

State 4-H Dog Development Committee Meeting

Casper, WY

September 25, 2010

Agenda

1. Review State 4-H Dog Show
2. Dog ID Forms
3. New items and concerns

Chair Geoellen Stretesky called the meeting to order 9:12 am.

Introductions: Geoellen Stretesky (NAT), Carrie Jo Calvert (FRE), Melissa Vandenberg (NIO), Julie Knight (NAT), John Cosner (CBL), Gloria Shippy (CBL), Elsie Rose (GOS), Megan Brittingham (GOS), Johnathan Despain (State 4-H).

Four suggestions were made by the announcer of the show for next year. One, we need for another speaker that was closer to the participants on the hill so they could hear well. Two, find a way to have the call sheets indicate the county the youth are from so that when announcing the results, that can be shared with the public. Three, have awards in one location at one time for all winners of all areas. Four, radio communications need to be more public friendly and efficient.

Discussion ensued about having a single conclusive awards program so that youth from all areas can be recognized at the same time. It was decided to leave it as currently is so that families traveling can do so in a timely manner if they aren't competing in agility (which typically ends latest in the day). Johnathan indicated he would pursue with the software to have the capability of having counties listed on call sheets for announcing. Johnathan will share a list of requests to state fair management of any and all things we determine should be shared.

There was discussion about confusion with judges and score sheets. Concern was expressed that judges need time to review all the scores sheets for accuracy but we still want to give the youth immediate feedback on their performance. It was suggested that having a carbonless copy of the score sheets printed so that youth can have an immediate copy and judges still have a copy for double checking before placing. Something would need to be printed on the bottom to the effect of, "subject to judge's final discretion and adjustments". It was also suggested to include something in the show program materials indicating as well.

Johnathan shared that he did follow up with 4-H Educators on the committee's concerns with the apparent lack of use of Jump Height Cards in counties as evident by those not having at the state show. A discussion ensued on an educational gap that exists and ways that the gap could be bridged. Johnathan indicated that a possible PowerPoint or short video could be made that explains the role and use of the cards that could be shared directly with volunteers, parents, and 4-H Educators. It was suggested that having youth include the cards with Dog ID forms would provide the Extension offices with a hard copy that could be given to youth as they attend the state show to meet that need as well. After additional discussion and brainstorming, it was unanimously decided to change a few things on the ID form to include a heading of "measured jump height" under the agility scores table on the ID form and add a place labeled "Actual wither height" under the headings for both obedience and rally tables. The actual wither height is used to calculate some jump heights used in obedience and rally, while in the agility, a standard jump height is used for a range of heights of the dogs.

The discussion then lead into sharing the use, information, and changes of the new (October 2009) dog ID form. It was noted that the new form was posted in the late spring and some counties were already using the old forms. Beginning with the 2010-2011 4-H year the new form will be shared to all counties and posted online for easy access. Other changes to be included are to remove or change "additional notes" section and include a place for "Non 4-H Titles Earned" and "4-H Awards Won" to aid in those youth that move from one part of the state to another or that go to another state and remain enrolled in the 4-H dog project. Another is to have an example listed on the scores side for the office use for each table. Lastly, it was determined after some discussion, that a statement should be include under the dog owner section to the effect of "As the owner, I understand that I will not, nor anyone other than the youth listed above, compete with this dog". This should help to solidify the idea that a dog owner is giving permission to the youth to train and compete with the dog and knowingly accepting the concept that they, as the owner would not try and compete with that dog in other shows such as AKC, UKC, NADAC, etc. These changes were moved to accept by Elise Rose. Seconded by Julie Knight. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter from Donna Petersen, email from Crook County, and an issue were presented regarding baiting in classes. The current application of policies allows baiting in conformation and showmanship classes. The letter and discussion was about changing the rule to not allow baiting of any kind. After much discussion including references to AKC, UKC rules, 4-H's efforts towards creating opportunities to participate, and dedication of time by youth to train dogs sufficiently, it was agreed to leave as is but to include wording in general rules similar to that printed in the Campbell County fair book.

Concern was expressed about having too many classes in the rally events. The rules with A and B dogs doesn't mesh with the classes. It was noted that it was a mistake in the fair book and should have been replaced. Additional discussion on eliminating the rookie part to streamline the number of classes occurred. It was decided to leave as is for now but to fix wording and delineate in state fair book similar to Campbell County fair book wording.

A working lunch continued with changes that need to occur in the state fair book and in the State 4-H Dog Show program distributed at the show. Many suggestions were made and Johnathan indicated he will address them with the fair book for 2011.

Discussion about agility courses, concerns, the show, etc. ensued. Johnathan indicated that he would provide each county with a couple of resources to aid in agility education and county fair course creation. He will find resources to provide each county with a book from Clean-Run of courses pre-designed as well as a plastic template for drawing courses that include the obstacles involved on an agility course. More discussion occurred about having quality equipment for the State 4-H Dog Show agility and course rings. Johnathan shared the idea of cost sharing with counties similar to what is done with 3-D targets in shooting sports and or fundraising and purchasing equipment outright. Storage, transportation, and accountability issues were all noted by the group.

It was noted that at the show, having a separate table for problems, concerns, issues, etc. at check-in was successful and created less confusion. Having showmanship included on the arm bands would have alleviated some of the concerns this year (software transfer issue). The road being closed for the entire event was a positive.

Johnathan led a discussion about having educational clinics/camps around the state to follow the Natrona County 4-H Dog Expo concept and utilize people from all over. The idea is to take the event out in the state and replicate it. After discussion of concerns, positives, etc., it was suggested that Johnathan try and work with 4-H Educators to determine times and locations that meet needs by the program and use the volunteers and Educators to provide training around specific topics for the events.

Carrie Jo shared copies of the obedience score sheets for review. Suggestions were made and she will make changes to get them to Johnathan for posting online and carbonless copy printing for the state show. She will get them to Johnathan by October 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Notes taken by Johnathan Despain

Action Items:
Johnathan investigate possibility of having carbonless score sheets for each area of the show.
Johnathan investigate ability of having the county listed on the call sheets for each youth to aid in announcing and in competitor locating.
Johnathan update the new dog ID form with changes and distribute to counties and post online.
Johnathan make changes to state fair book as indicated by the group.
Johnathan get Agility book and plastic template purchased and sent to each county for reference materials.
Johnathan visit with 4-H Educator about hosting a Dog Expo type event for leaders, volunteers, youth, etc. Try and organize 4 for spring/summer of 2011.
Johnathan will post fixed obedience score sheets to the web and be included in carbonless copies for the state show.
Carrie Jo will get fixes to score sheets to Johnathan for posting.