

4-H Dog Project



18 U.S.C. 707

SNAPSHOT 4H1610

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Curricula

<http://4h.msue.msu.edu/>

- » 4-H Dog Junior Showmanship Manual (4H 1523)

National 4-H Curricula

<http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/>

- » Dogs
 - Wiggles and Wags: Dog 1 (08166)
 - Canine Connection: Dog 2 (08167)
 - Leading the Pack: Dog 3 (08167)
 - Dog Helper's Guide (08169)

Other Resources

- » American Kennel Club: www.akc.org
- » United Kennel Club: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/WebPages/Home>

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Dogs make great pets! Dogs are also used for sport such as agility and rally competitions, and they assist in working livestock. The 4-H dog project helps you explore what kind of dog fits into your family's lifestyle. It will enable you to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of your dog.

- » Learn major dog breeds and identify their characteristics.
- » Study responsibilities of dog ownership.
- » Demonstrate dog care and management in feeding, handling, keeping records, grooming and fitting.
- » Learn dog health regulations, first aid and simple treatments for ailments.
- » Explore careers related to animal science.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Gather information and determine the best dog for your family.
- » Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your dog.
- » Learn to identify the parts of a dog.
- » Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost or find it if it gets lost.
- » Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- » Practice appropriate training for your dog.

Learning More:

- » Plan a training and exercise program for your dog.
- » Prepare for participation in a dog show.
- » Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your dog.
- » Compare the labels on dog foods to make an informed decision on content and price.
- » Keep a diary of your dog's health and eating habits.
- » Research kennel facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your dog.
- » Interview someone who uses a service dog to assist them.
- » Create a dog ownership budget.
- » Help a friend make a decision about dog ownership.
- » Research diseases in dogs.
- » Identify symptoms and a course of action if your dog gets sick.



FOCUS ON DOGS

Science

- » Explore the parts and function of a dog's digestive system.
- » Monitor the effect of environmental conditions on your dog.
- » Learn about pack behavior and compare it to your own dog's behavior.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- » Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having dogs spayed or neutered.
- » Organize a dog show for your club.
- » Develop a plan to foster dogs of deploying soldiers.

Communication

- Prepare a poster or demonstration on:
- » How to approach a dog safely.
 - » How to prepare a dog for showing.
 - » How to train a dog for showing.
 - » How to select a nutritional diet.
 - » How to select dog species for your family.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for workshops, activities and events.
- » Learn about service animals and the process of fostering and training one.
- » Job shadow at a local business (pet store, veterinary clinic, breeder or groomer) in a dog-related career that interests you.
- » Go to local and area dog shows, and explore the differences in dog breeds and the different ways they are shown.
- » Explore health safety issues with dogs and the diseases dogs have that might make humans ill.
- » Explore what kinds of dogs make the best pets and what breeds make the best inside dogs or outside dogs.
- » Learn how local pet stores acquire puppies.
- » Research all the kinds of parasites your dog might get, and find out how to protect yourself and your dog.
- » Do some comparison shopping for dog supplies.
- » Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community might have on dogs.
- » Find out the requirements for licensing a dog in your community.
- » Explore the uses and benefits of animal-assisted therapy.
- » Attend a 4-H dog project meeting.
- » Show at your county fair.
- » Complete a dog project record book to track your income, expenses and experiences in your dog project.
- » Contact your local MSU Extension 4-H staff to be nominated to serve on the State 4-H Companion Animal Committee.
- » If you are interested in a college education in animal science or veterinary medicine, visit Michigan State University's website at www.msu.edu to explore those majors.

Adapted with permission from "4-H Dog Project," by Iowa State University Extension, 2011, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thomas G. Coon, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The name "4-H" and the emblem consisting of a four-leaf clover with stem and the "H" on each leaflet are protected under Title 18 U.S.C. 707. (4H1609 1P-WEB-12:2011-LP) Produced by ANR Communications.