

## Permission to Participate & Informed Consent 4-H Dog Projects & Activities

I understand that my child/charge \_\_\_\_\_ will be participating in the Ohio 4-H Dog program and will be engaged in activities, and programs that involve direct and indirect contact with dogs of all sizes. Activities, events, and programs may give rise to a risk of physical injuries to 4-H members, volunteers, and parents/guardians. I understand that participation in the 4-H Dog program is strictly voluntary and is not a requirement for 4-H membership.

I may or may not have had prior experience with or training dogs, but am aware of, agree to, and have discussed with my child/charge that:

- A. Dogs have a propensity to behave in ways which may result in injury to members or other persons in the immediate vicinity due to instinctive actions or provoked behaviors;
- B. Dogs may react in an unpredictable way to unfamiliar environments, sounds, strange odors, sudden movement, unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals;
- C. 4-H members are to listen to adult volunteers, when working with their dogs in group settings and when around other dogs and 4-H members;
- D. Other 4-H members involved in the 4-H dog program may fail to maintain control over their dog or fail to act within their abilities, thus causing harm to my child, my child's dog, volunteers, or spectators;
- E. Other participants in an activity, event, or program may act in a negligent manner which otherwise may result in harm to my child and/or their dog; and
- F. If a dog that my child is using for a 4-H project has been or becomes aggressive towards other people (youth and adults) when not provoked, my child may not use this dog for a 4-H project.

I have discussed with my child/charge the need to follow all safety procedures, behavior guidelines, and other protocols set forth by adult volunteers. I understand that my child will receive assistance from a 4-H volunteer when engaged in 4-H club workouts and other similar programs and activities involving 4-H members and their dogs.

I understand and agree that if a dog that my child/charge is currently using or plans to use, has been or becomes aggressive (unprovoked) towards other youth and adults, I will not allow my child/charge to use the dog as a 4-H project.

I understand that my child/charge is not required to participate in the 4-H dog program, but grant permission for him/her to do so, despite the possible risks. I recognize that by participating in this activity, as with any activity involving live animals, my child, volunteers, my child's dog(s), or other dogs may risk injury. I hereby attest and verify I have been advised of potential risks, have sought clarification if I have not understood, that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this activity, and that I assume any expenses that may be incurred in the event of an incident, including accident, illness, or other capacity, regardless of whether I have authorized such expenses.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by Ryan Schmiesing, OSU Extension, Associate State 4-H Leader & Lucinda Miller, OSU Extension, 4-H Specialist.

**SAMPLE**

Please contact your county  
4-H Educator for assistance.