



FLATHEAD DOG PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS, LEADERS AND PARENTS

1. PROOF OF VACCINATIONS IS REQUIRED.

You must show proof that your dog's up to date Rabies. It is highly recommended your dog also be vaccinated for DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus). Rabies vaccinations are not only required by law, but they protect you and your dog. Proof of vaccinations can be listed in the dogs vet chart, or, if self-administered, you can tape the peel-off label from the bottle onto a piece of paper or simply have the receipt and date you gave the shots. It will also be required that all dogs have a Flathead County (or license from another county) dog license.

2. AGGRESSION: There is a zero aggression tolerance. Our main concern is safety of both the youth and the dogs. We reserve the right to excuse from project any dog, we feel is jeopardizing the safety of the class/event in any way. Dogs that we determine are aggressive, out of control or dangerous will be asked to leave and will not be allowed back into class. Biting dogs will not be tolerated.

3. CONTROL: Keep your dogs on a short leash and under control at all times. DO NOT allow your dog to run up to another dog. This can cause dog fights and we do not want you or your dog getting injured. How would you feel if a complete stranger ran up to you and stood only a few inches away or jumped on you? Parents may need to assist members the first few times - especially larger dogs with younger members.

4. EQUIPMENT:

- 6-foot leather or nylon leash.
- Regular buckle collar without any ID/rabies tags.
- Properly fitting choke chain (or thin chain training collar).
- Showmanship lead.
- Soft training treats and treat bag.
- Water bowl / Water.
- Plastic bags (to clean up after your dog).
- Small bag or tote to keep equipment in together.
- Proper show attire – includes white button down shirt, black pants and closed toed shoes
- Not required but advised - Pen & paper for take notes. Folder for hand outs

5. COMMUNICATION: Communication will take place through the Flathead County Extension office and through newsletters/emails.



6. **CLASSES/EVENTS:** Be prepared. Bring your equipment with you. Remember when you attend any event you are representing 4H. Please use good manners. If the class is an educational event for the handler, leave your dog at home. To complete the Flathead County Dog Project, members will be required to attend an educational class, **AND/OR** make an educational poster about dogs and enter it into the fair, **AND/OR** attend dog training classes and show at the fair.
7. **BE ON TIME.** We have limited time and space to train and will start class on time. If you are late, you will miss out. Be early enough to allow your dog to go the bathroom before class begins. **NEVER** let your dog foul the training area. Take them away from the training area when you get out of your car. You (not leaders, teacher, or parents) are responsible for cleaning up after your dog - that's what the plastic bags are for.
8. Please be quiet when leaders/ teachers are talking or working with other handlers and dogs. Pay attention at all times - you can learn a lot from watching others. Especially pay attention to your dog - they get distracted too.
9. No stand in handlers, 4Her should be training the dog. It is important that you be the one to teach your dog. This is team work. The team needs to work together.
10. Parents are required to stay and are welcome to watch, but please stand or sit away from the class and don't interfere with the 4H handlers. The dogs need to listen to the 4H members.
11. Do not feed your dog prior to class. This will add value to your treats.
12. If you have a dog that is sick or female in heat, please do not bring it to class. You can still come to class to get instructions and perhaps even work with someone else's dog.
13. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes during class, flat, rubber soled shoes are best (tennis shoes). No open-toed shoes or sandals.
14. One weekly class is not enough to train your dog. It's important to practice every day. Daily lessons should be for five to fifteen minutes each, up to three times per day. The number of training sessions is not as important as enjoying what you are doing. Always finish on an "up beat", whether the dog did well or not. When done with training, take a little time to play with the dog - you want her/him to enjoy working with you.
15. **PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE!** Dogs respond much more quickly to praise than to punishment, timing is everything. Pay attention to your dog and as soon as it does what you have asked, **PRAISE!** Think of how you feel when you are scolded or when you are praised - which do **YOU** prefer?