

# **4-H Dog Tricks or Canine Free Style**

## **Judging Class Levels:**

**Junior** – Any 4-H member who is in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade on January 1 of current year.

**Intermediate** – Any 4-H member who is in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade on January 1 of current year.

**Senior** – Any 4-H member who is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above on January 1 of current year.

## **Divisions:**

**Singles:** One handler and one dog .

**Brace:** One handler and two dogs.

**Pairs:** Two handlers and two dogs.

**Team:** More than two handlers and an equal number of dogs.

## **Rules:**

1. The trick or routine should last no more than 1 minute, (without special permission)
2. All dogs in the routine must be entered in 4-H and have a signed vet vaccination form.
3. Any props used must be approved before the competition. No non-dog animals allowed.
4. Dogs may be on-leash or off-leash. Penalties for tight leash or dropped leash.
5. Dogs may wear a decorative collar, neck scarf, or ankle bands (maximum 1.5”).
6. If used, props must be appropriate and in good taste.
7. If used, handler costumes must be appropriate and in good taste.
8. If used, music must be appropriate and in good taste.
9. Judging class level is determined by highest level handler in Pairs or Team

## **Judging Criteria:**

1. Spectator Appeal and Entertainment Value
  - a. How well the spectators appreciate, enjoy and respond.
  - b. Handler and dog are primarily facing the audience and judges.
  - c. Flow of movements from one to another by dog and handler
  - d. Trick, move or routine is interesting to watch
2. Creativity of Trick(s), Move(s), or Routine.
  - a. Difficulty, Intricacy, Complexity, and/or Innovation.
  - b. Variety of tricks or moves in routine.
  - c. Quality and creativity of choreography or layout of trick(s), move(s) or routine.
3. Dog Performance
  - a. Dog performs without the handler intervening.
  - b. Dog appears to be having an enjoyable experience.
  - c. Dog appears to be under the control of the handler.
  - d. Precise execution of movements.
4. Handler Showmanship [*Music, props, and/or costumes are NOT required, but may be used.*]
  - a. Animation, attitude, and attention of handler
  - b. Handler appears to be having an enjoyable experience
  - c. Smooth harmonious interaction between handler and dog.
  - d. Cues to dog are disguised.
  - e. Coordination with musical interpretation. (*If music is used.*)
  - f. Use of appropriate costumes and/or props. (*If costumes/props are used.*)
5. Penalties for tight leash, dropped leash, double handling from a person outside ring, disciplining, rules violation, dog fouling, or leaving ring.