Barry County 4-H Dog Developmental Committee (DDC)
General Dog Guidelines

These guidelines have been developed to ensure that every 4-H member and their dog have a safe and successful experience in the Barry County Dog Project area. These guidelines must be continually met. Failure to do so may result in excusing the dog and handler from the project or any Barry County 4-H sponsored dog event.

1. A dog must be free from communicable diseases, parasites, and up to date on its shots as required by the Barry County Fair Board rules. Proper documentation must be on file with the DDC for any dog to participate in the Barry County 4-H dog project area or at any 4-H or DDC sponsored event.

2. A dog must have socially acceptable behavior and not be a threat to any other 4-H member, leader, judge, or other member’s dog. Socially unacceptable behavior would include (but is not limited to):
   a. Dogs that bite people either out of aggression, stress, or fear
   b. Dogs that exhibit seriously aggressive behavior towards other dogs
   c. Dogs that are unable to be controlled by the 4-H member

3. A dog must be able to handle the stress of working outside the home environment.

4. A dog must be responsive and controllable by the 4-H member.

5. Borrowed dogs: A borrowed dog agreement must be signed and given to the dog project leader by April 1st (then given to the DDC by the scheduled April meeting). Forms are available at the Extension Office. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the DDC prior to fair.

6. A dog that has been competitively shown or titled in obedience, rally, or agility by a person other than the 4-H member must be shown at a higher level (i.e. pre-novice B or C instead of pre-novice A).

7. A dog must be at least 1 year of age by April 1st to compete in agility at the fair.

8. All female dogs in heat will participate last in scheduled competitions and must be crated and away from the other dog activities until the end of the show.

9. A 6-foot leash is required for obedience. Leather is preferred, no chain leashes. Training collars and flat buckle collars are acceptable. Head harness type collars and sensation harnesses are allowed for the first year dogs and young clovers only. There should be no tags or other items hanging from the collars

10. Sportsmanship is “conduct becoming to an individual involving fair, honest competition, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of results”. The DDC expects all 4-H members participating in the dog project area to practice good sportsmanship prior to, during, and after their participation in any Barry County 4-H dog event. Should conduct of poor sportsmanship be observed by a member of the DDC, Dog Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or 4-H leader, a warning may be issued to the offender in hopes to bring attention to unacceptable behavior. Notification of the issued warning will be submitted, in writing, to the Dog Superintendent. Should the unacceptable behavior persist, or if the behavior is severe enough to cause harm to another member or to an animal, then the offending member may be subject to disciplinary penalties as deemed necessary by the DDC in cooperation with 4-H staff, leaders and/or officials.

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