



# **2024 DOG PROJECT** **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**



**Species-Chair:**

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<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>		<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	
Registration	June 3, 2024	Record Book	Required Due: 9/09/24

*Participating 4-H youth must abide by all general rules and regulations listed in the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's Policies & Procedures books and the Premium Book of the Northwestern Michigan Fair. This includes, but is not limited to, Code of Conducts, registration deadlines, showmanship and market requirements, record book and thank you letter requirements, etc.*

## **Registration Requirements**

- ◆ To participate in a 4-H dog project, youth must attain the age of five (5) or older by January 1<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year, be a current member of a dog project group, and be registered with 4-H Online 2.0
  - Members who are 5-7 years of age will participate in the 4-H Cloverbud program and will have their own Cloverbud classes.
- ◆ All dog program participants, including Cloverbuds, MUST complete the online registration via the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council's website NO LATER THAN midnight the first Monday of June.
- ◆ To participate in the 4-H shows at the fair, youth must follow all registration requirements listed in the Northwestern Michigan Fair's Premium Book.

## **Animal Requirements**

- ◆ Members may show only ONE obedience, ONE showmanship, ONE rally, and ONE agility class. A member may use no more than 2 dogs.
- ◆ Two competitors cannot show the same dog except Cloverbuds.
- ◆ Female dogs in season will NOT be allowed to show at the fair.
- ◆ Dogs with a physical disability, such as the loss of an eye or leg, will be allowed to show if a statement of fitness is provided by the veterinarian.
- ◆ Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior or lameness may be excused from the show event.

## **Fair Week Requirements**

- ◆ Dogs are NOT allowed in the barns, midway or food court area of the fairgrounds.
- ◆ Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals.
- ◆ A copy of each dog's immunization record is required to be turned in PRIOR to show day.

- Dogs are REQUIRED to be vaccinated for Distemper/Parvovirus/Adenovirus (Hepatitis), Rabies, AND Leptospirosis.
- Bordetella immunizations are highly recommended.
- ◆ Appropriate collars and leashes will be required in each class. You CANNOT have dog tags on the collars.
  - In Showmanship class, use a showmanship leash; it is best if it matches your dog's coloring as closely as possible.
  - In Obedience class, use a buckle collar, chain collar, martingale collar, or snap collar and a 6 ft leash (this is for pre-novice class).
  - In an Agility class, use a buckle collar and leash.
  - Dogs running in off-leash classes shall remain on leash until in the ring. The leash will be handed to the leash runner for Agility or placed where instructed by the judge for Rally & Obedience.
- ◆ Show attire:
  - Clothing worn in the show ring shall not draw undue attention to oneself or distract other handlers, spectators, or judges.
  - Blue jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, halter tops, low-cut blouses/sweaters, and mini-skirts, are not allowed. Shorts are permitted for Agility, Rally, and Obedience if the Specie Chair determines temperatures warrant. Shorts shall be no shorter than the bottom of fingertips when arms are extended at sides. Shorts are not permitted for Showmanship."
  - If wearing a skirt, it is recommended it be loose.
  - Skirts and dresses must be a respectable length.
    - Respectable length is defined as being as long or longer than the tips of the individual's finger when arms are fully extended at their side.
  - NO sandals, boots, or high heels.
  - NO clothing with club name and/or personal identification will be allowed.

### **After Fair Requirements**

- ◆ All dog program participants must turn in a completed record book at the September Livestock Council meeting to the specie chair.
- ◆ Failure to submit a completed record book at the September meeting WILL result in suspension from the 4-H Livestock classes held during the NW MI Fair the following year. Suspended youth who complete their record book and submit it to the 4-H Livestock Council by the November meeting that same year will again be eligible to register for 4-H Livestock classes held during the NW MI Fair the following year.

### **Tips**

- ◆ The dog should be well-matched to the exhibitor and not exceed what the 4-H member can handle.