



# 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](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs)
- American Kennel Club  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR  
[www.redcross.org/pets](http://www.redcross.org/pets)
- California State Fair  
[www.castatefair.org](http://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><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p><b>Field Days</b> – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p><b>County &amp; State Fair</b> - 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"> <li>• Dog curriculum                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wiggles and Wags, Level 1</li> <li>-Canine Connection, Level 2</li> <li>-Pointing the Way, Level 3</li> <li>-Helper's Guide<br/><a href="http://shop4-h.org">shop4-h.org</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth Development through Veterinary Science- Is Your Dog Feeling Down?<br/><a href="http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/">http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/</a></li> </ul> | <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<br/><a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></p> |



University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*



## FOR FUTURE INFORMATION

To order or obtain ANR publications and other products, visit the ANR Communication Services online catalog at <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/> or phone 1-800-994-8849. You can also place orders by mail or request a printed catalog of our products from

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](mailto:anrcatalog@ucanr.edu)

©2018 The Regents of the University of California. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

### Publication 8605

ISBN-13: 978-1-62711-035-8

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service.

UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities.

UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John Sims, Affirmative Action Contact and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: [jsims@ucanr.edu](mailto:jsims@ucanr.edu). Website: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative\\_Action/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/).

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named or illustrated products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned or illustrated.



An electronic copy of this publication can be found at the ANR Communication Services catalog website, <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/>. This publication has been anonymously peer reviewed for technical accuracy by University of California scientists and other qualified professionals. This review process was managed by ANR Associate Editor for Human and Community–Youth Development Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty.

### 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.

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*

*Light Your Spark*

*Flex Your Brain*

*Reach Your Goals*