

Policy # 6.06	Refer to Policy #
4-H Alberta Canine Project Policy All 4-H Alberta members registered in the canine project must follow the requirements as set out by 4-H Alberta.	1.01, 2.01
	Approved
	September 2015
	Review Date
	July 2018

Objectives of 4-H Alberta Canine Project:

- Gain knowledge in dog rearing, care and training through the experience of owning, caring for and maintaining records for his or her dog.
- Develop skill, patience and understanding of the handling practices essential in working with dogs.
- Gain knowledge and an appreciation for dogs and the role they play in the Canadian family and community.
- Develop skills in leadership, communication, planning, assessment, decision-making, evaluation and time management.

4-H Member Requirements

- Ownership of the Canine project:
 - ❖ The 4-H member does not need to own the dog registered as a canine project.
 - ❖ It is required that the 4-H member has trained, groomed and cared for the dog being entered for show for the full project year to date. This rule may be waived up to the day prior to the show at the discretion of the project leader and elected committee in the event of illness, injury, or death of a dog or in the case of a whelping female.
 - ❖ Only one 4-H member in any class may handle a single dog; however, another family member in a showmanship class may handle the same dog.

4-H Canine Project Minimum Requirements

Project levels

These levels should be used to determine the level at which the dog and member team will be working and competing for the 4-H year as defined by the assessment evaluation for each level.

- Level One – This level is for a new 4-H Canine member (handler) with a new dog with no previous experience, training or showing.
- Level Two – Either the 4-H Canine member (handler) or the dog has had previous training or showing experience.
- Level Three – Both the dog and the 4-H Canine member have previously earned any level one (1) or two (2) certificate or equivalents from any showmanship or confirmation organization.

- Level Four – Both the dog and the 4-H canine member can achieve a score of 170 or higher in level three (3) obedience score sheets with no less than 50% in any one exercise.

Project Identification

- All canine projects must be identified in their project record book by either colour picture, copy of registration, electronic identification or tattoo number.
 - ❖ Project animals do not need to be purebred to compete at a 4-H level.
 - ❖ Project animals can only be changed within the club year with approval of the project leader, elected committee, and club members.

Project Vaccinations

- All dogs attending or competing in a 4-H sponsored event are required to be vaccinated.
- Proof of vaccinations must be available for presentation to the event committee on any day of the given event. (Photocopy of original).
- The following vaccinations are required to be current: **(in the event that an animal is unable to comply, there must be a Veterinarian certificate stating such)**
 - ❖ Rabies;
 - ❖ Canine Parvovirus;
 - ❖ Distemper;
 - ❖ Hepatitis;
 - ❖ Leptospirosis;
 - ❖ Bordatella;
 - ❖ Canine Parainfluenza;
 - ❖ Others as designated by the event committee.

Project Animal(s)

- Disqualification/Ineligibility of a dog
 - ❖ No dog that is taped or bandaged in any way, or has anything attached to it for medical corrective purposes shall be eligible to compete. Exceptions may be made with written confirmation from a veterinarian that the dog is able to compete, upon approval of the judge and/or event committee.
 - ❖ The judge and/or event committee may excuse, from one or more events, any dog attempting to attack any dog or person attending the event or in the show.
 - ❖ No dog with a physical condition, which is detrimental to the health of the dog, shall be eligible to compete or participate.
 - ❖ Any abuse of dogs on the grounds or in the ring will result in disqualification of the dog and handler and no ribbon or participation points will be awarded.
- Female dogs in season may be shown in showmanship at the project leader's discretion, but not in an obedience or agility competition. The dog should be the last dog to enter the show ring and separated from other dogs.

Tranquilizers

- The use of tranquilizing products on 4-H animals, immediately preceding, or at any 4-H project event is prohibited. Any animal that is tranquilized cannot be shown at a 4-H event.
- Any participant, or member of a participant's family can make a protest to a committee member responsible for the show regarding suspected use of a tranquilizer. The committee must deal with the protest immediately by contacting a veterinarian who will inspect/test the animal.
 - ❖ If the animal is deemed to be tranquilized the member will be required to cover the veterinary costs. The member will forfeit any awards.
 - ❖ If the animal is deemed to be not tranquilized, the protester will pay the costs incurred.

4-H Event Safety and Disqualification from Show or Event

- Safety is and will continue to be a priority at any level of achievement.
- Event organizers have the authority to remove dangerous or unsafe project animals from 4-H classes or events.
- Members are required to abide by event rules.
- All members attending 4-H achievement day or other project event must have a designated responsible adult present at the event.

Local or Interclub Project Regulations

In addition to these basic provincial minimum requirements, there may be additional regulations from the local or interclub project committees. It is your responsibility to know these rules and regulations.

Anyone violating any of the above requirements will not be able to advance with that project to any 4-H project event, during the remainder of the project year.