

Sanilac County 4-H Dog Program Mistreatment/Aggressive Dog Policy

Mistreatment of Dogs

- Absolutely no abuse or mistreatment, verbal or physical, of dogs will be tolerated in 4-H.
- Anyone caught hitting, kicking, or otherwise physically abusing a dog will be immediately dismissed from class or show.
- Use care with dogs being left in cars in the summer. The temperature inside of a car parked in the sun (even with the windows rolled down) can reach a temperature high enough to cause brain damage in only 10 minutes. Leaving a dog in a car in hot weather is considered abuse under Michigan law and law enforcement personnel are permitted to break into cars to rescue dogs.
- Anyone caught leaving your dog in a closed car will be immediately dismissed from class or show.

Aggressive Dog Policy

Remember: Dogs must be kept on leash at all times unless instructed otherwise by your dog training instructor or the judge.

- Any dog that actually bites (drawing blood) a human or another dog will be expelled. No questions asked. All dog bites will be reported to Michigan State Law Enforcement.
- Any dog who attempts to bite or attack a human or another dog will be immediately removed from class or show. If the dog continues to show aggressive behavior after removal from show, the owner will be asked to leave the area with the dog and not permitted to return.
- At training, the situation will be reviewed by the county dog committee and includes input from dog training instructors, the county extension staff, and the family of the 4-H'er involved. They (the committee) may rule to put the dog on probation, work individually with the dog and handler, require the dog wear a muzzle at all times, or in severe instances, expel the dog from classes and 4-H exhibitions for a period of time.
- At training, a 'three strikes and you're out' policy will be in effect. Any dog that attempts to bite or attack a human or another dog will be immediately removed from class and after 3 incidents, the dog will be expelled.
- Expelling a dog is a rare occurrence but could be necessary for the safety of other members and dogs. Should a dog actually be expelled, it must be remembered that the action is ***against the dog and not the 4-H'er.***
- The Sanilac 4H county dog committee will look at many solutions and encourage the 4-H'er to attend classes without the dog and train it at home. Solutions may include using a different dog – including leasing a dog from another person. 4-H'ers will always be welcome in every other phase of the project including dog bowl, project meetings, exhibiting educational displays, etc.
- It should be further noted that all dog bites are required to be reported by Michigan State law. It is also important to note that ***YOU, The Owner*** are legally responsible for the actions of your dog. Everyone in class should have appropriate liability insurance (usually a part of your home owners or renter's insurance policy) for your own protection. ***Safety is of paramount importance!***
- At a 4-H dog show, the Show Committee will review the situation and determine if a ribbon will be rewarded or if the dog will be disqualified.

A signed copy of this policy must be turned in each year to show at the Sanilac County 4-H Fair Dog Show.

Signature of 4-H Youth

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Youth

Date