



55th Annual

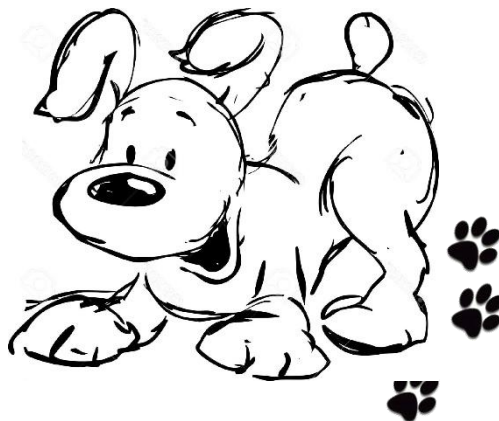


**State 4-H
Dog Show
September 19, 2026
Shiawasse County Fairgrounds**

Registrations and shot records due August 31th

Changes no later than September 7th

8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Check in on show day



Acknowledgments

The Michigan 4-H Dog Show is sponsored by Michigan 4-H Youth Development Programs, which is part of Michigan State University Extension. We would like to thank the following people for their efforts in planning and conducting the 2026 show!

State 4-H Companion Animal Committee

- Cheryl Barton, Shiawassee County
- Jamie Bushard, Shiawassee County
- Gwen Coon, Clinton County
- Diane Gaw, Isabella County
- Tammy and Alayna Hammerle, Oceana County
- Michele Harvey, Mecosta County
- Jennifer and Abby Obreiter, Chippewa County
- Gretchen Sauvage, Grand Traverse County
- Cindy Skalsky, Oakland County
- Emily Suggs, Shiawassee County
- Kat VanDouser, 4-H Dog Program Point of Contact, Livingston County

For More Information

For more information about the Michigan State 4-H Dog Show, please contact your county 4-H Staff person, Cheryl Barton @ 989-277-0976 cbartond@gmail.com, or Jamie Bushard @ 989-277-1075 jamiabushard@yahoo.com.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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2026 Michigan State 4-H Dog Show

**Saturday, September 19, 2026
Shiawassee County Fairgrounds**

Schedule

Friday, September 18, 2026

Campers may arrive at any time on Friday.

Saturday, September 19, 2026

8:00-9:30 a.m. Registration (Registration Area)

9:00 a.m. Agility Classes Begin

9:00 a.m. Team and Brace

10:00 a.m. Obedience Classes Begin

10:00 a.m. Rally Classes Begin

Cloverbuds Begin

After Lunch Showmanship Classes Begin

*Please note that times are an estimate. Final times will be determined by the number of entries. Start times will be included in the confirmation e-mail.

Families will want to bring pop-up shades, lawn chairs, and crates.

T-Shirts

2026 State 4-H Dog Show t-shirts will be available for \$20, which includes Michigan sales tax! If you wish to pre-order your t-shirt, please indicate what size (Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL) on your individual entry form. A limited number of shirts will be available for purchase on the day of the show.

Clean-Up

All handlers are required to clean up after their dog inside and outside the building.

Become a State 4-H Dog Show Sponsor

Sponsors will be listed in the 2027 State 4-H Dog Show catalog.

Anyone can become a sponsor (individuals, families, clubs, associations, etc.)

Gold level sponsors will be announced at the show.

To become a sponsor visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/26StateDogShow/> and follow the “Sponsor” link.

No advertisements will be permitted except in the case of sponsors or vendors.

Sponsorship Levels

Gold \$500

Silver \$250

Bronze \$100

TROPHY SPONSORSHIP - \$30

CLASS SPONSORSHIP - \$10

THANK YOU to our 2025 Show Sponsors!

GOLD

Pet Supplies Plus of Traverse City – Maggie & Abigail Lundquist

SILVER

Hunter Portuguese Water Dogs - Elaine Sutter

Glasscreek Kennels – Jennifer Obreiter

BRONZE

Capital City Canine Club

Happy with Dogs – Rebecca Pasko

TROPHY

Roxie’s MEGA Mission

Gretchen Sauvage

General Rules & Regulations

Age

1. Exhibitors must be Michigan 4-H members aged 8 to 19 as of January 1, 2027, to participate in the show. Cloverbuds must be Michigan 4-H members aged 5-7 as of January 1, 2027, to participate in the show.

Animal Eligibility

4. Exhibitors are limited to showing 2 dogs at the State 4-H Dog Show. Cloverbuds are limited to showing one dog.
3. All Leader and Service Dog puppies must be 5 months of age and older. For the Obedience, Rally and Showmanship classes, puppies must be 6 months of age or older. And, for the Agility class, puppies must have reached the age of 12 months and older. **No puppies under 5 months of age may be shown at the State 4-H Dog Show. All puppies must have a complete series of DHLPP shots in order to be eligible to show.**
4. **Females in season will not be allowed to show at the State 4-H Dog Show.**
5. Any dog with a physical disability, such as the loss of a leg or eye, will be allowed to show, if a current (within the current year) statement of fitness is provided by your veterinarian. Please email documentation to Kat VanDouser, krollkat@msu.edu when you have completed the show registration.. Please send with entry form. If the injury occurs after the online registration has been completed, please bring a couple of copies with you to the show (one for the registration table and one to carry with you to the rings).
6. Dogs may be subject to an additional exam at check in at the discretion of the committee.
7. Agility will offer a 4" jump height class for smaller dogs or dogs with a disability accompanied by a statement from the vet allowing the dog to be shown in agility in all divisions.

Class Entry and Fees

7. **Entry is Pre-Registration Only!** All entries must be submitted online through <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateDogShow23/> by August 31, 2026. Registration fees must be made online using a credit or debit card with the registration in order for the entry to be accepted.

ENTRY FEES: \$6 registration fee per dog and \$10 for each class.

No class changes may be made after September 7th.

All fees are due with the Dog Show online entries. **All fees are not refundable.**

8. **A copy of current rabies, distemper virus, parvovirus, and adenovirus (hepatitis) shots** MUST be uploaded through the registration site by **August 31, 2026**, in order for registration to be complete.
9. An individual dog may be shown in 1 Obedience class, and 1 Junior Showmanship class, 1 Agility class, and 1 Rally class.
10. Members may show 2 different dogs in Obedience classes, if they have done the training.
11. An individual dog that is entered into Obedience may also be entered in Brace and/or Team class.
12. Based on registration, classes in any division may be combined or separated out further.
13. **Dog's jump height needs to be based on measurement at the withers. Jump height may**

not be the same as what you show at your county fair. Dogs may be measured at registration desk if necessary.

A. Please note the Michigan 4-H State Dog Show Vaccination Policy below:

Michigan 4-H State Dog Show Vaccination Policy

In order to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Dog Show, exhibitors are required to provide proof of up-to-date immunization for all dogs entered for **rabies, distemper virus, parvovirus, and adenovirus (hepatitis)**. Flea and tick preventative is highly recommended.

All dogs must be up to date on vaccinations by August 31, 2026.

Proof of up-to-date immunizations can be met by one of the following:

1. Copy of veterinarian records clearly showing both rabies and core vaccination with a due date for next vaccinations following the date of the State 4-H Dog Show. A titer test by a veterinarian showing acceptable level of immunity is also acceptable.

2. A combination of a rabies certificate from a veterinarian showing due date after the state show AND owners vaccination records of core vaccinations.

****The only acceptable proof of owner-administered core vaccinations is a copy of the label from the vaccine vial, along with date administered. All home vaccinations will only be valid for one year from the time the vaccines are given.**

3. Exceptions to the above are only accepted in the case of a veterinarian certifying they do not recommend vaccines for a specific dog for health reasons. Such cases will be verified by the State 4-H Companion Animal Committee and are subject to approval.

References: For more information on canine vaccination protocols, see the American Veterinary Medical Association at www.avma.org and the American Animal Hospital Association at www.aahanet.org.

14. Participants must be registered in the 4-H Online system at the time of the show.

15. All dogs must be measured in the county and their official height must be added to the entry form. Judges have the right to send any entry to the registration table the day of the show if they wish to have the dog's height verified.

Judging and Awards

16. The order of the classes will be posted at the ring and in the show catalog.

17. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be at ringside when their class is called.

Judges are NOT required to hold classes for late entries.

18. Judges' decisions are final.

19. If a dog has been excused from a class by the judge for lameness or aggressive behavior, it may not be shown in any other class.

20. Participants, parents, leaders, and others are not allowed to speak to or ask questions of the judges during judging, unless a judge asks someone a direct question.

21. Awards will be handed out at the conclusion of each class. Agility awards will be handed out as soon as possible. All High Point awards will be given at the conclusion of the show. No awards will be mailed.

22. Participants are encouraged to move to the next level of competition after earning 3 qualifying scores at any venue.

23. Medals will be awarded for first through third place in each class for exhibitors earning a qualifying score. Handlers with a non-qualifying score will be awarded a ribbon. Ribbons will also be awarded for fourth through sixth places in each class.

24. Qualifying score ribbons will be present in Agility, Obedience, and Rally.

Agility – Must score minimum of 85 points

Obedience – Must get 50% of each exercise and a minimum score of 170 points, with no less than 50% in any one exercise.

Rally – Must score a minimum of 70 points out of 100 possible points

25. Special high point and reserve high point awards will be given at the end of the show for the following. In order to qualify for high point or reserve high point, handlers must have a qualifying score.

- High Point & Reserve High Point Beginning Agility
- High Point & Reserve High Point Intermediate Agility
- High Point & Reserve High Point Advanced Agility
- High Point & Reserve High Point Pre-Novice Obedience
- High Point & Reserve High Point Beginner Novice Obedience
- High Point & Reserve High Point Novice Obedience
- High Point & Reserve High Point Graduate Novice through Open Obedience
- Best Junior Handler 8-11 years of age
- Best Intermediate Handler 12-15 years of age
- Best Senior Handler 16-19 years of age
- Best Platinum Level Handler
- High Point & Reserve High Point Novice and Intermediate Rally
- High Point & Reserve High Point Advanced and Excellent Rally
- High Point & Reserve High Point Masters Rally

Volunteers

26. **Counties will be required to provide 1 helper for every 3 participants.** These helpers will be expected to work at least ½ the day. All volunteer helpers must register online at msu.samaritan.com.

All helpers must go through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process no later than August 31st. Volunteers must be at least a silver volunteer.

27. Entries will not be accepted from counties that do not provide helpers.

Dress Code

29. Any clothing which draws undue attention to oneself, or clothing that may distract other handlers, spectators, or the judges(s), is unacceptable.

Halter tops, low-cut blouses or sweaters, shorts, leggings (stretch/yoga pants), muscle shirts, hats, mini-skirts, denim of any type, style, or color, and bare mid-drifts are NOT ACCEPTABLE IN ANY CLASS.

Other Exhibitor Dress Code Rules:

- Skirts/culottes shorter than knee length are not recommended.
- Flat shoes such as tennis shoes, should be worn by all exhibitors. Sandals, high heels, crocks, flip flops, or boots are not recommended.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling should be avoided.
- No clothing with the club name, personal identification, logos, or other printed words or sayings will be allowed.

Showmanship

For Showmanship, participants should consider wearing skirts, culottes, dresses, or jumpers (with appropriate tops) no shorter than knee length, dress slacks, and a shirt and tie or turtleneck. (Jackets or suits are optional). Clothing should be neat and free from wrinkles. If at any time the judge feels your attire is not appropriate, it may reflect on your placement.

Agility

For Agility, athletic attire including shorts that are at least knee length, polo shirts or t-shirts free from the club name, personal identification, logos, or other printed words or sayings is acceptable.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_dog_agility_manual_4h1647

Sportsmanship, Fair Play, and Humane Treatment of Animals (Adaptation from the 4-H Youth Code of Conduct)

30. Exhibitors shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.
31. Exhibitors are required to present and care for animals in a humane and ethical manner.
32. Exhibitors will under no circumstances, commit or threaten violence toward any individual, group, or the program.
33. Exhibitors will under no circumstances, possess, sell, or consume alcohol or possess, sell or use controlled substances at an MSU Extension youth activity or event.
34. Exhibitors will under no circumstances, attend or participate in an MSU Extension youth activity or event under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances.
35. Exhibitors will abstain from harassment or bullying of another participant, volunteer, or staff member, particularly when the behavior is disrespectful as regards a person's gender, race, age, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, or appearance.
36. Exhibitors will not cheat or falsely represent their efforts related to their 4-H project activities.
37. Exhibitors will show respect for and cooperate with, fellow members, volunteers and show staff.
38. Exhibitors will follow all 4-H policies and procedures when participating in any 4-H sponsored event.
39. Dogs showing signs of illness or ailments must be removed from the show and show facility.
40. Any misuse of MSU property will result in the eviction of the exhibitor and his or her exhibits from the showroom and the forfeit of all awards the person has won.
41. The use of training devices, such as prong collars, e-collars, halties/gentle leaders, and clickers **are not allowed in the show ring.** Prong collars, or halties/gentle leaders may be used outside of the show ring if necessary, however these tools should be only used under adult supervision. The

committee reserves the right to determine if the uses of prong collars or halties/gentle leaders are being used in an appropriate manner. Treats or toys are only to be allowed in showmanship classes.

Other Animals on the Grounds

42. Only dogs entered in the show will be allowed in the show barns. No other animals of any species will be allowed, with the exception of service animals.

43. No puppy under 5 months of age may be shown or be in the building, with the exception of Leader and Service Dogs.

Regular CLASSES

DIVISION A: Agility

Exhibitors and dogs must have had previous experience in Agility and be familiar with the equipment to enter this division.

A 10 minute walk through without dogs will be done at the beginning of each class. Standard course time is determined by the judge.

For specific requirements, please refer to the Michigan 4-H Agility Guide, available online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_dog_agility_manual_4h1647

Beginner Agility A - Handler and/or dog who are showing Beginning Agility for the first time.

Beginner Agility B - Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Beginner Agility.

Intermediate Agility A – For dogs and handlers who are showing Intermediate Agility for the first time.

This level is done off lead with jump heights of 12" and long jump 24" wide. Handlers will not be allowed to jump with their dogs. Dogs 10" or less at the withers jump heights will be 8" and broad jump will be 16" wide.

Intermediate Agility B – Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Intermediate Agility.

Advanced Agility A - For dogs and handlers who are showing Advanced Agility for the first time.

Advanced Agility B – Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Advanced Agility.

Preferred Classes

Each division in agility will offer a preferred class for an older dog or a dog with a disability with a vet note which will allow the dog to jump the next lower jump height within that level. Any dog competing in the preferred class will not be eligible for high point or reserve high point award.

Class A-6 Beginner Agility A
Class A-7 Beginner Agility B

Class A-8 Intermediate Agility A
Class A-9 Intermediate Agility B

Class A-10	Advanced Agility A	Class A-8P	Intermediate Agility A Preferred
Class A-11	Advanced Agility B	Class A-9P	Intermediate Agility B Preferred
Class A-6P	Beginner Agility A Preferred	Class A-10P	Advanced Agility A Preferred
Class A-7P	Beginner Agility B Preferred	Class A-11P	Advanced Agility B Preferred

DIVISION O: Obedience

“A” is for members who will be competing at a level for the 1st year. “B” is for members who have competed in the “A” class previously.

If you or your dog has received training other than in 4-H classes, you must show in the “B” classes.

Dogs with a CD Title may compete in Novice B class for a period not to exceed 6 months from the date of title. If the 6 months period has expired, the dog must be shown in a more advanced class.

Exhibitors should enter classes as they have or will enter at their county level.

Dogs must have a 6' leash for Pre-Novice, Beginner Novice Obedience, and Novice classes.

Jump Height

High jump and Bar jump - 1 times the dog's height at the withers.

Broad jump - 2 times the dog's height at the withers.

Pre-Novice A and B classes, Beginner Novice A and B classes, and Novice A and B classes will be broken down by member's 4-H age (age as of January 1 of current year).

Pre-Novice A

New dog and new handler in first year of the 4-H dog project.

-Stand for exam becomes a sit for exam (on leash) where the judge touches only the head

-Recall will no longer include a finish

-The long sit and long down will be replaced with a 45 second (individual) sit/stay on leash

Pre-Novice B

Handlers and/or dogs with previous experience in Pre-Novice Obedience.

Pre-Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Pre-Novice classes:

1.	Heel on Leash	40 points
2.	Figure Eight	40 points
3.	Sit for Examination	40 points
4.	Recall Without Finish	40 points
5.	Sit Stay On-leash for 45 seconds	40 points
6.	Grooming – penalty points only	
	Maximum Total Score	200 points

Beginner Novice A

Handler and dog in their first year of showing Beginner Novice.

Beginning Novice B

Handlers and/or dogs with previous experience in Beginning Novice Obedience.

Class will have a 10-minute walk through without dogs. This class is designed to help transition handlers and dogs into off leash work as well as introducing Rally Obedience signs to the team. The “heel” exercise will be done by using rally signs to instruct the handler what to do in their heel pattern. The “figure 8” exercise will be done the same as Pre-Novice class on leash. The “Sit for Exam” is done on a 6’ leash with the dog being examined by the judge with only a touch to the head. The handler returns to the dog upon the command of the judge. The “Sit Stay” exercise is done with the handler leaving the dog on a stay command and then walking the perimeter of the ring. The leash will remain attached to the dog, although it will be dropped/placed on the ground before the exercise begins. The “Recall” exercise will be performed with the leash off and kept by the handler, either holding the leash in either hand, placing it in a pocket or draping it around their neck. Upon judge’s command the handler will give the dog the command and/or signal to stay in the sit position, the handler then walks forward out approximately 25’ to a location as directed by the judge, turn, and face the dog. On the judge’s signal, the handler will command or signal the dog to come. No finish will be required of the dog by the handler. After the judge’s order “exercise finished” the handler will reattach the leash to the dog’s collar.

Novice A

Handlers and dogs in their first year of showing Novice.

Novice B

Handlers and/or dogs with previous experience in Novice Obedience.

The Novice Group Exercise - Sit and Down Stay will be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash.

Novice Exercises and Scores. The exercises and maximum scores in the Novice classes:

1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight	40 points
2. Stand for Examination – off leash	30 points
3. Heel Free	40 points
4. Recall	30 points
5. Sit Stay - Get Your Leash	30 points
6. Group Exercise - Sit & Down Stay	30 points
Maximum Total Score	200 points

Description of Sit Stay - Get Your Leash - the principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position.

The orders are: “Sit your dog,” “Leave your dog to get your leash,” and “Back to your dog.” The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask “Are you ready?” before giving the first order. On the judge’s order the handler may command and/or signal the dog to sit without touching either the dog or the dog’s collar. On further order to “Leave your dog to get your leash,” the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will walk forward immediately to the place designated by the judge for the leash, pick up the leash, turn, and face the dog. The judge will give the order “Back to your dog.” The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to the heel position. The dog must not

move from the sitting position until after the judge has said “Exercise finished.” The judge will tell the handler “Clip your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog.” The handler is required to exit the ring with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling or tugging on the leash.

Description of Group Exercise - Sit and Down Stay - The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog remains in the sit position for 1 minute with the handlers’ arm bands on their left arm. Handlers and dogs that have been released or excused from the ring during the individual exercises may not return for the group exercise.

Judges questions and orders for Sit Stay: Judge will ask “Are you ready?” And order, “Sit your dogs.”, “Leave your dogs” (after 1 minute), “Back to your dogs”, “Exercise finished.”

Judges questions and orders for Down Stay: Judge will ask “Are you ready?” And order, “Down your dogs.”, “Leave your dogs” (after 1 minute), “Back to your dogs”, “Exercise finished.”

Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of six (6) feet between each dog and a minimum of four (4) feet from the ring barriers. Judges will position the dogs in the approximate center of the ring in one row or back-to-back in two rows with a minimum of six (6) feet between the rows. If the back-to-back formation is used, it must be used for all groups in the class. On a 50’ side of the ring the maximum # of dogs allowed in a single row would be six (6) and in a back -to-back row twelve (12) dogs. The sit stay and down stay must be performed with the dog on a 6-foot leash. The leash will remain clipped to the dog’s collar. For the sit stay exercise, the judge’s orders will be: “sit your dog” then “leave your dog”. The handler may give a stay command with a verbal command and a hand signal, then walk to the end of the leash, turn, and face their dog. The handler will hold on to the leash throughout the entire exercise. After one minute the judge will order, “back to your dogs”. The handler must then return around their dogs to the heel position and stay in that position until the judge says, “Exercise finished”.

The dogs must remain under control between these two-part exercises.

For the down stay, the leash will remain clipped to the dog’s collar. The judge may ask “Are you ready?” When the judge orders, “Down your dog” and then “Leave your dog”, the handler may give a stay command with a verbal command and a hand signal, then walk to the end of the leash and turn to face their dog. The handler will hold on to the leash throughout the entire exercise. After one minute the judge will order, “Back to your dogs”. The handler must return around their dog to the heel position and stay in that position until the judge says, “Exercise finished”. The judge will then instruct the handlers to exit the ring with their dogs under control and without jumping, pulling, or tugging on the leash.

Graduate Novice A

Handler and dog in their first year showing Graduate Novice.

Graduate Novice B

Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Graduate Novice Obedience.

Graduate Novice Exercises and Scores. All are off leash.

The exercises and maximum scores in the Graduate Novice classes:

Heel Free & Figure 8 Off Leash	Points - 40
Drop on Recall	Points - 40
Dumbbell Recall on the Flat	Points - 30
Dumbbell Recall over the High Jump	Points - 30
Recall Over Broad Jump	Points - 30
Sit & Stay Get Your Leash	Points - 30
Total	Points - 200

Advanced Graduate A

Handler and dog in their first year showing Advanced Graduate.

Advanced Graduate B

Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Advanced Graduate Obedience.

Advanced Graduate Novice Exercises and Scores

Heel Free & Figure 8 Off Leash -	Points - 40
Moving Stand for Examination Off Leash	Points - 30
Drop on Recall	Points - 40
Retrieve on the Flat	Points - 30
Recall over Broad Jump	Points - 30
Stand - Stay Get Your Leash	Points - 30
Total	200 points

Stand - Stay Get Your Leash - The principal feature of this exercise is that the dog stand and stay in position until the handler has returned to heel position. The orders are "Stand your dog." Leave your dog to get your leash," and "Back to your dog." The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge, approximately 15 feet from the ring gate. On the judge's order, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to stand without touching the dog or the dog's collar. The dog must stand but need not stand in heel position. On further order to "Leave your dog to get your leash," the handler may give a command and /or signal the dog to stand and will walk Forward directly to the place outside the ring gate designated by the judge for the leash. The handler will pick up the leash, re-enter the ring, stop and wait on the judge's order "Back to your dog." The handler must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must remain standing until the judge has said "Exercise finished." The judge will tell the handler "Attach your leash to the collar and maintain control of your dog." The handler is required to exit the ring gate with the dog under control and without jumping, pulling, or tugging on the leash.

Open A

Handler and dog in their first year showing Open.

Open B

Handler and/or dog with previous experience in Open Obedience.

Open Exercises and Scores

Heel and Figure 8 Off Leash	40 points
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Drop on Recall	30 points
Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)	30 points
Retrieve on Flat	20 points
Retrieve over High Jump	30 points
Broad Jump	20 points
Stand/Stay Get your Leash	30 points
Total	200 points

Command Discrimination - The principal features of this exercise are that the dog remains in the sit position for 1 minute and the down position for 1 minute with the handlers' arm bands on their left arm. Handlers and dogs that have been released or excused from the ring during the individual exercises may not return for the group exercise.

The orders are "Leave your dog" and "Back to your dog." The judge must use signals for directing the handler to command and/or signal the dog to change position except for the first position and that order is: "Stand your dog" or "Down your dog."

The handler will stand with the dog sitting in heel position in a place designated by the judge. The judge will ask "Are you ready?" The handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change position. On further order to "Leave your dog," the handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately walk forward 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command and/or signal for the dog to change to the second position. The judge will then order "Leave your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay and will immediately turn around and walk forward an additional 15 feet, turn, and face the dog. On the judge's signal, the handler will give a command/or signal for the dog to change to the third position. The judge will then order "Back to your dog." The handler may give a command and/or signal to stay, and then must return directly, walking around and in back of the dog to heel position. The dog must stay in position without additional commands or signals until the handler has returned to heel position. The handler's hands and arms must hang naturally at the handler's side.

Class O-12	Pre-Novice A	Class O-18	Graduate Novice A
Class O-13	Pre-Novice B	Class O-19	Graduate Novice B
Class O-14	Beginner Novice A	Class O-20	Advanced Graduate A
Class O-15	Beginner Novice B	Class O-21	Advanced Graduate B
Class O-16	Novice A	Class O-22	Open A
Class O-17	Novice B	Class O-23	Open B

DIVISION S: Showmanship

Classes determined by member's 4-H age (age as of January 1st of current year). Exhibitors must be 8 years of age (4-H age) to compete at the State 4-H Dog Show.

JUNIOR CLASS AGE 8-11 YEARS OF AGE: A or B

A- is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship experience in any venue.

B - is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in any venue.

First place from **A class** will compete against first place from **B class**. Winner will be Champion.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS AGE 12-15 YEARS OF AGE: A or B

A- is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship experience in any venue.

B - is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in any venue.

First place from **A class** will compete against first place from **B class**. Winner will be Champion.

SENIOR CLASS AGE 16-19 YEARS OF AGE: A or B

A- is for youth beginning or having one previous year of showmanship experience in any venue.

B - is for youth beginning their third or more years of showmanship experience in any venue.

First place from **A class** will compete against first place from **B class**. Winner will be Champion.

PLATINUM LEVEL - (previously known as Champion Class)

For handlers who have placed 1st or 2nd three or more times in a class of four or more handlers at any 4-H sponsored show **may** enter this class.

Or for handlers who participate regularly outside of 4-H in the open class or higher juniors classes in AKC or UKC **must** enter this class.

Or for handlers who have earned a best handler at the state level **must** enter this class.

If you are unsure of what showmanship class you should enter, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask for help.

Based on the number of entries, showmanship classes may be combined by age. A and B classes will not be combined.

Class S-27	Member – 8-11 Junior A	Class S-42	Member 16-19 Senior B
Class S-30	Member – 10-11 Junior B	Class S-45	Junior Platinum 8-11
Class S-33	Member – 12-15 Intermediate A	Class S-46	Intermediate Platinum 12-15
Class S-41	Member 16-19 Senior A	Class S-47	Senior Platinum 16-19

DIVISION R: RALLY

Rally rules will follow AKC Rally regulations and will use AKC signs. Go to www.akc.org for signs, rules, and regulations.

Walk through (no dogs) 10 minutes before start.

Novice A

For dogs and handlers in their first year showing Novice Rally Obedience.

Novice B

For dogs and/or handlers who are in their second year or more of showing Novice Rally. All dogs are judged on leash. Rally Novice must have 10 to 15 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of five stationary signs.

Intermediate A

For dogs and handlers who are in their first year of showing Intermediate Rally.

Intermediate B

For dogs and/or handlers who are in their second year or more of showing Intermediate Rally. All dogs are judged on leash. Rally Intermediate must have 12 to 17 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. Intermediate courses will have a minimum of three Intermediate level signs. There are no jumps in this class.

Advanced

All dogs are judged off leash. Rally Advanced must have 12-17 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. A dog is required to jump once in the Advanced class. Courses will have a minimum of three Advanced level signs plus the one required jump.

Excellent

All dogs are judged off leash. The Excellent class must have 15-20 signs (Start, Finish, and Call marker not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. The dog is required to jump twice utilizing one or two jumps. Courses will have a minimum of two Advanced level signs and a minimum of three Excellent level signs, plus the two required jumps and the Sit Stay sign.

Master

All dogs are judged off leash. The Master class must have 15 or 20 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. Courses will have a minimum of four Master level signs plus the one required jump (301, 302, or 303), a minimum of three Excellent level signs and a minimum of three Advanced level signs. There are no retries for any of the signs on the Rally Master course.

In the Rally Novice, Intermediate and Advanced classes handlers are encouraged to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog without penalty. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and /or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed: the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time.

Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections without penalty in Excellent and Masters.

Class R-48	Novice A	Class R-52	Advanced
Class R-49	Novice B	Class R-54	Excellent
Class R-50	Intermediate A	Class R-56	Masters
Class R-51	Intermediate B		

Non-Regular CLASSES

DIVISION C: Cloverbud Entries

The Cloverbud division is designed for youth ages 5-7 to have the opportunity to enter the show ring and present their dog to the judge. There are both showmanship and obedience classes with the intent to help young exhibitors understand proper appearance, behavior and preparation of the dog for show. Halti/Gentle leaders are allowed for Cloverbud use.

Class C-S Cloverbud Showmanship
Class C-R Cloverbud Rally

Class C-O Cloverbud Obedience

The Cloverbud Obedience and Showmanship Classes will begin at 10:00 am.
There is no class fee for Cloverbuds. This class is non-competitive.

DIVISION L: Leader Dog/Service Dog Puppy Class

Puppies are evaluated based on the Leader Dog Puppy scoresheet.

Leader Dog Puppies and Service Dog puppies (CCI and PWC) may be shown in 1 Leader Dog/Service Dog Puppy class, 1 Showmanship class, 1 Rally class and an Obedience class.

Class L-1 Leader Dog/Service Dog Puppy, 5-6 months

Class L-2 Leader Dog/Service Dog Puppy, 7-8 months

Class L-3 Leader Dog/Service Dog Puppy, 9 months

DIVISION T: Team/Brace

Team

4 dogs, 4 handlers doing Novice exercises. All exercises will be executed at the same time except the recall. For the recall, all dogs will be left at the same time, called individually, and finished at the same time. 4 dogs must participate; the 4 dogs must be noted at the time of entry, an alternate 5th dog may be listed. Dogs must be Novice level or higher (no Pre-Novice).

Brace

2 dogs coupled or uncoupled, handled by 1 handler doing Novice exercises. Dogs must be Novice level or higher (no Pre-Novice dogs).

Class T-4 Team

Class T-5 Brace

DIVISION P: EDUCATIONAL POSTERS CONTEST

Educational posters **MUST** relate to dogs. Only 1 entry per person is allowed. There is no fee for this class. Posters should allow the participant's imagination in developing a slogan/theme that promotes a breed or project area or educates the viewer about a project related activity. Examples of topics include: showing/fitting, caring for your dog, dog health, nutrition, and breed characteristics. Posters should be kept simple and focus on 1 message.

Participants may use a variety of media, however, no 3-dimensional posters will be allowed.

Posters must be 22" x 28". Posters can be made using poster-board, tag board, or other light bases.

Copyrighted characters such as Snoopy, Charlie Brown, or other cartoon characters cannot be used.

The back of the poster must include the following information: name, county, age division, and resources. See example:

**Chris Clover
Smith County
Youth Division
(Title)
(List all resources used)**

Points may be deducted from any poster that does not contain the necessary information. Posters will be judged on how well they present information and on their general appearance. Any poster that does not contain an educational theme will be disqualified.

For a sample score card please see: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/state_4_h_dog_show_fix
Posters must be brought to the Dog Show and **submitted by 10:00 a.m.** to the registration table. Entries must be picked up after 2:00 p.m. on the day of the show. Entries not picked up by the end of the show will **NOT** be mailed from the State 4-H Youth Extension Office.

Enter all Posters and Photography exhibits in:

Class P-63 Junior 8-11 Class P-64 Intermediate 12-15 Class P-65 Senior 16 and Older

Individual awards will be given in each age division.

DIVISION PH – PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Photography is an individual contest and there is no fee. The contest procedure will be as follows:

1. Only 1 photography entry per participant.
 - a. Single photo entry
 - b. Photo collage entry
2. Photograph's content needs to directly relate to dogs.
3. Photographs must be the work of the youth participant and created within the last 12 months.
4. Completed media release forms must be attached to the photographs in which people appear.
5. Humans may not be depicted conducting illegal activities.
6. All entries must demonstrate positive youth development.
7. Specifications:
 - a. Size
 - i. No smaller than 5 inches by 7 inches.
 - ii. No larger than 8 inches by 10 inches.
 - b. Type
 - i. May enter either black and white or color entries.
 - c. Mounting
 - i. Photos must be firmly affixed to photographic mount board, mat board, or foam-core board without corner mounts and with white edges trimmed.

- ii. Single photos must be affixed to 8 inch by 10 or 11 inch by 14 inch mount board. 8. The back of each artwork must include the following: name, county, and age division.
9. A brief description paragraph explaining the photograph and how it relates to the 4-H dog project also must be secured to the back of the artwork. Be sure to include resources used including the date, time, and location of when the photography was taken, any educational or research-based web sites/journal articles, etc. that you might have researched to complete this project. If you have a personal watermark, please be sure to provide details within the description to attribute the work appropriately.
10. Tables will be provided for displaying the photographs.
11. All photographs must be in the contest room by 9:00 a.m. Event staff are not responsible for any photography entries during the event.
12. Entries will be judged on focus and depth of field, exposure and lighting, composition, relevance to dogs, creativity and communication of photograph and the paragraph submitted.
13. Judges decisions are final. Photography entries must be brought to the Dog Show and submitted by 9:30 a.m. Entries must be picked up after 2:00 p.m. on the day of the show. Entries not picked up by the end of the show will **NOT** be mailed from the State 4-H Youth Extension Office.

Class Ph-66 Junior 8-11 Class Ph-67 Intermediate 12-15 Class Ph-68 Senior 16 and Older

Obedience and Rally awards will be given during the break.

Showmanship awards will be given at ringside.

Agility awards will be handed out at the conclusion of the class when scores are tallied.

High point awards will be handed out at the conclusion of the show.

2026 STATE 4-H DOG SHOW CAMPING

Camping prices are listed below

(Friday & Saturday only)

(Includes electric)

To reserve camping, send a request to cbarton@gmail.com.

Rules

1. Absolutely no discharge of water on the grounds.
2. There is a dump station available. Campers may dump for free of charge as they exit on Saturday.
3. No Alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed.
4. Camping will only be permitted in specific areas, no camping in barns.
5. Only one trailer or RV per site and only one tent per site.
6. No parking in roadways.
7. No ground fires.
8. Garbage, litter, etc. is to be disposed of properly, in trash bags and placed in a dumpster before you leave.
9. All groups must be supervised by an adult over 21 years of age.
10. The use of any unlicensed vehicles such as, but not limited to motor scooters, ATV's, and golf carts are not permitted on the fairgrounds.
11. Do not cut or damage any standing timber.
12. Do not destroy or vandalize any campground property.
13. Observe all signs.
14. Respect the fairgrounds; please clean up your own mess.

\$50 for 50 amp service per plug

\$40 for 30 amp service per plug

\$25 for primitive

Important Information for Participants:

- Required dog vaccination records **MUST** be uploaded in the registration system or emailed with your class entries.
- Please be sure to print out your online registration receipt. Participant letters will **NOT** be sent out in 2026. Class confirmation will be sent by e-mail only from Krollkat@msu.edu.
- T-shirts will be available in **adult sizes** X-Small through XXX-Large.
- All counties **MUST** provide 1 volunteer for every three-youth participating in the show to serve as ring stewards. Parents are highly encouraged to register as a Silver Volunteer through the MSU Extension Volunteer Process at msu.samaritan.com. Please coordinate locally to meet your counties' volunteer obligation.

Please take the time to read the following Aggressive Dog Policy. All participants must sign that they have read and agree to this policy.

**Michigan State 4-H Dog Program
Mistreatment/ Aggressive Dog Policy**

- * Absolutely no abuse or mistreatment, verbal or physical, of dogs will be tolerated in 4-H.
- * Anyone caught hitting, kicking, or otherwise physically abusing a dog will be immediately dismissed from class or show.
- * Use care with dogs being left in cars in the summer. The temperature inside of a car parked in the sun (even with the windows rolled down) can reach a temperature high enough to cause brain damage in only 10 minutes.
- * Leaving a dog in the car in hot weather is considered abuse under Michigan Law and law enforcement personnel are permitted to break into cars to rescue dogs.
- * Anyone caught leaving your dog in a closed car will be immediately dismissed from class or show.
- * As a parent, if you feel an aggressive incident has taken place, please go to a club leader. Do not confront the child/handler or his/her parent.

Aggressive Dog Policy

Remember: Dogs must be kept on leash ***at all times*** unless instructed otherwise by your dog training instructor or the judge.

- * Any dog that actually bites a human or another dog will be immediately sent home. No questions asked. An incident form must be filled out.
- * If any judge dismisses a dog for behavior issues from the State 4-H Dog Show, the dog will be done showing for that show. The dog will be removed from the pavilion.
- * Expelling a dog could be necessary for the safety of other members and dogs. Should a dog actually be expelled, it must be remembered that the action is ***against the dog and not the 4-H'er***. The 4-H member is welcome to remain at the show.
- * It is important to note the ***YOU, The Owner*** are responsible for the actions of your dog. ***Safety is of paramount importance!***

A signed copy of this policy must be turned in with the State 4-H Dog Show Registration.

Signature of 4-H Youth

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Youth

Date