



General Information Lincoln County 4-H Dog Obedience Classes 2009

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Purpose: To teach the 4-H'er proper handling of his dog. This is a benefit not only for the dog but the entire family. It is designed for the 4-H'er to educate his own dog. Only one person should train the dog, as he will learn best from one voice. Obedience is a big commitment! It takes a lot of practice, patience, praise, and perseverance. It is also a lot of fun and very rewarding. **All 4-Hers are expected to attend all dog-training sessions and practice with their dog ½ hour daily. (All 4-Hers must train his or her own dog at practices- no substituting).**

When: Classes will begin in MAY. It is optional to bring your dog to the first session. Beginners class and Advanced class will be taught. If you received a purple at State Fair last year- you will be in the advanced class. **Please bring proof of up-to-date shots for your dog to the first session.**

Where: All classes held at Lincoln County 4-H Fairgrounds Showring (2 miles east of Canton).

Insurance: All 4-Hers must have 4-H Insurance.

Cost: You must purchase a choke chain and 6 ft. lead. A leather leash is easier to work with and gentler on your hands, but a nylon leash is perfectly acceptable. Your choke chain should be no more than two to three inches off the neck. Don't guess, measure around the dog's neck and then measure around the dog's head over his ears. Which ever is the largest measurement add two or three inches. Chokers come in 2" increments (for example 12, 14, 16, 18 etc). If your measurement plus two or three inches comes in between sizes go to the next larger size. Probably the single biggest mistake made in dog obedience is having the wrong size choke chain. Please ask if you have any further questions.

Clothing: Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. You will be on and off the ground with your dog. The best shoes for dog training are low ones with rubber heels. Jeans and tennis shoes are a best bet! **No sandals, clogs, or flip flops to classes or shows.**

The Project Dog: The dog may be owned by the 4-H member or the member's family. If the family does not have a dog or cannot keep a dog for each youngster in the family who is a club member, the 4-H'er may train a dog owned by a neighbor. It is best if your dog is a least 9 months of age or older to start training. A dog is never too old to be trained.

Dogs must be immunized for rabies, parvo virus, distemper, parainfluenza, hepatitis and leptospirosis. A corona virus shot is also recommended. Proof of vaccinations will be required at our first session. We also strongly recommend that you have your dog checked for heart worms and put him on a maintenance program. We have no control over the dogs that come into this program as to whether they might carry heart worms or not. Having your dog on a heart worm prevention program is for your own dog's protection. The dog must be 9 months old to start Obedience Classes.

The Project Member: The 4-H member will usually train the family dog. It is important that the girl or boy have enough physical strength to control the dog. A small boy or girl matched with a large, rough dog has little chance of success. It is to the 4-H'ers advantage to attend all of our sessions. If a lesson is missed, you'll be behind the rest of the class and it will take lots of hard work to catch up. Make sure the dog has been walked before class to prevent accidents. Bring supplies to clean up after your dog. Everyone cleans up after his or her own dog.

Parents: It is very important for a parent to be present at each session. Why? To learn obedience training along with your child so you can help him at home.

Values of the Dog Project: One of the most important values of the 4-H program is teaching boys and girls to rear and understand animals. Many 4-H youth do not live on farms and thus are not able to take the traditional animal science projects. The dog care and training project is an excellent solution to this problem. This project is equally worthwhile for members living on farms.

The dog project is an excellent tool for character development of youth. Training a dog teaches one to have patience, to speak clearly in short concise statements, and to realize the value of work. Learning to care for a dog teaches one to be responsible, take pride in ownership, to make decisions, and to learn about a dog's behavior.

Many dog owners have problems with their dogs. Dogs may develop habits of straying from home, jumping on people and furniture, biting, barking and other nuisance habits. These habits can be prevented by early training of the young dog or by retraining an older dog.

1996 Lincoln County & SD State Fair Dog Show Rules and Regulations

1. Any 4-H member enrolled in the Dog project or in the Discovering 4-H project is eligible.
2. A member may show a dog owned by another person, provide the member has trained and worked with that animal for at least 90 days prior to the State Fair Dog Show.
3. A 4-H member shall determine his own lot for showing. However, a member may not show the same dog in a lower obedience lot number than what he has previously shown nor one that he has received a purple ribbon in at the State Fair. (The exception being the Open Class, Brace and Team lot numbers.) However, he may use a different dog.
4. Two members may not show the same dogs,
5. All dogs, regardless of age or breed, are eligible to show.
6. All breeds show together.
7. In a 4-H Dog Show, breed, color and conformation of the dog will not be considered.
8. Females in heat are not to be shown.
9. *Dogs must be annually immunized against distemper, leptospirosis, rabies, hepatitis, and parvo. A corona virus shot is also recommended.
10. Dogs must have been free of an infectious illness for 30 days before the Show.
11. *A health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian must be made available prior to the show.
12. It is recommended that you have a leather leash or nylon leash 6 ft. long with a snap bolt on one end and a loop on the other end.
13. A close fitting choke collar is required. Fancy and spike collars are not allowed.
14. Exhibitors are to be clean, well groomed and must wear shoes (no sandals or open toed shoes). No advertising will be allowed.



Guidelines

Feeding – Exercise – Clean-up Chores: Do not feed your dog 2 hours before class. Arrive 10 minutes before class starts so you can exercise him-this will help prevent clean-up chores in the ring. If your dog has an accident, hand him to the instructor. A shovel, broom, and garbage can will be available at the training site. You are responsible for cleaning up after your own dog.

Immunizations: Proof of rabies and distemper protection for your dog is required. Rabies is a most dreaded disease, spread through saliva when biting or an open wound. Both members and trainers may be bitten during training and should this occur, persons concerned must be assured that the dog is not rabid. All dogs should be vaccinated with the DHLPP series (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvo virus and parainfluenza). Most veterinarians vaccinate to prevent these diseases with one injection. Distemper is highly infectious disease and although your dog has been vaccinated, it should have a booster shot every 12 months for further protection. You should also talk to your veterinarian about heart worm protection. Heart worm disease is spread by the common mosquito.

Equipment Needed: 6-foot leash, choke chain collar, showmanship collar. The choke chain collar should only be two or three inches off the dog's neck (providing it will slip over the dog's head easily). Put the collar on with the loose end (the end the leash is attached to) coming over the top of the dog's neck. The collar is put on this way so that when it is jerked and released, the collar will not hurt him. Always work your dog on a loose leash as a steady pull on the collar will choke the dog and will not give him the proper correction. Only use this collar when you are training your dog. Do not attach any tags to it. Never tie your dog when has the choke chain collar on. The leash should be soft leather or nylon webbing six feet in length. No chain leashes are allowed, as they will hurt the member's hands, thus causing weak and inconsistent correcting of the dog. A showmanship collar is required for showmanship classes.

The Four "P's": Practice – Patience – Praise – Perseverance

Practice: 15 minutes of quality training twice a day will go a long way in training your dog. Parents: Encourage your child to work his dog everyday. No dog can be expected to learn in just one or two sessions a week.

Patience: If you feel your patience is slipping – stop training. Resume only after you've regained your composure. Anger in training may cause fears in your dog that you may never be able to overcome. Keep training sessions short and sweet.

Praise: Praising your dog at the proper time is one of the most powerful tools you can use during training sessions. Your dog feels that he is pleasing you and will look forward to your training sessions. It cannot be stressed enough the importance of praise, correction and consistency. Lots and lots of praise, immediate correction and then praise again when the dog has done it correctly. Be consistent. Don't allow your dog to sit improperly one day which you will not permit him to do the next.

Perseverance: You must stay with it. The old phrase, "Rome wasn't built in a day", was never truer than here. You may have to go over an exercise many times before your dog understands what you want from him, have faith, it will come eventually.

Sickness – Females in season: When your dog is sick please do not bring him to class. If your female is in season leave her at home until she goes out of season. However, you need to come to get the instructions for that week so training can continue at home.

Should I wait a Year: The instructor reserves the right to encourage parents to have their child drop out of classes if she feels it is in the best interest of the student. Sometimes if the dog is too young or if the handler is too small for the animal it would be best to postpone training for another year.

Aggressive or unruly dogs: You are expected to have control of your dog at all times. If you have a very unruly or aggressive dog it might be better to leave it at home – it might not be worth the chance of someone getting hurt. We still want you to come to classes to get the lessons and view the demonstrations so you can work with your dog at home. When you feel you have some control with the dog and he seems to be making some progress I welcome you to bring him back to classes.

Keep your distance: Try to keep your dog quiet and on a short lead at all times. Keep your dog far enough from another dog to prevent being attacked. Dogs that are strange to one another will sometimes fight when crowded together. You are responsible for your dog in and out of the ring. Keeping a firm leash on him and keeping him away from the other dogs eliminates a lot of problems.

Abusing your dog: We do not allow any type of abuse to the dogs – hitting with hands or leashes, kicking with feet etc. If you are caught abusing your dog in any way you will be excused from the class.

Substituting: No dog may be substituted for one already in the class without the instructor's permission. **No new registrations will be taken after the second class.**

Cleanliness: It is a very nice gesture if your dog comes to each session clean and well groomed.

Guests: Other family members and friends are welcome to observe the classes from the sidelines. We encourage parents to come and learn dog obedience along with their children so they can be supportive and helpful to them at home.

Agility Training

Agility Training was added to the Lincoln County Dog Project in 2004. A 4-H member and their dog may start agility classes after *finishing one year* of dog obedience and showmanship. Dog agility classes are offered the same time and place as obedience and showmanship.

Your Dog Descended From The Wolf

Because it is almost certain that dogs descended from the wild canines (wolves), it helps to understand and train them if we know something about the wolves. Comparison between wolves and dogs helps us to know what the dog is and why he does what he does – and to recognize that your dog is not a fur-coated kid, but in fact a highly evolved, intelligent member of another species.

Canines are one of the most social of all species. Adult males as well as females raise and care for their young well past the juvenile stage of development - unlike many other mammals, who tend to the young only until they are juveniles and then the juveniles must fend for themselves. Cubs (pups) seem to be born with the fear of being alone. This is the reason for much of the crying and whining done by puppies and dogs when they're left alone. Because they are part of a Pack – a social group of canines often loosely related – there is always another wolf with them.

This Pack is headed by a “Pack Leader”, the “Alpha Wolf”. He is Top Dog of the pack, a position which he holds by being the smartest and strongest one among them. There is also an “Alpha Female”.

The other wolves have a Pack Order, which they aggressively maintain, the youngest and weakest being at the bottom of the line and submissive to the others. As the cubs grow, they will keep challenging those higher up the Pack Order continually testing for position.

To enforce his authority, the Pack Leader strongly and firmly puts down, literally, on their backs, all wolves under him. The mother wolf does the same thing to her pups. In each case, the lower wolf or pup is growled at, then taken by the scruff of the neck (the loose skin), and shaken with another growl. If the challenging wolf or pup does not submit at this point, much louder, stronger growling is done, and the “underdog” or pup is strongly and roughly forced to lie down and to roll over onto its back, exposing its throat and belly to the Pack Leader. This is a sign of complete submission.

It is important for you to know something of Pack Behavior because your family is now your dog's Pack, and to him, his instinct tells him that if there is no Pack Leader, he must lead the family and be the Pack Leader. You, therefore, must at once take over and prove effectively and as often as necessary, that you, not the dog, are the Pack Leader. Remember that instinct keeps pushing the dog to keep testing your authority. You must be strong and consistent in exercising that Pack Leadership. If you do this effectively, you will build a great relationship with your dog, based on mutual respect and love.



2009 LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE SCHEDULE

Classes are never cancelled. – We meet rain or shine!

All classes are held on Tuesday's at 7:00 PM and meet at the 4-H Fairgrounds Showing 2 miles east of Canton.

- **The first class begins on Tuesday May 19th. (Dogs Optional this date). If you are not able to attend the May 19 meeting, contact the Extension Office by 5PM on Tuesday May 19 at 605-764-2756.**

- **May 26**
 - How to put on choke chain
 - How to hold leash
 - How to give praise
 - The Heel and Sit
 - Exercise Finished

- **June 2**
 - Heeling – Slow, Fast, and Normal
 - Heeling – Right Turn, Left Turn, and About Turn
 - The Long Sit

- **June 9**
 - The Figure 8
 - The Long Down

- **June 16**
 - Rally Starts

- **June 23**
 - The Recall (part 1 and part 2)

- **June 30**
 - The Recall (part 1 and part 2)

- **July 7**
 - The Stand For Examination & Grooming

- **July 14**
 - Showmanship – The Triangle Pattern
 - The “L” Pattern

- **July 21**
 - Showmanship

- **July 28**
 - Practice Show -**Canton 4-H Fairgrounds**



Aug.1 – 8:30 AM

Lincoln County Dog Show- Canton 4-H Fairgrounds

4-H Dog Show Members need to be there at 8:00. Be sure to bring health papers-dated within 30 of the dog show.

You must be a member of 4-H and pre-registered to be eligible for State Fair Dog Show competition. Please bring food and water for your dog and a picnic lunch for your families. We will have a watermelon feed after the show.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT:

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LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE 2009
PARTICIPANTS INSURANCE/WAIVER FORM

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT _____
(Name of participant)

(Address)

is insured under the Lincoln County 4-H insurance program with the Lincoln County Extension Office.

AND

I further certify that I will not hold the City of Canton, nor the Lincoln County 4-H Dog Program, nor any of it's educators responsible for any injuries or illness sustained by the above participant while taking part in any activities or all scheduled 4-H Dog Obedience and Showmanship classes, shows, events, or activities.

Signature _____ Date _____
(parent or guardian)

Witnessed by _____ Date _____

**PLEASE HAVE THIS FORM FILLED OUT AND
RETURN IT TO THE DOG PROJECT LEADERS AT
THE FIRST DOG TRAINING SESSION MAY 19.
THANK YOU**

Extension is the major educational outreach arm of South Dakota State University, serving the people of South Dakota by helping them apply unbiased, scientific knowledge to improve their lives. SDSU, South Dakota counties, and USDA cooperating. SDSU adheres to AA/EEO guidelines in offering educational programs and services in response to local issues and needs