



# 4-H Dog Project Class Progression



Obedience, Rally & Showmanship

Key Points and 2025 Updates

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# OBEDIENCE

Pre-Beginner Novice

Beginner Novice

Novice

Pre-Grad Novice

Grad Novice

Open

Grad Open

Utility



# RALLY

Novice

Intermediate

Advanced

Excellent

Advanced/Excellent

Masters

# SHOWMANSHIP

Junior Novice

Junior Open

Intermediate Novice

Intermediate Open

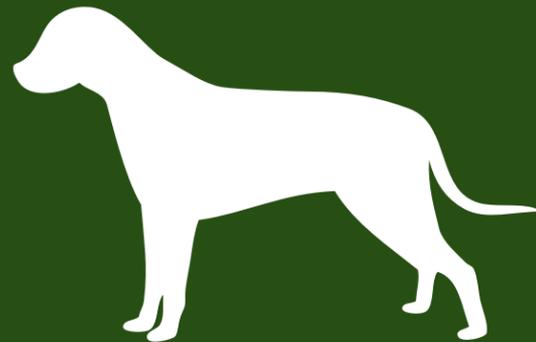
Intermediate Advanced *(placed 1st-10th at State)*

Senior Novice

Senior Open

Senior Advanced *(placed 1st-10th at State)*

Masters *(Grand or Reserve Grand Champ at State)*



# “A”



All “A” classes in Obedience and Rally are for exhibitors and dogs who do not have any experience showing a dog in that particular class. If the project member and/or dog has ever received a qualifying score in a particular “A” class and decides to show a new dog, the member must enter the “B” class for that level.

4-H Dog Project members progressing through the Obedience and Rally levels for the first time with their first dog should be in the “A” classes.

If they receive a Qualifying (Q) score, they must advance to the next level to show at the state level. If they don't receive a Q score, they will repeat that same level in the “B” class.

Existing 4-H Dog Project members showing a new, second dog in a level their previous dog never attempted can be in the “A” level class.



All “B” classes in Obedience and Rally are for exhibitors or dogs who have not yet received a Q score in that particular level

OR

For prior exhibitors who are starting a second or new dog in that particular level

“B”



Members who did not receive a qualifying score in their “A” class will repeat that same level the following year in the “B” level. They will remain in that “B” class until they receive a Q score.

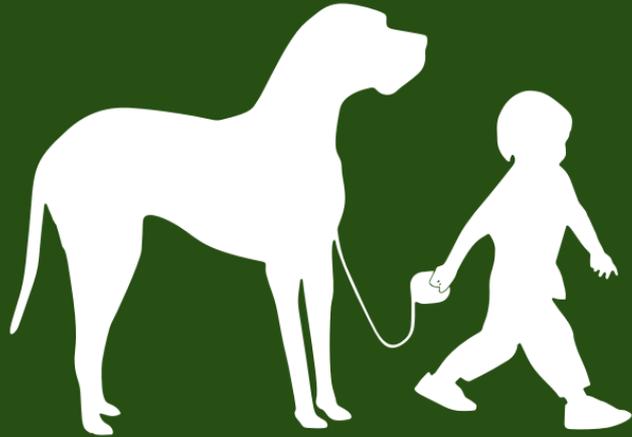
If either the exhibitor or the dog has previously received a qualifying score in a level, any subsequent dogs or handlers must enter the “B” class for that particular level.



If a Dog Project member receives a title from a national dog organization such as AKC or UKC, they are not eligible to show in that same level in 4-H, unless the title was earned LESS THAN 4 months prior to the State Dog Contest.



## EXAMPLES



Joey and his pup Spot are starting their first year of the 4-H Dog Project. Which Obedience and Rally class would you place them in?  
*(Pre-Beginner Novice A Obedience and Novice A Rally)*

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Sarah and her pup Bingo did NOT qualify in Novice Obedience A this year.  
Which Obedience class would you place them in next year?  
*(Novice B Obedience)*

Emmett and his dog **Martha** have received qualifying scores in Novice Obedience A & Intermediate Rally A, but did not progress any further. Emmett is starting a new dog named **Phil** this year. Which Obedience and Rally class would you place Emmett and Phil in? (*PBNB+ & RNB*)



Emmett and his new dog **Phil** have received qualifying scores in Novice Obedience and Intermediate Rally. Which Obedience and Rally classes would you place them in next year? (*Tricky question!*) (*PGNA & RAA*)

Emmett's sister Nina just enrolled in the Dog Project and will be working with **Martha** this year. Which Obedience and Rally class and level would you place Nina and **Martha** in? (*PBNB & RNB*)



# SHOWMANSHIP PROGRESSION

Showmanship progression is based on the exhibitor's 4-H age and years of participation in Showmanship. It is not based on the dog's experience.



Junior = Ages 8-10  
Intermediate = Ages 11-13  
Senior = Ages 14-18



First year exhibitors will be in Novice classes.  
Second or more year exhibitors will be in Open  
classes.

Intermediate Advanced & Senior Advanced  
Showmanship are determined by class placement at  
the State Dog Contest.

Exhibitors with Q scores placing 1st-10th in  
Intermediate or Senior Open at State must move to  
the Advanced Showmanship class.

Exhibitors who place as Grand or Reserve Grand  
Champions in Intermediate or Senior Showmanship  
at State must move to the Master Showman class.



If a 4-H exhibitor has been showing in AKC/UKC Junior Showmanship or Conformation, they should be placed in an “Open” 4-H showmanship class.



If that exhibitor has ever won “Best Junior Handler” or a comparable title from a national dog organization, the 4-H leader may place them in the 4-H “Advanced” or “Masters” Showmanship class according to their skill level.

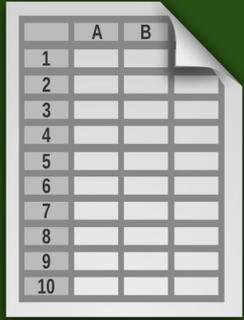


## Tracking Exhibitors and Dogs

4-H Dog Project levels are sequential so it is important to keep track of which class and level each exhibitor completes with each dog.

This will also ensure each exhibitor/dog team is placed in the correct training class at the beginning of the 4-H year. Depending on the size of your group, you can create a spreadsheet for each year, or just create a word document.

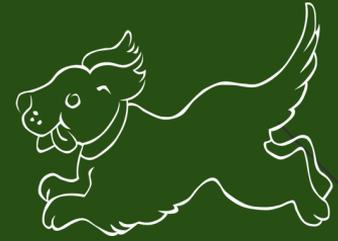




For Obedience and Rally: Track class, level and Q scores for each exhibitor and dog at both County and State Dog Contests

For Showmanship: Track exhibitor's 4-H age (*Junior, Intermediate, Senior*) and number of years exhibiting in Showmanship (*Novice, Open*). Also, track placement at the State Dog Contest to determine Advanced or Masters assignment.

## Who decides whether an exhibitor moves up?



That decision is up to the County. BUT if the exhibitor receives a qualifying score in an Obedience or Rally class at the State Dog Contest, they MUST advance to the next level. Similarly, if an exhibitor places 1st-10th in their Intermediate or Senior Open class at the State Contest, they MUST move to Advanced Showmanship. Exhibitors who win Grand or Reserve Grand Champion in Intermediate or Senior Showmanship at the State Contest MUST move in to Masters Showmanship.



**Colorado 4-H Dog Level Progression Chart**  
**4-H Dog Obedience Class Placement\***

| Division                 | Class Name                   | Class Registration Eligibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Class Registration Progression                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Puppy Division           | Puppy Class                  | <p><b>*NOT A STATE 4-H DOG TRIALS CLASS BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED IN COUNTIES*</b></p> <p>For puppies or dogs which are not ready for regular obedience classes. The purpose of this class will be to introduce obedience commands to a puppy/dog without the stress of perfection seen in regular obedience classes. This class will introduce the puppy/dog to dog shows in a positive manner, thus setting the puppy/dog up for a lifetime of enjoyment in the show ring.</p> | <p>After one year of showing in the Puppy Obedience Class: If the member was in their 1st year of obedience training, the team moves into Pre-Beginner Novice A Obedience, if the member was in their 2nd year or higher of obedience training, the team moves to Pre-Beginner Novice B Obedience</p>                                                 |
|                          |                              | <p><b>Pre-Beginner Novice A</b></p> <p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Pre-Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Pre-Beginner Novice training.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Exhibitors and their dog can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move Pre-Beginner Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>                                                                                                                       |
| Beginner Novice Division | <b>Pre-Beginner Novice B</b> | <p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Pre-Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Pre-Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Pre-Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level<sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Beginner Novice A or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p> |
|                          | <b>Beginner Novice A</b>     | <p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Beginner Novice training.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Beginner Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>                                                                                                                                      |
|                          | <b>Beginner Novice B</b>     | <p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Exhibitor and Dog teams may stay at this level until they receive a qualifying score at County Level<sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Novice A or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>          |
|                          |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

Class Progression Charts for Obedience, Rally, Showmanship and Agility - along with other great dog project resources - can be found on the Colorado 4-H Website under State Fair Information.

**QUESTIONS?**