

COMPANION ANIMAL DIVISION
Superintendent: Deana VanDeWalle



All companion animals must be owned by the exhibitor by June 1, 2026. Exhibitors are required to be present during the judging of their exhibit. Score is based on presentation, handling of animals and exhibitor knowledge. Animals eligible for the show would be house pets that do not have their own show. Therefore, no dogs, cats, rabbits or poultry will be permitted in this show. Health requirements - animals shall be free of fleas, ticks, mites, lice, or other parasites. Animals shall be free of contagious diseases. Any animal showing signs of parasites or disease will not be judged. Ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies. Not more than one entry per category by any exhibitor.

PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$7.00	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$3.00

COMPANION ANIMALS

G713-001 Showmanship Junior (8-10)

G713-002 Showmanship Intermediate (11-13)

G713-003 Showmanship Senior (14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G713-001, 002, & 003

G713-004 Mammals (ex. Hamsters, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Ferret, Chinchilla, Mouse, Rat, Hedgehog, not available as in individual project)

G713-901 Fish, Reptiles, & Amphibians

G713-902 Birds

G713-903 Other Pets (pre-approved by extension staff such as arachnids)

Champion & Reserve Champion Pet will be awarded between G713-004, G713-901-903.

CAT DIVISION

Superintendent: Deana VanDeWalle



All cats must be owned by the exhibitor by June 1, 2026. Refer to 4-H Cat/Small Animal Show Guidelines (4H341). ALL CATS MUST BE SHOWN ON A LEASH and must be on a leash at any time they are removed from the carrier/cage. HEALTH RULE - Health: If a cat is not declawed, the claws must be clipped. All animals should be free of fleas, ticks, ear mites, ringworm, any internal and external parasite and infectious disease. If any signs of external parasites or other contagious health conditions are present, exhibitors will be asked to leave without being allowed into the show area. If an animal shows the possibility of being contagious, it is considered a danger to other animals and will not be allowed to show. Animals that pose a danger to others will not be allowed in the building. Vaccinations: Cats are required to be current on rabies, panleukopenia, viral rhinotracheitis, and calicivirus vaccinations. Cats must have a current feline leukemia vaccination OR proof of a negative test within 180 days of the show. Proof of vaccination must be submitted to the Extension Office by June 15. Participants must have their veterinarian fill out and sign the "Nebraska State Fair Cat/Ferret Vaccination Record Form". 4-H'ers vaccinating their own cats must provide proof by including a statement from their vet on the Vaccination Record or include the vaccination labels on the form and have it signed by a parent. The rabies vaccination is federally mandated to be given ONLY by a Certified Veterinarian. The vaccination must be current and include a veterinarian signature on the Vaccination Record.

Age divisions are: Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), Senior (14-18) years of age by January 1 of the current year.

Limit 2 cats per member

PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$7.00	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$3.00

CAT

G690-001 Showmanship Junior

G690-002 Showmanship Intermediate

G690-003 Showmanship Senior

Champion & Reserve Champion Showmanship will be awarded in Class 1, 2, & 3

G690-020 Cat, Long Hair

G690-030 Cat, Short Hair

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand will be awarded between G690-020 & G690-030

DOG DIVISION

Superintendent: Deana VanDeWalle

Assistant Superintendent: Allison Crist



1. DOG ELIGIBILITY - Exhibitor should provide primary training for the dog. The dog should be cared for by the exhibitor the majority of the year by the exhibitor. It is the dog exhibitor's responsibility to pick up after their dogs at all times. Dogs soiling in the show ring (during a class) will be lowered one ribbon placing. Dogs soiling anywhere on the show grounds with no pick up will be disqualified from all entered classes on that show day regardless of the person who is holding the dog leash.

2. VACCINATION -- All dogs must be immunized for distemper, hepatitis, parvo and rabies. The Nebraska must be filled out and signed by a veterinarian and returned as part of the Advanced Entry. The Nebraska State Fair Show Vaccination Record Form (SF 263) must document all vaccinations within 1 year or 3 years depending on the vaccine given. All required vaccinations must be given within 1 to 3 years of the show date based on label guidelines. All vaccinations must be in effect at the time of the State Fair Dog Show. Explanation: Some vaccinations are viable for one year and some vaccinations are viable for three years but are specifically designed and administered according to their label. It is not acceptable nor allowed to vaccinate a dog with a 1-year vaccine and plan to have it in effect for 3 years. The SF263 Dog Vaccination Certification form must be submitted for each dog according to the entry guideline due date or will not be allowed to show.

3. NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER EXHIBITOR - Youth may enter one showmanship class, two agility classes (using different dogs and in different level of classes) and two obedience classes (using different dogs and in different level of classes).

4. DISQUALIFIED DOGS - Females in season will not be permitted to be shown. Overly aggressive dogs may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge or superintendent. Lameness or crippled dogs will not be permitted to show if it is determined by a show superintendent that it is affecting the health of the dog.

5. All dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except when appropriate during a show.

6. ADVANCEMENT IN OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY CLASSES – Follow rules in Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Guidelines 4-H 421. A youth will move up to a 'transition year', after they receive 2 purples in a specific class at county or state level competition. Youth will finish their 4-H year at the same level if the second purple ribbon occurs in the middle of their 4-H year. Youth do not have to move up in the middle of a 4-H year. Youth will then have the option to stay in their current class for one additional year (after receiving 2 purple ribbons) called the 'transition year'. During the transition year, youth will practice the more advanced class (gaining skills such as off leash work) but may compete in their same level. Youth may advance up to the next level more quickly with advice/assistance from a leader and parent to help evaluate skill and readiness of youth and dog. This may especially occur if the youth has had previous dog handling experiences.

7. ADVANCEMENT IN SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES – classes are divided into age divisions: Junior 8-9 (County Only), Intermediate 10-13, Senior 14–18. All 4-H dog exhibitors must show their own animals to be considered as participants in the Showmanship Contest. Showmen will be allowed to compete in a division each year based on their age or until they win that particular age group. At state, winners must advance to the next age group, therefore at the state fair winners of the Senior division will be ineligible in future dog showmanship contests.

8. AGE OF DOG – A dog that is exhibited must be 6 months or older Agility dogs must be 18 months or older to participate in competition at both county and state.

9. BAITING – Baiting with food or a toy is not permitted and is cause for disqualification. Handlers may use baiting action without food or toys in showmanship. The judge or superintendent has the authority to disqualify violators.

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	\$ 9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

DOG SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

Each class will be judged on the handler's appearance (10%), grooming and conditioning of the dog (20%), coordination of the dog and handler (50%), and general knowledge (20%).

G700-901 Junior Showmanship – Ages 8-9 year olds

G700-020 Intermediate Showmanship – Ages 10-13 year olds

G700-030 Senior Showmanship – Ages 14-18 year olds

Champion & Reserve Champion Showmanship will be awarded in each class.

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES

BEGINNING NOVICE All exercises must be performed on a 6-foot leash. Dogs must heel including figure 8; stand for examination; come on recall; long sit for one minute and long down for three minutes. During the sit and down exercise, the leash must be held by the handler.

G701-010 BEGINNING NOVICE DIVISION A Exhibitor and dog are in their first year of competition. Exhibitors incorrectly entered will be moved to Beginning Novice Division B or C.

G701-020 BEGINNING NOVICE DIVISION B Exhibitor or dog is beyond first year of competition.

G701-025 BEGINNING NOVICE DIVISION C Exhibitor and dog are beyond first year of competition.

NOVICE CLASSES

Dogs must heel on leash including figure 8; stand for examination off leash; heel free; come on recall off leash; long sit for one minute off leash and long down for three minutes off leash with handler across the ring.

G701-030 NOVICE A Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Beginning Novice and are in the first year of Novice Class competition.

G701-035 NOVICE B – exhibitor and dog are beyond first year of Novice Class competition.

GRADUATE NOVICE

Dogs must heel on leash; stand for examination off lead, heel free including figure 8; drop on recall off leash; long sit off leash for 3 minutes with handler out of sight and long down off leash for 5 minutes with handler in sight.

G701-040 GRADUATE NOVICE Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Novice.

ADVANCED GRADUATE NOVICE

Dogs must heel on leash and figure 8 (off leash), drop on recall, dumbbell recall, recall over high jump, recall over broad jump, and long down.

G701-045 ADVANCED GRADUATE NOVICE Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Graduate Novice.

OPEN

All exercises off leash. Dogs must: heel free and figure 8; drop on recall; retrieve on flat; retrieve over high jump; broad jump; long sit for 3 minutes and long down for 5 minutes, both with handler out of sight. For more information, refer to the Jump Heights section in this guidebook. Youth are to be responsible for talking with the show office to see if the necessary equipment must be provided by the youth or will be provided by the show office.

G701-050 OPEN Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Adv. Graduate Novice.

GRADUATE OPEN

Graduate Open includes signal exercise, scent discrimination, directed retrieve, moving standard examination, go out, and directed jumping. Youth are to be responsible for talking with the show office to see if the necessary equipment must be provided by the youth or will be provided by the show office. Necessary equipment includes high jump, broad jump, and dumbbell (dumbbell must always be brought by the exhibitor).

G701-055 GRADUATE OPEN Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Open.

UTILITY

All exercises must be off leash. The dogs will perform five exercises; the signal exercise; the scent discrimination exercise with leather and metal objects; the directed retrieve; moving stand and examination' and directed jumping. Exhibitors must supply their own scent articles and gloves for the directed retrieve. Youth are to be responsible for talking with the show office to see if the necessary equipment must be provided by the youth or will be provided by the show office. Necessary equipment includes high jump, broad jump, and dumbbell (dumbbell must always be brought by the exhibitor).

G701-060 UTILITY Exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Graduate Open.

DOG AGILITY CLASSES

Agility will follow those procedures and classes described in Nebraska 4-H Dog Show guidelines 4-H 420 to determine class entry. If a youth has not had training or practiced on agility equipment, they may not enter a competition due to safety and training experience in agility. **Wither heights of all agility dogs must be included with advanced entries.** Level 1 & 2 Agility classes are run on-leash. Level 3, 4, and 5 are all run off leash. One of each obstacle noted in each level is mandatory and duplicate obstacles may be added to make up quantities of obstacles in each level. Obstacle equipment needing repair or deemed unsafe by a judge will be excluded from the competition. Judges determine the arrangements of the obstacles on the course. Obstacles in course should be numbered to note the obstacle order for the course.

Level 5 – youth can use additional equipment for competition that they have access to and can use in practice. Obstacles that are used for agility competition events may be included from (AKC, CPE, USDAA, NADAC, UKC, etc.)

Agility Jump heights – measure dogs at withers to determine jump height:

Dogs 11 inches or less – 4 inches

Dogs 11 to 14 inches – 8 inches

Dogs 14 to 18 inches – 12 inches

Dogs over 18 inches – 16 inches

G702-010 Level 1 6 obstacles – 3 bar jumps which have two bars each, short dog walk, pause box or table, and tunnel (open)

G702-020 Level 2 10 obstacles – several bar jumps which have two bars each, short dog walk, pause box or table, tunnel (open) chute (collapsed or closed tunnel), solid panel jump and tire jump (hoop jump).

G702-030 Level 3 10 obstacles – same obstacles as Level 2 but dogs run off leash for Level 3

G702-040 Level 4 13 obstacles – bar jump which has one bar each, bar jump which has two bars each, tall dog walk, pause box or table, tunnel (open), chute (collapsed or closed tunnel), solid panel jump, teeter totter (seesaw), weave poles (single set with 6 poles), and tire jump (hoop jump).

G702-050 Level 5 15 – 20 of any of the following obstacles such as: bar jump which has one bar each, bar jump which has two bars each, tall dog walk, pause box or table, tunnel (open), chute (collapsed or closed tunnel), solid panel jump, A-frame short, A-frame tall, teeter totter (seesaw), weave poles (single set with 6 poles), weave poles (double set with 12 poles), and tire jump (hoop jump) broad jump, dump jump, triple bar jump, swing bridge, crawl, etc..... Number of obstacles used for a course will depend on ring size and available equipment at the show site. Course layout may include more advanced handling techniques.

Champion and Reserve will be awarded for Overall Dog in each age division, for those dogs participating in obedience and agility. (as determined by which showmanship class the exhibitor showed the dog in).