

# Senior Handling Packet

## Dog Information You Should Know:

Breed \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Origin \_\_\_\_\_  
Original Purpose \_\_\_\_\_  
Acceptable Varieties and colors \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Disqualifying fault \_\_\_\_\_  
AKC Groups \_\_\_\_\_  
Genetic Disorders for your breed \_\_\_\_\_

Anatomy

Vaccines

Parasites

The following pages will help 4-Hers to prepare for the question portion of the Handling/Showmanship Division which include information in regards to canine anatomy, parasites, and needed vaccinations. The Handling scores will consist of points for the following:

Exhibitor – neatness in dress, etc.

Dog grooming and conditioning

Handling and following direction

Answers to judge questions

# HANDLING

## PURPOSE OF HANDLING (SHOWMANSHIP)

In handling classes, exhibitors are judged on their ability to groom and handle the dog in the show ring. Here is an example of a scorecard used to judge Handling:

### SCORECARD

- **Handler's Appearance .....10 points**
  - Exhibitors must follow dress code rules as established for the specific fair or event.
- **Dog Grooming and Conditioning .....20 points**
  - Hair Coat – The dog's coat should be clean, not scaly or matted, and free from loose hair. Special coat trims, such as those for poodles or terriers, will not give an advantage except for cleanliness and neatly brushed appearance.
  - Total Absence of Parasites – The animal should not be a host to fleas, lice, mites or ticks.
  - Ears – The animal's ears should be clean.
  - Toenails – The animal's toenails should be properly trimmed.
  - Teeth – The animal's teeth should be clean and free of matter.
  - General Health and Condition – This includes the animal's weight and clear eyes free of matter.
- **Handling – Showing of the Dog .....50 points**
  - Movement of the handler and dog – the ability of the handler to show the dog to its best advantage.
  - Smooth, straight and flowing gait at the correct speed.
  - Coordination between dog and handler – the reaction of the dog to the handler and communication between dog and handler.
  - Proper presentation and control of dog.
  - Adherence to directions and proper ring procedures. This includes proper ring etiquette and good sportsmanship both in and out of the ring.
- **Knowledge of Dogs .....20 points**
  - Knowledge of dogs specific to the 4-H project and breed of the dog it most closely resembles.
  - The judge will converse with and/or question the exhibitor about the project and the dog.

**TOTAL.....100 points**



# Vaccine Guidelines for Dogs

1. Not all dogs need every vaccine, your veterinarian will ask you questions about your dog's lifestyle, environment, and travel to help tailor the perfect vaccination plan for him. Your vet uses factors such as whether your dog visits dog parks, groomers, competes in dog shows, or swims in freshwater lakes to develop your dog's individualized vaccination plan.
2. There are "core" and "noncore" vaccines. Vaccinations are designated as either core, meaning they are recommended for every dog, or noncore, which means they are recommended for dogs at risk for contracting a specific disease.
3. Get a rabies vaccine for your dog—it's the law. Rabies is a fatal — and preventable —disease that can be spread to humans by contact with saliva, so it's mandatory in all 50 US states. Your veterinarian is bound by law to give your dog a rabies vaccine to protect you as well as your pet; if an unvaccinated dog is scratched or bitten by a wild animal, it can lead to your pet being quarantined or euthanized. Learn the specifics about the rabies laws in your state at [rabiesaware.org](http://rabiesaware.org).

## **CORE Vaccines**

- Rabies
- Combination vaccine:
  - Distemper
  - Adenovirus-2
  - Parvovirus
  - Parainfluenza

## **NonCORE vaccines**

- Bordetella bronchiseptica
- Parainfluenza Leptospira
  - \* 4-serovar
- Borrelia burgdoferi (Lyme disease)
- Influenza (H3N8 and H3N2)

## **Rabies**

- Rabies is a deadly disease that attacks the nervous system
- The virus lives in saliva and is typically transmitted by bite wounds
- It can also be transmitted by saliva that has contact with open wounds, eyes, nose or mouth
- Once signs are present it is 100% fatal
- Only mammals can get Rabies
- In the United States skunks, raccoons and bats are common wildlife carriers
- Rabies vaccine is required by law for all dogs 6 months and older in the state of Iowa.

## **Distemper**

- Highly contagious virus that causes severe disease in young dogs
- It can affect the respiratory tract (pneumonia), stomach and intestines (vomiting and diarrhea) and brain (seizures and tremors)
- Vaccination is highly effective at preventing infection

## **Adenovirus -2**

- Also known as Canine Infectious Hepatitis
- Spread in urine and ocular (eye) and nasal (nose) discharge
- Young dogs are at the highest risk of infection
- Symptoms include fever, depression, (loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, edema (subcutaneous fluid swelling) and jaundice. It can be fatal.
- Vaccination is highly successful at reducing and eliminating Adenovirus in dogs

## **Parvovirus**

- Highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs - unvaccinated puppies younger than 4 months are at the highest risk
- Spread by direct contact with things that have been contaminated with infected fecal matter (dogs, environment, people, dishes, collars, leashes, other objects).
- Very hardy - can live in the environment for a long time and it is hard to disinfect it. Symptoms include depression, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and dehydration
- Puppies can die in as little as 48-72 hours from the onset of symptoms
- Vaccine is highly effective for most dogs (\*small subset of canine population seems to be susceptible to parvo virus despite receiving complete vaccine series).

## **Parainfluenza**

- Highly contagious respiratory virus
- Unrelated to Canine Influenza virus
- Symptoms coughing, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, lack of energy, loss of appetite
- High Risk groups include - shelters, kennels/boarding facility, doggie daycare, groomers, dog parks

## **Bordetella bronchiseptica**

- Also known as tracheobronchitis or kennel cough
- Spread through air, direct contact and dishes, etc.
- High Risk Groups - shelters, kennel/boardings, grooming, doggy daycare
- Symptoms - dry hacking cough, retching, sneezing. Severe cases pneumonia, no appetite, fever, and lethargy

## **Leptospirosis**

- Caused by bacteria
- Spread by contact with water (creeks, ponds, water puddles, lakes, etc) contaminated with infected urine (raccoons and rodents are common wildlife carriers)
- Severe infections can cause kidney and/or liver failure
- Zoonotic pets can pass the infection to people
- Symptoms - vary from mild to severe and include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite

## **Lyme Disease**

- Vector borne disease - transmitted by ticks (most common is the Deer Tick)  
Caused by a spiral-shaped bacteria. - *Borrelia burgdorferi*
- High Risk dogs should be vaccinated and use a high-quality tick control product that protects against a variety of tick species.
- High risk activities include - hunting, camping, hiking, living on heavily wooded properties with high tick populations and traveling to Minnesota, Wisconsin and the North East with your dog
- Symptoms include - fever, loss of appetite, lameness, joint swelling and decreased activity

## **Influenza**

- Highly contagious viral infection
- Original strain H3N8 first identified in 2004 in Florida. New strain H3N2 identified in 2015 in Chicago
- Transmitted through respiratory droplets
- It can be transmitted dog to dog and also by dogs having contact with surfaces, objects or people who have been exposed to the virus
- High Risk groups include dogs who frequent -kennels, groomers, day care facilities and shelters
- Symptoms - cough, fever, nasal and ocular discharge, sneezing, lethargy, and loss of appetite, severe cases require hospitalization and may result in death.

# Parasites for Dogs

## Ectoparasites

### Ear Mites

- Rare in Dogs - more common in cats
- Signs/symptoms include shaking head, scratching ears, red inflamed ears, dark debris/discharge
- Transmitted by close contact with another pet who has an infestation
- Many labeled products for treatment

### Fleas

- Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends year around control for all pets in the household (cats and dogs)
- 4 life stages (Egg Larva, Pupae and Adult)
- Blood excreted by adult fleas dries into reddish-black pellets in the hair coat ('flea dirt').
- Egg production begins within 20 to 24 hours of females taking their first blood meal.
  - Female fleas can produce 40 to 50 eggs per day. Under normal conditions, most adult fleas generally survive 2-3 months.
- In cold climates, fleas survive as adults on dogs and cats or wild mammals or within pupal casings as pre-emerged adults in protected environments.
- Fleas cause a variety of symptoms
  - Minor - pruritus (itching) and annoyance
  - Major - anemia (low red blood cells) and flea allergy dermatitis (sensitivity to flea saliva that causes severe allergies)
- Also capable of transmitting other diseases (Examples. Tapeworms, Mycoplasma, Tularemia)
- Treatment :
  - Comprehensive control for all pets in the household
  - Infestations take at least 3 months the clear
  - Many products on the market - recommend purchasing at your veterinarian to ensure authenticity and efficacy

### Ticks

- Most common species seen in Iowa - Deer tick (Black Legged Tick), American Dog tick and Lone Star Tick
- Deer Tick (Black Legged Tick) - Transmits Lyme Disease
- Many of the flea preventatives are combination products and also protect against ticks - check with your veterinarian to know what each product covers. Maintain dogs on year around tick control.

### Demodex Mite

- Reside in hair follicles
- Considered normal fauna but if dogs experience an overgrowth these mites can cause disease
- Symptoms include - patchy hair loss and mild to severe itchiness and skin infection/inflammation
- More common in younger dogs than in adults

### Scabies Mite

- Burrow under skin - Live under the skin and causes extreme itchiness
- Transmission requires direct contact from another animal carrying the mite
- Can be transmitted to people (Zoonotic!)

## Intestinal Parasites

### General Info

- Feces should be immediately picked up when walking a dog in a public area, picked up from the yard on a daily basis, and sandboxes, garden areas, and playgrounds should be protected from fecal contamination.
- Puppies should be given dewormers starting at 2 weeks of age and repeating every 2 weeks until regular broad-spectrum parasite control begins, and adult pets should receive year-round broad-spectrum parasite control with efficacy against Hookworms and Roundworms
- There are many options for deworming and many heartworm preventatives also have protection against common intestinal parasites
- Diagnosed by fecal floatation with centrifugation

### Hookworms

- Blood sucking parasites - live in small intestines
- Puppies acquire infestation through nursing
- Can be transmitted by ingesting larvae from a contaminated environment or acquired through direct skin penetration
- Zoonotic potential (can be passed to humans)
- Can be treated with a variety of deworming products

### Roundworms

- Live in the small intestines but migration can cause liver and lung damage
- May notice in stool or vomit - look like spaghetti
- Transmitted from mother to puppy through the placenta or by ingesting larvae from a contaminated environment
- Most severe problems in puppies
- Can be treated with a variety of deworming products

### Tapeworms

- Tapeworm segments are shed in the feces of an infected dog or cat - this is the typical way to make a diagnosis
- Infestation can happen with ingestion of infected rabbit, rodent and fish tissues and by adult fleas
- Preventing predation and scavenging activity by keeping dogs confined to a leash or in a fenced yard will limit the opportunity for dogs to acquire infection.
- More limited number of dewormers will treat tapeworm infestations
- Praziquantel is the most common treatment

### Whipworms

- Dogs acquire whipworm infections only by ingesting eggs containing infective larvae from the environment.
- Control can be achieved by use of monthly broad-spectrum heartworm prevention products that also control whipworms
- Most infections do not cause severe symptoms or disease
- Severe infections can cause bloody diarrhea, weight-loss and anemia

## **Coccidia**

- Shipment to pet stores or relocation to pet owners) may exacerbate coccidiosis
- Young animals are more likely than older animals to become infected with coccidia
- Canine coccidia are acquired by ingestion of eggs and soil from contaminated environments
- Coccidiosis causes diarrhea with weight loss, dehydration, and (rarely) hemorrhage
- Severely affected animals may present with anorexia, vomiting, and depression. Death is a potential outcome.
- Sulfadimethoxine is the only drug that is label approved for treatment

## **Giardia**

- One-celled parasitic organism that takes up residence in the small intestine
- It is not a worm, bacteria or virus
- Can be contracted by drinking dirty water or by eating feces
- Humans and dogs can contract giardia and easily transmit it back and forth
- Symptoms are diarrhea, poor condition, weight loss, death

## **Miscellaneous Parasites**

### **Heartworms**

- Annual blood testing to check heartworm status is recommended for all dogs
- Protect all dogs with year around heartworm preventative (many products available)
- Immature stage of (microfilaria) is transmitted to dogs via mosquito bites
- Immature stages can be killed by preventatives
- If dog doesn't get a preventative and the heartworm microfilaria develop into adults, then heartworm disease develops
- Heartworms damage pulmonary vessels and reduce cardiac output
- Symptoms may include: coughing, trouble breathing, weight-loss, exercise intolerance, and others
- Severe infections can cause life-threatening anemia and heart failure

## **SHOWING TIPS FOR THE 4-H'ER:**

The dog should wear only the show collar and/or leash. The leash may be nylon or leather of a length and width appropriate for the dog and handler. If a separate collar is used, it should be a proper show collar, such as a show hex or jeweler's link chain.

The 6-foot obedience lead is not acceptable in handling classes. Obedience collars are not acceptable. Acceptable handling collars and leads – Link Collars (not obedience chain collar) /Jewelers Hex chain (fine link) Nylon or cotton choke collar, cotton or nylon martingales.

Position the collar portion of the leash or collar around the animal's neck, just behind the ears. This will allow control of the dog without choking it.

Exhibitors should neatly hold the excess showmanship leash in their hand and not have any loops or ends dangling out visible from their hand. Treats or bait are allowed in a Handling class.

4-H'ers is responsible for grooming their own dogs. Since grooming is part of the learning experience in the dog project, it is important for the exhibitors to know why their breeds may require special grooming. Dogs that are clipped or stripped, the groom should be appropriate to the breed. Should the dog be a mixed breed, the grooming should be appropriate for the breed the dog most resembles. IE- Curly coated doodle mixes should be groomed like a poodle puppy, not left long.

The judge will ask questions of the 4-H'er about the dog and the project. Questions should be appropriate for the age division of the exhibitors. Some of the topic areas that a judge may use are dog care, grooming, health, exhibitor dog breed and country of origin, purpose of dog breed, AKC breed groups, vaccinations, parasites, dog parts, amount and type of feed, and Judges may also determine their own questions.

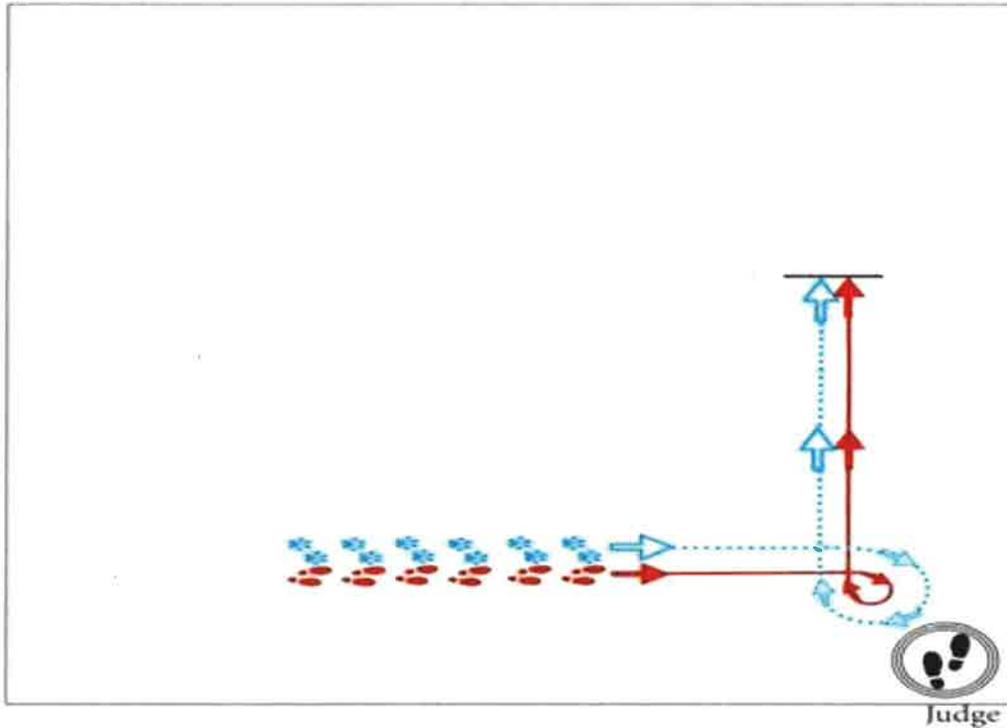
Judging will include evaluating the movement of the dog and exhibitor together. Exhibitors should move the dog in a straight and even gait, at the dog's TROT, working together as a team. The exhibitors should be aware of where the judge is, so they can react with the least amount of hesitation. They should avoid putting themselves between the dog and the judge (except for performing a courtesy turn at the beginning of their individual pattern). Unnecessary jerking, pulling or extremely loud commands are not acceptable.

Exhibitors should make their gaiting smooth, straight and at the correct speed (dog's trot). When in motion, the dog should move naturally and freely. Avoid traveling ahead of or behind your dog.

4-H Handling exhibitors should be aware of where the judge is at all times, and show their dog for the duration of their class. Exhibitors should pay attention at all times and not cut in front of the judge's view of the dog. The exception: if a youth decides to include a courtesy turn to be able to get their dog into better position before their pattern.

In Handling, the exhibitor's appearance is as important as the dog's grooming. The handler's hair should be off the face and contained if necessary. Anything in clothing, grooming or behavior that distracts from the presentation of the dog is not appropriate.

**Courtesy Turns Are Optional** – courtesy turns are optional and to be included or excluded at the choice of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note that if they do include a courtesy turn, they need to keep good flow and smoothness or they may lose points. Exhibitors do not get extra credit for doing a courtesy turn. The purpose of a courtesy turn is to line up your dog to go straight away from the judge at the start of their pattern. The dog stays on the left side of the exhibitor and turns a small right handed circle only briefly blocking the judge's view of the dog. Not all dogs are easily directed through a courtesy turn so it may be better to exclude it. If used, the courtesy turn is done in front of the judge at the start of their pattern or as noted for a specific pattern.



Courtesy Turn

Exhibitors in Handling should hold their lead in the hand that is beside the dog. The other hand should remain in a natural position at the handler's side

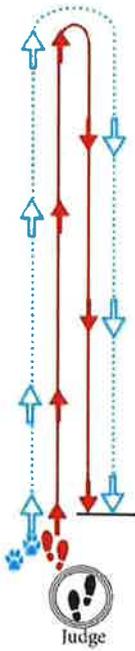
Use the entire ring unless the judge gives other instructions.

If mats are used, the dog should be centered on the mat while the exhibitor off to the side (if the mat is wide enough, the exhibitor should still be on the mat).

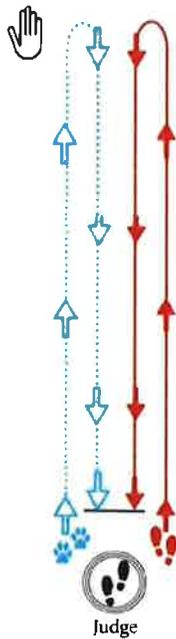
The dog is to be kept between the judge and exhibitor at all times.

**HANDLING PATTERN DIAGRAMS** – each of the handling patterns are noted with illustration on how to run them. Youth position and dog position are noted as well as the use of a ‘hand illustration’ which indicates that the leash changes hands.

1. **Down and Back or Straight Away:** The exhibitor and dog will be asked to gait across the ring either on the diagonal or from end to end. At the opposite end of the ring, the exhibitor has the option to do (1) an about turn or (2) to switch hands with the lead. Option (2) is preferred.

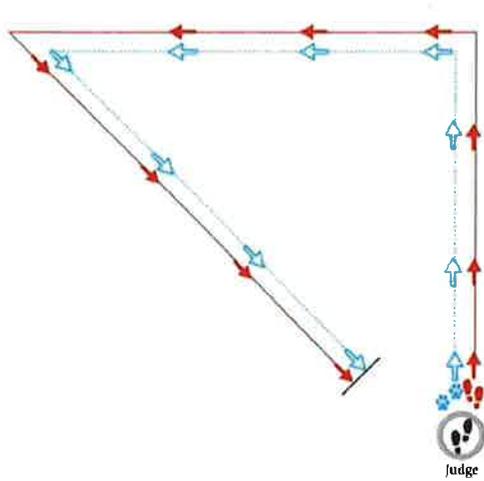


2. The Down and Back with an about-turn.
- 3.



4. The Down and Back with a hand switch.

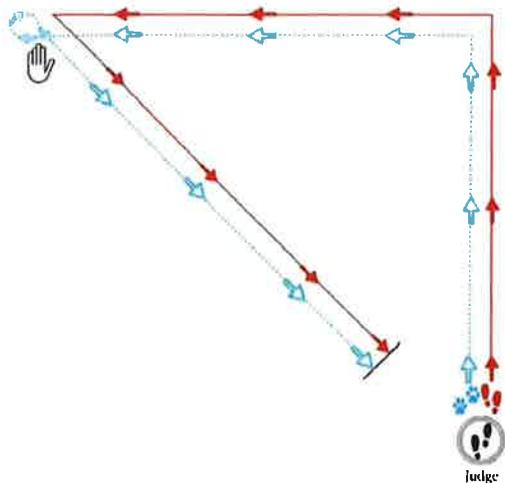
1. **Triangle:** This pattern is performed in the shape of a right triangle. The exhibitor and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner, the dog and handler will make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. Once at the corner, one of two turns may be made before proceeding up the diagonal and back to the judge.
2. There are two options for the triangle pattern:  
The first option is a simple turn at the corner followed by a second simple turn and then return diagonally to the judge.



Triangle with simple turn at the corner.

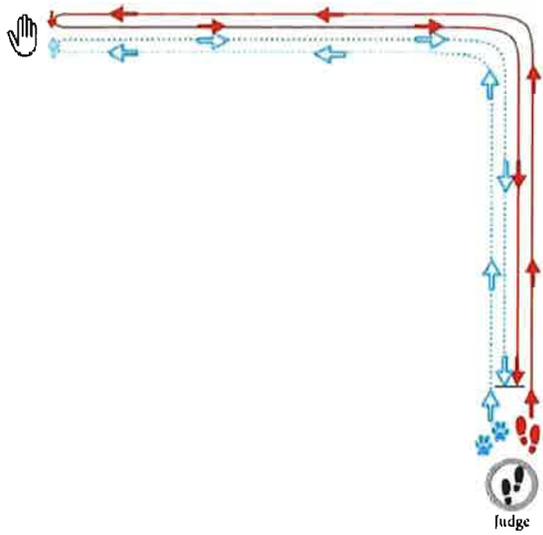
#### Triangle with a circle at the corner.

The second option is for the 4-H'er to switch hands with the lead and cross the dog over in front of him/her. The dog completes a circle as the 4-H'er and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed up the diagonal with the dog on the 4-H'ers right side.



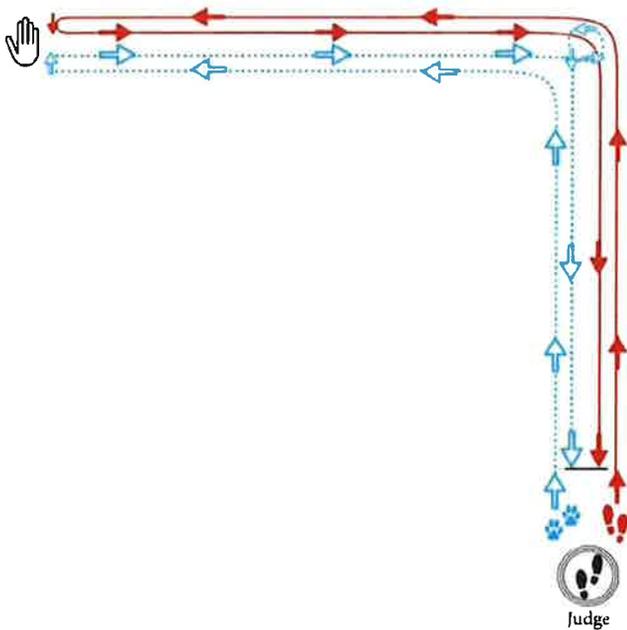
Triangle where 4-H'er switches hands with the lead.

**3. L Pattern:** This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter “L”. The exhibitor and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. The exhibitor then switches hands with the lead. The exhibitor and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the other end of the ring. At this corner, the exhibitor has two options either a simple right turn or to make a circle in the corner.



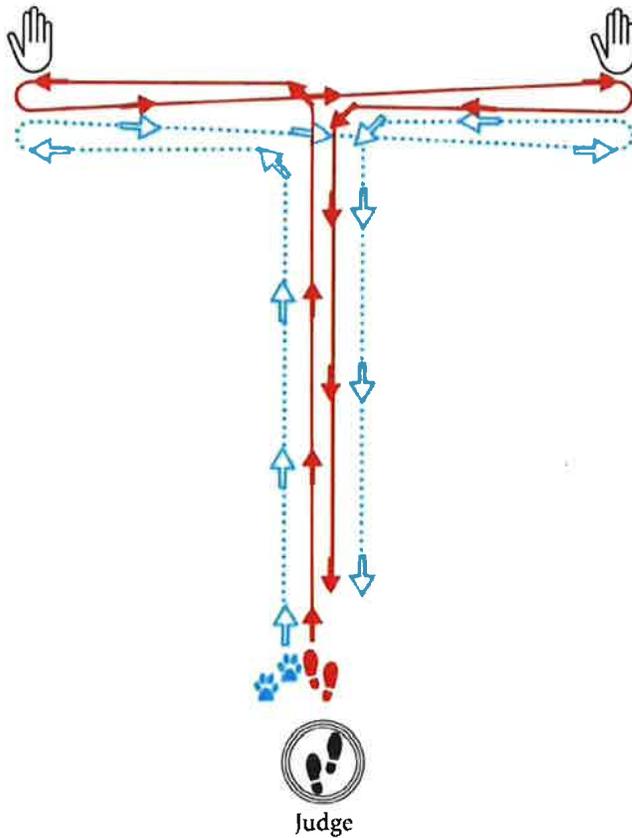
Judge The “L” pattern with a simple turn.

The second option is to make a circle in the corner (right before returning to the judge) with the dog always remaining on the exhibitor’s right side. The exhibitor does not switch hands with the lead while making the circle.



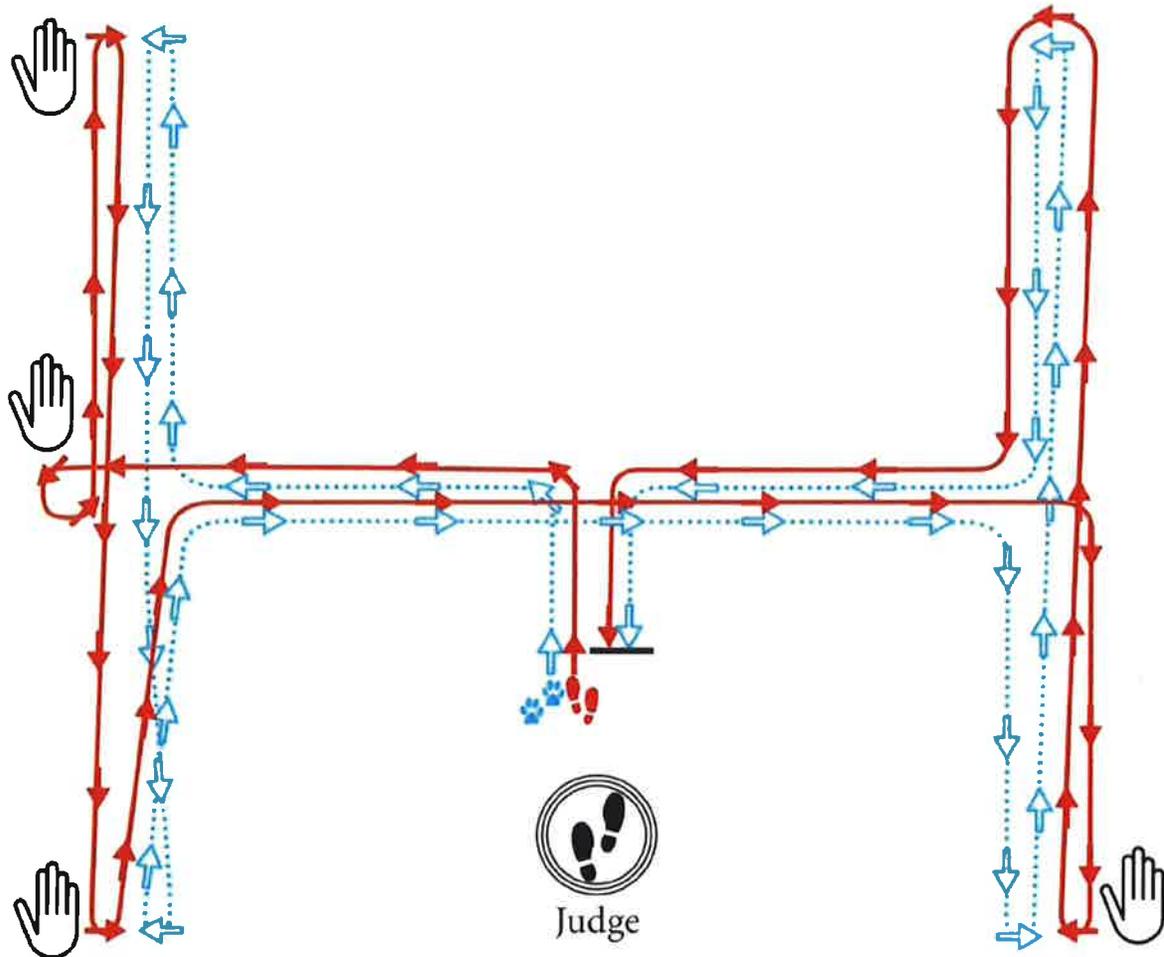
Judge The “L” pattern with a Circle

**4..T & Advanced Variations (Left T or Right T):** – This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter “T”. The judge will indicate where to start the “T” pattern. The exhibitor and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. The exhibitor should turn to whichever side the dog is on and proceed to the corner of the ring. The exhibitor then switches hands with the lead. The exhibitor and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. At the other end, the exhibitor again switches hands with the lead. The exhibitor and dog again turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the center of the ring. The exhibitor then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.



The “T” pattern.

5. **"I" Pattern:** - A This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter "I". The judge will indicate where to start the "I" pattern. The exhibitor and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge following the "I" pattern. The exhibitor then switches hands with the lead and direction changes as noted. Near the end of the pattern, the exhibitor then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.



The "I" Pattern

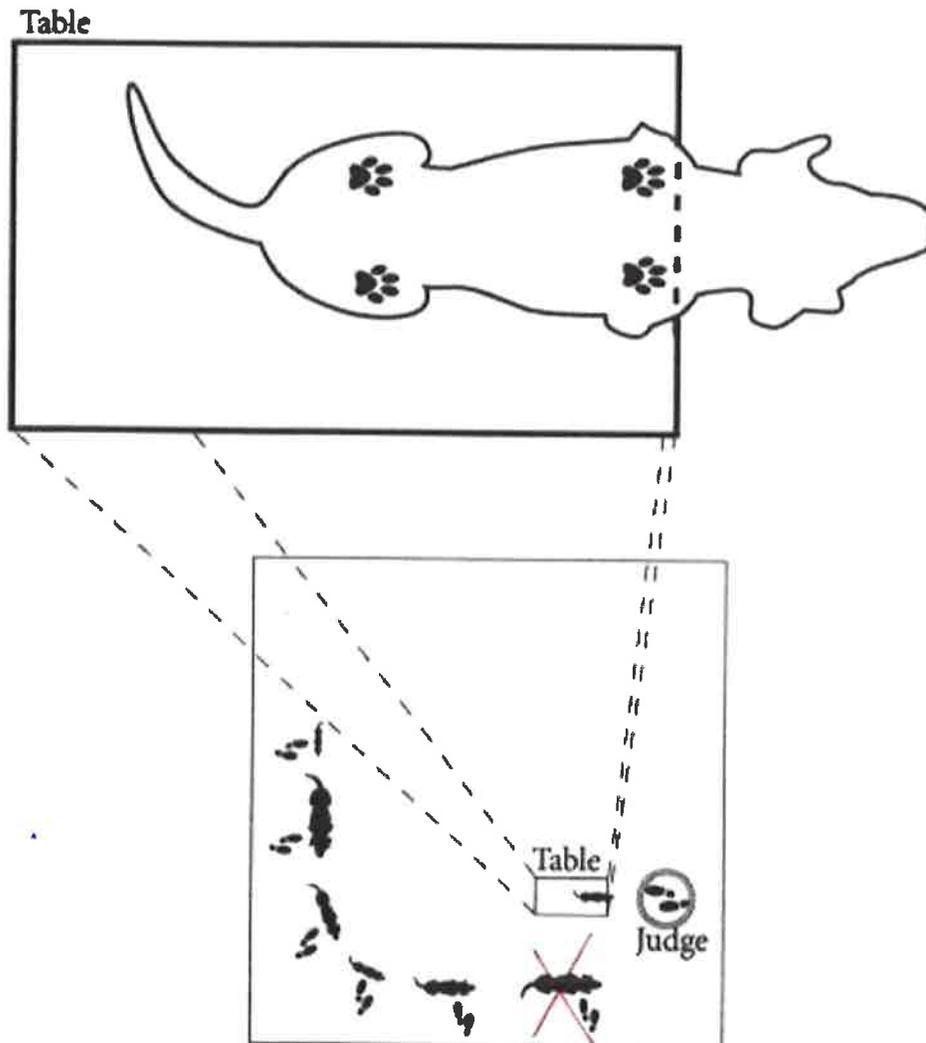
**COMPLETION OF PATTERN** – Exhibitors should stop 2 – 3 feet from the judge. Judges may also signal the exhibitor to stop. Most breeds should stop and stand with all four feet square. Exhibitors should not use hands to move a dog's feet. At the direction of the judge, exhibitors are usually asked to make a large circle around the outer edge of the ring before moving back into the line

**GROUP GAITING - THE GO AROUND:** When moving the dog in an "all go around," the handler should make certain to leave plenty of room between his/her dog and the dog ahead. Handlers should use the full size of the show ring. The handler should attempt to keep the dog moving at a suitable speed. The handler moves the dog around the ring, usually in a counterclockwise direction. Allow the dog to gait freely, with no jerking of the dog's neck by the handler. If the dog in front is moving slowly and it is difficult to gait at the correct speed, the handler should hold back and wait until there is sufficient room to properly gait the dog. Then, when it is the handler's turn to gait in front of the judge, there will be enough room to move.

The group gaiting is normally at the beginning of a class and then the judge asks the lead dog to stop and everyone will stack their dog. The judge may also ask the exhibitors to group gait at the end of a class for final viewing before results are announced. Dogs should be stacked around the edge of the show ring creating a curve in the corner so none of the exhibitors are blocked from the view of the judge. Exhibitors should not stack their dog behind the table.

**STACKING IN SHOWRING** – Exhibitors should avoid stacking their dog behind a table, or in the corner of the ring as the judges view of their dog will be obstructed Exhibitors should stack their dogs in a straight line. Exhibitors may create a curve around the corner so that all dogs are visible to the judge. Exhibitors may kneel beside their dog as they prefer (to project the image they prefer to the judge) and go down on one knee with the knee down that is away from the head of the dog. Exhibitors should hold the dogs tail according to breed standards if the dog does not naturally hold their tail. When hand stacking the dog, the exhibitor should put their right hand inside the collar, making sure to hold all the leash in their hand as well. Then they should stack the front outside leg by moving the leg at the elbow, then stack the inside front leg, then back outside leg by moving the leg at the hock, then set the inside back leg. Exhibitors should **ALWAYS** maintain control of the head during the judge's examination. Don't let the head turn. This will eliminate any chance for a dog to nip or bite at the judge. Treats or bait are allowed in the handling ring.

**STACKING ON TABLE** - Small sized dogs should utilize the table for judge's examination. Exhibitors can check breed standard information to determine if their dog is placed on the table. A dog should be placed with their front legs on the edge of the table with their head over the edge. The dog's legs should be centered on the edge of the table (not at the corner of the table). Mixed breed dogs should follow the breed their dog most resembles. Exhibitors should practice lifting dog to the table.



Stacking on Table (Top) and Stacking in Show Ring (Bottom). Never stack your dog Behind the table (X)

**SUMMARY:** The 4-H member and dog are being judged as a team. The dog is not to be judged on its conformation.

Permission has been granted from the Kansas State 4-H Youth Development for use in Iowa.