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4-H, Youth and Family (includes home livestock)

Title

4-H Dog Project

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Authors

Borba, John
Diaz, Claudia
Horowitz, Marcel
[et al.](#)

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4-H DOG PROJECT



“Happiness is a warm puppy.” ~Charles M. Schulz.

The dog project helps youth explore what kind of dog fits into their family’s lifestyle and how to be an excellent trainer and caretaker of their 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.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you’re having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best dog for your family .
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your dog.
- Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost and/or finding it if it gets lost.
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Train your dog to obey basic commands such as: sit, stay, and heel.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Prepare for participation in a dog show.
- Make a decision about breeding your dog.
- Compare 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 kennel facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog.
- Keep records of all costs and management practices.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Create a trainer’s diary to assist you when you work with your dog.
- Interview someone who uses a service dog.
- Create a dog ownership budget.
- Volunteer at an Adoption Day at your local pet store.
- Talk to an Animal Control Officer about animal cruelty and neglect.
- Understand the role of scientific research in dog husbandry.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Create a map highlighting the origin of different dog breeds. How has this impacted their size, fur, and body shape?
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling animals. Create a list of recommendations for dog shelters or competitive dog events.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling/grooming your dog.
- Discuss your dog's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on the rules of safety around dogs.

Citizenship

- Volunteer at a dog kennel or shelter.
- Take a Pet First Aid/CPR course through the American Red Cross.
- Raise a guide dog.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for animals.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.

Resources

- Iowa 4-H Dogs
www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs
- American Kennel Club
www.akc.org
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair
www.castatefair.org

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>County & State Fair - Enter your dog and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship!</p> <p>Contact your UC Cooperative Extension Office to determine additional opportunities available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wiggles and Wags, Level 1 -Canine Connection, Level 2 -Pointing the Way, Level 3 -Helper's Guide shop4-h.org • Youth Development through Veterinary Science- Is Your Dog Feeling Down? http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/ 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit http://ucanr.edu/orb/</p>



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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Services
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618
Telephone 1-800-994-8849
E-mail: anrcatalog@ucanr.edu

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California 4-H Project Sheet Series Authors

JOHN BORBA, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County; CLAUDIA DIAZ, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside and San Bernardino counties; MARCEL HOROWITZ, Healthy Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Yolo County; ANNE IACCOPUCCI, 4-H Healthy Living Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; SHANNON KLISCH; UC CalFresh Community Education Supervisor, UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County; KENDRA LEWIS, 4-H Evaluation Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; KATHERINE SOULE, Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor and Director of UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties; and STEVEN WORKER, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.

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