



Michigan State 4-H Dog Program Mistreatment & Aggressive Dog Policy Volunteer Agreement

MISTREATMENT POLICY

- Absolutely no abuse or mistreatment, verbal or physical, of dogs will be tolerated in Michigan 4-H.
- Anyone caught hitting, kicking, or otherwise physically abusing a dog will be immediately dismissed from the 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 the class or show. Three such incidents within a program year can result in the handler being suspended for the remainder of the program year.
- 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 barn.
- 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 legally responsible for the actions of your dog. Everyone in class should have appropriate liability insurance (usually a part of your homeowners or renter's insurance policy) for your own protection. **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 Volunteer

Date