

# DOG SKILL-A-THON

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## Overview

The State 4-H Dog Skill-A-Thon is an opportunity for youth interested in dogs to compete using knowledge gained in the 4-H Dog Project. The purpose of the competition is to:

- Help youth learn the techniques of logical and accurate decision making
- Teach youth to recognize the reasons for their decisions.
- Help youth with career guidance.
- Encourage 4-H members to assume responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- Encourage 4-H members to establish goals and determine a course of action that will assist them in accomplishing those goals.

## Eligibility

This contest is open to all youth enrolled in the Wyoming 4-H Program. Members are not required to exhibit animals at a show. Eligibility will be determined through 4-H Plus.

## Teams

Teams shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of four (4) members. There is no limit on the number of teams that can be entered in each age division. All members competing on a team must be within the age requirements of Junior (8-13) or Senior (14-18) for their respective team. If there are not enough members to complete a team, they may judge as individuals.

## Individuals

All members, regardless of whether or not they are on a team, will also compete as individuals. Counties not having enough members to fill a team are encouraged to send individuals to participate in the contest. There is no limit to the number of individuals able to compete in the contest. Individual age groups will be Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18).

## **Contest**

The contest will consist of four parts. The first part will be in Jeopardy fashion where participants will answer 25 questions appropriate for their age category (junior, intermediate, senior). Questions will have a point value between 1 and 5 and each individual will accumulate points as they answer questions.

The second part will be breed identification. Participants will be required to name the breed and group in which the dog belongs. Contestants will receive one point for each correctly identified breed and one point for each correctly identified group. Only AKC recognized breeds in the main seven recognized groups (Sporting, Non-Sporting, Toy, Terrier, Hound, Working, and Herding) will be used. Juniors and intermediates will identify 25 breeds and seniors will identify 50 breeds.

The third part of the contest will consist of identifying the correct parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog. Juniors and intermediates will be asked to correctly identify the parts of a dog and the internal organs of a dog. Seniors will be asked to correctly identify the parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog. One point will be given for each correct answer.

The fourth part of the contest will consist of a skill-a-thon (hands-on). Contestants will be asked questions, scenarios or identify topics related to subject areas including show ring, anatomy (foot, foot bones, pads and phalanges), breed specific information (images and traits), animal care and management (behavioral postures, parasites, muzzling, bathing, nail trimming, lifting, health care, licensing, and records), conformation (bites, ears, and eyes; feet, pasterns, and stifles; front and rear legs and tails), equipment (care and grooming) and facility management (safety and sanitation issues). One point will be given for each correct answer.

## **Awards**

Awards will be given to the top three teams in each age division (junior and senior) and to the top ten individuals in each age division.

If you are interested in supporting the Wyoming 4-H Program, please contact:

**Wyoming State 4-H Foundation**  
**Steve Mack, Director**  
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3354  
Laramie, WY 82071  
**Phone: 307.766.5170**  
**Email: [smack@uwyo.edu](mailto:smack@uwyo.edu)**

## **Study Materials**

Youth, coaches, county educators, and parents are encouraged to utilize the 4-H dog curriculum as study materials - *Wiggles and Wags*, *Canine Connection*, and *Leading the Pack*. The Dog Learning Laboratory Kit distributed through the Ohio Agriculture Education Curriculum Materials Service (available at county extension offices) and the American Kennel Club (AKC) website ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) also contains information and breed pictures that may be helpful in preparing for the Skill-A-Thon. Questions may include subject areas such as parasites, grooming, showing in each dog class, parts, internal organs, skeletal structure, breed identification, anatomy, breed specific information, etc.

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[www.Wyoming4H.org](http://www.Wyoming4H.org)