“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.

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- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

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<th>Connections &amp; Events</th>
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<th>4-H Record Book</th>
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<td>Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</td>
<td>Dog curriculum -Wiggles and Wags, Level 1 -Canine Connection, Level 2 -Pointing the Way, Level 3 -Helper’s Guide shop4-h.org</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Days – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</td>
<td>Youth Development through Veterinary Science- Is Your Dog Feeling Down? <a href="http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/">http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/</a></td>
<td>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County &amp; State Fair - Enter your dog and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship! Contact your UC Cooperative Extension Office to determine additional opportunities available.</td>
<td></td>
<td>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources

- Iowa 4-H Dogs www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/dogs
- American Kennel Club www.akc.org
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair www.castatefair.org

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Publication 8605

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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.

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