

4-H Agility Guidelines for El Paso County, Colorado

Superintendent: Mary Killen

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Entry Fee per exhibitor: \$5.00

Agility Match at County Fair: Friday, July 24th, 5-8 pm Owens Arena

The El Paso County 4-H dog agility program is a student focused program. The program has been designed to provide the 4-H student with many chances for success and advancement. It offers the student handler and dog growth opportunities as their skill set advances. The safety of the student and dog is given the utmost priority while at the same time offering the student and dog many hours of fun and responsibility.

Dog agility is a fast growing sport in the United States. The sport is a combination of skill, speed and coordination over a course of various obstacles and jumps that the dog and handler must maneuver. Described below are the rules and regulations that explain the advancements each handler and dog can complete.

Eligibility:

In order to compete in 4-H agility matches or shows each exhibitor and dog must demonstrate that they have learned how to safely navigate the equipment required for each level of agility competition. A level test must be passed as the handler/dog team move thru each level. As the handler/dog team advance in levels they will only have to show the new skills added to next agility level requirements for their test. Leveling tests will be required for both venues of agility competition, Jumps n Runs (JnR and Basic Agility Dog (BAD). Each individual dog a student enrolls as a project must complete leveling before competing even if the student has completed levels with another dog.

Leveling skills tests may be given in conjunction with a show/match or given as a completely separate level test day. Level evaluations may be preformed by an instructor, agility judge, the superintendent, or dog leader that has shadowed the evaluation process at one evaluation event. Evaluator should be familiar with the current county agility rules. Please refer to Attachment A for each level and its corresponding requirements.

4-H Agility Project Requirements and Participation Rules

Participation Rules

1. The handler and dog must be in good health at the time of competition. If this is in question, a Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician will be the final decision.
2. The dog must be owned and cared for by the 4-H member and under his/her direct care during the project.
3. The dog may not be pregnant or nursing puppies at the time of competition. Bitches in heat may not compete.
4. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to compete in agility. It is recommended that larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because for most breeds the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months, even later for large breeds.
5. Dogs 18 months and younger and 7 years and older are encouraged to jump at least one height lower than their measured jump height.

6. All 4-H'ers are strongly encouraged to consult their veterinarian before beginning agility training to be sure that there are no problems such as hip dysplasia, disc problems, overweight, etc.
7. The handler and dog must know basic commands at the time of competition. (sit, down, stay, come, controlled walking on leash, etc.)
8. Any breed or mixture of breeds and/or size dog is allowed to compete.
9. The handler must have complete control over their dog at all times.
10. Two family members may share a dog, but there are a maximum number of four runs per dog per day. Each student during a competition may compete in the jumper and standard classes once each in a single competition.

Club/County Requirements

The member has completed his/her project if the following requirements have been completed.

1. Member must be an active member of the El Paso County 4-H program enrolled in the dog project.
2. Member must submit to their dog leader a completed and satisfactory record book, by the stated deadline.
3. Member must have given a demonstration or public speech on a dog related topic. 4-H member must notify their dog leader that they have completed this requirement.
4. Member must have satisfactorily attended club meetings per your clubs by-laws.
5. Any member that has started the dog project, but did not satisfactorily complete the minimum requirements will not be allowed to enroll in the dog project the following year. If a member has extenuating circumstances, the member can appeal to the Club Leader who will determine if the member completed the Dog Project for the areas that were in the member's control, and designate the member as completing the Dog Project. If the member does not agree with the decision of the Club Leader, he/she can appeal in writing and personally appear before the Small Animal Committee Meeting. If the member does not agree with the decision of the Small Animal Committee, he/she can appeal in writing to the County Extension Agent and meeting with him/her personally on or before December 15th of the current year. The decision of the County Extension Agent is final.

County Fair Dog/Handler Requirements

The El Paso County Fair Agility Match is open to each member enrolled in the Dog Project who has:

1. Completed the dog project requirements, except turning the record book, which is due after fair.
2. To show in county fair, dog project members must have shown in at least one 4-H agility match/show during the current 4-H year. They must have a current level card prior to entering county fair, indicating they have met the requirements to show in the class which they wish to enter.
3. Proof of vaccinations are required and must be current at the time of county fair. Rabies/DHLPPCPV which includes parvo is required proof **MUST** be attached to your entry form. We recommend that you also vaccinate your dog against Kennel Cough (Bordatella).

Please refer to the *4-H Agility Rules for El Paso County Colorado* for details regarding competition and advancement requirements.