



WYOMING
DOG SHOW
GUIDELINES



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College of Agriculture
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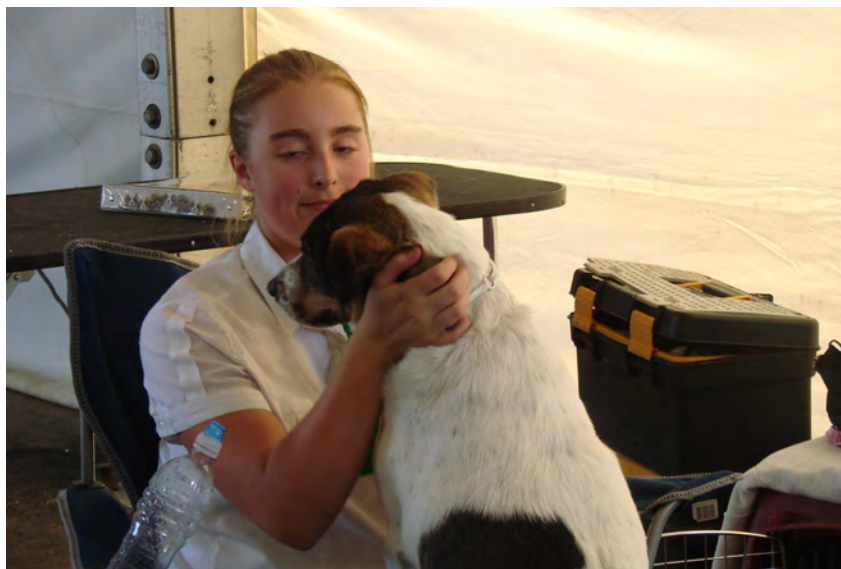
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Introduction

The Wyoming 4-H Program provides educational opportunities for youth to learn about a variety of topics. The dog project focuses on learning about the science, health, care, and overall dog fancy as well as the nature of it being a lifelong hobby. One of the outputs created by educating youth are opportunities for them to compete with each other to share their acquired skills. Dog shows, fairs, and expos provide wonderful opportunities for youth to compete and, in some instances, receive recognition for their accomplishments.

This guide has been designed to help establish consistent guidelines for 4-H dog shows throughout Wyoming. This information is for 4-H members, volunteers, and judges on the state and county level. This guide is not a complete list of possibilities offered to youth within the 4-H program. It does provide limited direction to help 4-H volunteers, parents, and youth to understand the parameters created for 4-H youth to compete under and serves as a main reference for the State 4-H Dog Show.

There are a variety of competitive opportunities sponsored or endorsed by 4-H. Youth, parents, and volunteers are encouraged to read closely the rules related to any competitive dog event in which they plan to compete. Eligibility, competitive classes, and awards are typically listed as well as information on entries, fees, facilities, and other rules that may apply.

Showmanship

Intent

Showmanship is concerned with how well the dog is presented by the handler to the judge. The handler and dog should appear to be a team. They should work well together, move fluidly, and give an overall picture of being one unit. Neither the dog's conformation nor its being purebred is important. The handler must convey knowledge and understanding of the dog's breed or the breed which the dog most resembles. The handler should present the dog according to the chosen single breed standard.

Classes

Junior: This class is for 4-H youth ages 8–10 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

Intermediate: This class is for 4-H youth ages 11–13 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

Senior: This class is for 4-H youth ages 14–18 years old on January 1 of the current 4-H year.

Facilities/Space

Showmanship competitions need an unobstructed space of a size of 40 x 50 feet as a minimum. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space is needed of at least 8 feet for handlers to enter and exit the ring.

Equipment

- Leash and collar as appropriate for the show. No slip leads/kennel leads.
- Examining table for smaller breeds that usually are examined by the judge on a table.

Scoring and Evaluation

- No dogs under 6 months of age can participate in showmanship
- All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge. Judges are evaluating all aspects of the handler/dog duo including cleanliness, appearance, grooming, fluidity and movements, spacing, ring presence,

sportsmanship,
direction,
knowledge, and
attitude.

- Please reference the score sheets for specific exercises, major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class.



Show Ring Procedures and Processes

- When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.
- The procedure used is entirely at the judge's discretion but should be the same within a class; he/she will call handlers in as a group and may split a class based on number of entries. Judging begins when the handler and dog enter the ring.
- Handlers will be asked to demonstrate gaiting the dog with the rest of the class, presenting the dog in the standing position proper to its breed (the use of an examining table for those breeds normally judged on the table), and gaiting the dog individually following the applicable pattern. Patterns are at the discretion of the judge and she/he will ensure exhibitors are instructed regarding them.
- Dog must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.
- Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and, when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention. These should be used without distracting other exhibitors or the judge.
- Talking to the dog is permissible providing discretion is used.
- For breeds normally examined on the table, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog. Unless indicated otherwise, the handler should place the dog on the table while the preceding dog is being gaited.
- There should be no help, cues, nor communications to handlers or dogs from anyone outside the show ring.
- Please reference online for possible gaiting patterns and diagrams at www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/dogs.html.

Tips and Suggestions

- Youth should dress professionally and appear neat and well-groomed. Clothing should complement the dog and handler team while not distracting the judge, other handlers, or other dogs. Sunglasses, hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.
- Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge.
- At the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy, or honor turn, is optional.
- The handler should know where the judge is at all times and be certain not to block the judge's view of the dog. Be alert, since the judge may use hand motions instead of a voice request.
- Conversation in the ring should be limited only to the judge.

Obedience

Intent

Obedience classes provide youth with a chance to demonstrate specific skills they have instilled in their dog. These classes take into consideration the experiences of the dogs and place them into similar competitive classes regardless of the age of the youth. Obedience classes take a team effort to be successful.

Classes

The classes are progressively more challenging. A dog competing in one class for the year most likely would advance to the next class, or higher class the next year. (See Scoring and Evaluation section for more on advancement)

- **First Year Beginner Novice** — The first year class is for members who are in their first year of the dog project, not the first year with a new dog. Members may compete in the first year beginner novice class only once.
- **On Leash** — For dogs that have not received a novice obedience title from another organization.
- **Novice** (on and off leash) — For dogs that have not received a novice obedience title from another organization or have received three

qualifying scores from On Leash classes at the designated annual county 4-H show.

- **Graduate Novice** (on and off leash) — For dogs that have received a novice obedience title from another organization or have received three qualifying scores from Novice classes at the designated annual county 4-H show, but have not received a second level obedience title.
- **Open** (off leash) — For dogs that have received a novice obedience title from another organization or have received three qualifying scores from Graduate classes at the designated annual county 4-H show, but have not received a second level obedience title.
- **Utility** (off leash) — For dogs that have received an open level obedience title from another organization or have received three qualifying scores from Open classes at the designated annual county 4-H show.

Facilities/Space

Obedience competitions need an unobstructed space of a size of 40 feet x 50 feet as a minimum. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space is needed of at least 8 feet for handlers to enter and exit the ring.

Equipment

- Mats are needed if ring surface is not grass or dirt.
- A member must show their dog with a 6-foot leash where applicable. The collar must be a choke collar, flat collar, or a rolled collar.
- Judge approved dumbbell that is not made of metal, soft woods, or covered in a toxic material.
- Needed for Graduate Novice, Open and Utility classes: High/Panel jump(s) capable of meeting heights from 8 inches (minimum height) to 16 inches (maximum height) in 2 inch increments.
- Needed for Open and Utility classes: Broad Jump(s) capable of meeting distances from 8 inches (minimum distance) to 24 inches (maximum distance) using three boards.
- Needed for Utility classes: Youth handler must provide two sets of five, identical articles not more than 6 inches in length and individually numbered 1– 5: one made entirely of rigid metal and the other made leather. Tongs and a bag may be helpful as well.
- Needed for Utility classes: Youth handler must provide three, predominately white, cotton “work-type” gloves.

Scoring and Evaluation

- No dogs under 6 months of age can participate in obedience.
- Please reference the score sheets for specific exercises, major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class.
- Dogs are evaluated based on their performance related to specific commands, skills, challenges associated with class in which they are competing. Each class has its own score sheet and each is scored with a maximum score of 200 points.
- A dog receiving a qualifying score of at least 170 points at the designated annual county 4-H show may advance the following year to the next higher class, but **MUST** advance after receiving three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show. Once the higher level of obedience is selected for the dog, the member may not drop back/down to a lower level with the same dog.
- Dogs soiling or urinating in the ring during judging will be disqualified and receive no score.
- Handlers are not allowed to use bait (treats), and/or toys. The use of such items will result in a no score.
- The judge may, at his/her discretion, verify the height at withers of any dog.
- Jump heights/distances to be used:

Dog's height at withers	Jump height	Broad jump
Less than 10 inches	8 inches	1 board*
10 inches – less than 15 inches	10 inches	2 boards*
15 inches – less than 20 inches	12 inches	3 boards*
20 inches and over	16 inches	3 boards*

* 1 board = 8 inches in width

Show Ring Procedures and Processes

- A 4-H member may compete in only one obedience class per dog.
- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.
- Male and female dogs will be shown in the same class. Youth must inform show management/judge if competing with a female in heat. Females in heat will be shown last in the class and must be kept away from the show ring until their turn to compete.
- For class entries, an “A” dog is a youth’s first entered animal, while a “B” dog is a second/additional/different animal. An exhibitor who competes in the “A” classes with a particular dog stays in the “A” classes with that particular dog for each level to which they advance. The same is true for the “B” classes. Example: Some dog advances from the On Leash A class to the Novice A class.
- A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in agility by another 4-H member, has a standard agility title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:
 - a. Junior and Intermediate aged 4-H youth may move back/down one level.
 - b. Senior aged 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.
- Demonstrated skill components include:

Class	Skills
First Year Beginner Novice	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Sit for Exam, Recall, Sit/Stay
On Leash	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Stand for Examination, Recall, Long Sit, Long Down
Novice	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (on leash), Stand for Examination, Heel Free, Recall, Long Sit, Long Down
Graduate Novice	Heel on Leash, Figure 8 (off leash), Stand for Examination, Heel Free, Recall over High Jump, Long Sit , Long Down
Open	Heel Free, Figure 8 (off leash), Drop on Recall, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve over High Jump, Broad Jump, Long Sit, Long Down
Utility	Signal Exercise, Scent Discrimination (two articles), Directed Retrieve, Moving Stand and Examination, Directed Jumping

Heel on Leash: (*First Year*) The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise will be “Forward” and “Exercise Finished”. Rally signs will be used for this exercise. Signs to be used are #5-“Right turn,” #6-“Left turn,” #8-“About turn,” #17-“Slow,” #19-“Normal,” #18-“Fast,” and #3-“Halt/Sit.” “Fast” means that the handler must run, and the handler and dog must move forward at a noticeably accelerated speed. Turns will be used only when the handler is moving at a normal speed.

Both change of pace signs must be followed by a normal sign. Turn signs may be placed in any sequence and may be repeated. Two of each turn sign must be available for the judge’s use. The “Halt/ Sit” sign will be used once at the end of the exercise. The judge should standardize the heeling pattern for all dogs in the class.

The leash may be held in either hand or in both hands, but the hands must be held in natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash and use of any extra commands and /or signals will be penalized.

The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash and stand with the dog sitting in the heel position. The judge will ask if the handler is ready before giving the order, “Forward.” The handler may give a command or signal to heel and will walk briskly and naturally with the dog on a loose leash. The dog should walk close to the handler’s left side without swinging wide, lagging, forging, or crowding. The dog must not interfere with the handler’s freedom of motion at any time. At the “Halt/ Sit” sign, the handler will stop. The dog shall sit straight and promptly in the heel position without command or signal. The judge will order, “Exercise finished” at the completion of this exercise.

Heel on Leash: (*On Leash, Novice, Graduate Novice, Open*) The handler will enter the ring with the dog on a loose leash. The handler will stand still, with the dog sitting at heel at the left side, until the judge asks whether the handler is ready and gives the order, “Forward.” The handler may attract the dog’s attention by saying its name and give the command or signal to heel. At the same time, the handler will start walking briskly with the dog on loose leash.

At the command or signal to heel, the dog will walk close to the left side without crowding, permitting the handler freedom of motion at all times. At each order to “Halt,” the handler will stop and the dog will sit smartly at heel without command or signal. Any tightening or jerking of the leash

– or any act, signal, or command which, in the opinion of the judge, give the dog unnecessary assistance – will be penalized.

The judge will give the orders “Forward,” “Halt,” “Right turn,” “Left turn,” “About turn,” “Normal,” “Slow,” and “Fast.” These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated. In executing the “About turn,” the handler will do a “Right about turn” in all cases.

The handler may hold the leash in either hand or in both hands.

Heel Free: (*Novice, Graduate Novice, Open*) This will be performed as Heel on Leash, except that the dog is off leash and no Figure 8 is required.

Figure 8: (*First Year*) The principal feature of this exercise is the ability of the dog and handler to work as a team. The orders for this exercise are: “Forward,” “Halt,” and “Exercise Finished.”

For the Figure Eight, the handler will stand and the dog will sit in heel position facing the judge, midway between the two stewards, who will be standing 8 feet apart. The Figure Eight will be performed on Leash; the handler may go around either steward first. After the judge asks, “Are you ready?” and gives the order, “Forward,” the handler and dog will walk briskly around and between the two stewards twice. There will be no about turn, fast or slow, but the judge must order at least one halt during this exercise and another halt at the end. After each halt, it is permissible for the handler to give a command or signal to heel before moving forward again.

A onetime single phrase of praise or encouragement, by the handler to the dog, will be allowed without penalty.

Figure 8: (*On Leash, Novice*) On specific orders from the judge to “Forward,” the handler will walk around between two stewards or objects that are about 8 feet apart.

This exercise will be conducted the same as Heel on Leash, except there will be no about turn, fast, or slow in the Figure 8. The handler and the dog will go twice completely around the Figure 8, and the judge will order at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise. The handler may travel the Figure 8 in either direction.

For Graduate Novice and Open classes the Figure 8 is actually performed off leash.

Sit for Examination: (*First Year*) The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog sits in position before and during the examination without displaying resentment. Orders are: “Sit your dog and leave when you are ready,” “Back to your Dog” and “Exercise finished.”

This exercise is to be performed with the dog on a 6 foot leash.

On the judge’s order, the handler will command the dog to sit. The handler will then stand with the dog sitting in the heel position, give the command and /or signal to stay, walk straight forward about 6 feet to the end of the leash, turn and face the dog.

The judge will approach the dog from the front. Using the fingers and palm of one hand, the judge will touch only the dog’s head, On the order “Back to your dog,” the handler will walk around behind the dog and return to the heel position. The handler may gather the leash at any time while returning to the dog. The dog must remain sitting until the judge has said, “Exercise finished.”

Stand for Examination: (*On Leash*) The judge will give the order “Stand the dog and leave when ready,” and the handler will stand or pose the dog and, without further order from the judge, give the command and/or signal to “Stay”; walk forward about 6 feet, turn around and stand facing the dog. The leash will be loose and clear the floor when the handler is in position. The judge will touch the dog’s head, body, and hindquarters only, and then give the order, “Back to the dog,” whereupon the handler will walk around behind the dog to the heel position. The dog must stand in position until the judge says, “Exercise finished.” The dog must show no shyness or resentment.

For Novice and Graduate Novice classes, the handler moves a distance of about 6 feet in front of the dog before turning. This exercise is performed off leash.

Moving Stand and Examination: (*Utility*) The principal features of the exercise are that the dog heel,





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stand, and stay on command as the handler walk, accept the examination without shyness or resentment, and on command, return to the handler.

Orders for the exercise are “Forward,” “Stand the dog,” given while the handler is walking, and “Call the dog to heel.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in the heel position at a point indicated by the judge. The judge will ask, “Are you ready?” and order, “Forward.” The handler will command or signal the dog to heel and will walk briskly at a normal pace. After the handler has proceeded about 10 feet, the judge will order, “Stand the dog.” The handler will, without pausing, commands or signals the dog to stand, then the handler will continue forward 10–12 feet and turn around, either to the right or left, and stand facing the dog. The dog must stand and stay in position.

The judge will approach the dog from the front and examines the dog by going over it with her/his hands as in dog show judging, except that under no circumstances will the examination include the dog’s mouth or testicles.

The judge will then order, “Call the dog to heel,” whereupon the handler commands or signals the dog to return to the heel position. The dog immediately returns in a brisk manner to the proper heel position beside the handler.

Recall: (*First Year*) The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stay where left until called by the handler, and that the dog responds promptly.

Orders are “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Exercise finished.” The 6-foot leash is left on for this exercise.

On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The handler will then walk forward, to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. On the judge’s order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly, at a brisk trot or gallop, and sit in front near the handler. The dog must be close enough to its handler so that the handler could touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. (No finish will be required of the dog by the handler.)

A onetime single phrase of praise or encouragement while the dog is coming to the handler will be allowed without penalty. (Good, yes, nice, super, great, atta boy/girl, are some examples of praise that would be allowed.)



Recall: (*On Leash*) To perform the Recall on Leash, the handler will stand still with the dog sitting at heel position.

Upon the order from the judge, “Leave the dog,” the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to “Stay,” and walk to the end of the leash and turn to face the dog. The judge will give the order, “Call the dog,” whereupon the handler will call or signal the dog to come, at the same time loosely reeling in the leash but putting no pull upon the dog. The dog must come in at a smart pace and sit directly in front of the handler. Upon order from the judge to “Finish,” the handler will give the command or signal to heel. The dog must go smartly to heel position.

Recall – Off Leash: (*Novice*) Stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Upon the judge’s order or signal to “Leave the dog,” the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to stay and walk toward the other end of the ring (about 35 feet). The handler will turn to face the dog with the hands hanging naturally at the sides. Upon order or signal from the

judge to “Call the dog,” the handler will call or signal the dog to come. The dog must come straight in at a brisk pace and sit straight, centered immediately in front of the feet and close enough so that the handler can readily touch its head without moving either foot or having to stretch forward. The dog is not to touch the handler nor sit between the feet. Upon order or signal from the judge to “Finish,” the handler will give the command or signal to heel. The dog must go directly to heel position and sit.

Recall Over High Jump: (*Graduate Novice*) The principal features of this exercise, in addition to those listed under the Recall exercise, are the dog’s response to the handler’s command or signal to come and jump over the high jump. (See Scoring and Evaluation). Orders for this exercise are “Leave your dog,” “Call your dog,” and “Finish”. The judge’s signal should be clear to the handler but not obvious or distracting to the dog. On order from the judge, the handler gives a command and/or signal for the dog to stay in the sit position while the handler walks forward and around the jump about 35 feet to the other end of the ring where he/she shall turn and stand in a natural manner facing his/her dog. On the judge’s order or signal, the handler gives the command or signal to “Come” and the dog must start directly in at a brisk trot or gallop and jump over the panel high jump. The dog then completes the exercise as in the Recall exercise.

Drop on Recall: (*Open*) The recall is performed as in the Recall off Leash class, with the following difference: As the dog is coming, the judge will give an arm or a hand signal for the handler to drop the dog. The dog must drop completely to a down position immediately on command or signal from the handler, and must remain in the down position until, on order or signal from the judge, the handler calls or signals the dog to come. The handler completes the recall as in the Recall off Leash class.

Sit Stay: (*First Year*) The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

Orders for this exercise are “Sit your dog,” “Leave your dog,” and “Exercise finished.”

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position. Prior to starting the exercise, the judge will ask if the handler is ready. The leash remains attached to the dog’s collar and will be dropped/placed on the ground between the dog and the handler. When the judge gives the

order “Sit your dog,” the handler will command and/or signal the dog to sit, if they are not already sitting. The judge will order “Leave your dog,” and the handler will give a command and/or signal to stay and immediately proceed to walk forward, approximately 6 feet, to a location as directed by the judge. The handler will then walk around the dog in a circle keeping 6 feet away, in a direction as indicated by the judge. Upon completing a full circle around the dog, the handler will approach the dog from the front, and proceed to walk around and in back of the dog to the heel position. Once the handler has returned to heel position, the judge will give the order “Exercise finished”

Long Sit: (*On Leash, Novice*) All dogs in a class take this exercise together. If there are more dogs than the area can accommodate with adequate spacing between dogs, the class may be split into groups. The handler line up as directed by the judge and stands with the dog at heel position. Upon order from the judge, “Sit the dog,” if he/she isn’t already sitting, sit the dog in heel position. Upon the further order of the judge to “Leave the dogs,” the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to “Stay,” the handler will move to the end of the leash and turn to stand facing the dog. The leash will clear the floor when the handler is in position. The judge orders the handler to “Leave the dogs,” he/she will then order, “Back to the dogs.” The handler must return promptly to the dog, walking around and in back of the dog to the heel position. The dog must not move from the sitting position until after the judge says, “Exercise finished.”

For the Novice class, Long Sit/Down exercises are performed off leash. The handler will go to the opposite side of the ring and line up facing the respective dog until ordered to “Return to the dogs.”

Long Down: (*On Leash, Novice*) The long down exercise is done in the same manner as the long sit, except that instead of sitting the dog, the handler will, on order from the judge to “Down the dog,” command and/or signal the dog to down without touching the dog or its collar. The dog must stay in the down position until the judge says, “Exercise finished.” If the dog gets up and starts to roam or follow the handler, the judge will promptly instruct the handler or one of the stewards to take the dog out of the ring or to keep it away from the other dogs.

Out of Site – Long Sit (three minutes, handler out of sight); Long Down (five minutes, handler out of sight): (*Graduate Novice, Open*) These exercises are performed as in the Novice class, except that after

leaving the dog, the handler must cross to the opposite side of the ring, leave the ring in single file as directed by the judge, and go to a place designated by the judge, completely out of sight of the dog. The handler must remain out of sight until called by the judge. The time limit from the time the judge gives the order to “Leave the dog” is three minutes in the long sit and five minutes in the long down. On order from the judge, the handler returns to the ring in single file in reverse order, lining up facing the dog at the opposite side of the ring, and return to the dog on order from the judge.

Retrieve on the Flat: (*Open*) The handler will stand with the dog sitting at the heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will give the order, “Throw it,” whereupon the handler may give the command or signal to stay (which may not be given with the hand that is holding the dumbbell), and throw the dumbbell. The judge will give the order, “Send the dog,” whereupon the handler give the command and/or signal to the dog to retrieve. The retrieve must be done at a brisk trot or gallop, the dog going directly to the dumbbell and retrieving it without unnecessary mouthing or playing. The dog must sit straight in front of the handler to deliver the dumbbell and must be close enough that the handler can take the dumbbell without moving or stretching forward. On order from the judge to “Take it,” the handler will give a command or signal and take the dumbbell from the dog. “Finish” as in the Recall off Leash.



Retrieve over High Jump: (*Open*) In retrieving the dumbbell over the high jump, the exercise is performed as the Retrieve on the Flat, except that the dog must jump the high jump both going and coming. The high jump shall be jumped clear, and the jump heights shall be according to dog size (See Scoring and Evaluation).

The handler must stand at least 8 feet, or any reasonable distance beyond 8 feet, from the jump, but the handler must stay in the same spot throughout the exercise.

Broad Jump: (*Open*) The handler will stand with the dog sitting at the heel position in front of and at least 8 feet from the jump. On order from the judge to “Leave the dog,” the handler gives the dog the command and/or signal to stay, and the handler goes to a position facing the right side of the jump, with the toes about 2 feet from the jump and within the range of the first and last hurdles. On order from the judge, the handler gives a command or signal to jump, and the dog must clear the entire distance of the Broad Jump without touching the jump.

Without further command or signal, the dog returns to a sitting position immediately in front of the handler, as in the Recall. The handler changes the position by executing a right angle turn while the dog is in midair, but the handler remains in the same spot. On order from the judge, the handler gives the command or signal to finish, and the dog finishes as in the Recall.

The Broad Jump consists of up to three hurdles that are arranged in order set at twice the distance of the jump height of the dog. The low side of each hurdle and the lowest hurdle shall be nearest the dog. The boards shall be spaced as equally as possible as follows:

- for dogs that are less than 10 inches high at their withers – use one board
- for dogs that are 10 inches but less than 15 inches high at their withers – use two boards
- for dogs that are 15 inches but less than 20 inches high at their withers – use three boards
- for dogs that are 20 inches or taller at their withers – use three boards.

Signal Exercise: (*Utility*) In the signal exercise, the heeling is done as in the Heel Free exercise, except that throughout the entire exercise the

handler uses hand signals only and must not speak to the dog at any time. On order from the judge to “Forward,” the handler signals the dog to walk at heel and then, on specific order from the judge, the handler and the dog perform a left turn, right turn, about turn, halt, slow, normal, and fast. These orders may be given in any sequence and may be repeated.

Then, on order from the judge and while the dog is walking at heel, the handler signals the dog to stand in the heel position; on the order to “Leave the dog,” the handler signal the dog to stay, then the handler goes to the far end of the ring and turn to face the dog. On separate and specific signals from the judge, the handler gives the signals to drop, to sit, to come and to finish, as in the Recall.

During the heeling part of the exercise, the handler may not give any signal except where a command or signal is permitted in the heeling exercises.

Direct Retrieve: (*Utility*) In this exercise, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position facing away from the end of the ring where the gloves will be dropped. The handler provides three predominately white cotton work gloves, which must be open and approved by the judge. The judge or steward places the three gloves across the end of the ring in back of the handler and the dog, one in each corner and one in the center, about 3 feet from the end of side of the ring.

The Judge will give the order “One,” “Two,” or “Three.” The handler must then give the command to “heel” and may turn in place with the dog to face the designated glove. The dog should sit in heel position facing the designated glove. The handler may not touch the dog to get it into position. The handler then gives the dog the direction to the designated glove with a single motion of the left hand and arm along the right side of the dog, and give the command to retrieve simultaneously with or immediately after giving direction. The dog is to go directly to the glove at the brisk pace and retrieve it without unnecessary mouthing or playing with it, completing the exercise as in Retrieve on the Flat.

The exercise consists of a single retrieve, but the judge designates different glove positions for successive dogs.

Scent Discrimination: (*Utility*) In each of these exercises, the dog must select by scent only and retrieve an article that the handler has handled. The handler provides two sets of articles, each composed of five identical articles not more than 6 inches long. One set shall be made entirely of rigid metal and one of leather designed so that nothing but leather is visible, except of the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the article together. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number.

The handler presents all the articles to the judge, and the judge designates one article from each of the sets.

These two articles will be kept on the judge's table until the handler picks them up, holding only one article in the hand at a time. The scent may be imparted to the article only from the hands, which must remain in plain sight. The handler has the option as to which article the handler picks up first. Before the start of the exercises, the judge or the steward will handle each of the remaining eight articles before placing them at random in the ring about 6 inches apart from each other. The handler will stand about 15 feet from the articles, with the dog sitting at the heel position with its back to the articles. On order from the judge, the handler immediately places the article on the judge's book or worksheet. The judge, without touching the article with his/her hands, will place it among the other articles.

On order from the judge to "Send the dog," the handler may give the command to heel and the handler will turn in place, right or left, to face the articles. The handler comes to a halt with the dog sitting in the heel position. Then gives the command or signal to retrieve. The handler will on order from the judge to "Send the dog," perform with the dog a right about-turn to face the articles, simultaneously giving the command or signal to retrieve. In this instance, the dog should not assume a sitting position but should go directly to the articles. The handler has the options as to how the dog is sent, but the same method must be used for both articles.

The handler may give the scent to the dog by gently touching the dog's nose with the palm of one open hand, but this may be done only while the dog's back is to the articles. The hand must be returned to the side before the handler and the dog turn to face the articles.

The dog should go at a brisk pace to the articles. The dog may take a reasonable time to select the right article, but only provided the dog works continuously and does not pick up any article other than the one with the scent. After picking up the right article, the dog should return at a brisk pace and complete the exercise as in the Retrieve on Flat.

The same procedure is followed in each of the two Scent Discrimination exercises. Should the dog retrieve a wrong article in the first exercise, it will be placed on the table or chair, and the article also must be taken up from the remaining articles. The second exercise will then be completed with one less article in the ring.

Directed Jumping: (*Utility*) The jumps should be placed midway in the ring at right angles to the sides of the ring and 18–20 feet apart, the Bar Jump on one side, The High Jump on the other. From a position on the center line of the ring and about 20 feet from the line of the jumps, the handler stands with the dog sitting in the heel position. On order, from the judge to “Send the dog,” the handler commands and/or signal the dog to go forward at brisk pace toward the other end of the ring, to an equal distance beyond the jumps and in the approximate center, where the handler give the command to “Sit.” The dog must stop, turn, and sit facing the handler.

The judge will then designate which jump is to be taken first by the dog, whereupon the handler commands and/or signals the dog to return to the handler over the designated jump, the dog sitting in front of the handler and finishing as in the Recall. While the dog is in midair, the handler may turn so as to be facing the dog as it returns. The judge will say, “Exercise finished” after the dog has returned to the heel position.

When the dog is sitting in the heel position for the second part of the exercise, the judge will ask, “Are you ready?” before giving the order to “Send the dog for the second jump. The same procedure is to be followed for the dog taking the opposite jump. It is optional with the judge which jump is taken first, but both jumps must be taken to complete the exercise, and the judge must not designate the jump until the dog is at the far end of the ring.

The height of the jumps shall be the same required for other obedience classes.

Tips and Suggestions

- Youth should dress professionally and appear neat and well-groomed. Clothing should complement the dog and handler team while not distracting the judge, other handlers, or other dogs. Sunglasses, hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.
- Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge.
- At the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy, or honor turn, is optional.
- The handler should know where the judge is at all times and be certain not to block the judge's view of the dog. Be alert, since the judge may use hand motions instead of a voice request.
- Conversation in the ring should be limited only to the judge.

Conformation

Intent

Conformation classes provide youth the opportunity to compare their dog's physical characteristics to those of national breed standards. Typically, recognized breeds have concise and clear definitions of what they expect dogs to look like to be registered or recognized by the breed association. Judges evaluate groups of like dogs based on those national breed standards in placing groups and selecting group champions.

Classes

Classes are typically created based on the functionality of each breed and in what context they were intended to perform. Groups include: Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-sporting, Herding, any other pure bred, any other mix breed over 14 inches, and any other mix breed under 14 inches. Wyoming 4-H uses the American Kennel Club's groupings of breeds. Please see www.akc.org for current breed groupings.

Facilities/Space

Conformation competitions need an unobstructed space of a size of 40 feet x 50 feet as a minimum. Space should be defined using appropriate perimeter fencing, marking, etc. An Entry/Exit space is needed of at least 8 feet for handlers to enter and exit the ring.

Equipment

- Examining table for smaller breeds that usually are examined by the judge on a table. Judges can determine that for each class.
- Leash and collar as appropriate for the show. No pinch collars, halties, harnesses, or retractable leashes. No slip leads/kennel leads.

Scoring and Evaluation

- No dogs under 6 months of age can participate in conformation
- All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.
- Judge considers national breed standards according to the American Kennel Club but dogs do not have to be registered.

Show Ring Procedures and Processes

- When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.
- Bait (treats) and/or toys are allowed, and, when used properly, capture and hold the dog's attention.
- These should be used without distracting other exhibitors or the judge.
- For breeds normally examined on the table, the handler should follow the judge's instructions about when to table the dog.

Tips and Suggestions

- Youth should dress professionally and appear neat and well-groomed. Clothing should complement the dog and handler team while not distracting the judge, other handlers, or other dogs. Sunglasses, hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.
- Handlers should make every effort to keep their dog between themselves and the judge.
- At the beginning of the individual gaiting pattern, a courtesy, or honor turn, is optional.
- The handler should know where the judge is at all times and be certain not to block the judge's view of the dog. Be alert, since the judge may use hand motions instead of a voice request.
- Conversation in the ring should be limited only to the judge.



Agility

Intent: Agility provides youth the opportunity to compete in classes that demonstrate the ability of their dog to interact with obstacles. Agility courses are established based on the experience and physical size of the dog. Handlers complete the designed course as fast as possible by working with dogs by providing verbal and physical cues to complete each obstacle correctly.

Classes

Classes are based on height of the dog at the withers and increasing difficulty of course obstacles.

The focus of Level 4 (similar to AKC Novice Class) is obstacle performance. The focus of Level 5 (similar to AKC Open Class) is on enhance obstacle performance with more handling required.

The focus of Level 6 (similar to AKC Excellence Class) is to provide an opportunity for dogs and handlers to demonstrate their advanced skills in agility.

Level 7, which is the same course as Level 6, is for those dogs who have received 3 qualifying scores at their 4-H designated county competition in Level 6. Dogs may continue in Level 7 indefinitely.

Mandatory obstacles for each level are as follows:

<p>Level 1 – 8 obstacles Performed on leash</p>	<p>Level 2 – 9 or 10 obstacles Performed off leash or on a tab no longer than 6 inches</p>
<p>Dog walk (2 feet) Single bar jumps Panel jump Pause table A-frame (3-foot) Open tunnel (3 feet length) Broad jump</p> <p>Note: No winged jumps are allowed.</p>	<p>Dog walk (2 feet) Single bar jumps Panel jump Pause table A-frame (3-foot) Open tunnel Tire jump Broad jump</p> <p>Note: No winged jumps are allowed.</p>
<p>Level 3 – 10 to 14 obstacles Performed off leash</p>	<p>Level 4 – 14 or 15 obstacles Performed off leash</p>
<p>Dog walk (4 feet) Single bar jumps Panel jump Pause table A-frame (5-foot) Open tunnel Tire jump Broad jump Double bar jump</p> <p>Note: Winged jumps are allowed.</p>	<p>Dog walk (4 feet) Single bar jumps Panel jump Pause table A-frame (5-foot) Open tunnel Tire jump Weave poles (6 consecutive poles) Choose 2 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad jump • Double jump • Triple jump <p>Note: Winged jumps are allowed.</p>

Level 5 – 14 or 15 obstacles

Levels 6/7 – 15 to 18 obstacles

Performed off leash

Dog walk (4 feet)

Single bar jump

Panel jump

Pause table

A-frame (5-foot)

Open tunnel (up to 2)

Tire jump

Weave poles (12 consecutive poles)

Choose 2 of the following:

- Broad jump
- Double jump
- Triple jump

Note: Winged and dummy jumps are allowed.



Facilities/Space

Ideal ring size is 100 x 120 feet with a minimum size for Levels 1, 2, and 3 being at least 5,000 square feet. There should be no poles or holes for the handler to contend with during competition.

Equipment

AKC equipment specification (except for the teeter which is not included in the agility dog project) will be used at the Wyoming State Fair Dog Show.

Scoring and Evaluation

- Each dog starts with a perfect score (100) and receives deductions as the faults are made by the dog or handler. The level at which a youth participates with their dog advances based on the amount and difficulty of the obstacles as well as the degree to which interactions occur between dog and handler. As a dog scores a minimal number of points, it is considered to have a “qualifying score.”
- A dog receiving a qualifying score of 75 may advance the following year to the next higher class but must advance after receiving three qualifying scores or have received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show. Once the higher level of agility is selected for the dog, the member may not drop back to the lower level with the same dog.
- Competing in more than one level with the same dog in the same day is not allowed at the state show.



- The maximum time for a run is 2:00 minutes with the fastest times used to break ties on scores at all levels. Time starts when the dog's nose crosses the designated start point/line and stops when its nose crosses the designated finish point/line.
- All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.
- Dogs soiling or urinating in the ring during judging will receive no score.
- Handlers are not allowed to use bait (treats), and/or toys with their dogs nor perform the obstacles themselves. Such actions will result in a no score.
- A dog unable to complete the course for any reason (including leaving the ring, ceasing to work for a significant period of time as defined by the judge, being out of control, etc.) will be given a deduction as determined by the judge.
- Handlers in Level 1 must hold and secure the lead at ALL times except when the dog is going through a tunnel. After the tunnel, the leash MUST be picked up before going on to the next obstacle.
- Dogs on lead must be a willing participant. Handlers must not use the lead to guide or make the dog perform the obstacle. A major point deduction (10 points) will be taken per occurrence for using the lead to guide the dog or make the dog perform.
- In Level 2, a tab no longer than 6 inches may be used to give a quick correction or get dog under control. The handler may not hold the tab throughout the run.
- In Levels 1 and 2, the handler may lightly touch the dog; however, they may not force the dog into position. (Example: pushing on the dog to make it sit)
- Any dog refusing an obstacle for the third time will be asked by the judge to go on to the next obstacle resulting in a major deduction (10 points).
- Please reference the score sheets for specific exercises, major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class. Score sheets are posted online at: www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/dogs.html.

Show Ring Procedures and Processes

- A dog can be entered in only one agility class.
- No dogs under one year of age by May 1 can participate in agility.
- Prior to each change of course level, courses are explained by the judge and handlers are allowed to walk through the course without their dog

to familiarize themselves of the course pattern. Typically a determined amount of time for the walk through is announced by the judge before runs begin. i.e. "Handlers will have seven minutes to familiarize themselves with the course."

- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.
- Any dog whose hair surrounding the eyes, ears, or beard interferes with its performance may have its hair tied back with elastic bands or small plain barrettes. Ribbons or bows are not permitted.
- A 4-H member with a dog that has previously been shown in agility by another 4-H member, has a standard agility title from another organization, or that has received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, must show the dog under these guidelines:
 - a. Junior and Intermediate aged 4-H youth may move back/down one level.
 - b. Senior aged 4-H youth must show the dog at the highest level the dog has achieved.
- Once a 4-H member chooses the level at which to compete, the member may not drop back to a lower level with the same dog.
- Dogs must enter the Weave Poles by passing between poles number 1 and number 2 from right to left. They must then pass from left to right through poles number 2 and number 3 and continue this weaving sequence until they pass between the last two poles. If the sequence is broken, the dog must restart the Weave Poles at the first pole, beginning anew between poles number 1 and number 2 from right to left. Dogs are allowed three attempts at the Weave Poles, then must go on.
- Dogs must touch the contact zone of the A-frame and Dog Walk on the down side only, with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle.
- The Tire Jump will be set at 4 inches lower than the class jump height.
- A-frame and Dog Walk should not be set up in sequence, or as the first or last obstacle on a course.
- Triple Bar Jump and Broad Jump shall not be the first obstacle on the course and if set up in sequence there shall be a minimum of 21 feet between the two jumps.
- It is recommended that there be a minimum of 15 feet to 18 feet between obstacles, with a minimum of 18 feet to a jump, and 21 feet to a spread jump.
- It is strongly discouraged to run pregnant dogs.
- Dogs in season will run at the end of each class.

Dog's height at withers	Jump height	Tire jump height	Pause table height	Broad jump
Less than 10 inches	4 inches	4 inches	8 inches	1 board*
10 inches – less than 15"	8 inches	4 inches	8 inches	2 boards*
15 inches – less than 20"	12 inches	8 inches	16 inches	3 boards*
20 inches and over	16 inches	12 inches	16 inches	3 boards*

* 1 board = 8 inches in width

Tips and Suggestions

- It is strongly encouraged a team of dog and handler participate in one year of dog obedience and/or rally training concurrently or prior to, participation in agility and be enroll in other classes in addition to agility.
- Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.

Rally

Intent

Rally classes provide youth the opportunity to move through a variety of stations in which the handler performs certain tasks with their dog. To the onlooker, it appears to be a combination of skills associated in obedience with that of the course nature used in agility. Youth are timed in the event and scored on how well they perform the tasks at each station with their dog.

Classes

Classes are based on three factors: experience of the dog, age of youth/ handler, experience of the youth in showing dogs. Dogs are classified as being Novice, Pre-Advanced, Advanced, Excellent, or Rally Advanced Excellence (RAE). Youth are Juniors (8–10 years of age), Intermediates (11–13 years of age), or Seniors (14–18 years of age). Youth and dogs advance classes by advancing their age or by advancing the experience and skills of their dog.

- **Novice Dog:** A dog which competing for the first time or which has not obtained three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, and does not have a Rally title from another organization.
- **Pre-Advanced Dog:** A dog which has received three qualifying scores as a Novice Dog but has not earned a qualifying scores as an Advanced Dog.
- **Advanced Dog:** A dog which has been used for competition before and received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, received a score of at least 70 points in a Novice class, Pre-Advanced class, or a Rally title from another organization.
- **Excellent Dog:** A dog which has been used for competition before and received three qualifying scores from the designated annual county 4-H show, received a score of at least 70 points in an Advanced class, or a Rally title from another organization.
- **Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE):** After receiving 3 qualifying scores at a county fair, handler and dog will move up to this next level which is an Advanced Excellent Class (RAE). At this level the handler and dog will compete in both Advanced and Excellent at the same show. The handler and dog must earn a qualifying score of 70 in each of the classes (Advanced and Excellent) to qualify and earn ribbons and/or prizes. Handler and dog may show at this level indefinitely.

Classes include:

- Junior with a Novice dog
- Junior with a Pre-Advanced dog
- Intermediate with a Novice dog
- Intermediate with a Pre-Advanced dog
- Senior with a Novice dog
- Senior with a Pre-Advanced dog
- Junior, Intermediate, or Senior with an Advanced dog
- Junior, Intermediate, or Senior with an Excellent dog
- Junior, Intermediate, or Senior with an RAE dog

Facilities/Space

The required minimum area for a rally course is 40 x 50 feet; however 50 x 60 feet is highly recommended. If indoors, the floor covering or ground surface must have a firm footing, using rubber or similar no-slip

Dog experience	Number of stations	Parameters
Novice	10-15 with three to five being stationary exercises.	Performed on leash
Pre-Advanced	12-17 with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include three Advanced signs. No jumps.	Performed on leash
Advanced	12-17 with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include three advanced signs and only one jump included.	Performed off-leash
Excellent	15-20 with three to seven being stationary exercises. Must include 2 Excellent signs, 3 Advanced signs, and two jumps.	Performed off-leash

Dog's height at withers	Jump height	Broad jump
Less than 10 inches	4"	1 board*
10 inches – less than 15"	8"	2 boards*
15 inches – less than 20"	12"	3 boards*
20 inches and over	16"	3 boards*

* 1 board = 8 inches in width

material at least 4 feet wide for the takeoffs and landings of all jumps. If outdoors, the ring should have a clean and level surface with the grass cut short.

Equipment

- Fifty-one signs and twenty-two sign holders are required. Signs should be a minimum of 8-1/2 x 11 inches and a maximum of 11 x 17 inches. All signs/sign holders (not including those for Start and Finish) will be clearly and sequentially numbered on the course, with numbers approximately 3 inches high. Signs with an asterisk (numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 34) may be used multiple times on a rally course. Two



of each of these signs must be available for the judge's use. All other signs may only be used once on any course. Stationary exercises are any signs indicating a "Halt" or no forward motion. Designated wording and symbols must be used. Weather conditions should be considered when securing signs and holders. Colors used are optional.

- Two jumps similar to those used in agility classes.
- See www.Wyoming4H.org for resources and list of required and optional words for signs.

Scoring and Evaluation

- A dog can be entered in only one rally class.
- No dogs under 6 months of age can participate in rally.
- Each dog starts with a perfect score (100) and receives deductions as the faults are made by the dog or handler.
- A dog receiving a qualifying score of at least 70 points may advance the following year.
- Handler errors can be assessed at any station or during movement between stations. Once a handler has stopped on any halt exercise, the handler cannot move their feet or touch the dog to assist the dog without incurring a handler error.
- Fastest times will be used to break ties on scores at all levels.
- All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.
- Please reference the score sheets for major and minor deductions, faults, and point totals for each class. Fastest times will be used to break ties on scores at all levels.
- All placings are final and at the discretion of the judge.

Show Ring Procedures and Processes

- Youth follow a course with numbered stations in order and perform the identified exercise posted at each station.
- Youth, without their dogs, will be given the opportunity to walk through the course prior to competing.
- The judge should be available in the ring during this period to answer any questions the youth might have or to demonstrate the course to youth.
- **Needed for Advanced classes:** Youth are responsible for reporting their dog's jump height to the rally ring officials prior to their run.
- Handlers are not allowed to use bait (treats), and/or toys. The use of such items will result in a no score.

- Handlers touching the dog or making a physical correction will receive deductions in their score.
- Leash and collar as appropriate for the show. No pinch collars, halties, harnesses, or retractable leashes. No slip leads/kennel leads. For more information, see <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/animal-science/dogs.html>.
- Leashes should be 6 feet in length .
- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring.
- When armbands are required for handlers, they should be worn on the left arm with the number visible toward the judge.

Tips and Suggestions

- Handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, clap their hands, pat their legs, or use any verbal means of encouragement. Multiple commands or signals using one or both arms and hands are permitted; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time.
- Signs are placed to the handler's right side, except for change in directions. The designated exercise should be performed in close proximity to the sign itself, either in front, back of, or beside the sign. However, exercises that utilize cones may require entry with the sign on the left.
- Youth should appear neat and well groomed. Shorts which are fingertip in length may be worn. Hats, shining clothing or jewelry, low-cut shirts, shorts, flip-flops, etc., are all distracting attire. Deductions may be made for unsafe or distracting attire.



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