4-H CANINE PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

4-H project general description

- A 4-H project consists of 6-8 hours of sequential learning experiences (over a period of at least a few days or weeks) exploring a general subject with the guidance of a leader or mentor.

*Translation*... A dog project leader or the club’s team of dog project leaders is/are planning/organizing/facilitating 6-8 hours (at least) of dog topic related activities to help members learn about dogs and/or meet their dog project goals.

- For recognition of project work, members must be members in good standing and keep a member record and project record (see page two for record book details).
- 4-H members ages 8+ may handle dogs. If Cloverbuds wish to gain exposure to dogs and animal care, an adult needs to be holding and in control of the dog. Cloverbud activities should be limited to feeding, petting, and stroking the dogs. Caution should be exhibited when entering a kennel or other area where dogs are loose, especially for the Cloverbuds. Those that handle dogs should heed the cautions and best practices.

Project information specific to the dog project:

- Make sure that the entries you are exhibiting are properly approved 4-H animals and are prepared for exhibition by your own efforts. You should not allow any adult or other people to prepare any part of your animal for exhibit (*from the N.H. Responsibilities as a 4-H Animal Exhibitor*).
- Sharing dogs for Educational purposes is allowed.
- For showing 4-H, the sharing of project dogs is not allowed.
- Members may be part of a club or be independent members
- Owning or leasing dogs is not required.
  - Project leaders may help members find dogs to purchase or lease
  - Members are not required to take handling lessons

- Members may choose to enhance the club project meeting learning in the dog project area by participating in the following if/when available:
  - Clinics, dog shows, workshops
  - Regional Day with a dog presentation
  - Fairs/Field Days with a dog presentation
  - Community Service Projects
  - Career Exploration

- To find other information, rules, and documents like lease forms, approval forms, and record books related to the dog project go to the dog section on the 4-H projects page: [www.uvm.edu/extension/4-hevents](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/4-hevents)
General information about record books

- Record books document project work and also include goals and a reflection piece to summarize the project experience. Most 4-Hers use the standard Record Books available through the 4-H program. Members may use alternative formats for records but must have prior approval from their 4-H Educator.

Dog Record Books

- Members who own or lease a dog usually use the Dog Project Record Books
- Members without dogs may use the generic 4-H Project Record
- Dog members may use the Dog Project Record or pages of it if they have been tracking, for learning purposes, the care and expenses of dogs that they don’t own or lease. Project leaders would help determine if such an approach makes sense based on project goals.

Out of State 4-H Opportunities for

Eastern States Exposition

Lease stipulations to consider:

This is a partial list suggesting areas that should be considered and resolved before signing a lease/loan agreement. When including an item in an agreement, clearly state the item and the roles of the renter/borrower and owner (that is, who does what, who pays for what), being as specific and concise as possible.

1. Animal Health - veterinary fees, drugs, vaccinations, etc.
2. Liability - injury to the animal, injury by the animal
3. Feeding - costs, types of feed, source of feed
4. Returns to 4-H’er - for labor, for management,
5. Housing - specifications
6. Exhibiting* – transportation, disposition of premiums and awards
7. Arbitration of disagreement

*4-Hers are expected to tend to the animal’s needs