Texas 4-H Dog Care & Training Project

Project Description

The 4-H dog project is an excellent way for young people to develop a love for animals, gain valuable skills, and contribute positively to their communities. It combines practical knowledge with hands-on experiences to promote personal growth and responsibility in youth participants.

Youth will also learn about daily care and health of their dog, and being a “dog foster parent.” Youth can even do community service or competitions with their dog. Most important of all is having fun as you build a bond with your dog and make friends who love dogs too!

Basic
- Own a dog
- Own a foster, therapy, or guide dog
- Responsibility: Take on the responsibility of caring for a dog, which includes feeding, exercising, and ensuring the well-being of the animal
- Health Care: Learn the nutritional needs, grooming, and overall health care of dogs. Participants may also learn about veterinary care and preventive measures
- Community Service: Engage in community service projects related to dogs, such as organizing educational events or providing assistance to local animal shelters

Intermediate
- Breed Knowledge: Learning about different dog breeds, their characteristics, and the specific needs of each breed
- Training: Learn how to train and handle dogs, teaching basic commands, and developing a positive relationship with their canine companions

Advanced
- Leadership - Assist younger members with their projects
- Explore careers with dogs
- Canine Good Citizenship testing
TAKE DOG CARE & TRAINING FURTHER

Project Learning Opportunities:

- Open Educational Presentations
- Public Speaking Contests
- Texas 4-H Dog Show
  - Classes (Obedience, Confirmation, Rally, Showmanship, Tricks, Costume, Drill, Tricks, Dog Olympics
  - Dog Skill-a-thon
  - Photography Contest
  - Canine Good Citizen Testing
- Participate in clinics and/or shows in your community/around the state
- Volunteer at a local kennel
- Research dog breeds and characteristics

Resources:

- Texas 4-H Dog Show Rules and Guidelines
- American Kennel Club- https://www.akc.org/

Did you know?

4-H is a club for kids and teens to develop life skills and make friends. Youth can join 4-H in all 254 counties. Everybody ages 8-18 and in 3rd-12th grades can join 4-H. Kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grades can join as Clover Kids. There are 43 different project areas in five project categories: Agriculture & Livestock, Family & Community Health, Leadership & Citizenship, Natural Resources, and STEM.

Want to get started?

First...Contact your County Extension Agent!
- Contact information can be found at texas4-h.tamu.edu > contacts information at the bottom of the page > county offices

Explore more at texas4-h.tamu.edu

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