



# **2025 DOG PROJECT** **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**



**Species-Chair:**

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<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>		<b>IMPORTANT INFO</b>	
Registration	June 3, 2025	Record Book	Due: 9/09/25

*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.
- ◆ **Per State 4-H Rules, all dogs must be at least one (1) year of age or older to show and compete in 4-H Dog Agility Events. Dogs must be at least six (6) months of age or older to compete in 4-H Dog Obedience, Rally, and Showmanship Events.**
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ **Animals shall be treated humanely at all times. Any reports of unethical, inhumane, and/or abusive treatment or actions that cause distress and/or suffering to an animal will be evaluated by the Species Chair, Fair Superintendent, Fair Veterinarian, and/or other appropriate individuals and may lead to disqualification and removal from all 4-H and Open Livestock Shows held at the fair.**

## **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.
  - Retractable leashes are NOT PERMITTED in ANY 4-H Dog competition with Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council. Youth will be automatically disqualified if they come to competition with a retractable leash due to safety concerns.
  - 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 (& on leash portions of Beginner Novice).
- ◆ 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**

- ◆ Youth are required to turn in one completed record book (showmanship or market). If youth are exhibiting in market or in multiple species, you are required to complete the record book for your market project.
  - **Examples:** Jane shows beef cattle in showmanship and market; Jane completes a record book in beef cattle. John shows swine, horses, and goats, and markets his hog; John completes a record book for hogs. Sally shows chickens, rabbits, and dogs all showmanship only, and decides to complete the record book for rabbits.
- ◆ Failure to submit a completed, hard copy record book at the September Livestock Council meeting WILL result in suspension from the 4-H Livestock classes held

during the NWMI 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 NWMI Fair the following year.

**Tips**

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

