2026 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities
Disclosure and Release of Claims

I, _____, have chosen to participate in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program and its related dog activities. I understand that this participation will involve contact with dogs and may give rise to a risk of physical injury. I understand that participation in the 4-H Dog Program is strictly voluntary and is not a requirement for 4-H membership.

I am aware that:

1. Dogs have a tendency to behave in ways that may result in injury to me or other persons in the immediate vicinity;
2. Dogs may react in an unpredictable way to unfamiliar environments, sounds, strange odors, sudden movements, unfamiliar objects, persons, dogs, or other animals;
3. I am to listen to adult volunteers, trainers, coaches, and judges when working with my dog(s) in group settings, and when around other dogs and 4-H members, and people;
4. Other participants in the 4-H Dog Program may fail to maintain control over their dogs or fail to act within their abilities, thus causing harm to me, my dog(s), other participants, volunteers, or spectators;
5. Other participants in an activity, event, or program may act in a negligent manner which otherwise may result in harm to me and/or my dog(s);
6. **I should be aware of my dog's body language and stress indicators at all times while we are participating in 4-H activities;**
7. **I should be able to remove my dog from situations where he/she may respond in a reactive or aggressive manner**;
8. **If I cannot maintain control over a dog I am using for a 4-H project, I understand that I will not be able to use this dog for a 4-H project**; and
9. **If a dog I am using for a 4-H project has been or becomes aggressive toward other people and/or other dogs, I will not be able to continue to use this dog for a 4-H project.**

As a parent or guardian, I have discussed with my child the need to follow all safety procedures, behavior guidelines, and other protocols set forth by adult volunteers, and 4-H dog rules and regulations. I understand that my child will receive assistance from a 4-H volunteer leader when engaged in 4-H club workouts and other similar programs and activities involving 4-H members and dogs. I understand the importance of my child belonging to a 4-H dog club or seeking other socialization and training opportunities for my child's 4-H dog if not enrolled in a 4-H dog club.

In consideration for the opportunity to participate in club, county, regional, and state 4-H dog activities, and the use of services and facilities made available through these 4-H dog activities, I do release and forever discharge for myself and my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, the Ohio 4-H Dog Program professional and volunteer leaders, educators, The Ohio State University and its Board of Trustees, its administrators, faculty and staff, from all claims, demands, and causes of action for personal injury or any other damage which may arise out of or be in any way related to my participation in this activity or program.

I understand and agree that my child is capable of being in control of his/her dog(s) at all times. I understand and agree that if a dog my child is currently using, or plans to use, has been or becomes aggressive toward other people and/or dogs I will not allow my child to use this dog as a 4-H project. I understand that my child is not required to participate in any 4-H dog activity, but grant permission for my child to do so, despite the possible risks. I recognize that by participating in this activity, as with any activity involving live animals, my child, my child's dog(s), other people and/or dogs may risk injury. I hereby attest and verify I have been advised of the potential risks, have sought clarification if I have not understood, that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in these activities, and that I assume any expense that may be incurred in the event of an accident, illness, or other incapacity, regardless of whether I have authorized such expenses. As a parent/guardian, I assume the same risk for myself, and other family members and friends present at these dog activities.

Signed: 4-H Member _____ Date: _____

Signed: Parent or Guardian _____ Date: _____

*This 2026 form **MUST be signed and kept on file in the County Extension Office for EACH youth participant in any 4-H dog program activity where the youth takes a live dog as a project.** A current form must be signed **EACH** year and **BEFORE** a youth participates in the Ohio 4-H Dog Program activities with their project dog(s).*

Return to your County Extension Office by: _____

Parent/Guardian and Club advisors are encouraged to keep a copy.

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