

# Howard County 4-H Dog Show Rules 2010

## General Rules

1. This dog show will follow AKC rules unless otherwise specified.
2. Mixed breed or unregistered dogs are eligible for competition in this show.
3. Exhibitors will compete according to their 4-H Age: Junior (ages 8-10 as of January 1); Intermediate (11-13 as of January 1); Senior (14-18 as of January 1).
4. Proper show attire is required for all exhibitors. No blue jeans, shorts, spaghetti straps or short skirts.
5. Proof of a current rabies vaccination must accompany dog(s) at all times.
6. For Exhibition Only–FEO–means that an exhibitor may exhibit as a participant (not a competitor) in any class for which he or she is not eligible. No prizes or class placements will be awarded. FEO is for practice only.
7. Dogs must be trained exclusively by the 4-H member and must have a Maryland 4-H Club Dog Identification Card on file with the County 4-H office.
8. Dogs must be on leash and under the control of the 4-Her at all times.
9. Only project dogs may be on the show grounds during a Howard County 4-H Dog Show. Dogs must be removed from the Howard County Fairgrounds after the show is completed.
10. Any dog with a known history of aggression or requiring a muzzle will not be allowed in this 4-H Dog Show. Owners will be liable for any dog that bites. A dog that bites will be disqualified immediately and MUST be removed from the grounds promptly after owner completes a report with the show secretary.
11. Owners will be required to clean up after their own dog.
12. All handlers and dogs must have successfully completed Happy Hounds sponsored training classes prior to entry for each division, i.e., Obedience, Fitting and Showing, Agility, Rally.
13. Multiple members of the same family, or those with a performance animal lease on file, may show the same dog but in different divisions (i.e., Fitting and Showing, Obedience, Agility, Rally).
14. All exhibitors must carry the Howard County 4-H dog project.

## Obedience Rules

15. Exhibitors may compete with two different dogs in Obedience, but they must be shown in different classes at the same age level.
16. Any dog that has won an Obedience class with an AKC Qualifying score (170) in a previous 4-H State Fair Dog Show must move up a division (e.g., Pre-novice to Novice) or move up in age group (e.g., Junior to Intermediate). Advancement will be at the discretion of the local 4-H Dog Project Leader. Once a dog advances to a higher level, it cannot move back to a lower level. An exception will be made for First Year Pre-Novice classes.
17. All dogs in the Obedience ring must wear a properly fitted collar approved by the judge. No special training collars, such as electronic or prong collars will be allowed. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.
18. Obedience Categories
  - a. *First Year Pre-Novice* - Exhibitors who are in the first year of training their first dog are eligible to compete in this class
  - b. *Pre-Novice* – Dogs which have earned one leg towards their CD (Companion Dog) title from the AKC or any equivalent title from another registry may NOT compete in this class.
  - c. *Novice* – Dogs which have earned a CD title from the AKC or any equivalent title from another registry may NOT compete in this class.
  - d. *Graduate Novice* – Dogs which have obtained a CD title from the AKC or an equivalent title from another registry are eligible to compete in this class as long as they have not earned any legs (qualifying scores) toward a CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) title. Dogs that have placed 1st with an AKC Qualifying score (170) in a Novice obedience class at a previous 4-H State Fair Dog Show whose handlers cannot be moved up in age group or division, may compete in this class or participate FEO.

## Fitting and Showmanship Rules

19. Exhibitors may compete with only one dog in one Fitting and Showmanship class.
20. Fitting and Showmanship categories
  - a. *First Year Novice* – Exhibitors who are in the first year of training and showing their first dog are eligible to compete in this class.
  - b. *Novice* – Exhibitors (handler) who have previously placed first, second or third in a Novice Fitting and Showmanship class in a previous 4-H State Fair Dog Show are not eligible for this class and must compete in the appropriate Open Fitting and Showmanship class.
  - c. *Open* – This class represents advanced Fitting and Showmanship. Any exhibitor may enter this class regardless of experience. Once an exhibitor competes in an Open Fitting and Showmanship class at a 4-H State Fair Dog show, they can no longer compete in Novice.

- d. *Dean's Champion Challenge* – Senior Open Fitting and Showing Champions from previous years may compete in this class. Exhibitors who have been named Champion of the previous year's State Fair 4-H Dog Show in Fitting and Showing classes also may compete in this class.

Howard County *and* all other 4-H Dog Shows are designed to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in the 4-H Dog project to demonstrate their knowledge of dog training in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. We hope to provide a pleasant show experience for *all* exhibitors, and to encourage good sportsmanship by all.

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