Exhibitors/Parents/Guardians – PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY!

Dear State Fair Dog Show Exhibitor;

We are glad you have entered your dog or dogs in the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show! You will receive in the mail the following: (1) one single day exhibitor admission ticket (at registration on the first day you will receive additional tickets for days entered) and (2) one 2017 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show letter to exhibitors signed by Virgil Strickler, General Fair Manager – this is your parking permit. You will receive your Dog Walk pass at registration. A map of the Fairgrounds can be found at www.ohiostatefair.com. There is a separate letter pertaining to the Agility Show posted online for youth showing on July 29 in Agility.

The 2017 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules for each show discipline, the 2017 OSF Dog Show Registration and Judging Times Schedule, and the State Fair Dog Show Preparation Information and Checklist, and other pertinent information can be found online at www.go.osu.edu/dog. Click on Dog Resources to read the State Fair Dog Show rules. It is your responsibility to understand and abide by these rules.

Buckeye Sports Center Location

The State Fair dog activities will be held in the Buckeye Sports Center. The Buckeye Sports Center is located on the east side of the Fairgrounds bordering Clara Avenue. You will drop off your dog and equipment at the Buckeye Sports Center and then be directed to the parking area.

Parking

The 2017 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show letter from Virgil Strickler, General Fair Manager, is your parking permit. Enter Gate 7 off 11th Avenue. You must put that letter on your vehicle’s dashboard for entry at Gate 7 into the Fairgrounds. Parking is $5.00 per entry at Gate 7. Use the same letter each day you are showing. Please thoroughly read the information about parking and re-entry.

Dog Walk Passes

A Dog Walk Pass will be issued to you at Registration. This Dog Walk Pass allows you to walk your dog(s) in the designated areas near the Buckeye Sports Center. Dogs are not to be taken anywhere else on the Fairgrounds. Keep this letter with you each day you show.

License Requirements

Exhibitors must list their dog’s license tag number on the 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate. Exception: Assistance Dogs licensed through their respective organizations. We do not need to see a certificate of your license or license tag at Health Check.

Health Requirements

1. The 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate completed and signed by a licensed veterinarian is required for exhibition. The 2017 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate is also permitted for use at the Ohio State Fair Dog Show provided the vaccinations are current through August 3, 2017 for
State Fair exhibition. **THESE ARE THE ONLY CERTIFICATES THAT WILL BE ACCEPTED AT HEALTH CHECK.** These certificates must include **ALL information** requested in the Identification Form section, completed, signed, and dated by the exhibitor, and signed by the parent/guardian. The administering veterinarian must complete the information requested in the Vaccination Certificate section. **Other certificates of vaccination, computerized vaccination records, pet record cards, or kennel records will not be accepted. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure all health requirements for State Fair are met.**

a. These certificates can be downloaded at: go.osu.edu/dog.

b. The use of the 2017 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate must be approved by the county 4-H professional and must be used consistently throughout the respective county.

2. **ALL** dogs must have current Rabies vaccinations, administered by licensed veterinarians. Veterinarians must document on the 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate or 2017 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate whether the exhibitor’s dog’s rabies vaccination is current by filling in the “date expires” blank.

3. **ALL** dogs must be vaccinated for Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus by licensed veterinarians. If the veterinarian does not administer certain vaccinations, those vaccinations must be noted by the administering veterinarian, either on the vaccination form or letterhead. **For the Ohio State Fair Dog Show, all vaccinations must be current through August 3, 2017.** (Note: Vaccination deadlines for county fairs may differ.)

4. Bordetella vaccination is recommended, but not required. Consult with your veterinarian.

5. Dogs **CANNOT** be shown at the Ohio State Fair if vaccinations are given by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.

6. Any dogs exhibiting abnormalities or symptoms of sickness, disease, or parasite infestation as determined by the health check officials will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. If a dog is under veterinary care for a health condition that is not infectious or contagious, the exhibitor must bring a health certificate from the attending veterinarian verifying the condition and treatment. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**

7. **Bitches showing ANY signs of heat are not permitted on the Fairgrounds. They are not permitted to show!** Each dog must go through a health check each day shown, where all females will be checked for signs of heat. If a bitch shows any signs of heat, she will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. Any bitch, which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds. **Decision of the health check officials is final.**

8. Pregnant and/or lactating (nursing) bitches are not permitted on the Fairgrounds, and may not be shown.

9. Any male or female dog that is a disturbing element to other dogs will be eliminated from the show and must be removed from the Fairgrounds.

10. Before going to Registration, exhibitors must bring their dog(s) and 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate(s) to Health Check each day they are showing.

11. Incomplete or falsified information on the 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate or 2017 County Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate is grounds for dismissal.
Health Check and Registration

THE BUCKEYE BUILDING WILL NOT OPEN TO EXHIBITORS UNTIL 10:00AM ON MONDAY, JULY 31! Please plan to arrive accordingly.

Health check will open at 10:30am on Monday, July 31. Make sure you check the registration schedule for other Health Check and Registration times. If showing on more than one day with the same dog, you must go through Health Check EACH day. Refer to the 2017 Ohio State Fair Junior Dog Registration Times and Judging Schedule posted at the website listed above. The registration times given for your county are assigned to help us control the amount of dogs showing at one time. Please abide by these times! Once you unload your dog and show items, **check in at Health Check BEFORE going to Registration**.

Health Check officials will ask to see your 2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate, completed and signed by your veterinarian. Females in heat are not permitted on the Fairgrounds, so if you have a female in heat you cannot bring her to the show. Dogs that are unable to be examined, and dogs that are deemed unsafe, will be sent home.

**AFTER Health Check, ONLY ONE person should take the verified vaccination certificate to Registration.** (This keeps the lines shorter.) **Do not bring your dog to the Registration line.** If you check in at Registration before your county’s assigned time, then you will be committed to showing soon after registering. You cannot wait until your assigned time. Also, if for some reason you are late in arriving, you will be put into the next available class, provided you arrive before the last class has completed judging. We will NOT hold up judging because of late arrivals. Look for someone at the Information/Registration table if you have any problems or questions. **Follow the signs to Health Check.**

**Note:** Only one person needs to be in the show registration line. This keeps the lines from being congested and/or long. Dogs are not checked again after going through the Health Check, therefore are not needed in the registration line. If showing on more than one day with the same dog, you must go through Health Check EACH day.

**Reporting to Show Ring Procedure**

You **must** check in at your show ring within 15 minutes after being called to the ring. If you do not check in at your show ring within 15 minutes after being called you will have sportsmanship points deducted from your overall judging scores.

**Exhibitor Responsibility for Dogs**

Exhibitors are totally responsible for their dogs while on the Fairgrounds. Exhibitors are to use the marked areas for their dogs to relieve themselves. Exhibitors MUST clean up after their dogs. Only the dog(s) being shown can be brought to State Fair. **Do not** bring any other dogs along. Any exceptions MUST be approved by Dog Show Director PRIOR to the show.

Dogs must be kept on a leash while on the Fairgrounds, except when participating in the ring during judging. Dogs are only permitted outside the Buckeye Sports Center. They are NOT permitted on the Midway or inside any building but the Buckeye Sports Center.

**Safety and Sportsmanship:**

**Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims:**

1. ALL youth enrolled in 4-H dog projects are required to sign the **Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims** document. A parent or guardian is also required to sign the document. This document must be signed each year a youth enrolls in a 4-H dog project and is to be kept on file at the county Extension office.
   a. Exhibitors and parents/guardians verify they have this signed document on file at their county Extension office, and understand and agree to information provided in this document, when signing the **2017 Ohio State Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate**.
**Dog Bite Incidents**

Any dog bite incidents (dog biting human) must be immediately reported to Lucinda Miller or Jennifer Newell. The incident will be reported to the Ohio State Fair General Manager, Livestock Department, and Ohio Highway Patrol. Ohio Dog Bite Laws will prevail should a dog bite incident occur.

**Misbehavior and Excusals for Dogs on the Fairgrounds, Show Area, or in the Show Ring:**

1. Any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior at any time before, during, or after exhibition MUST be removed from the fairgrounds and will not be permitted to return at any time throughout the Dog Show. Determination of the show committee and/or judge will be final.
2. The judge or show officials will immediately excuse from the ring any dog exhibiting unsafe or threatening behavior.
   a. The judge will immediately excuse any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or exhibitors.
   b. Any dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite any person or dog while in the show ring will immediately be excused.
   c. If a judge determines that a bitch in the ring is in season or appears to be so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element, the bitch is immediately excused. The judge shall not obtain the opinion of the health check officials.
3. Any uncontrolled behavior such as barking, running away from its handler, etc., will be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, whether it occurs during or between exercises, or before or after judging.
4. Any dog not under its handler’s control may be excused from competition.

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

1. Any exhibitor or other person(s) abusing a dog will be removed from the fairgrounds.
2. The judge or show officials will dismiss from the ring any exhibitor abusing the dog, which will result in disqualification of exhibitor and removal from the Fairgrounds.
3. Judges and/or show officials have the right to deduct points from the Sportsmanship category on the exhibitor’s score sheet if unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed at any time throughout the 4-H dog show prior to or during judging.
4. Judges and/or show officials have the right to disqualify any participant exhibiting poor sportsmanship at any time throughout the 4-H Dog Show from showing, participating in activities, or from receiving any awards.
5. Any handler who willfully interferes with another competitor or that competitor’s dog will be excused from competition.
6. Exhibitors, parents, volunteers, and other individuals verbally and/or physically abusive or threatening to show personnel will be removed from the Fairgrounds, and exhibitors will be disqualified.
7. Show officials have the right to order the removal from the Fairgrounds anyone showing unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Other**

Refer to the 2017 Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show Rules for each show discipline for other rules pertaining to conduct.

**Benching**

There will be a designated benching area(s). You may bring a crate, fan, extension cord, power strip, and a chair for the exhibitor. These will be permitted in the benching area. **Do not bring x-pens or other space-consuming items!** DO NOT BRING TABLES, LARGE COOLERS, CROCk POTS, or any other
items that take up extra space. This is a crating area, NOT a picnic or camping area. These will not be permitted.

Dog sitting will not be offered; therefore, someone must stay with your dog throughout the duration of your stay. The Buckeye Sports Center is a ways from the midway, so it is not a good idea to enjoy the fair until you know you are done being judged (including run-offs). Again, someone must stay with your dog at all times if you leave the Buckeye Sports Center.

It seems every year we have a report of a dog being left in a car, and more than once we have had the Highway Patrol break into a car to rescue the dog because we could not quickly find the owner. DO NOT leave a dog in a car in August heat! Besides being cruel to the dog, it is against Ohio law, and that person will be reported after the dog is rescued from the car.

**Buckeye Sports Center Flooring and Seating**

The flooring is concrete and will be covered with mats. There will be limited seating; therefore you are permitted to bring small lawn chairs.

*For all four (4) days of judging, ONLY* the exhibitors, dogs, and show personnel will be permitted on the show floor areas. All parents, advisors, friends, etc. must stay out of the show area.

**Showmanship and You and Your Dog Questions**

Fifty age-appropriate questions for Juniors (9-11), 50 age-appropriate questions for Intermediates (12-14), and 50 age-appropriate questions for Seniors (15-18) can be found at [www.go.osu.edu/dog](http://www.go.osu.edu/dog) on the Dog Resource page. All questions are taken from the Ohio 4-H Dog Resource Handbook, ©2016. Answers are not provided, and can be found in the Dog Resource Handbook. Questions asked during the State Fair Dog Show Showmanship and You and Your Dog interviews will come from these sets of questions. For Senior Showmanship B exhibitors, questions can also come from junior and intermediate question banks.

**Skillathon**

The Dog Skillathon will be held Tuesday, August 1, 10:00am – 3:00pm at the Buckeye Sports Center. There will be a 4-minute time limit for participants to complete each station. For station topics refer to: [www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons](http://www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons).

**State Fair Championship Title**

State Fair Championship Title awards will be presented each day during the awards presentations. 4-H or FFA members may earn one title per year regardless of the number of dogs shown. State Fair Championship Title information can be found online at: [www.go.osu.edu/dog](http://www.go.osu.edu/dog) on the Resources page.

**Exhibitor Versatility Awards**

You must keep track of your own points toward earning the 4-H Exhibitor Versatility Award on a form provided at Registration. This form must be turned in at the Registration table once enough points have been earned to receive this award. After verification that points earned are adequate to receive this award, the award will be presented on either Wednesday, August 3 or Thursday, August 4 during the Dog Show. Please refer to the dog show rules for Exhibitor Versatility Award information.

**Scores**

A zero (0) will be given to any handler/dog team not attempting an exercise. A zero (0) on the exhibitor’s score sheet will result in an incomplete for that class, and therefore the exhibitor will not be eligible for an award.

Scores will be posted within a reasonable amount of time after each class has been judged. Exhibitors who are tied for the top fifteen places in their respective classes should remain until all classes in the same category are judged, in case of further ties. Failure to stay could mean forfeiture of a possible placing.
**Ties will be broken as follows:**

**Beginner Novice, Pre-Novice, Novice Obedience:** When two or more exhibitors have the same overall scores, the scores in the first exercise will be compared. The exhibitor with the highest score in the first exercise will receive the highest placing, and so forth. If all exhibitors have the same score in the first exercise, the scores in the second exercise will be compared, and so forth until ties are broken. If the scores are equal throughout all of the exercises, including the Exhibitor’s Appearance, Dog’s Appearance, and Sportsmanship, ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing a heeling pattern specified by the judge.

**Graduate Novice & above Levels of Obedience:** Ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing an exercise specified by the judge.

**Showmanship:** When two or more exhibitors have the same overall scores, the scores in the Handling exercise will be compared. The exhibitor with the highest score in the Handling exercise will receive the highest placing, and so forth. If all exhibitors have the same score in the Handling exercise, the scores in the Interview section will be compared, followed by the scores in the Handler Appearance & Attitude section, and the scores in the Grooming section until ties are broken. If the scores are equal throughout all of the exercises, with Grooming being the last section compared, ties will be broken by the exhibitors and their dogs performing a Handling exercise as specified by the judge.

**Rally:** Ties will be broken by the fastest time, with the fastest time winning.

Score sheets will be returned to the County Extension Office about two weeks following the closing day of the State Fair. Exhibitors are not permitted to see their score sheets at the State Fair Dog Show.

**Award Presentations**

Awards will be presented at approximately 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 12:30pm and 4:30pm on Thursday. Poster contest winners will be presented with their awards on Thursday around 12:00 p.m. If you submitted a poster you are encouraged to attend that presentation. A list of award recipients will be posted on the Ohio 4-H website at [www.go.osu.edu/dog](http://www.go.osu.edu/dog) on the Dog Results page by Wednesday, July 19. Posters may be taken after the awards are given.

Dog Achievement Program certificate recipients will also be recognized around 12:00pm on Thursday.

**Dog Show Photographer**

Emily’s Photography will be at the State Fair again this year available for you to have pictures taken with your dog, and then you can order prints.

**Collar Master**

Carl and Rhonda Holzhauer will be at the Dog Show with show and equipment items for sale. Carl also embroiders collars, leashes, etc. So plan to do your shopping early.

**Rule Violations**

Individuals who violate any rule and/or exhibit poor sportsmanship during the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show WILL BE DISQUALIFIED from showing, and will be removed from the Fairgrounds. Judges’ decisions are FINAL. Individuals are NOT permitted to have any discussion with judges at any time throughout the Dog Show. *(This does not include discussions or questions during Agility or Rally Briefings or Walkthroughs.)* Individuals with concerns must express them in writing, give them to Show Personnel, and those concerns will be discussed at the fall Ohio 4-H Dog Advisory Committee meeting. Confrontations with Judges and/or Show Personnel will result in removal of those individuals from the Fairgrounds and in disqualification of exhibitors.

**Release Forms**
You must have a release form to get your dog(s) off the Fairgrounds. We will have them for you at Registration. Below is an example of how to complete that form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TO: GATE SUPERINTENDENT</th>
<th>Columbus, Ohio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is to certify that <em>(print your name here)</em> of <em>(print your city and state here)</em> has permission to leave the Ohio State Fair with livestock, consisting of <em>(print number of dogs here)</em> head of DOGS.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Junior Dogs
Department

Superintendent

*In Summary…*

I realize this is a long letter, but I hope it helps you be better prepared for the Dog Show. Consider it an honor to represent your county at the State Fair. Remember to review the rules and other State Fair Dog information found at [www.go.osu.edu/dog](http://www.go.osu.edu/dog).

Also, “Like” our Ohio 4-H Dog Program Facebook page to stay updated with last minute information and reminders at: [https://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HDogProgram](https://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HDogProgram).

If you have any questions, I can be reached on my cell phone at 740.708.0359 or by e-mail at miller.78@osu.edu. During the Dog Show (July 31-August 3) the contact number at the Buckeye Sports Center will be my cell phone (740.708.0359).

Sincerely,

Lucinda B. Miller, Ph.D.
Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development
Livestock, Companion & Small Animal Programs
Superintendent, Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Show