Are You Into It?

“Lions, Tigers, and Bears, oh my!” Do not make good pets but dogs do! Dogs are also used for sport and assist in working livestock. The dog project helps you explore what kind of dog fits into your family’s lifestyle and how to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of your dog.

- Learn major dog breeds and identify their characteristics
- Study responsibilities of dog ownership
- Demonstrate dog care and management in feeding, handling, record-keeping, grooming and fitting
- Learn dog health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments

Here’s what you can do all year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting Out</th>
<th>Learning More</th>
<th>Expanding Horizons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic / Level 1</td>
<td>Intermediate / Level 2</td>
<td>Advanced / Level 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Gather information and determine the best dog for your family  
- Learn about the proper care, grooming and feeding of your dog  
- Learn to identify the parts of your dog for conversations with your vet  
- Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost or finding it if it gets lost  
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques  
- Practice appropriate training for your dog | - Plan a training and exercise program for your dog  
- Prepare for participation in a dog show  
- Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your dog  
- Compare the labels on dog foods to make an informed decision on content and price  
- Keep a diary of your dog’s health and eating habits  
- Research kennels facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog | - Create a trainer’s diary to assist you when you work with your dog  
- Interview someone who uses a service dog to assist them  
- Create a dog ownership budget  
- Help a friend make a decision about dog ownership  
- Research diseases in dogs  
- Identify symptoms and a course of action if your dog gets sick |

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

**Communication**
- Prepare a poster or demonstration:
  - How to approach a dog safely
  - How to prepare a dog for showing
  - How to train a dog for exhibition
  - How to select a nutritional diet
  - How to select dog species for your family

**Citizenship**
- Clean up in your local dog
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having dogs spayed or neutered

**Leadership**
- Organize a dog show for your club
- Organize a fundraiser to help benefit an animal shelter
- Organize a dog therapy 4-H club in your community
- Develop a plan to foster dogs of deploying soldiers

Learn more at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs or contact your county ISU Extension Office
Take Dogs further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Dogs:

- Contact your county Iowa State University Extension Office for information about local dog related events [www.extension.iastate.edu/ouroffices.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ouroffices.htm)
- Learn about service animals and the process for fostering and training a service animal
- If you are interested in veterinary science and taking care of dogs, visit with Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine [http://vetmed.iastate.edu/](http://vetmed.iastate.edu/)
- Job-shadow at a local business (pet store, veterinary clinic, breeder, etc.) in a dog related career that interests you
- Go to local and area dog shows and explore the differences in dog breeds and how they are shown
- Explore health safety issues with dogs – what diseases do dogs have that might make humans ill?
- Explore what kinds of dogs make the best pets – compare breeds, inside dogs, outside dogs
- Learn how puppies are acquired by the local pet store
- Research all the kinds of parasites your dog might get and how to protect you and your dog
- Do some comparison shopping for dog supplies
- Explore what kind of restrictions and laws your community might have on dogs
- What are the requirements for licensing a dog in your community?
- Explore the subject of animal assisted therapy, how it is used and what the benefits are
- If you are in high school, consider attending the annual Iowa 4-H Youth Conference

Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-H Resources</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Record Keeping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4H 403A Wiggles and Wags, Dog Level 1</td>
<td>Animal Assisted Therapy <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy</a></td>
<td>Basic 4-H Project Record (4H 0096A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H 403B Canine Connection, Dog Level 2</td>
<td>Healthy dogs <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/animals/dogs.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/animals/dogs.htm</a></td>
<td>Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H 403C Pointing the Way, Dog Level 3</td>
<td><a href="http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns/classification_search_result.php?FLAG=DISPLAY&amp;CLASSIFICATIONID=3&amp;CLASSNAME=Dogs">http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns/classification_search_result.php?FLAG=DISPLAY&amp;CLASSIFICATIONID=3&amp;CLASSNAME=Dogs</a></td>
<td>Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H 402AX Training Your Dog for Family Living</td>
<td>American Kennel Club <a href="http://www.akc.org">www.akc.org</a></td>
<td>Dog ID Form 4-H 106E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H 402BX Dog Obedience Training for Beginners, Graduate Beginners, Brace, and Team</td>
<td>Learn About Man's Best Friend <a href="http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dog/">http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dog/</a></td>
<td>For additional record keeping and scorecards go to <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs">www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H 402CX Dog Obedience Training for Novice, Graduate Novice</td>
<td><a href="http://www.4-h.org/resource-library/curriculum/4-h-dog/">Learn More About Man's Best Friend</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>