

BEGINNERS COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Welcome to the Boone County 4-H dog project. During the next several weeks we will be helping you teach your dog to be a more desirable pet, companion and canine citizen. Almost every dog is trainable to the level you should achieve during the course of this project. Most of the responsibility lies with **you**, however. The amount of time and determination you give to training your dog will show in how much you and your dog benefit from the training.

We will do our utmost to help you learn how to train your dog but **you** must follow instructions exactly for best results. Making excuses for yourself or your dog only results in a poorly trained dog.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER!

1. Accidents will happen. If your dog has a bowel movement here we will provide clean up materials and you will clean it up. We need to keep the fairgrounds clean for all of us!
2. Always be sure the training collar is on correctly.
3. The training collar is **ONLY** to be worn when you are actually training your dog. **NEVER** tie your dog up while he is wearing it. No tags of any sort should be hanging from the training collar. Remove any flea or other collars while you're working your dog.
4. If your female dog comes into "heat" or "season," you may continue to bring her to class, but let me know so that we can talk about precautions you should take. If you choose not to bring her to class, please attend the sessions alone so you can work with her at home and keep up. (A female in season CANNOT be shown at the Fair, however, without prior arrangements.)
5. If your dog is an "outside" dog and never allowed in the house you may have a harder time training them. Most dogs have to feel like part of the family in order to work with you. If you cannot bring them into the house, spend a lot of time each day with them, working and playing with them. You must develop a good relationship with your dog to succeed at training.
6. Your voice can be one of your most useful tools when working with your dog. Do not be afraid to talk to your dog. Let him know he is right or wrong by the tone in your voice.

TRAINING EQUIPMENT

As part of the project, the proper equipment will be described and demonstrated. This equipment is to be used only for training. DO NOT leave the collar and/or leash on your dog when you are not training. If used properly, your equipment should last a lifetime.

The following collars are allowed in the 4-H project classes: chain or nylon "slip" or "choke" collars, Gentle Leaders© or Haltis©, pinch or prong collars. (I will have some Gentle Leaders© available and could help provide pinch collars. Please speak to me if you wish to use one of these.)

All equipment must be fitted properly – I will no longer allow poorly fitted equipment which hampers the training process.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE IS NOT REQUIRED for a number of reasons:

1. *If you miss classes you will only be hurting yourself. The training in the class setting is important and each week we will learn something new. Each time you miss you will fall behind. I will make every effort to help you catch up **BUT** I cannot arrange or conduct private lessons!*
2. *I understand there will be conflicts – we have softball, baseball, concerts, etc, too. Let me know ahead of time if you can so that I can go over the lesson with you.*

REMEMBER – I'M HERE TO HELP!! DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK!!