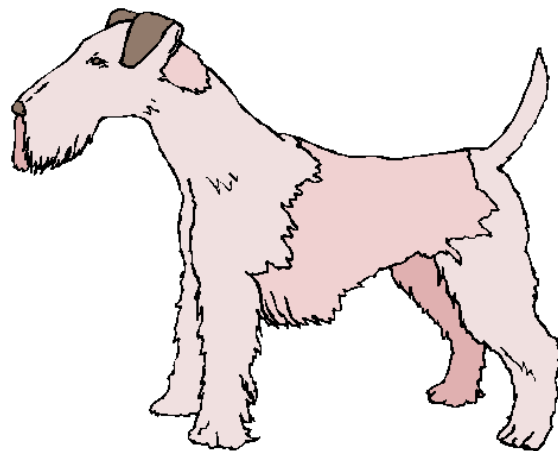




2008



Ohio 4-H Dog Showmanship Regulations



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Introduction

The Ohio 4-H Dog Program integrates the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Junior Showmanship Regulations with the Ohio 4-H philosophy to develop 4-H showmanship standards for youth who enroll in the Showmanship 4-H project. Refer to <http://southcenters.osu.edu/4h/dog> for the 2008 Showmanship Score Sheet and other information to help youth succeed in 4-H showmanship competition.

Purpose of 4-H Showmanship Competition

The purpose of showmanship is to demonstrate teamwork between the handler and the dog, showcasing the handler's skills. Regardless of the breed of dog, or mixed breed, youth learn the skills required to present their dogs to the best of their abilities, bringing out the finest qualities in their dogs. The youth's presentation of the dog is being judged, not the dog's conformation. Youth learn breed characteristics for the breed their dog represents. They learn the anatomy and physiology of the dog, and how to move as one with their dogs. In 4-H, the purpose of showmanship, also, is for youth to test their knowledge about dogs and responsible dog ownership by participating in an interview, which contributes to the overall showmanship score.

Handler's Appearance

Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed in appearance. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in, and that complements their dog. Clothing should not hinder or detract from the presentation of the dog. Examples of *acceptable* clothing for girls are dresses, skirts, dress shorts, skorts, dress slacks, dressy Capri or crop pants, collared blouses, or similar attire. *Acceptable* clothing for boys includes dress shirts, ties, and dress slacks. Sports jackets may be worn, but are not necessary, especially in hot weather. When wearing a tie, a tie tack should be used to hold the tie close to the shirt so it does not drape over the dog's back or get in the way. Handlers should practice running and bending over in their show outfits. They should practice handling their dogs in the show clothes and shoes they have chosen to wear.

Clothing that is too tight or too revealing is distracting, and exhibitors will be penalized. *Unacceptable* clothing includes short skirts, short shorts, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut blouses or shirts, shorts hanging too low on the waist, clothing with holes or tears in the fabric, any type of jeans or other similar types of clothing, hats, shirts with club names or logos, clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs, sandals, open-toed shoes, clogs, or similar type shoes. If a skirt is worn, care should be taken so that it does not flap in the dog's face. Excessive or oversized jewelry, sashes, and anything that will touch or distract the dog should not be worn. Items should not be worn in hair that detracts from the team's overall presentation.

Long hair should be in a braid or ponytail, or clips should be used to keep it out of the handler's face. Hair that must be continually brushed out of the eyes or that falls over the dog or handler's face when stacking is distracting.

Armbands are worn on the left arm.

It is important for the handler to relax, smile and act happy while showing! A pleasant attitude and good sportsmanship will go a long way toward making the handler and his or her dog a winning team.

Equipment

A dog is shown on a lead that is proportionate to its size. The collar may be nylon, very small chain link, or a combination lead and collar, such as a martingale. Never use a chain lead. Nothing must be hanging from the collar. Youth who do a lot of obedience work with their dogs may want to use a chain collar for obedience and a nylon slip collar for showmanship. Most of the working breeds are shown on a chain collar with a leather or nylon lead. Youth should experiment with different types of equipment to find what gives them the most control over their dogs.

Grooming

It is not necessary that a 4-H dog be shown in a show clip; however, the dog must be clean and his coat free of mats and loose hair. Ears must be clean, but it is not required that all hair be removed from the ear canal. The eyes must be free from matter, and the teeth should not have any tartar buildup. Some staining on the teeth of older dogs is permissible.

The toenails must be of proper length. This does not mean trimming the nails on the day before the show so that the nails have a fresh edge. Properly trimmed nails are achieved by regularly trimming them every week or so, depending on the dog's normal activity. Hair between the pads should be trimmed evenly with the pads to prevent matting, as well as from collecting dirt and ice. It is not required that whiskers be trimmed; but if the dog's face is shaved, the stubble should be removed. Some breeds develop static fly away when they have been freshly bathed. Pin a towel around the dog while it is still damp to help the hair lay flat.

Age Divisions for Judging

Age divisions for showmanship classes may vary depending on the size of the show. For a large show, classes are usually divided into three age divisions, with all ages of youth being as of January 1 of the current year: Junior, ages 8 – 11 years, Intermediate, ages 12 – 14 years, and Senior, ages 15 – 18 years. If two age divisions are used, they should be divided into Junior, ages 8-13 years and Senior, ages 14 – 18 years.

The 4-H Showmanship Score Sheet

The 4-H Showmanship (Showmanship) Score Sheet is divided into four areas in which youth and/or their dogs are evaluated. These include the Interview, Handler Appearance & Attitude, Grooming, and Handling. Within each Evaluation Area, the maximum points that can be deducted for each criteria are listed. At a given show, one judge may evaluate all four areas, or there may be an Interview judge, a second judge who evaluates the Handler's Appearance and Grooming of the dog, and a third judge who does the Handling, or any combination thereof.

Interview

The first area evaluated is the Interview, which is worth 60 of the total 230 points. A youth can be an excellent handler, yet still not place in a competition if he or she is unable to answer the interview questions. The purpose of the Interview is to test the handler's knowledge about dogs, including breeds, health and diseases, conformation, responsible dog ownership, grooming, terminology, and so forth. Youth learn communication and interviewing skills by participating in this part of Showmanship.

Questions asked during the Interview must come from the *Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook, 201R*. Age-appropriate questions and answers will be posted on the website from which the interview questions should be chosen.

Handler Appearance and Attitude

Handler Appearance and Attitude is worth 50 points on the score sheet. In addition to the information about Handler's Appearance on Page 2, handlers are being evaluated on their conduct in the ring. Handlers should appear prepared, confident, businesslike and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and their fellow exhibitors. Any of the judges, regardless of what area(s) of showmanship they are judging, have the responsibility to deduct points from the attitude portion of the handler's score, based on what they might see.

Grooming

This section is worth a maximum of 40 points. Dogs should be kept well groomed throughout the year. Some youth take their dogs to groomers. This is permissible provided the youth brushes and bathes the dog in between times. It is not necessary for a dog to be in show clip for showmanship. Refer to the Grooming information on Page 3.

Handling

Handling is worth a maximum of 80 points out of the total score of 230 points. Handling will be discussed in detail later in these regulations.

The judge should examine and evaluate the handler in the following basic areas: proper breed presentation, skill in the individual dog's presentation, and knowledge of ring procedures. The general rule in evaluating a handler's capabilities is ECONOMY OF MOTION. Handlers who use exaggerated motions and gestures in any phase of their presentation of the dog should be faulted. In essence, the judge should hardly be aware of a capable handler's presence while completing the dog's examination. In many respects a showmanship judge's principal consideration should be to find those handlers who possess a "hand for dogs." Those handlers having this attribute neither over- nor under-handle their dogs. They present their dogs in a quiet, efficient manner. They are able to keep their dog's attention without dramatic or unnatural movements. They are able to gait their dogs in a collected trot, never distracting or interfering with the judge's vision of the dog.

Breed Presentation

Although a handler should present the dog in the proper manner for the breed, it also must be remembered that in 4-H handlers show many mixed breeds. When showing

a mixed breed, a handler should identify the breed the dog most closely resembles and show the dog as if it were that breed.

During all phases of handling, the exhibitor's concentration should be on the dog and not on the judge, but not to the extent that the handler is unaware of what is taking place in the ring. Judges evaluate the handler and dog with these questions in mind:

1. Is the dog responsive to the handler? Do dog and handler work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear posed or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Is the dog moved correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Are the dog's main faults being minimized?
6. Do both the dog and handler appear relaxed?
7. Is the dog presented with an apparent minimum of effort?

Knowledge of Ring Procedure

Handlers must follow directions, use space wisely, and execute the requested gaiting patterns. Handlers should appear "ring wise," be alert to the judging progression, and be prepared for changes in the judging routine.

Appearance and Conduct

Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge's attention is inappropriate and should be faulted accordingly.

Handlers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting the dogs of other competitors, and a handler who crowds or disturbs other dogs should be faulted. A principle of showmanship is to afford the opportunity to learn the spirit of competition. Winning is important but is secondary to development of sportsmanship in competition.

Handlers should be alert to the needs of their dogs, realizing that the welfare of their dogs is important. They are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. However, handlers who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their dogs should be penalized.

Interference and Double Handling

Double handling is not permitted. Assistance, interference, or attempts to control a dog from outside the ring is not permitted. Judges will substantially penalize a handler if someone or something, other than the dog's handler, is influencing the performance or showmanship in the ring.

Use of Bait

Using bait in showmanship classes is up to the discretion of the judge. The steward should check with the judge prior to the start of classes and have the announcer inform the exhibitors as to the use of bait.

Fouling the Ring

A 25-point deduction will be made for any dog fouling the ring. The exhibitor and his/her dog are not to be excused from the ring. Judging is to continue once the area is properly cleaned.

Fouling includes urine, feces or vomit. In exceptionally poor ring conditions, judges should confer with the show committee and other judges to determine scoring if fouling should occur.

Training, Disciplining, and Abuse in the Ring

A dog whose handler disciplines it in the ring will be excused from further competition in the class. An exhibitor abusing a dog in the ring will be disqualified from the class, and may be directed to leave the Fairgrounds.

Misbehavior and Excusals

Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog or any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, snapping, running away from its handler, etc. will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during, before or after judging. The judge may excuse the dog from further competition in the class.

Any dog that attacks or attempts to attack any person in the ring will be disqualified. Any dog that attacks another dog or appears dangerous to other dogs in the ring will be disqualified.

Any dog displaying fearful, aggressive, threatening, unsafe or uncontrollable behavior at anytime in the Dog Show area or on the Fairgrounds may be excused from competition and/or removed from the Fairgrounds.

If a judge determines that a bitch in the ring is in season or appears to be so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, the bitch is excused. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the health check officials.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Handler Appearance and Attitude area on an exhibitor's score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout a 4-H dog show, prior to or during judging. Judges and/or show officials also have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the 4-H dog show from showing, participating in activities, and from receiving any awards. Anyone (exhibitors, parents, advisors, spectators, etc.) displaying unsportsmanlike conduct may be directed to leave the Fairgrounds.

Earning Showmanship/Handling Titles Outside of 4-H

Dogs with AKC Jr. Handling or like experiences must be shown in exhibitor age-appropriate B classes. Dogs completing a title prior to, or anytime during, the project year must show in exhibitor age-appropriate B classes. Any dog receiving points toward a championship title anytime during the project year must then move into the appropriate B class at the time the points were first earned.

This rule, if applicable, supersedes exhibitor and dog information listed in information found elsewhere in this document. Fun matches do not apply.

Ties

When two or more exhibitors have the same overall scores, the scores in the first exercise will be compared. The exhibitor with the highest score in the first exercise will receive the highest placing, and so forth. If all exhibitors have the same score in the first exercise, the scores in the second exercise will be compared, and so forth until ties are broken. If the scores are equal throughout all of the exercises, including the Exhibitor's Appearance, Dog's Appearance, and Sportsmanship, ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing a handling exercise as specified by the judge.

Summary of Progression of Showmanship Classes

Showmanship Junior A (8-11 yrs.) - 1 year, then move to Showmanship Junior B if still meeting the age requirements or move to Showmanship Intermediate B if 12 years old as of January 1. Neither the youth nor the dog can return to an A class.

Showmanship Junior B (8-11 yrs.) - until reach Intermediate age division; *class winner can repeat Showmanship Junior B every year with same dog*; must progress from Showmanship Junior B to Showmanship Intermediate B.

Showmanship Intermediate A (12-14 yrs.) - 1 year, then move to Showmanship Intermediate B if still meeting the age requirements or move to Showmanship Senior B if 15 as of January 1. Neither the youth nor the dog can return to an A class.

Showmanship Intermediate B (12-14 yrs.) - until reach Senior age division; *class winner can repeat Intermediate Showmanship B every year with same dog*; must progress from Showmanship Intermediate B to Showmanship Senior B.

Showmanship Senior A (15-18 yrs.) - 1 year, then move to Showmanship Senior B. Neither the youth nor dog can return to an A class.

Showmanship Senior B (15-18 yrs.) - until ineligible to join 4-H or be in FFA; *class winner can repeat Showmanship Senior B every year with same dog*.

At the Ohio State Fair any previous participants or dogs in Showmanship Junior A, Showmanship Intermediate A, and Showmanship Senior A may not enter the same class. First place winners of the Showmanship B classes can repeat Showmanship B every year with same dog provided youth meet age eligibility.

Preparing for Showmanship

The dog is judged on both its performance in the ring and its appearance, i.e., grooming, not conformation. In addition to obeying commands to gait, stand, and turn, it must look alert, be well groomed, and allow strangers to touch it. Because the dog is being judged on condition, grooming, and temperament, as well as the way it moves, showing in this class requires as much careful preparation as does showing in an obedience class. When competing in a showmanship class, bathing the dog before the show is not your only concern. Conditioning a dog's coat, body, and mind takes careful

preparation. A dog that is not physically fit or is afraid does not present a positive image.

You are being judged as a team in showmanship. The dog is a tool to show off your skill as a handler. Your presentation of the dog is being judged, not the dog's conformation. There should be smooth coordination between the two of you. Grandiose gestures or jerky movements distract the judge's eye from seeing you and your dog at its best.

Training your dog for showmanship consists of two parts, stacking and gaiting. **Stacking** means posing your dog. All breeds, with the exception of the German Shepherd, are posed basically the same way. There are variations on how the tail is posed, as well as some other minor differences. Visit a dog show to learn how your particular breed is displayed to correctly highlight your dog's best attributes. It is very helpful if your dog knows how to Stand/Stay before you begin training for showmanship. **Gaiting** is a method of moving your dog.

Stacking

The first and most important step in stacking your dog is to gain control of the dog's head. You must have control of the dog's head to have control of the dog. This is achieved in either of two ways. One method is by making sure the show lead is snug just behind the ears, holding the lead taut and close to the neck. Hold the lead just tight enough to keep it in place, but not so tight as to choke the dog. The other way is by holding the dog's lower jaw and cheek on the side closest to you without wrapping your fingers around the muzzle. It is helpful to practice in front of a mirror so that you can see if your fingers are interfering with the judge's view of your dog's muzzle. Always maintain close control of the dog's head any time it is being examined.

Once you have control of the head, you need to position the front legs. Start by setting the leg on the judge's side first. Tilt your dog's head toward you to take the weight off that leg. Next, grasp the leg by the elbow, with your thumb on the inside bend of the joint. Lift and place the leg so that you can form a line straight down from the shoulder through the pastern, perpendicular to the floor. Once that leg is set, push the head away from you and set the front leg closest to you. The feet should be shoulder width apart, parallel, and facing forward.

When the dog's front legs are in position, set the rear legs. Remember to maintain control of the head with the hand that is closest to the head. To set the rear legs, grasp the point of the hock, lift slightly, and pull or push the leg into position. There should be a straight line from the hock through the heel and perpendicular to the floor. Another way to do this on a larger dog is to reach under the dog, grasp the stifle, and place the leg into position. After you set the judge's side, set the near side (the side closest to you). The back legs are usually set a little wider than the front.

If your dog's top line tends to dip in the middle, presenting a swaybacked appearance, first check to make sure you do not have the hind legs stretched back too far. If that is not the cause of the problem, set the rear legs by reaching under the dog and positioning them by grasping the stifle. This usually results in your dog's back becoming level, thus removing that dip. If the back is arched, make sure that the rear legs are not too far under your dog. If that is not the cause of the problem, set the rear legs without reaching under the dog, again positioning them by grasping the stifle or point of the hock. This usually results in your dog's back becoming level.

Free stacking is a term used to describe walking your dog into a stack without

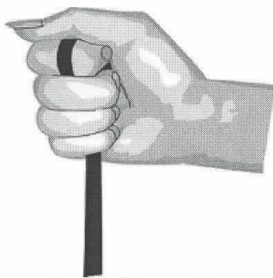
using your hands to position the dog's feet. One method often used is to give your dog the command to stand, and then use the lead to move its head and shift its weight, just as you did when doing hands-on stacking. Pull the lead gently forward or back, and/or right or left, to cause different feet to move.

Once stacked, the dog's attention may be kept with the use of **bait**. This may be a small piece of food or a small toy that is no bigger than your fist. Before entering the ring always ask the ring steward if that judge permits the use of bait. Then use the bait *discreetly* to keep the dog's attention focused on you. This gives an alert posture and is helpful in keeping the ears tilted forward in prick-eared breeds. Do not throw the bait to keep your dog's attention, and do not leave pieces of food lying in the ring.

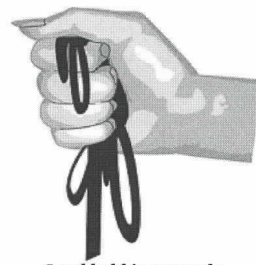
Small dogs are shown on a table. They are carefully lifted on the table and stacked the same way as a larger dog. The front feet are placed near the center front edge of the table. It takes some practice to get your dog accustomed to this. If you do not have a grooming table to practice on, use a picnic table or other sturdy table, placing a rubber bath mat on it for traction. It is permissible to carefully lift a small breed by its chest and gently set it into position. Never drop a dog into position because that can be harmful to its feet and shoulders and can cause the table to move, thus scaring the dog. Great care should be taken when lifting the dog down from the table as many get excited and try to jump.

Keep checking the placement of the dog's feet once it is stacked. Any movement out of position needs to be corrected quickly but smoothly. The lead should be gathered neatly in your hand and not draped over the dog. If you must kneel beside your dog after it is stacked, keep only one knee on the ground so that you can change positions smoothly and with ease. You must keep the dog between you and the judge, and therefore have to move around your dog. Position yourself facing slightly toward the dog's head, with the knee closest to the dog being down. The exception is if you are stacking a toy breed on the floor, then it is permissible to put both knees on the ground. However, you still must be prepared to move around your dog smoothly as needed.

Refer to the illustrations below for proper holding of the lead and collar/lead placement on the dog. (Source: *Minnesota 4-H Dog Showmanship Rules and Guidelines, University of Minnesota Extension, 4-H Youth Development*).



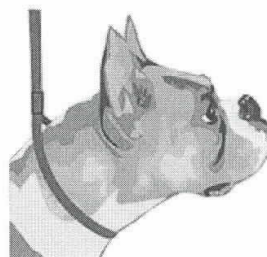
Lead held correctly.



Lead held incorrectly.



Lead placed correctly on dog.



Lead place incorrectly on dog.

Gaiting

Another component of showmanship is moving your dog. This is called gaiting. Dogs are moved around the ring at a specified gait, based on breed. Most breeds move at a controlled trot. To begin, enter the ring with your dog at your left and be positioned so that you can gait around the ring in a counterclockwise direction. Make sure to keep about three feet between you and the dog in front of you in the line. After stacking, the judge has all dogs gait around the ring. The first person in line should look back along the line and ask the other handlers if they are ready, saying something like, "Is everyone ready?" The reason for asking this is consideration for others in the class. Once the group is ready, the first person steps off, with the others following. With a large, fast dog, the handler may be running. The handler with a small breed may be only moving at a walk. Resist the temptation to travel at the same speed as the dog in front of you. Move your dog at the speed required for a showy trot. If your dog is bouncing or galloping, you are moving too fast and need to slow down. If the dog in front of you is moving slower than your dog, pause, allowing some space, and then move off again with your dog at the proper speed. Check to see what side of the ring the judge is facing to watch the dog's gait. Hold your dog back a few seconds, out of the judge's view. Then, just as the dog in front of you is passing in front of the judge's line of vision, start moving your dog at its proper speed. Do not pass the dog in front of you.

Put the dog at your right side if the judge reverses the direction. This takes some practice since most dogs are taught to heel on the left and need to be taught to perform on the opposite side. Always remember to keep the dog between you and the judge. Head control is just as important while gaiting as it is while stacking. Make sure that the collar is positioned up behind the dog's ears. The lead should be gathered neatly in your hand with no dangling ends flapping about. Your elbow should be bent at a 90-degree angle with your forearm parallel to the ground. Your thumb is up with the lead exiting the bottom of your fist. Try to float when you move, making your gait as smooth as possible. This can be done by taking long strides. Taking short, choppy steps when running causes your dog to do the same, and your movement is not as smooth. Keep one eye on the dog and one eye on the judge while also watching the ground to see where you are going. It is really important to be aware of your dog, the judge, the ring stands and rope, and the ground at all times.

There is no need to make direct eye contact with the judge during the gaiting pattern. Too much head movement is distracting from the picture of your dog gaiting around the ring. Just be aware of the judge's position in order to keep the dog lined up, and between you and the judge. When you are moving directly away from the judge, it is not recommended that you look back over your shoulder because you will not be able to see where you are going. It also causes your body to twist, throwing off your stride. If you are gaiting up to the judge, stop three to four feet in front of him/her. Stopping too close to the judge does not allow him or her to see the front conformation of your dog. When you stop, look at your dog's legs. Are they in the proper position? If not, try to get them into position by free stacking. You always want your dog presented properly.

Individual Exam

After the dogs have gone around the ring as a group, the judge examines each dog individually. All the dogs in the ring should be stacked in one long line, nose to tail, with

approximately three feet between them. This gives the judge room to move between dogs. Remember to maintain control of your dog's head any time the judge is examining him.

You may be asked to show your dog's bite. **Bite** refers to how the front teeth of the upper and lower jaws come together. Many breeds have a standard that lists the type(s) of acceptable bites. The most common types of bites found in dogs are overshot, undershot, even, and scissors bite.

To show your dog's bite, with the dog's mouth closed, place the lead in your right hand and grasp the lower jaw from underneath. With your left hand over the dog's muzzle, carefully peel the lips away from the front teeth and turn the nose towards the judge. Make sure you do not inadvertently show the dog's bite to the floor. It is not necessary to show any more than the front teeth. However, some breed standards require the judge to check for missing teeth. In those breeds, you should get used to showing first the bite and then showing the teeth on the sides of the mouth. When judging, many judges prefer not to put their hands on a dog's mouth, thus avoiding transferring germs to the next dog in line. In those cases, the judge may ask the handler to show the teeth. Therefore, in 4-H if the judge asks to see the bite, the front teeth are shown. If the judge asks to see the teeth, then the sides are also shown. The exhibitor should be proficient in showing both.

Get your dog used to being touched all over its body. The judge checks ears, teeth, nails, condition, and grooming. As the judge examines your dog, watch carefully to make sure the judge hasn't changed your dog's appearance in any way. If the dog's feet have been moved or the hair disturbed, fix the change by replacing the foot or by running your hand or comb over the coat to put it back in place.

After the judge has finished examining your dog, you are asked to gait your dog in one of four patterns: the Down and Back, the Triangle, the "L" or the "T" pattern. There are two major goals to accomplish in gaiting: (1) keep the dog between you and the judge (Do not block the judge's view of your dog as you move along the pattern), and (2) practice gaiting, turning, and switching hands with the lead (when necessary) until you can do it smoothly with no wasted motion.

At a dog show, the judge has a limited amount of time to examine a large number of dogs. If the exhibitor wants to get the most out of his time with the judge, the dog is ready and waiting for the judge as soon as the previous dog has finished gaiting. As you move into the pattern, the next person in line should move into your place. If that person has a small dog, it should be placed on the table at this time. If you are the person after the small dog on the table, move up when that small dog has been lifted off the table and is gaiting. The judge has the opportunity to see the dog being stacked on many occasions in the ring, and can see the lifting procedure when the handler lifts the dog to the ground after being examined. It is neither necessary nor desirable to hold up the ring by making the judge wait.

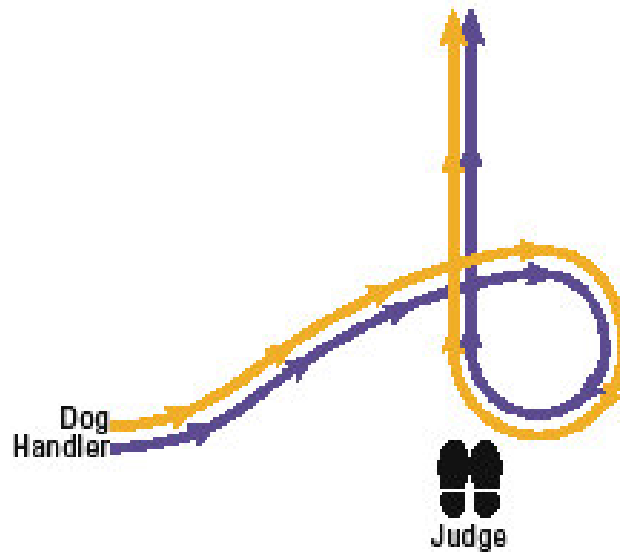
When you are stacking your dog in the line, make sure you are not stacking your dog directly behind the grooming table. If you do, the judge is unable to see your dog clearly when he or she steps to the center of the ring. Therefore, leave that space empty. It is permissible to back up so that you are not in the corner, with other handlers adjusting as needed.

The judge may walk between dogs at any time. Remember to always keep the dog between you and the judge. If the judge passes in front of your dog, you move around to the back of your dog. If the judge passes behind your dog, you move around to the front. Do **NOT** step over your dog.

Courtesy Turn

Every pattern should start with a courtesy turn, except the Down and Back pattern with two dogs. This enables you to get your dog under control and moving at the correct gait in the smallest amount of space. To perform this, step forward past the judge, with the dog at your left side. Then turn in a very tight circle with the dog on the outside. Remember to turn, and do not stand still and just circle your dog. Make only one circle before you start off on the pattern. After completing the circle, move your dog away from the judge in a straight line, making sure your dog is lined up with the judge.

Courtesy Turn

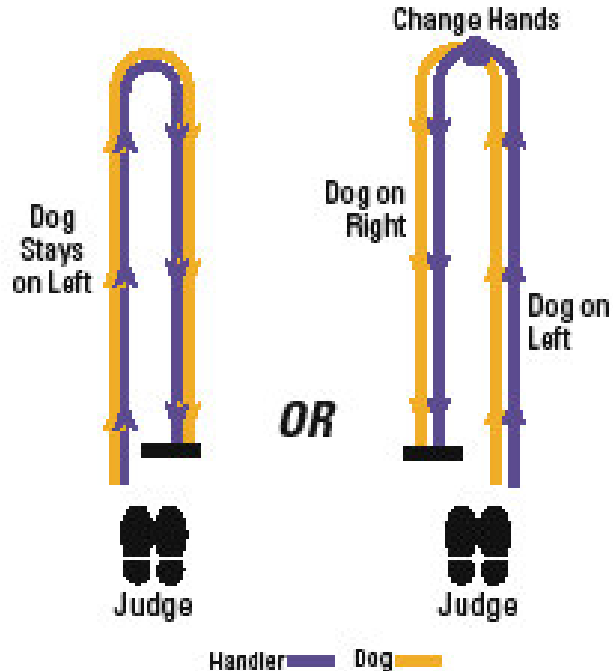


Down and Back Pattern (One Dog)

To perform the Down and Back pattern, complete a courtesy turn, and gait your dog away from the judge. When you reach the end of the ring, turn toward the right, just as you would do an about turn in obedience, and return to the judge. The objective is to perform the turn smoothly and to make sure your dog is lined up with the judge when both leaving and returning. The Down and Back pattern may be performed on the diagonal, so pay attention to the directions the judge gives you.

You may practice the Down and Back by switching hands, therefore switching sides when you return. Go down with the dog on your left. Then switch the lead to your other hand and return with the dog on your right. This type of Down and Back could be used as a tie breaker, with the judge requesting you switch hands. Sometimes you may need to switch hands if you are at an outdoor trial and the ring conditions are such that your dog might step in a hole or puddle if you don't switch hands. You also need to know how to switch hands in the Senior B level showmanship class when performing the Down and Back pattern with two dogs.

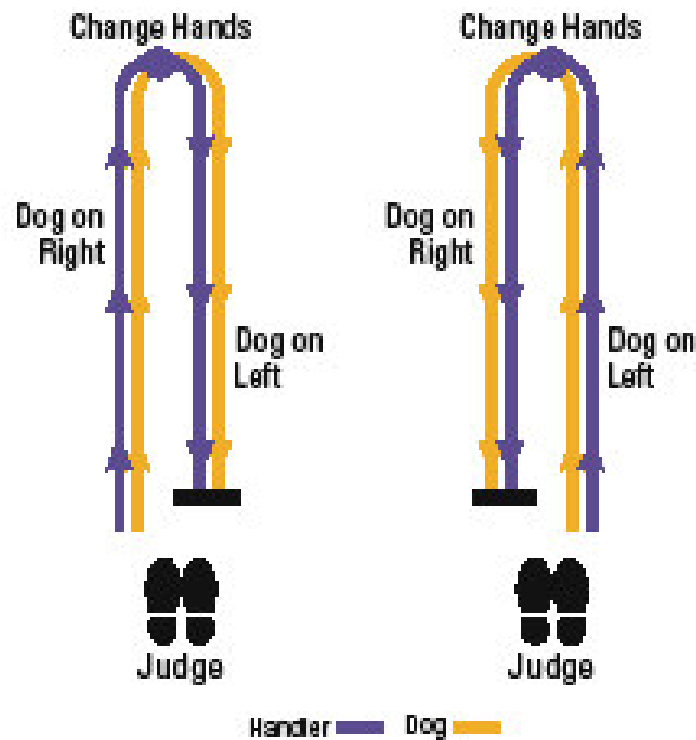
Down and Back Pattern (One Dog)



Down and Back Pattern (Two Dogs)

When doing the Down and Back with two dogs, the handlers step off at the same time, with the dogs in the center and the handlers on the outside. When the end of the ring is reached, both handlers turn toward their dogs, switch hands and return, stopping three to four feet in front of the judge. For safety reasons, the Down and Back pattern is done only in Senior B level 4-H classes.

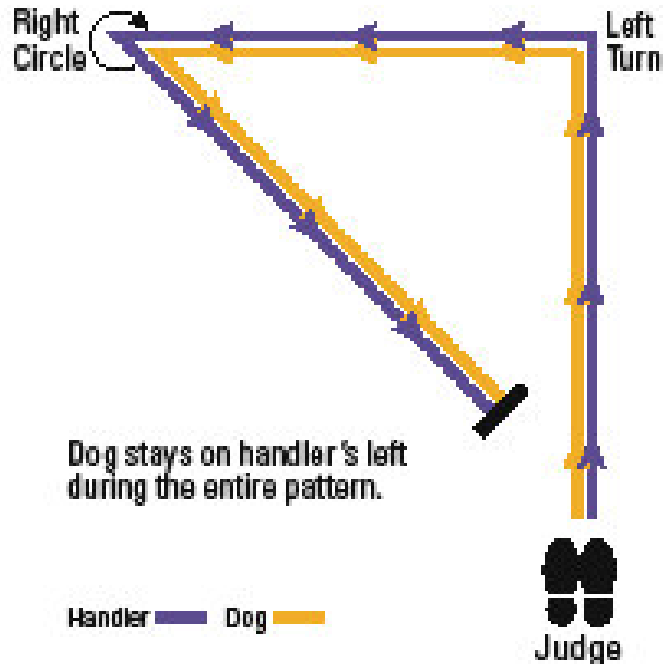
Down and Back Pattern (Two Dogs)



Triangle Pattern

The Triangle pattern starts with the standard courtesy turn and gait away from the judge. When you reach the end of the ring, make a left turn and continue to the corner. When you reach that corner, make a right circle and continue back to the judge, stopping three to four feet from the judge. To do a right circle, spin in a clockwise direction around your right hand with the dog at your left side. When you are facing the correct direction, step off at your normal gaing speed. This enables a large dog to make a very sharp turn in a very small space. If you are working with a very small toy breed, the right circle may be eliminated. There are no hand changes in this pattern.

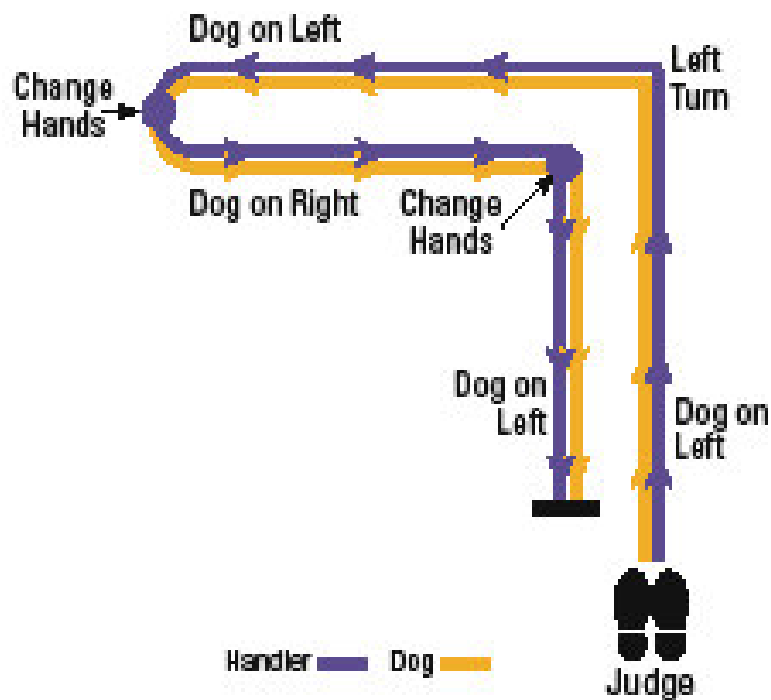
Triangle Pattern



“L” Pattern

The “L” pattern starts the same way as the Triangle pattern. Make your courtesy turn, gait away from the judge to the far end of the ring, and then make a left turn. When you reach that far corner, turn toward your dog and transfer the lead to your right hand. Continue turning until you are facing back along the way you came. Then gait back to the corner with your dog at your right side. As you approach the corner, let your dog continue past you and transfer the lead back to your left hand. Make a right turn and gait back to the judge. This puts the dog back at your left side for the final approach. The most difficult part of this exercise is at that farthest corner where you switch hands. It takes practice to make the switch and turn smoothly. You must also get your dog comfortable with gaiting at your right side.

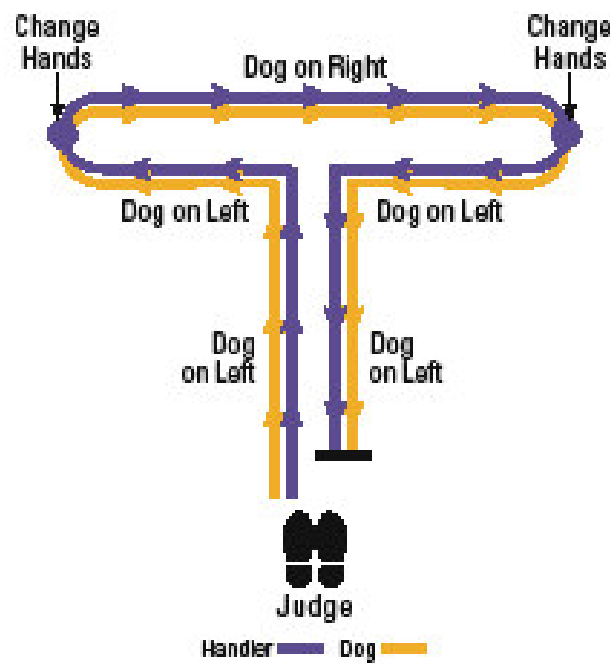
“L” Pattern



“T” Pattern

This pattern is a modified “L” pattern that is started midway down one side of the ring. After your courtesy turn, start in the same manner as the basic “L” by going across the ring, away from the judge, to the far side of the ring. Make a left turn, go across to the end, change hands, return, and continue on to the opposite side of the ring. There, let the dog go past you, change hands and do an about turn, and continue back to the center. Make a left turn and continue back to the judge with the dog at your left side.

“T” Pattern



After Performing a Pattern

After you have finished your individual pattern, the judge sends you to the end of the line. Do an about turn, with the dog at your left at the outside of the turn, and go back around the ring to the end of the line. The judge may or may not watch you return to the end of the line. Always present yourself as if the judge is still observing you. Continue to move up and restack your dog as each dog completes its pattern.

To Table or Not to Table

There are breeds that are typically shown on a table at AKC events. These dogs are usually handled by adults who are physically able to safely lift those breeds onto the table. In 4-H dog shows, youth may show mixed breeds that could be much larger than the breed their dogs most closely resemble. A youth may not be tall or strong enough to lift his/her dog onto the table. It is unsafe for a small exhibitor to lift a large dog on the

table, which may be more than waist high. Youth, regardless of age, should be able to safely table toy breeds. But once you get past that 16-pound toy size, the exhibitor's size in relation to the dog's size must be considered. Ideally, the matter should be brought to the judge's attention *before* the class enters the ring. As the exhibitor, you should know if the breed of your dog, or what breed it most closely resembles, is normally shown on the table. You should be able to explain how it is done properly, even if you are unable to demonstrate those procedures. There is no penalty for an exhibitor who is physically unable to safely lift his/her dog, especially if he/she knows the correct procedure and timing.

These AKC breeds are normally tabled.

Sporting

- Cocker Spaniel (all varieties)
- English Cocker Spaniel

Hound

- Basenji
- Beagle (both sizes)
- Dachshunds (all)
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
- Whippet

Working - None

Terrier

- Australian Terrier
- Bedlington Terrier
- Border Terrier
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier
- Fox Terrier (all)
- Lakeland Terrier
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Norfolk Terrier
- Parson (Jack) Russel Terrier
- Scottish Terrier
- Sealyham Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- Standard Manchester Terrier
- Welsh Terrier
- West Highland White Terrier

Toy - All

Non-Sporting

- American Eskimo
- Bichon Frise
- Boston Terrier
- French Bulldog
- Lhasa Apso
- Lowchen
- Miniature Poodle
- Schipperke

Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniel
Tibetan Terrier

Herding

Cardigan Welsh Corgi
Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Puli
Shetland Sheepdog

Selected Showmanship References

Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook, 201R, Ohio State University Extension, 2008

Dog Learning Laboratory Kit <http://cms.osu.edu>

The Complete Dog Book, (Official Publication of The American Kennel Club), 20th Edition, 2006, ISBN – 0-345-47626-3

www.akc.org

<http://southcenters.osu.edu/4h/dog>



These Guidelines were written by Susan Breech, State 4-H Dog Committee Chair, Gallipolis, Ohio, and adapted with permission from the American Kennel Club (AKC) *Junior Showmanship Regulations*. The AKC is a partner in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program.

Leadership was given to the preparation and editing of these Guidelines by Lucinda B. Miller, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Companion and Small Animal Programs.

Credit is given to Kansas 4-H, James P. Adams, *Dog Show Judge's Guidelines*, Kansas State University, February 2000, which served as a model when developing these Guidelines.

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OHIO STATE FAIR DOG SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEET

Exhibitor's Name _____ Exhibitor's No. _____

Age (1/1) _____ Years in 4-H _____ Years in Dog Project _____

County _____ Dog's Breed _____

Check Correct Class Below:

8-11 Years - JUNIOR A _____ 8-11 Years - JUNIOR B _____

12-14 Years - INTERMEDIATE A _____ 12-14 Years - INTERMEDIATE B _____

15-18 Years - SENIOR A _____ 15-18 Years - SENIOR B _____

Areas to be Evaluated	Maximum Points	Points Earned	Comments
1. INTERVIEW Demonstrates knowledge of dogs and dog care and welfare; accurately responds to age-appropriate questions taken from the <i>Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook</i> .	60		
2. HANDLER APPEARANCE & ATTITUDE A) Dressed appropriately (neat/clean), proper shoes. Hair neat & out of way. 15 pts. B) Courteous, Poised. 10 pts. C) Good Sportsmanship. 15 pts. D) Good Attitude towards dog. 10 pts.	50		
3. GROOMING A) General condition of dog (consider age of dog). 5 pts. B) Condition of coat (cleaned/groomed). 10 pts. C) Condition of eyes. 5 pts. D) Condition of ears. 5 pts. E) Condition of teeth. 5 pts. F) Toenails clipped. 5 pts. G) Hair trimmed between pads. 5 pts.	40		
4. HANDLING A) Show bite. 5 pts. B) Stacking. 10 pts. C) Gaiting. 10 pts. D) Pattern. 15 pts. E) Smoothness. 15 pts. F) Control of dog. 5 pts. G) Consideration of others. 5 pts. H) Handler attentive to judge. 10 pts. I) Use of equipment. 5 pts.	80		
Total Points Available	230		
Total Points Earned			