

# 2010 NEW MEXICO STATE 4-H SANCTIONED DOG SHOW

## RULES

### REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES: AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB GUIDELINES:

All rules and guidelines related to the New Mexico State 4-H Dog Show not specifically covered in this document will defer to the most current handbook of the American Kennel Club (AKC). This handbook is available online at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

#### **4-H MEMBERS DRESS:**

##### 4-H State and National Event Clothing Guidelines:

**All attire must meet the current guidelines as outlined in the New Mexico State 4-H Clothing Guidelines.** These guidelines are available online at <http://nm4h.nmsu.edu> > Forms & Publications > Event Forms.

**Jr. Handler (Showmanship) Attire:** Take extra care to present yourself to the best of your ability. Your appearance is important to the impression you make in the ring. Be neat, attractive, comfortable and pleasant to watch. Caps or hats are not allowed. Rubber soled boots or shoes with closed toe/heel and low heels are best, high heels and open toed/heel shoes are not allowed. Make sure you can run quietly and easily in the shoes you choose. Emphasis should be placed on being clean and neat. **Remember, judges have individual opinions that may vary, but staying close to the standards is recommended.** (For the American Kennel Club's Jr. Handler guidelines order the Jr. Handler Regulations Book at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or call (919)233-9767)

**FOR GIRLS:** Dresses or skirts of modest length and jackets with sleeves are recommended, attractive pant suits are acceptable. Business type suits are a good example to follow. Short skirts are discouraged as well as long "flowing" skirts that may detract from your dog's movement. Care should be taken to secure hair away from face, and excessive jewelry or accessories are not recommended.

**FOR BOYS:** Collared dress shirts and dress pants are appropriate, a tie and/or jacket are encouraged. Preferred dress is "business like".

**Obedience, Agility and Rally-O Attire:** Casual attire is acceptable, jeans, t-shirts (or club shirts) and tennis shoes are fine. You should **always be neat and clean** when presenting your dog in the show ring.

**DOGS:** **Jr. Handler (Showmanship):** A thin slip collar and show lead is required, as appropriate to breed.

**Obedience:** A slip collar or flat collar that fits properly and a six foot long leash.

**Rally-O:** A well-fitting plain buckle or slip collar is appropriate and a six-foot long leash.

**Agility:** A well-fitting flat buckle collar is appropriate and a tab which does not hang below the dogs elbow. All dogs in the Novice and Advanced Agility classes will compete off leash or tab, a collar is not required. All Agility dogs **must** enter and exit course area with a collar and leash or tab or a slip leash on the their dog.

**\*Fancy collars or special training collars, or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dogs are not permitted. Nothing should be hanging from the collars. Only one collar may be used on a dog, at a time.**

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. To participate in New Mexico 4-H Dog Show, members must be between the ages of 9-19 as of January 1 of the current year. All members must be currently active in a 4-H Club program in New Mexico and enrolled in a 4-H Dog Program.
2. Dogs must be 6 months old as of January 1st of the project year for the 4-H programs. To compete in the individual events check that event ruling for the appropriate age to compete in that event. To compete in Agility the dog must be 15 months old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year for the 4-H programs.

3. Any dog, mix or pure breed, is eligible as long as the dog is clearly a 4-H project dog and that dog is not a danger to themselves or any other dog or person.

### **ENTRIES & VACCINATIONS:**

1. All entries must be made on Official State 4-H Dog Show Entry Form with **all** information complete and accurate and all required forms attached. **PLEASE NOTE:** A separate entry form is required for each dog entered. Official Show Entry Forms are available on the applicable websites.
2. A "Code of Conduct" form, "Medical Release" form, "Photo Release" form and, "Agility Release" form is required for each 4-H member and **must be sent with the entry form or the application will not be accepted.** These forms can be received from your 4-H Extension Office or on-line.
3. **Dogs Immunization Records must be sent with entry form or the application will not be accepted and the dog will not be allowed to compete.** Immunization records include proof of rabies vaccination signed by a licensed veterinarian and proof of other required vaccinations: distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and par influenza signed by a licensed veterinarian or receipt of vaccines purchased. Other recommended vaccinations are leptospirosis, corona virus and bordetella.
4. Entry Due Date – All entries must be hand delivered or postmarked on or before the posted due date. Hand-delivered entries will be accepted in the office up to the office closing time on the day of deadline. Certified mail or a Certificate of Mailing validated by the Post Office is recommended. A metered postmark will **NOT** be considered as a valid postmark for entry deadline purposes.
5. **Entries not signed by the parent/guardian and 4-H Extension Agent will not be accepted.**
6. For Entry Verification purposes, the committee suggests sending a self addressed envelope with your entry..
7. Class entries are **FINAL**. Class changes will **not** be allowed on Show Day.
8. It is the responsibility of 4-H members to check in with the ring steward at the start of the show.

### **ASSISTANCE:**

1. While on the show grounds, no one other than the 4-H exhibitor may train, work or groom his/her dog. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
2. Double handling will not be allowed. Double handling is when someone outside the show ring assists or trains the 4-H exhibitor and/or their dog, while they are inside the show ring, with verbal, hand or other commands. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
3. A 4-H handler with two or more dogs may ask for assistance in holding or leading dog, between classes and to and from class or crate.
4. Exceptions to the above rule must be approved by the New Mexico 4-H Dog Committee and be in writing before the Dog Show.

### **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

1. Dogs must be on a leash or otherwise confined at all times, except when in the ring.
2. Each owner/handler is liable and responsible for his/her dog's behavior. Any dog that attempts to attack any person or another dog may be disqualified and excluded from participation and must be removed from the show arena grounds immediately. At the discretion of the County 4-H Agent or the State 4-H office a dog may be removed from the 4-H project.
3. Each owner/handler is responsible for picking up after his/her dog. There will be bags and/or a pooper scooper available for clean up.
4. Exhibitors will be held responsible for keeping premises clean and must keep dogs under control.
5. No female dogs in season will be allowed to compete and must be removed from the show arena grounds immediately
6. Dogs not entered in competition are not permitted on the show grounds.
7. Any abuse of dogs on the grounds or in the ring will result in disqualification.
8. Any dog with a contagious, communicable or infectious disease or condition, in the judgment of the show management or attending veterinarian, cannot be shown. It must be removed from the show arena grounds immediately.
9. The judge has the right and responsibility to excuse any dog he or she considers lame or at risk when participating in an event.
10. Good sportsmanship shall be observed **at all times**. The judge's and/or shows committee's decision is final. Poor sportsmanship may lead to loss of ribbon, class dismissal or disqualification from show as determined by the judge and show committee. Any protest should be made in writing to the show committee.
11. All questions or complaints must be registered with the show chairperson within 24 hours of the completion of the show and must be in writing.

12. The use of alcohol is prohibited anywhere on the Dog Show grounds.
13. Any person who violates any of the general rules or special rules as published in the Premium List will forfeit all privileges and premiums won.

### **HIGH-POINT AWARDS**

1. There will be a High-Point Award for each 4-H age group with Qualified Scores; Novice, Junior and Senior.
2. Those 4-H members who do not compete at the highest level that their dog is qualified for, are not eligible for the High Point Award. (See the “Move Up” rules.)
3. The points will count towards the High Point Award, based on points of one dog.
4. The High Point Awards will be calculated in each event (obedience, rally-o & agility), according to the 4-H members age group; Novice, Junior or Senior. For performance classes each age group will be ranked according to the score received in that class (obedience, rally-o or agility) and the points counting toward High Point will be given accordingly.
5. If there is a tied score in the obedience there will be a run off at the discretion of the obedience judge. If there is a tied score in rally-o or agility classes (for high point) and the dogs are in two different level classes of that event – the tie-breaker decision will be made by the judge of that event (rally-o or agility). If the tied scores in rally-o or agility is in the same level event class the time will break the tie.
6. Determination of All Around Awards
  - The point system will be based off of the 6 points for a full class. A full class means a class with 6 or more entries – Points will be awarded: 1<sup>st</sup> = 6 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> = 5 points; 3<sup>rd</sup> = 4 points; 4<sup>th</sup> = 3 points; 5<sup>th</sup> = 2 points; 6<sup>th</sup> = 1 point.
  - If a class has 5 or less entries, then points should be given for the number of class entries. Ex: if Novice Jr. Handler has only 4 entries, then 1<sup>st</sup> place would receive 4 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> = 3 points; 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2 points; 4<sup>th</sup> = 1 point.
  - The winner is determined by adding the points earned by each contestant with each dog in which she/he has placed in the top six. Points are compiled on a one-dog, one 4-H member basis.
  - In the event of a tie in the 4-H member’s age group for the High Point Award, the placing of the Jr. Handler class will be used to break the tie.
5. No awards will be mailed.

### **“MOVE-UP” RULES**

1. When a dog has received two qualified scores in a class (ex: Pre-Novice B Obedience) at the New Mexico State Fair (Expo NM) 4-H Dog Show, they will need to move up to the next level class (ex: Novice Obedience).
2. This rule will start with and include the scores from the New Mexico State Fair 4-H Dog Show September 2009.
3. The 4-H member will receive a letter notifying them that their dog needs to move up to the next level class and what that class is.
4. A dog may stay in the same level class, but that dog will not receive a score.
5. Those dogs that do not compete at the highest level that they qualify for are not eligible for the High Point Award.

### **CLASS RULES**

Showmanship, Obedience, Agility, & Rally-O exercises are to be performed according to AKC rules as modified by 4-H. See appropriate 4-H rules below.

## **SHOWMANSHIP:**

In this class the exhibitor is judged on how well the dog is shown to the judge using the techniques of confirmation showing – grooming, posing & gaiting. (Conformation or breed of the dog, itself is not considered.) The dog is judged on its response to the 4-H member. Condition and grooming are considered a part of showmanship. Age appropriate patterns will be used (Ex: “L” “Triangle” or “T”). Take extra care to present yourself to the best of your ability. Your appearance is important to the impression you make in the ring. Be neat, attractive, comfortable and pleasant to watch. Caps or hats are not allowed. Rubber soled boots or shoes with closed toe/heel and low heels are best, high heels and open toed/heel shoes are not allowed. Make sure you can run quietly and easily in the shoes you choose. Emphasis should be placed on being clean and neat. **Remember, judges have individual opinions that may vary, but staying close to the standards is recommended.** (For the American Kennel Club’s Jr. Handler guidelines order the Jr. Handler Regulations Book at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or call (919)233-9767)

**DRESS FOR GIRLS:** Dresses or skirts of modest length and jackets with sleeves are recommended, attractive pant suits are acceptable. Business type suits are a good example to follow. Short skirts are discouraged as well as long “flowing” skirts that may detract from your dog’s movement. Care should be taken to secure hair away from face, and excessive jewelry or accessories are not recommended.

**DRESS FOR BOYS:** Collared dress shirts and dress pants are appropriate, a tie and/or jacket are encouraged. Preferred dress is “business like”.

The showmanship class is divided into three divisions; Novice, Junior and Senior.

Novice: 9 to 11 years of age as of January 1 of the current year 4-H year.

Junior: 12 & 13 years of age as of January 1 of the current year 4-H year.

Senior: 14 to 19 years of age as of January 1 of the current year 4-H year.

Treats or bait **MAY** be used in the showmanship ring.

The classes will be placed at the conclusion of each class and the judge may talk to the 4-H members.

The First Place winners from each age division in showmanship may compete for Champion showmanship; the remaining First Place winners and the Second Place winner from the class chosen as Champion may compete for Reserve Champion Showmanship. No point will be given for Champion & Reserve Champion Showmanship. .

## **OBEDIENCE:**

1. Dogs must be 6 months old or older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year.
2. NO BAIT may be used in the obedience ring.
3. If there are tied scores in an obedience class, the tie will be broken by a run off.
4. When a dog scores a 170 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair Dog Show, they must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.
5. Handlers may only show one dog per Obedience Class.
6. A member may skip over levels as they go (i.e. going directly into Novice or skipping from Novice to Open.) However, members **CANNOT** go **BACK** after progressing forward. If members have shown in AKC competition, they **MUST** enter the same level in 4-H competition.

### **OBEDIENCE CLASS DESCRIPTION AND DIVISIONS:**

(Refer to the American Kennel Club’s Obedience Regulations – [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or call (919) 233-9767 to order rules books)

**Pre-Novice A** – For beginning dog and 4-H member in their first year of showing (not previously trained). A 4-H member may show only one year in this classification.

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight  | 2. Stand for Examination (On leash) |
| 3. Recall (on leash)               | 4. Long Sit – on leash (1 minute)   |
| 5. Long Down – on leash (3 minute) |                                     |

Dogs will be shown on leash. Long sits will be one minute from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dog; the judge will give the order to return. Long downs will be three minutes from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dog; the judge will give the order to return. Long sits and long downs will be on leash.

**Pre-Novice B** – For dog and/or 4-H member who have passed Pre-Novice A and who have not scored a 170 or better.

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight
2. Stand for Examination
3. Recall (on leash)
4. Long Sit – on leash (1 minute)
5. Long Down – on leash (3 minutes)

Dogs will be shown on leash. Long sits will be one minute from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dogs; the judge will give the order to return. Long downs will be three minutes from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dog; the judge will give the order to return. Long sits and long downs will be on leash.

**Novice** – For dogs that have scored a 170 or better in Pre-Novice B.

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight
2. Stand for Examination
3. Heel Free
4. Recall
5. Long Sit (1 minute)
6. Long Down (3 minutes)

Only the first heeling exercise and the figure 8 are on lead. Stand for examination, the second heeling pattern, and recall are off lead. Long sits will be one minute from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dog; the judge will give the order to return. Long downs will be three minutes from the time the judge has asked the handlers to leave their dogs; the judge will give the order to return. Long sits and long downs will be off leash.

**Pre-Open** – For dogs that have scored a 170 or better in Novice.

1. Heel on Leash
2. Figure Eight off Leash
3. Drop on Recall
4. Recall with Dumbbell
5. Recall over Broad Jump
6. Recall over High Jump
7. Long Sits (3 minutes) – out of sight
7. Long Downs (5 minutes) – out of sight

Heel on leash: Ability of dog and handler to work as a team and to follow the judge's commands of "Forward", "Halt", "Right Turn," "Left Turn," "About Turn," "Slow", "Normal", and "Fast". The Figure 8 is off leash: The Handler may choose either direction and should go twice around with at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise. The "Drop on Recall", "Recall with Dumbbell", "Recall Over High Jump", "Recall Over Broad Jump", Long Sits" and "Long Downs" are off leash. "Recall with Dumbbell": The handler will give the dog the dumbbell and then command and/or signal the dog to wait, walk to a designated spot (off leash) in front of the dog, turn and face the dog. The handler will call or signal the dog to come. The dog must come directly centered in front of the handler. The handler will give a command and take the dumbbell. On the judge's order, the handler will give a command or signal to finish. Long sits and Long downs – From the judge's order to "Leave your dogs", handlers must cross to the opposite side of the ring then leave in a single file and go completely out of the dogs' sight to a place designated by the judge until the time limit has passed. On the judge's orders the handlers will return to the ring in reverse order, lining up to face their dogs at the opposite side of the ring and return to their dogs.

**Open** – For dogs that have scored a 170 or better in Graduate Novice.

1. Heel Free and Figure Eight
2. Drop on Recall
3. Retrieve on Flat
4. Retrieve over High Jump
5. Broad Jump
6. Long Sits (3 minutes)
7. Long Down (5 minutes)

All exercises are done off lead. Long sits and downs are performed in the same manner as in the Graduate Novice Classes.

## AGILITY:

### **SAFETY RULES:**

Because the safety of both dogs and 4-H members is of paramount importance, the following rules will be enforced.

1. Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the project year for the 4-H program, to begin agility competition. It is recommended that larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because for most breeds the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months – even later for large breed.
2. No dog with a physical or mental condition that would significantly impair their performance may participate. Some examples of these include (but are not limited to) hip dysphasia, disc problems, severely slipped stifles, shoulder problems, overweight, or advancing age. A judge or the veterinarian on call will have the authority to stop the performance of any dog whose soundness they question.
3. Dogs that show signs of aggression towards humans or other dogs will not be permitted to participate.
4. Dogs and handlers may not enter the show ring before the judge's briefing.
5. Judges will inspect all equipment prior to beginning the show and may modify the requirements to the extent necessary to eliminate any piece of unsafe equipment. All agility jumps must be of the type that have a displaceable bar or plank.
6. 4-H members may not jump over the jumps with their dogs.
7. All Beginners dogs will be shown with a well-fitting plain buckle collar and a tab or leash. The tab must be held at all time except when the dog is going through an obstacle. After each obstacle, the tab must be picked up before the next obstacle is executed. The tab may be held during the jumps and weaves. All dogs in the Novice and Advance agility classes will compete off leash or tab; a collar is not required. All dogs in all Agility classes must enter and exit with a collar and leash or tab on them.

### **GENERAL RULES:**

1. 4-H members may use voice commands, signals, or both. 4-H members are encouraged to talk or cheer their dogs through the course. There is no penalty for multiple commands or verbal encouragement, but all must be in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
2. If an obstacle height is set incorrectly for the dog, then the 4-H handler must approach the judge, prior to beginning the course, and ask that the height be reset and the dog be allowed to restart the course.

### **FAMILIARIZATION TIME:**

The judge will meet with handlers for the "Judge's Briefing." Immediately following the briefing, the handlers can walk the course (without dogs) for 10 minutes with the judge and ask questions.

### **AGILITY EQUIPMENT USED:**

A-frame	Closed Tunnel	Open Tunnel	Pause Table	Dog Walk
Tire Jump	Weave Poles	Broad Jump	See Saw	Bar Jump
<b>OPEN LEVEL (May include):</b>	Panel Jump	Double Bar Jump	Triple Bar Jump	

## AGILITY CLASSES:

### **BEGINNING:**

1. Beginning agility course will contain one each of the following equipment: A-frame, Dog walk, See Saw, Closed tunnel, Broad Jump, Pause table, Open Tunnel, Tire jump, 1 set of 6 weave poles. The number of hurdles are optional, to fulfill equipment requirement at this level.
2. The minimum number of obstacles is 12.
3. The standard course time will be computed at 1 yard per second times the measured length of the course in yards. The length of the course can easily vary from one course design to another.
4. All dogs will be shown on a well fitted flat buckle collar and a tab and must be held at all times except when the dog is going through an obstacle. After each obstacle, the tab must be picked up before the next obstacle is executed. The tab may be held during the jumps and weaves. A tab that does not hang below the dog elbow is recommended.
5. A dog with any leg toward a USDAA or NADAC, UKC or an AKC agility title is ineligible.

6. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 75. With a score of 75 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.

### **NOVICE:**

1. Novice agility course will contain one each of the following equipment: A- frame, Dog walk, See Saw, Closed tunnel, Broad jump, Pause table, Open Tunnel, Tire jump, 1 set of 6 weave poles. The number of hurdles are optional, to fulfill equipment requirement at this level.
2. The minimum number of obstacles is 13.
3. The standard course time will be 2 yards per second. Number of yards divided by 2.
4. All dogs will compete off leash or tab and a collar is not required. All dogs must enter and exit the course area with a collar and leash or tab on the dog.
5. Dogs with a leg toward a UKC title, a NADAC or USCAA regular title, or a leg toward an AKC-Open agility title are ineligible, as is a 4-H member having earned a UJHP Intermediate Certificate.
6. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 75. With a score of 75 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.

### **OPEN:**

1. Open agility course will contain one each of the following equipment: A-frame, Dog walk, See Saw, Closed tunnel, Broad jump, Pause table, Open Tunnel, Tire jump, 1 set of 12 weave poles. The number of hurdles are optional, to fulfill equipment requirement at this level. Panel jump, Double jump, Triple jump may be used.
2. The minimum number of obstacles is 15.
3. All dogs will compete off leash or tab and a collar is not required. All dogs must enter and exit the course area with a collar and leash or tab on the dog.
4. The standard course time will be 2.5 yards per second. Number of yards divided by 2.5.
5. Dogs that have completed an Open title in AKC or a Starters/Novice title in USDAA or NADAC agility competition are ineligible for this class.
6. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 85. With a score of 85 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.

\*\*More advanced classes are not offered at this time, but may be considered at a future date, if needed.

### **JUMP HEIGHTS:**

Each agility class is divided into the following height divisions:

<u>Dog's Height at withers</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Jump Height</u>
Dogs 11" & under	11" & Under	8"
Dogs 14" & under	12" to 14"	12"
Dogs 18" & under	15" to 18"	16"
Dogs 22" & under	19" to 22"	20"
Dogs over 22"	23" & up	24"

## Scoring:

### **Beginners & Novice Scoring:**

#### **Standard Faults – charged at 5 faults:**

##### **Beginners only:**

1. Failure to pick up tab or leash after each obstacle; the leash must be picked up before the next obstacle is executed.
2. Tugging on the lead – five faults per occurrence, to elimination if it is severe or constant.

##### **Beginners and Novice:**

1. Refusals – will be faulted at 5 standard faults per occurrence.
2. Weave Poles: No refusals called, but must be completed or 15 pt. fault.
3. Wrong Course – A wrong course occurs when a dog engages any part of an obstacle that is not the next one in sequence or the next obstacle in the sequence in the wrong direction. A dog is considered to have engaged an obstacle if they touch it with all four paws.
4. 4-H member touching any obstacle intentionally (at the discretion of the judge).
5. 4-H member touching the dog – incidental touches expected (at the discretion of the judge).
6. Outside assistance – Interference or outside assistance that aids or is intended to aid the performance of a singular dog or handler. Faults shall be at the judge's discretion from a 5-point deduction to elimination.

#### **Major Faults – charged at 15 faults:**

1. Failure to perform or omitting any obstacle – A 4-H member omitting an obstacle by choice or by error, or crossing the finish line before the last obstacle is completed correctly. Includes being told by the judge to omit the obstacle because of the four paw safety rule.
  2. Upon the third refusal for the same obstacle, the judge will instruct the handler to go and the team will incur a major fault.
  3. Displacing (knocking off) a bar or panel of a jump. Applies whether it was the dog, the handler or the leash that knocks the bar or panel down.
  4. Missing a contact zone.
  5. Failure to clear the span of the Broad jump.
- Bailing off the seesaw – before it tips down and touches the ground.  
Bailing off the dog walk – before beginning the descending plank.
8. Leaving the pause table and engaging another obstacle prior to completion of the 5 second count.
- On and off the pause table – charged for the first occurrence only.  
4-H Handler guiding dog by blocking with their body.

#### **Elimination (NQ):**

##### **Beginners Only:**

Constant tugging on the leash.

##### **Beginners and Novices:**

1. 4-H handler or dog knocking down any obstacle or jump. Handler jumps over, goes under, or steps on top of any obstacle. (If excessive the judge may excuse the handler for their own safety.)
- Failure to complete all obstacles that are part of the course.  
An excessive amount of touching the obstacles or the dog.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct – including but not limited to...treating a dog harshly, swearing, complaining about judges or other exhibitors, using treats in the ring, failure to omit and go on to the next obstacle when instructed to do so by the judge.
- A dog that leaves the course area and discontinues working.  
A dog that is out of control or overly aggressive.  
Exceeding the maximum course time.
8. Dogs fouling (includes vomiting) the ring at any time.
- Inappropriate collar on dog discovered after the dog has started its run.
10. 4-H handler using bait or use of toys or other training aids.
- Dogs biting 4-H handler, beyond playful nipping.  
Abuse of dogs anywhere on the show grounds.

- 3. Dogs that bites, attacks or threatens to attack a human or another dog.
- 4. Three or more obstacles out of sequence.

### **Time Faults:**

#### **Beginners Only:**

- 1. At the Beginners level only; time will be used as a tiebreaker only and no time faults shall be assessed.

#### **Beginners and Novice:**

- 1. Each class level has a specified time limit within which the course must be completed. The timer will time each performance to .01 of a second.

Time penalties = 1 fault for every full second over Standard Course Time.

No bonus points are added for completing the course faster than required.

### **Open Scoring:**

#### **Standard Faults – charged at 5 faults:**

- 1. Refusals – will be faulted at 5 standard faults per occurrence.
- 2. Weave Poles: Called refusals
- 3. Wrong Course – A wrong course occurs when a dog engages any part of an obstacle that is not the next one in sequence or the next obstacle in the sequence in the wrong direction. A dog is considered to have engaged an obstacle if they touch it with all four paws.
- 4. 4-H member touching any obstacle intentionally (at the discretion of the judge).
- 5. 4-H member touching the dog – incidental touches expected (at the discretion of the judge).
- 6. Outside assistance – Interference or outside assistance that aids or is intended to aid the performance of a singular dog or handler. Faults shall be at the judge's discretion from a 5-point deduction to elimination.

#### **Major Faults – charged at 20 faults:**

- 1. Failure to perform or omitting any obstacle – A 4-H member omitting an obstacle by choice or by error, or crossing the finish line before the last obstacle is completed correctly. Includes being told by the judge to omit the obstacle because of the four paw safety rule.
- 2. Upon the third refusal for the same obstacle, the judge will instruct the handler to go and the team will incur a major fault.
- 3. Displacing (knocking off) a bar or panel of a jump. Applies whether it was the dog, the handler or the leash that knocks the bar or panel down.
- 4. Missing a contact zone.
- 5. Failure to clear the span of the Broad jump.
- 6. Bailing off the seesaw – before it tips down and touches the ground.
- 7. Bailing off the dog walk – before beginning the descending plank.
- 8. Leaving the pause table and engaging another obstacle prior to completion of the 5 second count.
- 9. On and off the pause table – charged for the first occurrence only.
- 10. 4-H Handler guiding dog by blocking with their body.

#### **Elimination (NQ):**

- 1. 4-H handler or dog knocking down any obstacle or jump. Handler jumps over, goes under, or steps on top of any obstacle. (If excessive the judge may excuse the handler for their own safety.)
- 2. Failure to complete all obstacles that are part of the course.
- 3. An excessive amount of touching the obstacles or the dog.
- 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct – including but not limited to...treating a dog harshly, swearing, complaining about judges or other exhibitors, using treats in the ring, failure to omit and go on to the next obstacle when instructed to do so by the judge.
- 5. A dog that leaves the course area and discontinues working.
- 6. A dog that is out of control or overly aggressive.
- 7. Exceeding the maximum course time.
- 8. Dogs fouling (includes vomiting) the ring at any time.
- 9. Inappropriate collar on dog discovered after the dog has started its run.
- 10. 4-H handler using bait or use of toys or other training aids.

11. Dogs biting 4-H handler, beyond playful nipping.
12. Abuse of dogs anywhere on the show grounds.
13. Dogs that bites, attacks or threatens to attack a human or another dog.
14. Three or more obstacles out of sequence.

**Time Faults:**

1. Each class level has a specified time limit within which the course must be completed.
2. The timer will time each performance to .01 of a second.
3. Time penalties = 1 fault for every full second over Standard Course Time.
4. No bonus points are added for completing the course faster than required.

**FINAL SCORE**

1. If there are tied scores in an agility class, the tie will be broken by the dog's time.
2. Run-offs should rarely be necessary. If they are required however both dogs will re-run the entire course, and the original scores will not be changed

**AGILITY CLASS AWARDS:**

Awards will be given in each height class as follows:

- A first place through sixth place ribbons will be awarded in each height class to the dogs with the qualified scores\_
- All other dogs with qualified scores will receive a "Qualified" ribbon.

Awards will also be given for the class – Beginning, Novice and Open.

**RALLY-O**

**GENERAL RULES:**

1. Dogs must be 6 months old as of January 1st of the project year for the 4-H programs.
2. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at their own pace through a course of designated station.
  1. Handlers are permitted to talk, praise and/or clap their hand
  2. Handlers are not permitted to touch the dog or make physical corrections nor intimidate the dog.
  3. Dog must wear a well fitting plain buckle or slip collar and a 6 foot lead (in the on lead class only).
  4. NO BAIT may be used in the Rally-O ring.

**FAMILIARIZATION TIME:** The judge will meet with handlers for the "Judge's Briefing." Immediately following the briefing, the handlers can walk the course (without dogs) with the judge and ask questions.

**TIME:** If there are tied scores in a rally-o class, the tie will be broken by the dog's time.

**RALLY-O CLASSES:**

**NOVICE RALLY:**

1. Dogs **will be** shown on leash.
2. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 70. With a score of 70 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.
3. There will be 10 – 15 stations, start and finish not included.

**ADVANCED RALLY:**

1. Dogs **will be** shown off leash.
2. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.

3. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 70. With a score of 70 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.
4. There will be 12 – 17 stations, start and finish not included.
5. One jump must be used or this class. It may be any jump used as standard equipment in AKC obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump).

#### **EXCELLENT RALLY:**

1. Dogs **will be** shown off leash.
2. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash.
3. Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 70. With a score of 70 or better received twice at the New Mexico State Fair the dog must move up to the next class to receive points and be eligible for the High Point Award.
4. For dogs who have scored a 70 or better in Novice Rally-O
5. There will be 15 – 20 stations, start and finish not included.
6. Two jumps must be used for this class. Jumps may be any jump or any combination of the jump used as standard equipment in the AKC Obedience classes (broad jump, high jump, or bar jump)

More advanced classes are not offered at this time, but may be considered at a future date, if needed.

#### **SCORING:**

A perfect score = 100 points

1 point deduction: tight lead, crowding, slow to respond, poor sits, out of position, ticking a jump, handler error.

3 point deduction: obstacle knocked over, lack of control, loud signal, excessive barking, handler error, retry.

10 point deduction: incorrectly performed station, hitting the jump, handler error, out of position during honor, lack of teamwork.

NQ's: incomplete performance, unmanageable dog, station missed or not attempted, consistently tight lead, fouling the ring, bar knocked off or used as an aid, not completing honor.

#### **PROTESTS**

All protests must be in writing, must state plainly the complaint, be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00, which shall be forfeited to the New Mexico State Fair Commission in case protest is not sustained, and must be delivered to the New Mexico State Fair Junior Livestock Office within 24 hours of the cause of protest.

#### **LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR THEFT**

1. The owner or custodian of property of any kind brought to the dog show; either for exhibit or for other purposes assumes as a condition of its admission to the grounds, all risk and/or responsibility for its loss damage or theft.
2. The Show Grounds its officers and employees, cannot and will not accept responsibility and liability for any damage or injury resulting from theft, fire, the elements, accidents or other conditions or causes; whether to exhibits, property of exhibitor, vehicles on the grounds and articles left therein or any other property of any nature whatsoever.

#### **INTERPRETATION OF RULES**

The New Mexico State 4-H Dog Show Committee, in conjunction with the management of the New Mexico State Fair and the State 4-H Office reserves the right to amend, add to and interpret the

following Rules and Regulations; and to arbitrarily settle and determine all questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with or incident to the State 4-H Dog Show.

This handbook was originally prepared by Linda Herrera, Sherry Galemore, and the New Mexico State 4-H Committee with approval from the New Mexico State 4-H Office, September 2007. Special acknowledgement is given to Nevada State 4-H Show Rules, Florida State 4-H Dog Show Rules, and Kansas Agility Dog Show Rule Book for the use of their material; to Mr. & Mrs. Terry Culley for their knowledge and guidance in dog agility; to Laura Delacruz for her knowledge and guidance in dog rally-obedience; and to Yvette Misquez & Dora Jacobs for her knowledge and guidance in dog obedience. Revised January 2010.