



# Step-by-Step Guide

For participating in the  
**St. Joseph County, MI  
4-H Dog Show**



Following is information you will find very helpful as you prepare to participate in the 4-H Dog Show in September at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair:

1. When you arrive at the 4-H Dog Show you will need to pick up your armband number. The show registration table will be located near the middle of the livestock show arena at the south “center gate” inside the arena. Registration times are as follows:
  - A. Agility & Rally: 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.
  - B. Showmanship & Obedience: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.
2. Please be sure you know which classes you belong in. If you are not sure, check with your leader prior to show day. Also, if there are any classes you previously signed up for but do not plan to show in, please be sure to make this change known to the clerks at the ring you will be showing in on show day.
3. Once you are registered, you may go to the grooming judge. Since this is a requirement for Obedience, it’s a good idea to get this required step out of the way as soon as you can!
4. Senior Showmanship (exhibitors 15-19 years old) will be the first class of the afternoon starting at 1:00 p.m. It is a good idea for younger showmen to watch this class so they will know what to expect when their showmanship class is called.
5. Once the Senior Showmanship class is completed, the next showmanship class will begin in the same ring. Novice through Utility Obedience classes will start in the other ring at 1:30 p.m. Beginner Obedience will start once all showmanship classes have been completed.
6. It is your responsibility to know which ring your classes are being judged in. A list of classes that will be judged in a given ring will be posted at the ring.
7. Before leaving the show arena for any reason, be sure to let someone in your club (parent, leader, fellow club member) know your armband number and which class you are waiting to show in. That way if your number/class is called, and you do not report to the show ring, there will be someone in the show arena who can let the ring steward know where you are, and can look you up and let you know your class has been called. Your name will be called over the speaker only three (3) times. If no response is received to the ring steward in the ring you were called to **YOU WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM THE CLASS.**
8. You need to listen for an announcement(s) regarding when your 4-H class(es) will begin, and be waiting nearby when you know your class is about to start. **NOTE:** If all members make an effort to be where they need to be, when they need to be there, everything will run smoothly!

9. Agility will be held on the east half of the show arena. Agility classes will start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 12:00 noon and will begin with Beginning Agility, followed by Intermediate then Advanced. **NOTE:** A group agility course “walk-through” of exhibitors only (no dogs) will be held at 8:15 a.m.
10. Rally will be held on the west half of the show arena. Rally classes will start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 12:00 noon and will begin with Beginning Rally, followed by Intermediate then Advanced.
11. 4-H Dog Husbandry notebooks will be judged at the 4-H Dog Show location (livestock show arena) during the show. (Do not turn your notebook in at the still project barns.) Notebooks and posters will be judged by the grooming judge in the grooming area 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. If after 2:00 p.m., notebooks and posters will not be judged. Judging of Dog Husbandry will be done in between grooming judging.

There will be a designated table for Dog Husbandry notebook judging. You will need to visit one-on-one with the judge when your notebook is being evaluated, so be sure to report to the Dog Husbandry judging table when you have enough time for a short “interview”.

12. Anyone who needs to have still project exhibits evaluated must first find out when (approximate time) and in which ring their upcoming dog class will be held before leaving the dog show arena. It is important you do not leave the show arena if your class is scheduled to start soon. Please make a real effort to take your still project exhibits for evaluation during a time period when you know there will be enough time to get your evaluation(s) completed without holding up the dog show.

If we all cooperate and work hard to follow these guidelines, things should run smoothly on show day. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support!!!

### 4-H Dog Show Rules

1. Dog(s) must be on leash and close to you, and keep an “eye” on him/her at all times. **Remember – any aggressive behavior from your dog may result in dismissal from the show!**
2. Keep the aisles in front of the show arena bleachers clear. People and dogs need to use these aisles to “come and go” throughout the dog show.
3. There is no parking at either end of the livestock show arena. (The open area at the east end of the show arena is reserved for fair officials and judges only.)
4. You are not allowed to take your dog into any livestock barn at any time during the fair. (This is a fair board rule.)
5. Do not take your dog through the hallway that connects the livestock show arena with the Agriculture/ Natural Resources annex building.
6. Crating area will be announced.