

Rules and Guidelines

Revised September 2023



Table of Contents

Why Do We Train?

2

[Purpose of Obedience Training](#)

[Preparing for Training](#)

Handler/Dog Expectations

3

[Handler Expectations](#)

[Handler Attendance](#)

[Dog Check-In](#)

[Dog Attendance](#)

[Education Day](#)

Dog Information

6

[Vaccinations](#)

[Dogs That Have Previously Been Trained](#)

Training Information

8

[Equipment](#)

[Classes Offered/Descriptions](#)

Showmanship Classes

Obedience Levels

Third Dog

Agility

Dane County Fair Requirements

11

Behavior Management Agreement

Signature Page

2023-2024 Dog Committee Members: Annie (Chair), Jessie (Training Director), Tiara(Training Director), Leann (Behavior Director), Lee (Education Director), Miranda (Admin Director), Abbe (Admin Director), Taylor (Fair & Events Director), Julie (Youth Leadership Director)

Youth Committee Leaders:
Maddie , Kat, Olivia

Why Do We Train?

Purpose of 4-H Dog Training:

Dane County 4-H Dog Project offers a variety of Obedience classes and related activities that teach your 4-H “team” (member and dog(s)) how to become better companions and family members, promoting responsibility, communication, patience, sportsmanship, cooperation and commitment.

This training program is aimed at creating a well-rounded trainer through the use of workshops, webinars, and weekly summertime training classes. The skills learned in this program will lay the foundation for the member's dog to behave in their home, in public, and around other people and dogs. **4H members/handlers, parents, instructors and committee members need to remember that it is not the goal of the Dane County 4-H Dog Project for all handlers to perform at competitive events.**

Fear-Less Approach: Defining our Training Methods

We will be exclusively using the science based, animal friendly, positive methods as outlined in the **National 4-H Curriculum “A ‘Fear-less” Approach”**. Our goal is that our 4-H members create a partnership with their dog that is based on trust, compassion, and mutual respect. The use of positive reinforcement methods to

train dogs has been proven and endorsed universally by behavioral scientists and behavioral veterinarians to be more effective and humane. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. Positive reinforcement focuses on rewarding the behaviors that we DO want, instead of punishing for behaviors that we don't want. As a result, the dog is more likely to repeat the behavior again. The reinforcer (“reward”) can be food, a toy, praise. By using this method of training, the dog quickly learns he/she can check in with their handler for feedback in new environments, when learning new things, and can be allowed an active role in training. This results in a stronger bond between the handler and their dog.

Punishment is not used in the Dane County 4-H Dog Project as it does not provide clear communication about what the dog should do. The definition of punishment is the infliction or imposition of a penalty as retribution for an offense. Current studies show that punishment (or the use of aversive methods) increases the release of stress hormones (cortisol) that tell the body to prepare for danger. As a result the dog may mentally shut down, prepare to freeze, attempt to flee to the situation, or become reactive as a way to get the punishment to stop. In this state of mind, dogs aren't able to learn or make logical, reasonable decisions. [1] . As such, we do not allow the use of any aversive training equipment for any 4-H training.

The purpose of the training offered by the Dane County 4-H Dog Project is to

create lasting partnerships between members and their dog, as well create skills to communicate effectively between the two species.

We offer training classes in basic manners (pet classes), tricks, obedience, showmanship, agility and rally. Workshops, Quiz bowl and education projects are additional opportunities for members to learn about dog behavior, care, breeds, training, and jobs. Clinics that host a dog professional may be offered as well.

Preparing for Training:

Training classes are offered May-July at a primarily outdoor facility. Do not expect your dog to focus on you if they have never been to a new location before. To prevent frustration on the first night, practice taking your dogs to new places. Begin these outings several months before training begins. If your dog is stressed or scared, take them home, as it is never helpful to force a dog to be in a situation that is stressful for them. The member should take the lead role in the dog's care as well, including feeding, exercising, and grooming. Remember to stay calm, ask for help, and take deep breaths. Taking frustration out on your dog will only make them more scared and confused.

Tips for your first night

1. Pack multiple types of treats that you know your dog loves! Having multiple options will help keep your dog engaged. Treat ideas include hot dogs, tuna, cheese and peanut butter.

2. Do not feed your dog before class.
Your dog will respond better to treats at training if they are hungry.
3. Exercise your dog before training.
This will help them to keep calm and listen.
4. Make sure your dog goes potty before class. Don't forget to clean up after them.
5. Keep your dog away from people and dogs they don't know. They may be stressed and might act on that stress in an inappropriate way.
6. If your dog has a playmate in the same class, practice keeping your dog's attention on you instead of letting them run to greet their friend or initiate play. The greeting/play will not help your dog learn and may disrupt the learning of other members and dogs.

Handler/Dog Expectations

Handler's Expectations:

1. Do not allow your dog to greet other dogs or handlers. Keep your dog at a reasonable distance from people and other dogs at all times.
2. Clean up after your dog.
Handlers/exhibitors who don't clean up after their dog may be classified as "not in good standing" with the Dane County 4-H, which will prevent you from showing at fairs.
3. Physical abuse or neglect of a dog will **NOT** be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the training program and result in a "not in good standing" position with the Dane County 4-H. **This may include but is not limited to hitting, kicking, yelling, lifting an animal by body parts and/or leash/equipment, using equipment incorrectly, not caring for a dog, etc.**
4. No willful disrespect for others, use of profane language, or behavior displays unbecoming to a Dane County 4-H member will be allowed. Have respect for your group trainer, Dog Committee members, and fellow members. Examples of respectful behavior include but are not limited to listening to the trainer/committee members when communicating, watching demonstrations during classes, being fully engaged when training your dog, etc.
5. Damage to any public or private property beyond its normal use is at the expense of the 4-H member.

6. Wear appropriate footwear. No open toe shoes. No open back shoes. No flip-flops. If you do not come to practice with the correct footwear you will be asked to sit and watch your class instead of participating.
7. No cell phone use during training classes. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on silent during training classes.
8. **Do not run with your dogs on the training grounds.**
9. **Practice at home.** This means daily practice of the exercises you learned at training. Example: use a TV commercial break to practice your dog's sit.
10. If you miss class check in with a friend to learn the material. It is your responsibility to make up the work you missed.
11. **Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.**
12. Be aware of your dog. If they are feeling overwhelmed or tired it is okay to take a break and/or go home for the night.

Handler Attendance:

1. Because you are learning new skills at training, it is important that you attend training regularly and practice with your dog at home. We recommend attending every week of class to assist in learning all of the skills. Daily practice outside of class is expected whether or not you were present.

2. If your dog is ill, in season (heat), injured or stressed you are encouraged to attend class without your dog.
 - a. Attendance with or without your dog counts toward the attendance requirements
3. The instructor will not be able to reteach the skills you missed the following week. It is your responsibility to make up the work before the next week.

Dog Check-In:

Prior to the start of training classes, your dog must attend one of the check-in days. Every dog needs to pass a Behavior Examination at check in by the Behavior Director in order to participate in training. Watch your e-mail or 4-H calendar for the dates, times and location.

Items to bring to check in:

- Your project dog(s) on 6ft leash(es), no flexi leashes allowed
- Bags for clean-up
- **Two** copies of your dog's rabies vaccination record. Must be current through **July**
- Your **completed** Dane County 4-H Dog Training Information forms.
- **Payment** - Exact change in the form of a check, cash or money order made out to the Dane County 4-H preferred
 - **\$15** Obedience/Showmanship registration fee per dog

- \$15 for a T-shirt (optional)

Dog Expectations:

1. Dogs will not be allowed in the Dane County 4-H Project
 - a. If the dog has a record of biting anyone. This includes training or participating in bite sports.
 - i. Examples but not limited to: Dogs trained in Schutzhund or similar training styles (military or police)
 - b. If your dog is judged at any time by the Committee Members to be:
 - i. Uncontrollable
 - ii. Vicious
 - iii. Unmanageable in or out of a group setting
 - c. Intact females who are in heat or nursing
 - i. Intact female dogs who come into season (heat) during training can not attend training until she is out of season (usually three weeks). Nursing females are not allowed at training class.

- d. Dogs who are sick or injured should not attend class.
 - e. Dogs must be 6 months old by May 1st of that training year.
- 2. If a dog is severely injured or passes away between Check In date and the first day of training at **5pm**, the 4-H member may substitute a dog of their choosing for training. The dog will need to be checked over by the Dane County 4-H Dog Project Committee on the first day of training.
 - a. Death of Dog: requires no proof.
 - b. Severe or Traumatic Injury: will require a note from Veterinarian saying animal cannot participate in obedience, Showmanship, etc
- 3. If a dog is deemed unfit/dismissed from the program by the Dane County 4-H Dog Project Committee , becomes injured or passes away **after** the first day of training at 5pm the 4-H member may substitute a Designated Alternate dog from the dog list provided by the Dane County 4-H Dog Committee. These dogs were checked in as possible alternates at the February/March Check In Dates.
 - a. Death of Dog: requires no proof.
 - b. Severe or Traumatic Injury: will require a note from Veterinarian saying animal cannot participate in obedience, Showmanship, etc

Dog Project Kickoff:

The Dog Project Kickoff Meeting is **mandatory** for **EVERY** 4-H member enrolled in the Dane County 4-H Dog Project that is planning to train through the program. **No dogs** are allowed at Dog Project Kickoff.

Dog Information

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations are probably the single most important part of your dog's health. There is nothing more tragic than a wonderful, loyal pet coming down with a deadly disease that could have been prevented.

Rabies vaccination is **required**.

Rabies is a highly contagious disease transmitted by the bite of infected animals. All dogs are required by law to have this vaccination.

The following vaccinations are highly recommended:

- DHLPP – Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, ParaInfluenza, and Parvovirus.
 - Distemper – Infectious viral disease causes destruction of nerve tissue.
 - Hepatitis – Highly contagious viral disease affecting the liver and other organs.
 - Leptospirosis – Contracted by skin to skin contact or coming in contact with urine from an infected host. It travels through the bloodstream and affects the kidneys and liver

- Parainfluenza – Highly contagious bacterial or viral disease causes inflammation to the trachea, bronchi and lungs.
- Parvovirus – Infectious viral disease, affects the digestive system, may also cause heart failure.

Other treatments suggested for your dog:

- Lyme disease vaccination – Transmitted by bite from a Deer Tick. May cause arthritis and lethargy.
- Bordetella (Kennel Cough) – Highly contagious airborne disease. Bacterial infection affects the respiratory system.
- Heartworm Preventive – Transmitted by bite from mosquitoes. Blood test performed every year to test for disease. Prevention given every month.
- **Flea and Tick Preventive – Once per month application to control fleas & ticks. Highly recommended**

Dogs That Have Previously Been Trained:

4-H Members/Handlers may train dogs that have previously been trained and/or shown by other family members or other 4-H members; however, they will be required to begin training at the appropriate level.

A dog with prior training in an organized class or previously shown in obedience trials prior to enrolling in 4-H obedience classes cannot compete in Pre-Novice A or Novice A, however, they can compete in any other class based on the dog's current abilities.

Once a dog competes in Veterans at the county show level, it can never again be shown in any regular obedience classes (other than Brace, Rally & Team) at the county level, even if being trained by another Handler.

Handlers should be aware that upon an instructor's or Committee Member's discretion, they may be encouraged or required to move to a more advanced class based on prior experience and training

required to move to Open Showmanship.

1. After the 1st qualifying score of 170 or above at Dane County Fair or State 4-H Dog Show you will be encouraged to move up a class level. After the 2nd qualifying score of 170 or above the dog/exhibitor will be **required** to move up a class level.
2. Agility: After the 1st qualifying score of 70 or above at Dane County Fair or State 4-H Dog Show you will be **required** to move to Division B.
3. Showmanship: If you receive a blue ribbon in a Novice Class you will be

Training Information

Private Trainings:

Dane County 4-H committee members and volunteers **DO NOT** offer private lessons. We encourage you to make use of the training sessions we offer. Outside of 4-H events like AKC, UKC, etc. are not associated with 4-H training. We can answer questions based on the skills and techniques we are using in class. Behavior issues happening at home, or outside of the training class will be referred out to local businesses.

Equipment:

Leashes/Leads: Leashes shall be six feet long and made of leather, nylon or cotton webbing. Leather leashes are highly recommended. All dogs must be kept on leash at all times except if required during training classes.

- Showmanship leashes are needed for Showmanship. Please check our website to get recommendations.

Collars: During training, dogs must wear a well-fitting, plain buckle collar (including a quick release collar, \or martingale of fabric, or leather or any combination. There should be no objects hanging from the collar during training. Pinch/Prong collars, choke chains and e-collars are not permitted to be used during 4-H [1]

Harnesses: Freedom harness, Easy Walker Harness, SenSation Harness,

or Gentle Leader are allowed for training but will not be allowed for competition at the Dane County Fair and State 4-H Shows. The above harnesses are no pull harnesses that have an attachment on the front of the chest. Back clip harnesses are not permitted.

Dumbbells (For Utility Classes ONLY):

Dumbbell should be made either of wood or white plastic.

Treat pouch: a treat pouch that attaches to the member is required for all training classes.

Rewards (Training Treats and Toys)

When teaching your dog something new or when at class where there are a lot of distractions you will find high incentive treats and toys is a great way to help keep their focus. Examples include but not limited too: **boiled chicken breast, hot dogs, cheese sticks**, freeze dried minnows (think soft and stinky. Visit the 4-H website for a long list of treat and toy ideas.

- Prior to coming to class, treats should be chopped into pieces no bigger than the size of your pinkie nail
- Before starting classes in April/May make a list of 4-7 moderate to high incentive treats and toys your dog LOVES.

Prohibited equipment: Any training tool that negatively impacts you/your dog, other members, or their dogs are not allowed. Examples may include but are not limited to: shock devices, whips, shaker, shoe spurs, choke chains, prong/pinch collars etc.

Classes Offered/Descriptions:

Handlers may skip training lots with approval from youth's parent(s) and Committee Members, and with input from your previous instructor.

Showmanship:

Any handler or dog combination. Showmanship is how you handle your dog. You will be taught parts of the dog, gaiting patterns, ring procedure, showmanship equipment and attire. Showmanship training will be offered on 3 weekend dates during May-July. Check your training class schedule for further details.

PeeWee Showmanship for Cloverbuds!!

Clover Buds will present their stuffed dog for judging. Cloverbuds will be asked questions like:

- What's your dog's name?
- What color is your dog?
- Do you have a dog at home?
- What is your favorite breed of dog?

Obedience Classes : (Some classes

may have prerequisites)

1. **Pet Class:** This class is unique to the Dane County 4-H Dog Project and focuses on teaching your dog skills to create a more harmonious household. All skills are on leash. Wait at the door, greetings, loose leash walking, focus skills and tricks! This class is not for state competition, but is a great first step for 1st year members and you can show your skills at the local fairs. We have two levels:
 - a. Pet Class 1: Learn to be a great pet at home
 - b. Pet Class 2: Work towards earning your CGC (Canine Good Citizen) and Trick Dog Titles!!!
2. **Advanced Tricks Class:** This class helps members build their trick-training repertoire beyond what they learned in Pet Class 1 and Pet Class 2. The curriculum will rotate annually so members who choose to repeat the class will learn new material each year. Although this class is not for state competition, it allows members to work toward earning AKC Trick Dog titles beyond the novice level. Some skills will be most safely performed off lead.
3. **Pre-Novice Classes:** This class is the first obedience level and focuses on competition obedience. All exercises on lead, heel, figure 8, stand for

inspection, long sit (1 minute), and long down (1 minute).

- a. Pre-Novice Trial A: Handler and dog combination that has never previously trained.
 - b. Pre-Novice Trial B: Handler and/or dog that has previously trained in Pre-Novice dog and cannot advance to Off Lead classes.
4. **Novice**: On lead – heel, figure 8. Off lead – heel, stand for inspection, heeling, recall with finish, long sit (1 minute), and long down (1 minute).
5. **Graduate Novice**: On lead – heel. Off lead – stand for inspection, figure 8, heel, recall with drop and finish, long sit (3 minutes), long down (5 minutes).
6. **Pre-Open & Open**: All exercises off lead: heel, figure 8, stand for inspection, drop on recall, retrieve dumbbell on flat, retrieve dumbbell over high jump, broad jump, long sit (3 minutes), long down (5 minutes).
- a. Pre-Open: Handler or dog that is not ready to move to Open.
 - b. Open: Handler or dog that is not ready to move to Pre-Utility.
7. **Pre-Utility**: Retrieve dumbbell over high jump, retrieve glove, signal exercise, direct jump (1), stand for inspection, long sit (3 minutes), and long down (5 minutes).
- a. Pre-Utility: Handler or dog that is not ready to move to

Utility.

8. **Utility**: Scent discrimination, directed retrieve, signal exercise, direct jump (1), moving stand for examination, long sit (3 minutes), and long down (5 minutes).
- a. Utility: Handler or dog that is ready to show at the highest level.
9. **Brace**: Brace is showing two dogs in tandem with the aid of a coupler. Any 4-H Member/Handler enrolled in the dog project may participate in this class. Preparation and training for this class is separate from the obedience classes but will be at the Pre-Novice and Novice levels. A 4-H Member/Handler may participate in this class indefinitely. 4-H Members/Handlers interested in participation in this class are encouraged to discuss it with a Committee Member. The only additional equipment required is a coupler.
- a. Brace: Two dogs shown in tandem, trained by the same exhibitor or family members. There are two levels in Brace competition: Pre- Novice and Novice. If the exhibitor has one or both dog(s) that are in Novice or above, they must enter in Novice Brace.
10. **Team Dog**: There are two levels in team competition; Pre-Novice and Novice. Team consists of four handlers and four dogs working

together as a team to accomplish obedience commands simultaneously. 1st Year members are not allowed to participate on a Team.

- a. **Team Dog:** There will be two levels of team: Pre-Novice and Novice. Only one dog and handler combination can sign up for Team Dog. All dogs in the team must be showing at that level of exercises.
11. **Veteran Dog:** Veteran Dog is for the dog that is no longer actively training with the intent of progressing to the next level. Dog must be at least 7 years old. Novice exercises will be judged.
12. **Rally:** Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course with 10-15 designated stations at their own pace. Each station includes a sign that provides instructions regarding the next skill to be performed. The course contains two more than five stationary exercises, may include changes in pace, and 360 degrees turns. Handlers at this level may clap their hands and pat their legs through the course but are not allowed to touch their dog. The dog and handler move continuously at a brisk pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. A rally

course is set up during training nights for Handlers/Dogs to practice at their own leisure. There are three levels in competition; Novice, Advanced and Excellent.

- a. **To see sample Rally Signs refer to the Dane County 4-H Dog Project website**

Agility:

Agility can be any dog/handler combination. Agility is a sport in which a handler directs a dog through an obstacle course in a race that is judged on both time and accuracy. Obstacles include; tunnels, tables, jumps, A-Frame, Dog Walk, Teeter and Weave poles. For training purposes dogs train with incentives like treats, praise and toys. Handler's control their dog(s) movement by their voice, movement, and various body signals. By the end of training, dogs run off leash without any incentives except for the handler's voice.

Participation Based on Weighted Lottery

Due to the overwhelming number of members interested in training agility (a very great thing in our minds!) the program/classes will be capped. Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to add more classes to accommodate the increased interest in agility based on the amount enrolled to respect our instructors' and location's time. Each class is capped at 6 students so that every student will get plenty of individual attention with the

instructors. To keep things as fair as possible, we will be doing a weighted lottery for these classes. **Handlers may only enter 1 dog.**

Here is how this process will work:

- Members will be able to get points towards the lottery by attending and participating in activities offered by the Dog Project.
- Participation in Workshops, Quiz Bowl and Education Projects offered by the project will be worth 1 point each.
- Participation in agility classes in a previous year will be worth 1 point per class attended. (The more you attended in the past, the higher the chances are that you get in again)
- Participation in obedience and showmanship classes are worth one point each.

Our goal is to encourage our members to participate in as many learning opportunities as they can, while also rewarding this commitment with additional chances to earn a spot in agility classes. If you are not fully committed and dedicated to the agility classes, please leave the spot for someone who is. These points will be cumulated and those with the most will be placed in the classes first and when ties happen a lottery system will be put in place.

Eligibility:

- Health: It is required that your dog is

cleared to participate in agility after a hands-on, physical examination conducted by the Veterinarian at one of the check in dates. Dogs that are arthritic, lame, blind, and/or severely overweight will not be cleared to participate. Similarly, if the Veterinarian does not feel they can safely handle the dog, the dog will not be cleared to participate. If your dog doesn't pass the healthy check please talk to the Dog Committee who may be able to connect you with a dog that you can borrow.

- 1st year dog project members without prior experience in agility are not permitted to participate in agility. "Prior experience in agility" will be deemed by the committee based on video provided by the member. Dogs must be approved by one of the committee members.
- Dogs that are aggressive, reactive or scared towards people or other dogs will **NOT** be allowed to train. Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.

Class Assignments

- Members and dog combinations will be placed in classes by the Dane County 4-H Dog Committee prior to the first agility training class.
- Members are required to send in a video of them and their dog running an agility course if they wish to be

placed in a class other than beginner.

- Once members are placed they will not move from the class for the entire year.
- Each class is 60 minutes long.

If there is a member that does not have access to a dog that can participate in agility, a committee member *MAY* help to provide access to a dog.

Classes:

Jumpers Handling Class: This class is for our 1st year agility members, and for any member not choosing to train contacts/weaves with their dog. Each week we will learn how to handle a course, teach your dog to run a course smoothly, and polish obstacles that may be difficult for you. It is vital that new members are diligent about their online videos prior to attending class to succeed. This class will consist of jumps, tunnels and tables; no contact equipment will be trained in this class. Members in this class can compete in JTT (Jumps, Tunnels, Table) and Tunnelers courses.

****NOTE** On leash agility is not allowed at Dane County Fair or when you are representing Dane County at the State 4-H Agility Dog Show**

Requirements for showing at the Dane County Fair

All Participants:

During check-in at the Dane County Fair, **all** dogs will receive a hands-on, physical examination conducted by a veterinarian.

This examination is **mandatory** for all participating dogs. If the examining veterinarian determines the dog is not healthy enough to participate or if the veterinarian believes the dog is not safe for physical examination or handling, the dog will not be eligible to show at the Dane County Fair and will be dismissed from the fairgrounds.

Obedience Training:

All new 4-H members; must attend **at least 5 of the 8** Obedience Training classes which start at the end of April or beginning of May.

Returning members; must attend **at least 5 of the 8** Obedience Training classes which start at the end of April or beginning of May.

13th Year Members; Any member and dog combination that has trained in the Dane County 4-H Program for at least 3 years, is in their final year of 4-H eligibility and is not changing levels must attend **at least 2** obedience training dates.

Showmanship Training:

- All new/returning 4-H members: wishing to show in any showmanship class at the Dane County Fair must attend **all 3** showmanship training dates May–July.
- 13th Year Members; Any member and dog combination that has trained in the Dane County 4-H Program for at least 3 years, is in their final year of 4-H eligibility and is not changing levels must attend **at least 1** showmanship training dates.

Agility Training:

- All agility members: Any 4-H member and dog combination must attend **the required number of training classes sent out when training starts**.

Team Training:

- All 4-H members must meet the minimum requirements for their obedience training in order to show on Team.

Behavior Management Plan

The Dane County Dog Project may implement a behavior management plan for handlers and/or their dogs that are displaying inappropriate or concerning behaviors. This plan is to ensure the safety of all handlers, their dogs, trainers, and committee members. A color code system is used to better help our committee members offer consistent, clear communication to our 4-H members when a problem arises. How this system works; if a member or dog exhibits a concerning behavior, a colored card will be handed to them. The team must go to the front desk and sit with the present Committee Member until their class has finished. After their class the instructor and a Committee Member will discuss the issue with the team. We have a short amount of time on training nights to discuss these incidents. Any additional questions will need to be addressed by scheduling a zoom meeting with Lisa Curley and a Committee Member by emailing: Curley.Lisa@countyofdane.com If a handler/dog continues to demonstrate concerning behaviors after receiving a colored card then this could be considered grounds for dismissal from the 4-H Dog Project even if they do not reach the extreme of a red card. Committee members reserve the right to dismiss any dog at any time during training.

Color Code System

- **Red** - aggressive dog (please see attached document for in depth descriptions)
 - If the card handed to the team is a RED card, the dog must leave the facility immediately and be handled by an adult immediately. The Committee may discuss at a later date if the dog can return to the project.
- **Yellow** - mildly reactive (reactive behaviors that are easily stopped by the handler)
 - If the team is handed a yellow card, the dog may join the handler at the front table to wait for the end of their class. At that time the trainer and committee member will discuss the issue and if remediation is required prior to attending classes again.
- **Blue** - dog is scared or highly anxious - (hiding behind member, averting eyes, licking lips, repeatedly yawning)
 - If the team is handed a blue card, the dog may join the handler at the front table to wait for the end of their class. At that time the trainer and committee member will discuss the issue and if remediation is required prior to attending classes again.
- **Pink** - Child was mishandling dog

(including using aversive equipment, yelling, hitting, or forcibly correcting dog)

- If the team is handed a pink card, the dog may join the handler at the front table to wait for the end of their class. At that time the trainer and committee member will discuss the issue and if remediation is required prior to attending classes again.

Parents/Guardians will be notified through email/phone call/in-person whichever is the fastest mode of communication. This notification will include the following:

1. Date & time of incident
2. Where incident occurred
3. Account of what happened
4. Who was present during incident
5. Where appropriate, recommendations for preventing future incidences

scientific articles and books.

[1] A 'Fear-Less' Approach To Understanding Dogs, Their Care, and Training, 1st Ed. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, David, CA, 2019

[2]China, Lucy, Daniel S. Mills, and Jonathan J. Cooper. "Efficacy of Dog Training With and Without Remote Electronic Collars vs. a Focus on Positive Reinforcement." *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* 7 (2020): 508.

[3] Hiby, E. F., N. J. Rooney, and J. W. S. Bradshaw. "Dog training methods: their use, effectiveness and interaction with behaviour and welfare." *ANIMAL WELFARE-POTTERS BAR THEN WHEATHAMPSTEAD* 13.1 (2004): 63-70.

[4] Rooney, Nicola Jane, and Sarah Cowan. "Training methods and owner–dog interactions: Links with dog behaviour and learning ability." *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 132.3-4 (2011): 169-177.

[5] Ziv, Gal. "The effects of using aversive training methods in dogs—A review." *Journal of veterinary behavior* 19 (2017): 50-60.

Resources

We as the Dane County 4-H Dog Project Committee recognize the importance of research and education on the topic of dog training. We support and utilize the use of force-free animal friendly methods to train dogs in our program. This is in line with the National 4-H Curriculum 'A "Fear-less" Approach' and current scientific research on the matter. If you would like to check out some of the resources we have used to educate ourselves, please read the following

Signature Page

I _____ have read and understand the above guidelines and below Red Card Behaviors. I will follow

them and present myself at all times to the best of my ability. I understand that not following these guidelines may make it so that I am no longer able to participate in the Dane County 4-H Dog Project.

Member Signature

I, parent or guardian of the above member, have read and understand the above guidelines and below Red Card Behaviors. I will help my youth member abide by them and encourage them to represent themselves to the best of their ability at all times.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Red Cards: Objective Descriptions of Behaviors That Warrant Immediate Dismissal

Freezing - When a dog becomes incredibly still for a moment, or even a few seconds. If the dog is uncomfortable with an interaction, a type of handling, or when staring at another dog or person, the freeze is characteristic of the dog becoming upset, stressed and / or threatened. An escalation may quickly occur if the pressure of the interaction does not end immediately, and may be a snarl / lip curl, snap, or even a bite.

Lunging - When a dog quickly leaps towards another person or animal, usually paired with vocalizations such as barking or growling, and / or snapping jaws. Lunging can be performed out of frustration, excitement and over-arousal, or it can be aggressive in nature. Regardless of the emotional state of the animal, this is a behavior which increases the risk of a child being pulled down and dropping the dog's leash.

Snarling / Lip Curling - The dog's lip raises, either subtly or very obviously. The teeth may or may not be exposed. This can occur rapidly, where the lip raise is just a quiver, or this behavior can be drawn out and last for a few seconds or longer. Lip curling and snarling may occur with or without vocalization (growling), and is often seen in tandem with other behaviors / body language, such as a freeze and/or hard stare. If the perceived threat continues, the dog can escalate beyond the snarl / lip curl to a snap or bite.

Snapping - When a dog quickly opens and closes its mouth, usually directed towards a person or another dog, but the dog does not make contact with the individual the snap is

directed at. Therefore, this behavior is often also called an “air snap.” It is a threat behavior that often occurs before a bite would occur, depending on the dog’s level of bite inhibition.

Biting - When a dog’s mouth makes contact with a person (or dog’s) clothing, skin or body. The teeth may or may not break skin, depending on the pressure applied by the dog. There are two different bite scales that are commonly used to determine severity of the bite, one for dog bites to humans, and one for dog bites to other dogs.

Pulling Leash out of Participant’s Hand -

This incident could occur as a result of a dog lunging, or it could occur simply if the dog is unable to be controlled physically by their child (too strong).

Hard Barking - Barking that is persistent, intense, and directed towards people, other dogs, or both. It can also be directed at something that scares the dog, such as a noise or inanimate object in the environment. The dog who is hard barking is usually fixating (staring) on the thing / individual they are barking at, and it can be difficult to redirect their attention away from this trigger.

Redirection - In the event that a dog is barking, lunging, or trying to get to / go after another dog or person, they may turn and snap, nip at, or bite the leash, or even the person holding onto their leash. This behavior often occurs as a result of the high arousal level and frustration the dog feels. It is often characterized (but not always) by the dog whipping back around to their handler.

Resource Guarding - If a dog begins to guard or become defensive of a possession or resource (this could include but is not limited to: a treat pouch, a toy or ball, a

container of food, a dog bed or mat, their space, their handler, a high value chew or bone, etc.), they are displaying resource guarding. This can include a sequence of freezing, whale eye (when the whites of the eyes can be seen), posturing over the resource, growling, snarling, snapping, or biting.