative. 4-H dress, or clean, neat jeans and shirt. No logos are allowed, except general 4-H logos. Shoes should be tennis shoes or other nonslip, solid toe shoes.
 - c. Rally-O dress is similar to Obedience dress.
 - d. Agility dress is casual, athletic. Tennis shoes or other non-slip, closed-toe shoes. No logos allowed.
- 3) Not allowed: Tank tops, midriff tops, baggy pants, mini skirts, any logo shirts, pins or other items, flip flops, open sandals, any slip on, loose shoes, bare feet.

Safety

- 1) All dogs must be kept on leash, unless actively working in a ring, or working on off-leash training at leader’s request.
- 2) Dogs with a tendency towards aggression must wear a red bandana.
- 3) Owner has sole responsibility for their dog and is liable if the dog damages anyone or anything.
- 4) Follow club rules, show policies and procedures, and be aware of your dog at all times.
- 5) While at a 4-H event, members must always maintain control of their dogs. Dogs must be leashed or crated when not showing or practicing.
- 6) When practicing or showing on others’ property, keep dogs within the assigned area.

Aggressive Dog Policy

To protect the safety of the 4-Hers and their dogs, guidelines are needed to measure the degree of danger a dog may represent. Leaders can then assess when a dog should be released from the program. Levels of danger for this assessment are based on the “Bite Assessment Scale” created by Dr. Ian Dunbar. His scale is as follows:

Level 1- Dog growls, lunges, snarls-no teeth touch skin. Mostly intimidation behavior.

Level 2- Teeth touch skin but no puncture. May have red mark/minor bruise from dog’s head or snout, may have minor scratches from paws/nails. Minor surface abrasions acceptable.

Level 3- Punctures ½ the length of a canine tooth, one to four holes, single bite. No tearing or slashes. Victim not shaken side to side. Bruising.

Level 4- One to four holes from a single bite, one hole deeper than ½ the length of a canine tooth, typically contact/punctures from more than canines only. Black bruising, tears and/or slashing wounds. Dog clamped down and shook or slashed victim.

Level 5- Multiple bites at Level 4 or above. A concerted, repeated attack.

Level 6- Any bite resulting in death of a human.

The following table will set the guidelines and actions required:

Dog’s Action	Guideline
Level 1 and 2	Three occurrences then the dog must be released from the program. Outside training with a veterinary behaviorist and a positive assessment from the behaviorist is required for the dog to re-enter the program. The assessment must indicate that the dog is safe around humans and dogs with the 4-Her handling it.
Level 3, 4, 5, 6	The dog is immediately excused from the program and will not be allowed to re-enter.

Standardized Judging

- 1) Standardized judging is paramount. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but must see that each handler and dog executes the various exercises exactly as described in these guidelines. A handler familiar with these guidelines should be able to enter the ring under any judge without having to inquire how the particular judge wishes to have the exercises performed and without being confronted with unexpected requirements.
- 2) The same methods must be used for scoring all levels, dogs and handlers.
- 3) Only current judges’ and stewards sheets from the 4-H office are to be used at 4-H shows, Any exceptions must be approved two weeks prior to the show by the Dog Advisory Committee.

Show Policies & Procedures

- 1) No alcoholic beverages or tobacco of any kind are allowed during 4-H events.
- 2) Dogs not entered into the show are not allowed on the showgrounds.
- 3) No dogs shall be allowed in the show rings before or during the show except for those being currently judged.
- 4) All waste cleanup for the member's dog is the responsibility of the handler.
- 5) Foul language is not permitted in or out of the ring, by handlers or spectators.
- 6) Each club is responsible for putting on at least 1 show per year. A show may have 2 or more events, with the exception of agility, which can be combined with a clinic and be a show by itself.
- 7) The current class fee is \$5 per class, up to \$20 per person, or \$35 per family. One half of all entry fees go back to the Dog Committee to pay for ribbons, equipment and County Finals. Checks are to be made payable to the sponsoring club, which will then submit a check payable to University of Arizona.
- 8) All show results, including judges sheets and stewards sheets, entry forms, and 50% of the entry fees must be received by the designated Dog Committee representative within 30 days after the event.
- 9) The 4-H member is ultimately responsible for entering the correct classes. If the member enters the wrong class and does not correct the error prior to the class start time, they will be disqualified from the class, and may be allowed to enter the correct class at the discretion of the show superintendent.
- 10) A dog may not be trained or shown at the same level in any class by two different members, except when the members live in the same home. Note: Showmanship is excluded, only one family member at the same class level may show the dog in Showmanship.
- 11) Dogs used in the 4-H program must be trained by the member only. No professional trainers are allowed, except in the case of aggressive behavior issues.
- 12) No professional grooming is allowed, except in the case of breed-specific clipping (ie: Poodles and certain Spaniels). Members must groom their own dogs, including ears, teeth, nails and bathing.
- 13) There shall be no training or practicing in or near the show rings, within 50 feet of the ring.
- 14) The judge may excuse any dog attempting to attack any dog or person in the show ring. Dog may be disqualified with no ribbon awarded.
- 15) Any display of fear, nervousness or uncontrolled behavior by the dog, such as snapping, barking, running away, etc may be penalized according to the seriousness of the behavior. However, the judge will keep in mind that the dog has been trained by a child and is probably a family pet with no other formal training.
- 16) Ties - In case of a tie for any prize in any class, each dog/handler shall be tested again by individually performing the following:
 - a. Showmanship –the judge may select another pattern, ask additional questions from the appropriate level, or any reasonable request chosen by the judge and approved by the show superintendent.
 - b. Obedience – Repeat the entire heeling exercise again. If a tie still exists, the judge may select any other exercise from the class.
 - c. Rally-O – The shortest time is the tie breaker
 - d. Agility - The shortest time is the tie breaker
- 17) Announcements of scores, and awards will be disclosed at the conclusion of the final class of that event. Score sheets shall be handed out to exhibitors with the awards. The exception is Showmanship, as awards are handed out in the ring at the

conclusion of each class. High Point awards shall be given out at the end of the show. Please encourage members to stay until the conclusion of the show in order to support their teammates.

- 18) Questions regarding placements, submitted to the show committee in a courteous manner, may be answered after the results have been handed out.
- 19) Problems or general questions may be addressed to the show committee at any time during the show.
- 20) The judges' decisions are final. The judge is not required to explain his/her scoring and need not enter into any discussion with any exhibitor, family member or leader regarding their decision.
- 21) Any exhibitor, family member or leader not displaying courtesy to the judges may result in being requested to leave the show.
- 22)** The rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) should be used where there is no 4-H rule to cover the situation and where the rule would apply to the 4-H world.

County Finals Qualifications

- 1) Returning Members must have completed record book from the previous year, with a passing score.
- 2) Member must have participated in a minimum number of practices, to be set by the project leader.
- 3) Handler/dog team must have competed in 2 shows in each discipline they plan to compete at in County Finals.
- 4) Members must complete 1 Community Service event approved by 4-H.
- 5) Members must attend 1 Educational event approved by 4-H.
- 6) Member must be in good standing with the project, club and county at the time of County Finals.
- 7) Members must receive at least one sponsorship, equaling \$30 or more to help support costs of Finals.

Showmanship Guidelines

Showmanship gives each member the opportunity to show their dog and self to their best ability. This is exemplified by a handler working as a team with their dog, so the dog appears posed, alert and under control, while the handler appears confident and in control. Judging is based on the 4-H member's ability to groom and show a dog by breed standards to whatever breed the child decides the dog most closely resembles. Conformation is not evaluated.

Guidelines

- 1) Proper Showmanship lead and collar shall be used. Collar and Lead should be breed appropriate, slip-style.
- 2) Handlers may use bait in Showmanship. Must be used discreetly. There must be no deliberate baiting near other dogs. If bait is dropped and not immediately picked up, or is used to distract other dogs, the handler will have points deducted. Squeaky toys and clickers are not allowed.
- 3) Handlers should follow appropriate dress code for Showmanship. Neatness of attire should be considered by the judge. However, expensive clothing should not be counted higher than clean, neat clothing of lesser quality.
- 4) The dog should be well groomed prior to entering into the show ring. Use of a brush or comb to replace a matted coat is acceptable if done discreetly.
- 5) No consideration shall be given to the breed of dog. Handler should know the breed/crossbreed and show the dog to that breed standard.
- 6) Judges consider the following questions when evaluating for individual skills:
 - a. Is the dog responsive?
 - b. Does the dog appear posed and interested at all times?
 - c. Is the dog under control?
 - d. Is the dog moved correctly?
 - e. Does the team appear relaxed?
 - f. Is the dog presented with an economy of motion, giving the impression of ease and minimal effort?
- 7) Rude or unsportsmanlike conduct is to be penalized.
- 8) Judges may excuse any dog that is out of control, injured, or aggressive.

Description of Classes

Novice – Any Member in their 1st or 2nd year of 4-H, and who has not shown in outside competitions (conformation or showmanship) for more than one year. Members who receive 3 first place awards in Novice will be moved up to Open, disregarding their years in 4-H. (this does not include county finals. Members will compete in Finals at the level they competed at in the last show)

Open – Any member in the 3rd year or above, or who has shown in outside competitions (conformation or showmanship) for more than one year.

Junior – age 9 – 12 (by Jan 1st of the 4-H year)

Intermediate – age 13-15 (by Jan 1st of the 4-H year)

Senior – Age 16 – 18 (by Jan 1st of the 4-H year)

Explanation of Usual Ring Procedures

Gaiting:

Gaiting is usually done around the perimeter of the ring with dogs on the left side of the handler. A judge may ask for variations such as diagonals, centerlines or reversing. The dog is to be kept between the handler and the judge at all times. During group gaiting, the handler will be judged on the ability to present the dog to its best advantage at a trot. Make sure to keep space between handlers. Passing is not allowed except at the judge's request. The judge may split the class in order to safely gait all dogs. All exhibitors will return to the ring for final examination and awards.

Stacking:

Stacking dogs should be done when the class stops gaiting around the ring. It should be maintained while the judge is doing individual examinations, unless the judge gives the order to relax.

A table may be used for breeds normally shown in the AKC ring on a table, but it is not required. Handlers may kneel on one knee, or stand, depending on the size of the dog. Deductions can be made for handlers who are not able to move gracefully around the dog when required. The handler should make an effort to always keep the dog between themselves and the judge.

Individual Examinations:

Individual examinations will be conducted for each handler. The judge may touch the dog, ask to show the dogs' bite (as appropriate for the breed) and move around the dog to examine all sides.

Knowledge:

The judge will ask questions of each handler. Handlers should be prepared to answer general dog knowledge, as well as breed specific knowledge. Questions will vary by judge but should remain the same for all members in the class. Questions should be determined by the show committee prior to the show, with or without input from the judge.

Grooming:

Dogs in showmanship should be free of ticks, mites and fleas. Dogs should be clean and combed. Ears and teeth should be cleaned, nails neat and trimmed. No bows or other decorations unless allowed by the breed to keep hair out of eyes (ie: Maltese)

Individual Gaiting Patterns:

The following patterns can be used in 4-H:

- 1) Straight Out & Back – either single or in pairs.
- 2) "L"
- 3) "T"
- 4) Triangle – Standard or Reverse

In some patterns it may be necessary to switch the lead from one hand to another to keep the dog between handler and judge. Changes should be graceful and performed at corners, and only as necessary.

When pattern is complete, handler should stop dog a few feet back from the judge, as posed as possible, without touching the dog.

Scoring:

Gaiting –	20pts
Stacking -	20pts
Presentation -	10pts
Grooming/Dog -	10pts
Knowledge -	10pts
Sportsmanship –	10pts
Attentiveness -	10pts
Grooming/Handler -	<u>10pts</u>
	100pts

Showmanship Styles By Group

Please check AKC Breed Standards for your specific breed. This is just a general guideline.

Sporting Group:

Works the hunting field with a handler to point, flush or retrieve.

Most of these breeds are normally presented to give the impression of being alert, athletic dogs anxious for the hunt. The handler holds the dog's head erect by holding the lead at the throat and the tail is presented so it is level. Breeds with flag tails such as Golden Retrievers or Setters, should be presented by holding the tip of the tail, so as not to interfere with the feathering. Stub-tailed breeds should be presented by holding the tail level. Cockers may be dropped into a stack.

Hound Group:

Bred to work in packs trailing game. There are two types of hounds, scent hounds that trail by a strong sense of smell; and sight, or wind, hounds that hunt by sight and speed.

Sighthounds are normally presented to look sleek and graceful. They are shown without presenting the tail, and most breeds carry their ears flat against the head.

Scenthounds are normally presented to look alert and athletic. Some breeds are presented with the tail held upright, some level and some not at all. Check the breed standard for your breed.

Working Group:

Developed for specific tasks – they are dogs that work for mankind pulling, protecting and rescue.

Because of the variety of body types, Working dog handlers need to check the appropriate handling style for their breed.

Herding Group:

Developed for their skill in herding and controlling livestock.

Herding dogs are normally shown to appear alert and responsive. They are shown with ears pricked forward and tail naturally held. The correct stack, for all herding breeds, except the German Shepherd, is all 4 feet square. The German Shepherd may be stacked square, or in the Shepherd stack, by exhibitors choice.

Terrier Group:

Developed primarily to control rodents and other pests.

There are two basic types of terriers, long legged and short legged. All should be shown alert, with ears pricked and tail presented by pushing upwards from the base of the tail.

Short legged breeds may be stacked normally, or dropped into the stack. Dropping is done by picking the dog up by the chest, between the forelegs, and the underside of the pelvic region, and dropping it a couple of inches, into a stack. Dogs should not be picked up by the tail.

Note: It is never appropriate to “spar” a terrier, by bringing it face to face with another dog, in order to show its alertness and spirit.

Toy Group:

Small dogs bred to be companions to nobility in the past. Today, they are household pets and companions.

These dogs are typically shown with natural tail and ear carriage. The exception is poodles, which should have their tails held upright, pushed from beneath.

Non-Sporting Group:

These dogs have no common characteristics, as they are dogs that did not fit into other categories. Handlers of these breeds will need to check on their specific breed standards for positioning.

Obedience

Obedience is an event where members will show off their dog's training. Handlers will follow the judge's pattern commands, either on or off lead, depending on class level. Commands such as Heel, Sit, Stay, Stand, Down, and several others are used to determine scores. As the handler/dog team advances through the levels, more complicated and difficult exercises are required. Focus should be on how quickly and accurately the dog complies with the handler's commands.

Members will begin the 4-H year at the suitable level, but can move up at any time by leader recommendation, or by having 3 qualifying scores (170 or better out of 200) at their current level.

Guidelines

- 1) All Dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring. Dogs must be taken in and out of the ring on lead.
- 2) Obedience Leads are 6' long and made of leather, nylon or cotton webbing. Collars should be plain, well fitting slip collars of chain, nylon or leather, or flat buckle collars of the same materials. Fancy or spiked collars, haltis, martingales, or special training collars are not allowed.
- 3) Baiting of dogs with food, toys or other items is not allowed in the ring.
- 4) Double handling is not allowed and will result in dismissal.
- 5) Commands are given as a single command. Any extra commands or signals will be penalized. When a command is given by hand, only one arm and hand may be used. The arm must immediately be returned to a natural position. The dog's name is not considered a command, unless the exercise requires nonverbal commands only.
- 6) Loud commands by handlers create a poor impression of obedience and should be avoided. Shouting should not be necessary.
- 7) Ring size at an indoor show should be 35'x50', with firm, nonslip footing.
- 8) Ring Size at an outdoor show should be 40'x50'. Footing should be clean and level, any grass should be cut short. For open classes, the show committee is responsible for providing a location for handlers to go out of sight of their dogs.
- 9) Eliminating in the ring by any dog is not cause for dismissal, but will be penalized by 10pts.
- 10) The order in which long sits and downs are done will be at the discretion of the show committee and announced before the beginning of classes. Dogs that break must not be re-set, they must wait quietly by the handler's side until the exercise is over.

Explanation of Classes

Pre-Novice A – 1st year, no training experience for handler or dog.

Pre-Novice B – 2nd 4-H year, or 3rd and above, with a new dog.

Novice A – 3rd year or above, or by leader recommendation. This class is off lead optional. Bonus 10 points given for Off Lead.

Novice B – Having earned 3 qualifying scores in Novice A, or by leader recommendation. This class is Off Lead.

Graduate Novice A – After having earned 3 qualifying scores in Novice B. This Class is Off Lead.

Graduate Novice B – After receiving 3 qualifying Scores in Graduate Novice A. This class is Off Lead.

Open – having received 3 qualifying scores at Graduate novice B. This class is Off Lead

Description of Classes

Pre-Novice Obedience

The following are obedience exercises normally included in Pre-Novice Obedience classes:

- Heel On Leash
- Figure 8
- Stand For Examination
- Recall and Finish
- Long Sit (1 minute)
- Long Down (3 minutes)

1) Heel On Leash

Dog walks on handler's left side in whatever direction the judge commands. Dog will sit when handler halts. The pattern will be the same for each handler in the class, and will include a change of pace (fast or slow), left and right turns and about turns.

2) Figure 8

The figure 8 is a pattern of a figure 8 around two posts (people) about 8' apart. The handler shall enter the figure on a loose leash, and halt until the judge is ready. The judge will ask if the handler is ready, and give the "Forward" command, The handler will give the heel command, and walk briskly around the pattern on a loose leash.

3) Stand For Examination

Handler will stand the dog in a comfortable position, give the dog a "Stay" command and walk to the end of the leash. The judge will examine the dog to determine if the dog remains in position. When instructed, handler will return to the dog by walking to the right of the dog, and circling around to stand with the dog on the handler's left side.

4) Recall & Finish

Dog is in a sit position. When instructed, the handler gives a "stay" command and moves to the end of the leash. On the judge's command, the handler will call the dog with a "Come" or "Front" command. The dog should come briskly and sit in front of the handler. The handler's hands should remain by their side or folded in front or behind. There should be no tugging on the leash, bending over, or any other double command. Upon the command to "Finish", the dog should move to the heel position and sit. The dog may Finish in any manner appropriate, as long as he moves briskly and ends in the heel position. (Guide Dogs are the exception. They will Come and Finish in one movement, without stopping)

5) Long Sit

In the long sit, all dogs in the class are in the ring together (if more than 12 dogs, the judge may split the class). On order from the judge, the handlers shall sit their dogs. On further command to "Leave Your Dog", the handlers give the command to stay, go to the end of the leash, and line up facing their dogs. After one minute,

the judge commands “Return to your dog”, and the handlers walk back to the dogs and circle around the back to the dogs’ right side.

6) Long Down

In the long down, all dogs in the class are in the ring together (if more than 12 dogs, the judge may split the class). On order from the judge, the handlers shall down their dogs. On further command to “Leave Your Dog”, the handlers give the command to stay, go to the end of the leash, and line up facing their dogs. After three minutes, the judge commands “Return to your dog”, and the handlers walk back to the dogs and circle around the back to the dogs’ right side.

Note: A dog that breaks either the sit or down should be pulled to the member’s side and held quietly, so as not to disturb the other dogs.

Novice Obedience

The following are obedience exercises normally included in Novice Obedience classes:

- Heel On Leash
- Figure 8
- Stand For Examination
- Heel Free
- Recall and Finish
- Long Sit (1 minute)
- Long Down (3 minutes)

Exercises are performed in the same manner as Pre-Novice except that the pattern is performed a second time, either on or off lead, depending on the class . Novice A has the option to perform both Heeling exercises on leash, or to perform the Heel Free. 10 points are added to the score if the Heel Free is performed. Novice B must perform Heel Free.

Changes for Novice level:

Heel Free – Pattern shall be the same as Heel on Lead, but off lead. Dog must remain in heel position. No double commands allowed.

Recall – Off lead recall. Handler will move 10’ away for Novice A, 35’ away for Novice B.

Grad Novice A Obedience

The following are obedience exercises normally included in Grad Novice A Obedience classes:

- Heel On Leash
- Stand For Examination
- Heel Free & Figure 8
- Drop On Recall
- Long Sit (3 minutes, out of sight)
- Long Down (5 minutes, out of sight)

Exercises are performed as in Novice, with the following exceptions:

- The Figure 8 is also performed off lead.
- Recall is performed in the same manner, except that at a point signaled by the judge, the handler commands the dog to down, and the dog must down completely and hold position until the judge tells the handler to signal the dog to come.
- Long sit and down are performed as in Novice, except the handler leaves the ring and goes out of the dog's sight.

Grad Novice B Obedience

The following are obedience exercises normally included in Grad Novice B Obedience classes:

- Open Heel Free
- Moving Stand and Exam
- Moving Drop On Recall
- Dumbbell Recall
- Recall Over Broad Jump
- Long Down (3 minutes, out of sight)

1) Open Heel Free

Performed in the same manner as Heel Free at Grad Novice A

2) Moving Stand and Exam

The principal feature of the moving stand and exam is that the dog heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and return to the handler on command.

3) Moving Drop On Recall

The principal feature of this command are that the dog heel, execute a prompt response to the handlers command to Down, and remain in the down position until called or signaled to come, and to come briskly on command.

4) Dumbbell Recall

This exercise is performed like the Novice recall, but with the dig holding a dumbbell. The dog must promptly take, hold and deliver the dumbbell when commanded.

5) Recall Over Broad Jump

The principal feature of this exercise are that the dog stay until directed to jump, clear the jump on a single command or signal, and immediately return to sit in front of the handler.

6) Long Down (3 minutes, out of sight)

Performed as in Grad Novice A, except for 3 minutes.

Open and Utility classes: Refer to the AKC obedience regulations for specific exercise directions for Open and Utility classes.

Rally-O

Rally-O requires teamwork between dog and handler. The dog and handler team move at their own pace. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but it can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition. A rally course includes 10 to 20 stations, depending on the level. The course is designed using AKC Rally Signs, which show a command, and a brief directional diagram. The team moves from station to station, in order, performing the commands as shown. Scoring is based on performance of each station, basic heel position and timing, as well communications between handler and dog. Communication from the handler to the dog is encouraged and perfect heel position is not required, but there should be a sense of teamwork and enthusiasm as they go through the course.

Rally-O Guidelines

- 1) Rally signs may be any color, but should be printed from the AKC Rally-O kit.
- 2) Signs are to be numbered to make it easy to find the next station when navigation.
- 3) Signs are to be placed on the handler's right side, movements to be performed next to, just in front of, or just behind the signs.
- 4) Judges are to arrive early enough prior to the event's beginning to set up the course.
- 5) A copy of the courses should be posted by the ring in order for handlers to have an understanding of what to expect.
- 6) Handlers are allowed a walk through prior to their classes, and should have access to question the judge about maneuvers.
- 7) All teams begin with a score of 100. Points are to be deducted for tight leash, poor position, missed or incorrect stations performed. A qualifying score is received if the team retains 70 or more points.
- 8) Teams that receive 3 qualifying scores are moved up to the next level of competition.
- 9) Runs are timed, and in the event of a tie, shortest time will be the tie breaker.
- 10) Novice A and B will have 10-15 stations. Advanced A and B will have 12-17 stations. Excellent will have 15-20 stations.
- 11) Eliminating in the ring by any dog is not cause for dismissal, but will be penalized by 10pts.
- 12) Double handling is not allowed and will result in dismissal.

Class Descriptions

-Novice A (all ages) – 1st or 2nd year members, not competing in Outside Rally/Obedience competitions. Exhibitors at this level may use verbal and physical encouragement without touching the dog.

-Novice B – 3rd year or above members, or 1st year dog. Exhibitors at this level may use verbal and physical encouragement without touching the dog.

-Advanced A - 3rd year or above, or having received 3 qualifying scores (70 out of 100) or by leader recommendation. This class is off lead optional. Bonus 10 points allowed for Off Lead. Verbal encouragement and discreet physical encouragement is allowed.

-Advanced B - Having earned 3 qualifying scores in Advanced A, or by leader recommendation. This class is Off Lead. 1 jump is used at this level. Verbal encouragement and discreet physical encouragement is allowed

-Excellent - having received 3 qualifying scores at Graduate novice B. This class is Off Lead. 2 jumps are used for this class. Verbal encouragement is allowed. Physical encouragement is limited to hand signals only.

Jumps

- Jumps are used at Advanced B level and above. It may be a Broad Jump, High Jump or Bar Jump. Color and decorations allowed, however nothing may hang from the jumps.
- Jumps must be set appropriately for each dogs' height
- The Broad Jump consists of 3 telescoping hurdles, each approx. 8" wide. The highest hurdle should be about 5" tall.
- The High Jump consists of two uprights and solid boards of varying widths that combine to make each jump's required height.
- The Bar Jump also has 2 uprights, constructed to support a single striped bar which is set at the required jump height.
- Jump Heights: The dog's jump height shall be given on the entry form. Entries may be arranged according to jump height. Height of dog is measured at the withers
 - Dachshunds - 4"
 - Under 15" - 8"
 - 15" – under 20" - 12"
 - 20" – over - 16"

Resource for Rally-O available. "Doodle By Design" by RuthAnn McCauley

Agility

In agility, a dog demonstrates its agile nature and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects. It's an activity that strengthens the bond between dog and handler and provides fun and exercise for both. Agility is scored by both timing and points, with point deductions taken for mistakes at each obstacle.

Class Descriptions

Beginner – 1st or 2nd year members, or 1st year dog, not competing in outside Agility competitions. This class is on lead.

Novice – 3rd year and above members, leader recommendation, or 3 qualifying scores at Beginner level. This class is on lead.

Open – 3 qualifying scores at Novice level, leader recommendation or one year competing with project dog at outside Agility trials. This class is off lead.

Excellent – 3 qualifying scores at Open level, or 2 or more years competing at outside Agility trials. This class is off lead.

Agility Guidelines

- 1) General Guidelines
 - a. Agility is a privilege not a right
 - b. Use NADAC junior handler rules
 - c. Scoring is faults, then time
 - d. Agility should come after obedience classes.
 - e. Teams must pass an agility proficiency test in order to compete.
 - f. Dogs must be at least 1 year old in order to compete in agility. May begin easy training at 6 months old.
- 2) Training
 - a. Saguaro Scramblers “Starter Level Training Manual” recommended as a training source.
 - b. Leaders should be watchful of members trying to do more than they are ready for.
 - c. Weave poles should be no more than 30” tall to allow smaller youth to handle the lead.
 - d. Make sure teams are familiar with obstacles before allowing to compete.
 - e. Obese, injured or pregnant dogs should not be allowed to train or compete.
 - f. Handlers may be on any side of the dog during their run.
- 3) Fair Competition
 - a. All youth and dogs enter at their own risk
 - b. Either the judge or show superintendent has the right to make changes to the course for safety reasons.
 - c. Elimination in the ring is not a non-qualifying event, however, 10 points will be deducted from final score.
 - d. The judge has the right to excuse a dog they feel is unfit, unsafe or out of control.
- 4) Participants
 - a. All handlers and parents must agree to abide by all rules and regulations.
 - b. All teams entered must have leader’s permission, a signed agility proficiency form.
 - c. Flat buckle collars, with no tags, and tab, or 6’ leashes are allowed. Slip leads, to enter and exit ring, are acceptable for teams in off lead classes.

- d. Steward will check collar and lead prior to team entering the ring.
 - e. Member is responsible for having correct leash/collar.
- 5) Courses
- a. Course descriptions should be posted by the ring when possible.
 - b. Obstacles are to be numbered.
 - c. Bait and toys are not allowed in the ring
 - d. Handlers may not drag, pull, push or otherwise force their dog through an obstacle.
 - e. Guiding and encouragement is permitted.
 - f. Handlers are allowed to walk the course prior to the beginning of the class.
 - g. Obstacles should have 12'-18' between obstacles.
 - h. Obstacles should be in good repair and stand alone without extra support.
- 6) Jump Heights
- a. 4", 8", 12", 16" - use jump heights from Rally section.
 - b. Dogs should be measured at the withers by a leader. Any dog over 7 years old will jump 4" lower than measured height.
- 7) Time
- a. Time restriction of 3 minutes will be placed on all classes, with faults being added for running over time limit (1 fault for every 5 seconds, or portion of 5 seconds, over the time limit).
 - b. Time will be measured to the nearest 100th second
 - c. Time will start and end when the dog crosses the start and finish line
 - d. Ties in scoring will be broken by fastest time.
- 8) Course Design
- a. Beginner and Novice levels will have no traps
 - b. Advanced and Excellent levels are allowed to have traps, keeping in mind that the dogs have been trained by children, traps should not be too difficult.
 - c. Start line is 5' to 8' from first obstacle.
 - d. Pause table should be placed in the middle 3rd of the course.
 - e. Courses are to conform to safety guidelines
 - f. Course flows should be predominantly smooth and flowing.
 - g. Courses can be designed by the judge or by the show committee. If designed by judge, show chairperson must review and approve.
 - h. Beginner level will not use the teeter or weave poles. A-frame to be set at 42", simple M or S pattern. Dog may sit on pause table.
 - i. Novice level has no more than 4 weave poles, no teeter (or on ground) and A frame set at 54". Dog may sit on pause table.
 - j. Advanced level has no more than 4 weave poles, A frame set at 60", teeter allowed. Dog must down on pause table.
 - k. Excellent level has 6 weave poles, teeter, A frame at 60", dog must down on pause table.
- 9) Equipment
- a. Dog walk
 - b. A Frame
 - c. Teeter
 - d. Pause table
 - e. Open tunnel
 - f. Chute (Closed tunnel)
 - g. Tire Jump
 - h. Weave Poles
 - i. Pole jumps – 4 minimum

Guide Dog Project

Junior Member – Puppy-less Project

Junior members will attend meetings and learn the basics of puppy raising and training for Guide Dog puppies.

Junior Members must comply with all rules and requirements specified in Guide Dogs Of The Desert Puppy Manual. Junior Members must be accompanied by a Senior Member or an Adult Leader when handling a Guide Dog puppy.

Each member will be required to keep a log that includes dates and events participation information. Members are required to bring records to monthly meetings. All members must submit a 4-H Annual Record Book.

Project Requirements:

- 1 – 4-H club meeting per month
- 3 – group outings per year (club or Guide Dogs of the Desert)
- 1 – Community Service event
- 1 – Demonstration or speech
- 4-H record book

Extra Credit project activities:

- Assist or participate in basic obedience classes
- Assist or participate in Rally or Advanced obedience classes
- Assist with club's Canine Good Citizenship test
- Participate in Graduations
- Participate in Meet & Greet
- Write a news article – local, county or national level
- Attend and participate in Dog demonstrations or Quiz Bowl
- Give a Dog related speech
- Cynology written test
- Participate in fundraising events

Senior Member Guide Dog Project

Senior Members may obtain a Guide Dog puppy from Guide Dogs of the Desert (GDD), after appropriate inspections have been obtained.

Each Senior Member will be responsible for their own dog and the costs associated with raising a Guide Dog puppy. Members must comply with all rules and requirements specified in the Guide Dogs Of The Desert Puppy Manual.

Each Senior Member are required to carry 4-H ID, GDD ID and a copy of Arizona state access laws.

Senior Members are required to keep a puppy journal and log, including all vaccinations, vet visits, dates of outings and training classes, type and amount of food, monthly photographs and income an expense receipts. Members are required to bring this journal to each monthly meeting. They will be required to fill out the monthly puppy report and send pictures to GDD.

Senior Members are eligible to compete in 4-H dog shows in all events they meet the requirements for. Member is responsible for letting the show chairperson know that they are using a Guide Dog project dog, as certain Obedience standards are specific for Guide Dogs.

Project Requirements:

- 1 group outing per month
- 1 4-H meeting per month
- 6 classes at ages 2-6 months in basic obedience
- 6 classes at ages 7-14 months Rally or Advanced obedience
- AKC Canine Good Citizen test at ages 12-14 months
- 1 Community Service event
- 1 Demonstration or Speech
- 4-H Record Book

Extra Credit Project Activities

- Participate in Graduations
- Participate in Meet & Greets
- Write a news article – local, county or national level
- Attend and participate in Dog demonstrations or Quiz Bowl
- Give a Dog related speech
- Cynology written test
- Participate in fundraising events

Resources

Definitions:

AKC – American Kennel Club

UKC – United Kennel Club

NADAC – North American Dog Agility Council

Showmanship – Maneuvering a dog in movement and at standstill in order to present the dog at its best. Showmanship is made up of stacking, gaiting and overall presentation, along with canine knowledge.

Gaiting – moving a dog around a show ring at a gait, or pace, designed to show off its characteristic movement.

Stacking – standing a dog in a manner according to the AKC breed standards in order to show its body structure and physical breed characteristics.

Handler – the person who is working the dog in the show ring

Command – can be verbal or physical, signals given to dog to direct it to perform a movement.

Double commands – using both a verbal and a physical signal to direct the dog. I.e: verbal command “sit” along with pointing a finger at the ground.

Double Handling – when a person outside of the show ring is also giving commands to the dog in the show ring, along with the handler. This can be grounds for dismissal from a class.

Baiting – offering treats or toys to lead the dog to a correct movement. Often used for stacking a dog during showmanship, and for training.

Heel – when the dog moves directly next to its’ handler, on the handler’s left side. The dog’s head & neck should be even with the handler’s leg.

Eliminating – urination or defecation, in many groups cause for dismissal or penalty if the dog eliminates while in the show ring.

Cynology - The study of matters related to domestic dogs. Canine Science.

Standard Equipment: (some items to be supplied by the member, some by the club)

Showmanship:

Showmanship lead - a leash, usually delicate in looks and made from nylon or leather, length is determined by the dog's and handler's heights. (m)

Showmanship collar – a delicate slip-style collar, made from nylon, chain or leather that can be adjusted to be held directly behind the head. (m)

Bait – small pieces of treats, or a small non-squeaky toy that will get the dog's attention (m)

Bait bag – pouch or pocket that can be attached to the handler to carry bait in. (m)

Table - a small table, covered in surfacing for stacking small dogs on, for the judge's viewing. (c)

Obedience –

Flat buckle collar – a nylon or leather collar that lies flat against the coat, with a metal buckle. No spikes, studs or choke action. (m)

Chain training collar – a single link chain collar, with no spikes or studs, but has choke action. (m)

Lead/leash – should be 6' long, and made of nylon or leather, with a loop at one end to hold on to. (m)

Long line – used in training recalls. Nylon or rope line about 15' – 30' long, that can be attached to the dog's collar. (m)

Dumbbell- a wooden or plastic dumbbell shaped piece, lightweight, sized to fit the dog's mouth. (m)

Jumps – bar, broad and high – described in Obedience Guidelines. (c)

Rally –O

Rally signs kit – printable from AKC website (c)

Clipboards and stands – to allow visibility of signs (c)

Flat buckle collar (m)

6' lead (m)

Cones – small plastic cones for specific movements (c)

Jumps – as described (c)

Stopwatch (c)

Agility

Slip lead - a single lead with attached slip-style collar (m)

OR

Flat buckle collar (m)

Jumps – as described, multiple jumps required for agility (c)

Tunnel – full size, collapsible tunnel (c)

Chute – short, hard sided tunnel entering into a loose fabric chute that the dog must find its way through. Also called a Closed Tunnel (c)

Pause table – low square table for the dog to jump onto, and sit or down on (c)

A-Frame – adjustable height A-frame made of wood and steel or solid pvc support.(c)

Dog Walk – a straight, narrow walkway suspended 3-4 feet off the ground, with ramps up and down on either end. (c)

Teeter – a teeter totter on a solid metal or pvc base, well balanced to allow for ease of tipping. (c)

Tire Jump – a circular jump of adjustable height(c)

Weave poles – a set of 4-8 30” tall poles, usually made from pvc that can be solidly placed so the dog may weave between them(c)

Stopwatch (c)

General equipment – (m)

Grooming brushes and combs

Clippers

Nail clippers

Dog shampoo

Crate

Portable water bowl

Any other show accessories

Project Passport