

4-H Leader's and 4-H'er's Canine Policy

Best Friends 4-H Leader's and 4-H'er's Canine Policy updated 9/28/2022/lsc

SECTION 1: OWNERSHIP

Traditional (TR) 4-H'er - A TR 4-H'er may train his or her own family canine upon the approval of Best Friends 4-H Club's Coordinators and/or Co-Coordinator. If the canine has been found to be more than the 4-H'er can handle then an adult will be assigned to the TR 4-H'er to assist with the training until the team can be trusted to work together safely. The training goal of the summer dog project will be competing in the Berrien County Youth Fair TR Dog Events. The yearly 4-H dog goals will be community service and completion of dog projects through Best Friends 4-H Club's Canine Therapy Programs and events.

Non-Traditional (NTR) 4-H'er - A NTR 4-H'er may train his or her own family canine upon the approval of Best Friends 4-H Club's Coordinators and/or Co-Coordinator but will be teamed with a Team Instructor to assist with the training. Should the NTR 4-H'er not own a family canine he or she will be assigned a volunteer team canine (VTC) to train and bond with during the summer dog project. The training goal of the summer dog project will be competing in the Berrien County Youth Fair NTR Dog Events. The yearly 4-H dog goals will be community service and completion of dog projects through Best Friends 4-H Club's Canine Therapy Programs and events.

Volunteer Team Canine (VTC) - A volunteer team canine (VTC) is a canine that has been temperament tested and has passed, or is training to pass an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Test. A VTC's purpose is to be paired with a NTR 4-H'er **and his or her owner or 4-H leader** for the Best Friends 4-H Club's Summer Dog Project with a goal of competing in the Berrien County Youth Fair's Non-Traditional Canine Events. A 4-H'er may also participate in assisting the owner with canine therapy appointments and visits as part of his or her 4-H Community Service projects.

SECTION 2: CANINE REGISTRATION

1. **Registration Form** - Each canine owner must complete a yearly Best Friends 4-H Club Canine Registration Form for each dog that becomes a canine member of the club. This yearly registration will cover
 - A. Best Friends 4-H Club's Liability Insurance
 - B. Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Registration
 - C. American Kennel Club Canine Therapy Titles
2. **Canine Photographs** - Each canine owner must attach two (2) current photographs of the canine being registered to the Canine Registration Form. Photographs will be used for the purpose of identification of the canine at the Berrien County Youth Fair and for registering for titles with the American Kennel Club Canine Therapy Programs. The photographs must consist of
 - A. One **clear** photograph of the canine's face and head
 - B. One **clear** photograph of the canine's side view in stacked (*standing*) position

SECTION 3: CANINE IMMUNIZATIONS

1. **Immunizations Needed** - Each canine must be current with the following immunizations
 - A. Rabies (three (3) year acceptable)
 - B. Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus (three (3) year acceptable)
 - C. Bordetella (**must be given yearly**. FYI: This is Whooping Cough in humans.)
 - D. Canine Influenza (*recommended but not necessary*)
 - E. Leptospirosis (*recommended but not necessary*)
 - F. Lyme's (*recommended but not necessary*)

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2. **Immunization Time Frame** - Canine immunizations must be administered before or on June 1st of each year.
3. **Proof of Immunizations** - All canine vaccinations must be administered by a licensed veterinarian and valid proof must be provided (*see section 5 of canine registration form*). A signed certificate from the veterinarian will be accepted.

SECTION 4: BODY HARNESS REQUIREMENT

Should your canine require a body harness for training and competition, your veterinarian must provide a diagnosis on the canine registration form. *Example: Neck trauma issues.*

SECTION 5: OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Canine Behavior** - Owner of canine comprehends, and with his or her signature on the Canine Registration Form, agrees to full responsibility for his or her canine's behavior and actions. Owner understands that should the canine display behavior that is unsuitable for the safety of another canine and/or human being, said behavior would constitute an immediate dismissal from the club and removal from the grounds.
2. **Canine Grooming** - Owner understands and agrees to have his or her canine "immaculately groomed according to breed" for all canine events and competitions. Owner may have 4-H'er assist him or her with this project.
3. **Transportation** - Owner is responsible for transportation of the canine to and from dog project sites and canine therapy programs.
4. **Remaining With Canine On Premises** - Owner will remain on the premises until the practice session and/or canine therapy event and/or competition has been completed.
5. **Canine Training Equipment** - Depending upon the dog training class, canine therapy event or dog competition, the owner of the canine agrees to provide the following dog training equipment for his or her TR or NTR 4-H'er ...
 - A. One tagless dog collar
 - B. One Volhard/Snap or Martingale Collar
 - C. One dog body harness (*if prescribed by the veterinarian*)
 - D. One four-foot obedience leash
 - E. One six-foot obedience leash
 - F. One Jr. Showmanship collar
 - G. One Jr. Showmanship leash
 - H. One jug of water
 - I. One dog bowl
 - J. One hand towel
 - K. Four to six poop bags
 - L. One spray bottle of disinfectant for accidents
 - M. One roll of paper towel
 - N. One tote to carry dog supplies in

SECTION 6: BITCH IN SEASON

A bitch in season (*menstruation*) will not participate in canine training class or canine therapy appointments for the understandable reasons. However, she may participate in the Berrien County Youth Fair's Canine Events. Please refer to the Berrien County Youth Fair Exhibitor Handbook for more information.

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SECTION 7: RESERVE CANINE

Should the 4-H'er's canine become unavailable for a training class, an event or a dog competition for understandable reasons, a reserve canine may be substituted for the day.

SECTION 8: PAIRING OF NTR 4-H'ER WITH A TEAM INSTRUCTOR AND VOLUNTEER TEAM CANINE

- A. Best Friends 4-H Club Coordinator and Co-Coordinator will have the final decision as to which NTR 4-H'er will be paired with which Team Instructor and Volunteer Team Canine.

SECTION 9: TEMPERAMENT CERTIFICATES, AKC TITLES AND GOALS

1. **BY THE AGE OF TWELVE MONTHS** the canine may have acquired an American Kennel Club (AKC) Socialization, Training, Activity and Responsible Owner (S.T.A.R.) certificate.
2. **BY THE AGE OF TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS**, the canine must have acquired, or will be testing within the next nine months of registration, one and/or all of the following temperament testing and/or American Kennel Club (AKC) titles
 - A. American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title
 - B. American Kennel Club Community Canine (CGCA) title
 - C. American Kennel Club Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU) title
3. **BY THE AGE OF NINE YEAR**, the canine may acquire the following American Kennel Club (AKC) Therapy Dog titles
 - A. American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Novice (THDN) title
 - B. American Kennel Club Therapy Dog (THD) title
 - C. American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) title
 - D. American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) title
 - E. American Kennel Club Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) title

SECTION 10: CANINE MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFICATION

CANINE THERAPY BADGES - All leaders who have completed his or her canine registration, accompanied with proper photographs and have paid his or her yearly dues of ten dollars (\$10.00), and who are participating in the Leader's Year-Round Canine Therapy Dog Projects, will receive a Best Friends 4-H Club Canine Registration and Membership ID badge with the canine's head photograph on it to wear to his or her assigned canine therapy projects and events. This ID badge is also proof of membership for your canine when the 4-H leader and canine has completed the American Kennel Club Canine Therapy Program visits and apply for your American Kennel Club Canine Therapy titles.