



**DEPARTMENT 31 – DOGS**  
**MELISSA BREIDENSTEIN, JACKIE LEVIN and KATHY BURGESSON – Co-Superintendents**

**SPECIFIC RULES FOR OBEDIENCE AND FITTING AND SHOWING**

1. **Note: All entries are subject to Health Regulations for Livestock Exhibited in Maryland.** Exhibitors must comply with all General Rules and Regulations and all Dog Department Specific Rules.
2. To participate in the 4-H Dog Show, a member must be enrolled in the Dog Project by May 1 of the current year.
3. Neat appropriate attire must be worn. Note: Clothing will be judged during Obedience & Fitting & Showing. Boys- Black, Khaki, Navy or Green Slacks or Camp Style or Traditional Walking shorts no shorter than 3” above the knee. White, Tan, Green or Navy Long Sleeve or Short Sleeve Dress Shirt or Polo Shirt. (Appropriate Tie/Dress Shirt.) Note: Rubber soled, closed shoes must be worn. Girls-Black, Khaki, Navy or Green Slacks, Skirt, Culottes, Split Skirt, or Camp style or Traditional walking style shorts no shorter than 3” above the knee. White, Tan, Green or Navy Dress Blouse or Polo - Long Sleeve, Short Sleeve, Sleeveless, but **NO TANK TOPS.** Note: Rubber soled, closed shoes must be worn.
4. All dogs must be currently immunized against Rabies, Parvo and Distemper as of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. MAIL PROOF OF SHOTS to Valerie Harlan. Proof of shots is any one of the following: Rabies Certificate, Health Certificate, Shot Record or Pharmaceutical Receipt. **ENTRIES NOT ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROOF OF SHOTS.**
5. All Dogs must be licensed for the current year. MAIL COPY OF LICENSE to Valerie Harlan. **ENTRIES NOT ACCEPTED WITHOUT PROOF OF LICENSE.**
6. Dogs must have been trained by the 4-H member. A dog may be borrowed from a family member or neighbor. All dogs, owners and handlers should be registered in the 4-H office by May 1 of current year.
7. All dog show participants must have some type of dog training classes-either 4-H or otherwise and proof thereof. If the participant does not attend training classes, this must be approved by the dog show superintendents prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. The participant must have knowledge of and practice all of the required patterns and skills in order to participate in the 4-H dog show.
8. Dogs must be groomed by the 4-H member. In those breeds where specified stripping or clipping is required for AKC competition, adult or professional assistance is permitted. No artificial preparations may be left on the dog.
9. Exhibitors and their dogs may not practice in the Dog show area, including the Show Ring, prior to the dog show. On the day of the dog show - practice is permitted **ONLY** in the designated practice area.
10. During the dog show dogs are not permitted in other animal areas. Only dogs entered in the dog show are permitted in the dog area. After completion of class(es) dogs may be excused. After completion of dog show all dogs must be removed from Fairgrounds. **Reminder!!** All participants and parents are required to help set up and tear down the ring after all classes are completed. (Both obedience and fitting and showing rings).
11. Dogs must be six months of age in order to compete.
12. Mixed breed or unregistered purebreds may be entered in the show.
13. Female dogs in season may not compete in any obedience class and may not be in the building prior to fitting and showing classes.
14. AKC rules will be used ONLY AS A GUIDE in the judging.
15. Classes will be determined as: Junior 8-10 years old, Intermediate 11-13 years old, Senior 14-18 years old, as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
16. The judge may excuse from the ring any Dog or Handler who willfully interferes with another Handler or Dog, or abuses their Dog in or out of the ring; or any Dog that cannot be controlled or is obviously ill or lame.
17. The judge and superintendents have the right to remove any participant or parent that shows unsportsmanlike conduct during the show.
18. Good sportsmanship will be expected of all exhibitors and spectators.

Proposed Premium: \$5 participation per animal shown



## OBEDIENCE RULES

1. Only properly fitted plain buckle or slip collars are acceptable. NO PINCH COLLARS.
2. All Baltimore County 4-H Obedience show participants must provide a written statement, signed by their obedience trainer, that they have completed a training course or be evaluated by a trainer prior to the 4-H county show.
3. Beginner Classes are exclusively for 1<sup>st</sup> time exhibitors, who have begun training their dog after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
4. Any dog who has won an obedience class in a previous 4-H show in which there were two (2) or more dogs in the class, must go up in class in succeeding years, except Utility winners may continue to compete in Utility in succeeding years.
5. Any dog having competed in an AKC show in the Pre Novice/Novice class may not compete in the 4-H Beginner Novice class.
6. Dogs having competed in an AKC show in the Utility class must show in Pre Utility/Utility class.
7. Any dog holding an AKC CD degree may compete in the 4-H Graduate Novice or Pre Utility/Utility Classes ONLY.
8. Any dog holding an AKC CDX or Utility degree or won the Pre Utility class at a previous 4-H show, may only compete in the 4-H Utility class

### SECTION A – BEGINNER NOVICE (formerly Sub Novice A)

#### Exercise:

- **Heel on Leash** – show whether dog has learned to watch its handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- **Figure Eight**. – same as Heel on Leash but done in a Figure Eight pattern
- **Sit for Exam** – is of great benefit when the dog needs hands-on care by a veterinarian.
- **Sit Stay** – allows the handler to have control of the dog when visitors come to the home
- **Recall** – provides the handler with the ability to call the dog and get an immediate response at all times.

#### Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31101	31201	31301	Beginner Obedience

### SECTION B – PRE-NOVICE (formerly Sub Novice B)

#### Exercise:

- **Heel on Leash** – show whether dog has learned to watch its handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- **Stand for Examination** – is of great benefit when the dog needs hands-on care by a veterinarian.
- **Heel Free** – done off leash.
- **Recall** – provides the handler with the ability to call the dog and get an immediate response at all times.
- **Stay-Sit or Down – Handler Walk Around the Ring** – allows the handler to have control of the dog when visitors come to the home

#### Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31102	31202	31302	Pre-Novice Obedience

**ONLINE ENTRIES**—be prepared to type

**Animal Name**

**Breed**

**Male or Female**

**DOB – date of birth**

**Current Rabies Tag #**

### SECTION C – NOVICE

#### Exercise:-

- **Heel on Leash and Figure Eight** – show whether the dog has learned to watch its handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- **Heel Free** – done off leash.
- **Stand for Examination** – is of great benefit when the dog needs hands-on care by a veterinarian.
- **Recall** – provides the handler with the ability to call the dog and get an immediate response at all times.
- **Long Sit (1 minute)** – allows the handler to have control of the dog when visitors come to the home.
- **Long Down (3 minutes)** – dog must remain in down position.

#### Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31103	31203	31303	Novice Obedience

### SECTION D - GRADUATE NOVICE

#### Exercise

- **Heel on Leash and Figure Eight (off leash)** – show whether the dog has learned to watch its handler and adjust its pace to stay with the handler.
- **Drop on Recall** – can be a lifesaving command for a dog, since it gives handler control in potentially dangerous situations
- **Dumbbell Recall** – this exercise is performed like Novice Recall but with the dog holding a dumbbell.
- **Recall Over High Jump.**
- **Recall Over Broad Jump.**
- **Long Down (3 minutes)** – dog must remain in down position.

#### Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31104	31204	31304	Graduate Novice Obedience

### SECTION E - GRADUATE OPEN (new)

#### Exercise:

- **Signal Exercise** – shows the dog's ability to understand and correctly respond to the handler's signal to stand, stay, down, sit and come. No voice commands are given; only hand signals are allowed.
- **Scent Discrimination** – shows the dog's ability to find the handler's scent among a pile of articles.
- **Directed Retrieve** – proves the dog's ability to follow a directional signal to retrieve a glove and promptly return it to the handler.
- **Moving Stand and Examination** – the dog must heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away. The dog must stay and accept an examination by the judge and return to the handler on command.
- **Go Out** – show the ability to send the dog away and stop as directed.
- **Directed Jumping** – the dog must go away from the handler, turn and sit. Then, the dog must clear whichever jump its handler indicates and promptly return to the handler.

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31105	31205	31305	Graduate Open Obedience

**SECTION F – PRE-OPEN (new)**

**Exercise:**

- **Heel Free and Figure Eight** – Same as Novice, but off leash.
- **Drop on Recall** – can be a lifesaving command for a dog, since it gives the handler control in potentially dangerous situations.
- **Retrieve on Flat**
- **Retrieve Over High Jump**
- **Broad Jump**

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31106	31206	31306	Pre-Open Obedience

**SECTION G – OPEN**

**Exercise:**

- **Heel Free and Figure Eight** – Same as Novice, but off leash.
- **Drop on Recall** – can be lifesaving command for a dog, since it gives the handler control in potentially dangerous situations.
- **Retrieve on Flat**
- **Retrieve Over High Jump**
- **Broad Jump**
- **Long Sit (3 minutes)** – similar to the long sit in Novice, but the position must be held for a longer period of time with the handler out of the dog's sight.
- **Long Down (5 minutes)** – dog must remain in down position

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31107	31207	31307	Open Obedience

**SECTION H – PRE-UTILITY – As Needed**

**Exercise:**

- **Signal Exercise** – shows the dog's ability to understand and correctly respond to handler's signal to stand, stay, down, sit and come. No voice commands are given; only hand signals are allowed.
- **Scent Discrimination** – shows the dog's ability to find the handler's scent among a pile of articles.
- **Directed Retrieve** – proves dog's ability to follow a directional signal to retrieve a glove and promptly return it to the handler.
- **Moving Stand and Examination** – dog must heel, stand and stay as handler moves away. Dog must stay and accept an examination by judge and return to the handler on command.
- **Directed Jumping** – the dog must go away from the handler, turn and sit. Then, the dog must clear whichever jump its handler indicates and promptly return to the handler.

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31108	31208	31308	Pre-Utility Obedience

**SECTION I – UTILITY - As Needed**

**Exercise:**

- **Signal Exercise** – shows the dog's ability to understand and correctly respond to handler's signal to stand, stay, down, sit and come. No voice commands are given; only hand signals are allowed.
- **Scent Discrimination** – shows the dog's ability to find the handler's scent among a pile of articles.
- **Directed Retrieve** – proves dog's ability to follow a directional signal to retrieve a glove and promptly return it to the handler.
- **Moving Stand and Examination** – dog must heel, stand and stay as the handler moves away. Dog must stay and accept an examination by judge and return to the handler on command.
- **Directed Jumping** – the dog must go away from the handler, turn and sit. Then, the dog must clear whichever jump its handler indicates and promptly return to the handler.

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31109	31209	31309	Utility Obedience

**FITTING & SHOWING RULES**

1. **Showmanship**  
Exhibitors should be able to show their dogs at an appropriate gait and pattern, show the dogs' bite on request of the Judge, stand their dogs in an acceptable pose to permit examination by the judge and circle the ring alone and in a group and do patterns asked by the judge.
2. **Fitting**
  - a. Equipment - Appropriate for the breed.
  - b. Grooming - Dogs should be clean (including ears, teeth & gums) with coats well brushed and free of mats and external parasites. Nails should be clipped. Allowance will be made for unavoidable surface dirt due to wet weather.
  - c. Temperament; friendly, neither shy or aggressive.
3. **Judging**
  - a. Based on the condition, temperament, grooming and presentation of the dog, neatness of the exhibitor, attentiveness to the judge and an ability to follow the judge's direction.
  - b. Performance of a dog will be marked down only if it obviously interferes with another exhibitor's dog.
4. **Classes**
  - a. Section E, Beginner Classes are exclusively for 1<sup>st</sup> time exhibitors, who have begun training and handling their dog after Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of current year.
  - b. Any dog who has won a Novice Class in a previous 4-H show must move up to the Open A Classes in succeeding years.
  - c. AKC Jr. or Sr. "Junior Handlers" may compete in the Open B classes ONLY. They may enter second Dog in Open A Classes.
  - d. Open B classes are for exhibitors who have won Open A or B in previous years and who may remain in Open B in succeeding years.

**SECTION J - Novice**

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31110	31210	31310	Novice A Fitting & Showing
31111	31211	31311	Novice B Fitting & Showing

**SECTION K – Open**

Classes

JR	INT	SR	
31112	31212	31312	Open A Fitting & Showing
31113	31213	31313	Open B Fitting & Showing

**SECTION L – Dog Agility**

Class

31000	Dog Agility Contest
-------	---------------------

**DOG DEPARTMENT–STATE FAIR QUALIFICATIONS**

Handlers may show in only one Obedience class and one Fitting and Showing class. Handlers may use the same or different dog for Obedience and Fitting and Showing. Dogs exhibited at the State 4-H Dog Show must be trained by the individual 4-Her showing said dog(s) and project must be registered by May 1 of the current year.

4-H'ers will be officially notified by the County 4-H office if selected to participate at State Fair. You may call the 4-H office at 410-887-8090, if you have questions or need information about your participation at State Fair.