

**2026 4-H DOG PROGRAM**  
***Grooming & Handling and Obedience***

Dear Potential 2026 4-H Dog Obedience Participant,

During the month of March, we will begin our 2026 Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Dog Program. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Alternates will be notified if a space becomes available. **Youth must be 8 years old by 9/30/25 and not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to 1/1/26.** Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to participate.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LISTED SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Only those signing up will be notified of any changes. Registration is required even if you plan to home train. Please note that we reserve the right to cancel any classes that do not meet a minimum registration of 6 participants.**

**FEES:** The fee for the dog program is \$30. You MUST be registered in 4-H to participate in the dog program. The cost for this is \$15/youth or \$25/family ([register here](#)) for the year. [Click Here to Register for the 4-H Dog Program.](#)

**PROJECT DOG DESIGNATION**

**Dog Obedience** - A member must designate their project dog(s) for dog obedience by orientation on April 6<sup>th</sup>. If a member wants to use more than one dog, they MUST get approval from the 4-H Dog Committee. This is to help ensure the member is doing the training and showing themselves. FOR ALL CLASSES, THE INSTRUCTOR'S DECISION AS TO THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE CLASS FOR THE CHILD AND DOG IS FINAL.

**Grooming and Handling** - Learn the proper grooming and handling techniques required to show your purebred dog in a conformation or AKC show. If applicable, learn the proper grooming techniques required to show your mixed breed dog in obedience or performance.

**Advanced Classes (graduate beginner thru utility)** – These classes will be Mondays. Please sign up even if you plan to home train so we can notify members of shows and runoffs.

**RALLY-O CLASSES** – These classes will begin after obedience classes end and meet at the Demberg home, Waterloo Road, Westtown. Day and time to be determined.

**DRILL TEAM** – Will be run based on interest and will begin in May. The drill team will run parallel to obedience classes in Middletown.

**AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC)** - This is a training program that focuses on teaching the basics of good manners and obedience, instilling the values of responsible ownership, and strengthening the bond between you and your dog at home and out in the community. The skills are similar to those mastered in the Beginners Obedience training class. All handlers are welcome and encouraged to test and earn their AKC CGC title. Two additional levels are available for returning or advanced students (AKC Community Canine & AKC Urban CGC). Training and testing will be offered over the summer.

**AKC TRICK DOG** - Trick dog training is a great way to provide your dog with physical and mental exercise. Going beyond the skills in your CGC training, you and your dog will learn how to high five, or try more advanced tricks, like training your pup to jump into your arms. All handlers are welcome and encouraged to train their dog to perform fun tricks & earn Trick Dog titles. Training and testing will be offered over the summer.

**AGILITY CLASSES** – Will begin after obedience classes end and meet at the Demberg home, Waterloo Road, Westtown. (Members and dogs must be enrolled in Graduate Beginner or higher class). Mondays at 6:30 pm.

**4-MAN TEAM** - For 4-H'ers wishing to work together in training their dogs to perform as a unit of four.

**AKC FARM DOG** – Open to all breeds of dogs, this test involves your dog performing a series of 12 exercises that are typical for a farm environment such as being in close proximity to livestock (who are always penned to avoid any altercations); jumping and staying on hay/strawbales; walking on unusual terrain; and jumping over logs. The goal is to assess his aptitude as a working farm dog by exhibiting self-control, confidence, and trust with you or his handler.

## 2026 4-H DOG PROGRAM SCHEDULE

***MANDATORY ORIENTATION*** – Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at CCE Office - ***FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!***  
***(Do NOT bring your dogs to the orientation!)***

***The first class with your dog is Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the CCE Education Center and 4-H Park – It may be cold, so please DRESS WARM!***

### **A. GROOMING & HANDLING CLASSES: BEGINNER & ADVANCED CLASS (for 10 Weeks)**

<u>Day, Beginning Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday, April 6	CCE Office (Orientation)	6:30pm <b>NO DOGS</b>
Monday, April 13, 20, 27	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	7:30pm <b>DOGS</b>
Monday, May 4, 11, 18	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	7:30pm <b>DOGS</b>
Monday, June 1, 8	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	7:30 pm <b>DOGS</b>

### **B. DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: BEGINNER & ADVANCED CLASSES (for 10 weeks)**

<u>Day, Beginning Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Monday, April 6	CCE Office (Orientation)	6:30pm <b>NO DOGS</b>
Monday, April 13, 20, 27	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	6:30pm <b>DOGS</b>
Monday, May 4, 11, 18	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	6:30pm <b>DOGS</b>
Monday, June 1, 8	CCE Education Center & 4-H Park	6:30 pm <b>DOGS</b>

**VACCINATIONS:** Dogs in the 4-H Program do not have to be registered. They **MUST** have their rabies shots. Copies of the rabies vaccination papers **MUST** be turned in to the 4-H Office with your fees and registration. Registration is **NOT** final until vaccinations are received.

**DOG SHOWS (Tentative):** This year, we are offering two opportunities for participants to “graduate”. These are also qualifying opportunities for State Fair. For this year, these shows are tentatively scheduled as follows: Graduation Show Saturday 6/13/26 and 4-H Showcase Dog Show Friday 7/24/26. Registrants will be notified of location and if schedules change. The New York State Fair Dog Show is TBA.

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED WITHOUT PAYMENT AND A COPY OF YOUR DOG’S RABIES VACCINATION PAPERS**

### **OTHER**

ENROLLMENT IN 4-H DOG CLASSES WILL BE DEPENDENT ON OUR JUDGEMENT AS TO WHETHER THE YOUNG PERSON ENROLLING CAN SAFELY HANDLE THE DOG ENTERED AND UPON CONSENT OF THE PARENTS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO ALL MEETINGS.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact DeAnna at 845-344-1234 or ds2285@cornell.edu.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** These classes are designed as a youth development experience for children not as a place just to get your dog trained. Dogs need to be controlled by your child, i.e., a 130 lb. aggressive dog and a 60 lb. youth will probably not work out.

***REMEMBER – the child needs to do the work, not the parent, to make this the great educational experience it can be.***