

HISTORY

In 1988, after an exhausting search for a dog training facility that could accommodate a child with Down's syndrome and his dog, Patti Dynes and her son, David Dynes, paired with Michigan State University's Berrien County 4-H program and formed Best Friends.

MISSION & GOALS

- ◇ To provide an educational experience to youth that otherwise might be omitted from competition and denied the experience and growth it provides.
- ◇ To provide members an opportunity to learn about canine training and handling in a safe and supportive environment.
- ◇ To focus on building positive relationships between club members and his or her own, OR, a volunteer team canine.
- ◇ To provide canine therapy and motivation with physical and mental stimulation while having fun.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- ◇ 2012 – Berrien R.E.S.A. Partnership in Education Award.
- ◇ 2013 – Berrien County, Michigan Resolution B1305120 and State of Michigan Special Tribute.

The American Kennel Club recognizes
Best Friends 4-H Club as a
“Canine Therapy Dog Competition 4-H
Club”

CLUB HOUSE INFORMATION:

Mutterly Love
200 Kerth St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: 269-983-6888

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have questions about Best Friends 4-H Club, or you would like your child to join please contact

Club Coordinator – Linda M. Shannon-Chaillet
Phone: 269-934-0462 or email at
shannollet@sbcglobal.net

Club Co-Coordinator – Vicki Williams
Phone: 269-983-6888 or email at
support@mutterlylovekennel.com

Secretary – Barb Schuck
Phone: 269-426-3620 or email at
jaredspath@yahoo.com



if you wish to learn more about 4-H and what 4-H has to offer you, your child and your community contact:

Berrien County MSU Extension Office
1737 Hillandale Road,
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 269-927-5674
Fax: 269-944-4128

Michigan State University prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674



BEST FRIENDS 4-H CLUB

**THE INCLUSIVE 4-H CANINE CLUB
WITH A FOCUS ON CANINE THERAPY!**

Berrien County, Michigan

Motto:

*“If the map and the terrain do not agree,
believe the terrain.” ~ Charles W. Chaillet Jr.*

Website:

www.bf4hclub.com

*For further information regarding our canine therapy program, please watch our **PAWS-ATIVE THERAPY** video found at the top of our website.*

WELCOME

Best Friends 4-H Club is an inclusive 4-H canine club designed to assist non-traditional (*a child with a life disability*) and traditional (*a child without a life disability*) 4-H'er learn about the many aspects of canine handling using canine therapy techniques as an instructional tool to life skills.



CANINE CLASSES BEING OFFERED

Classes include: Canine safety, canine ownership responsibility, dog obedience, dog agility, rally obedience, junior showmanship, good sportsmanship & figure 8, canine anatomy & breeds, and dog science notebooks.

- ◇ **4-H SPRING ACHIEVEMENT** – Each year 4-H'er's participate in the county wide 4-H Spring Achievement canine evaluation and dog science notebook evaluation. During the event, a 4-H'er and his or her canine can earn an AKC Canine Good Citizen Title!
- ◇ **BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR DOG COMPETITIONS** in dog obedience, rally, agility, junior handling (showmanship), and dog costume, are held in August of each year.

BEST FRIENDS 4-H CLUB CANINE PROGRAMS

TRADITIONAL CANINE

Best Friends' traditional 4-H'er prepares and trains his or her own canine for competition at the Berrien County Youth Fair. Life skill goals are to comprehend dog owner responsibility for a healthy animal, dog training techniques, canine psychology and understanding competition rules.



NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE

Best Friend's non-traditional 4-H'er exhibits a variety of life disabilities including Down's Syndrome, Autism Spectrum, learning, hearing and emotionally impaired, as well as physical and mentally challenged.

The non-Traditional 4-H'er may train his or her own family dog (*must be approved by club coordinator*), or choose to train a volunteer team canine. A Non-Traditional 4-H'er is assigned a team instructor to assist him or her in understanding dog training techniques and assisting with keeping both team members safe. 4-H life skills goals are to comprehend canine owner responsibility for a healthy animal, canine training techniques, canine psychology and understanding canine competition rules.

VOLUNTEER TEAM CANINE

Volunteer Team Canine(s) are the backbone of Best Friends 4-H Club's canine therapy dog competition program for our non-traditional 4-H'er! The canine must be temperament tested by having obtained (or will be testing for it within the next six months) a certificate of the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title.



TEAM INSTRUCTOR

Best Friends 4-H Club's Team Instructor is the power of our non-traditional canine therapy dog competition program.



Without our dedicated adult 4-H leaders who are willing to donate his or her time and canine and working one-on-one with a non-traditional 4-H'er and volunteer team canine, Best Friends 4-H Club could not exist.

4-H LEADER'S PROJECTS

After the 4-H'er's summer project has been completed, the leaders still continue on with his or her leader's projects.

Projects include:

- ◇ Blossomland Learning Center Canine Therapy in the gym under Kathy Zuraw.
- ◇ "Book Hounds" at the Lincoln Township Public Library.
- ◇ Canine Therapy during final exam week at Andrews University.
- ◇ Teaching "Canine Therapy" seminars at Andrews University in the Alternative Education and Nursing Departments.
- ◇ 4-H continuing canine education on advanced canine subjects.
- ◇ Teaching regular dog obedience classes.
- ◇ Teaching AKC's Puppy Kindergarten classes.
- ◇ Teaching team instructor classes.
- ◇ Teaching canine safety classes.
- ◇ Sponsoring American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Testing.
- ◇ Sponsoring 4-H Spring Achievement canine evaluation.
- ◇ Promoting Best Friends 4-H Club and 4-H at various festivals and events.
- ◇ Earning our AKC Therapy dog titles through AKC's Canine Good Citizen Programs.