San Juan County
4-H
Washington State University
Extension

4-H Dog Round Robin Questions

Breed/dog info

1. **Q.** Does a 4-H project dog need to be pure bred?
   A.NO
2. **Q.** When you are leaving your dog on a stay, which foot should you step off on?
   A. YOUR RIGHT FOOT
3. **Q:** What are the three age divisions in AKC junior showmanship?
   A: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior
4. **Q**: Name three retriever breeds
   A: Chesapeake Bay, Flat-coated, Curly-coated, labrador, golden, nova scotia duck tolling.
5. **Q**: Which AKC group is the Golden Retriever in?
   A: Sporting Group
6. **Q**: Which AKC group is the Maltese in?
   A: Toy Group
7. **Q**: What is the tallest breed of dog?
   A: Great Dane
8. **Q**: What is the smallest breed of dog?
   A: Chihuahua
9. **Q:** What is the Plume on a dog?
   A: The feathering of the tail.
10. **Q:** When was the American Kennel club founded?
    A: 1884
11. **Q.** Puppies born to a bitch in one whelping is called?
    A. LITTER
12. **Q.**An AKC term commonly applied to those sporting breeds that typically return birds to hand from water or over land.
    A. RETRIEVING BREEDS
13. **Q.** What does gestation mean?
    A.PREGNANCY
14. **Q.** What is the normal length of the gestation period in dogs?
    A. 3 DAYS

15. **Q**. What is the written record of a dog descent of three generations or more called?
    A. PEDIGREE
16. **Q**. True or False: The rules of showing dogs in 4-H are different than those in AKC.
    A. TRUE
17. **Q**. The Dog selected by the judge as the best representative of a particular AKC breed on that day is awarded.
    A. BEST OF BREED

Anatomy

1. **Q**: Which internal organ(s) play host to most of the internal parasites in a dog's body?
   A: The intestines.
2. **Q**: Name the bone disorder which involves deformation or laxity of the hip joint.
   A: hip dysplasia.
3. **Q:** what is the extra claw or toe on the inside of the leg called?
   A: dewclaw.
4. **Q**: What is a dog's knee called?
   A: Stifle
5. **Q**: What is the term for a male dog whose reproductive organs have been removed?
   A: Neutered or altered.
6. **Q**: What are the four sharp cutting teeth called?
   A: Canine teeth
7. **Q**: Where are the withers? Show me on your dog.
   A: Top of the shoulder blades at the junction of the neck.
8. **Q**: What is the dewlap?
   A: Loose, pendulous skin under the throat
9. **Q**: What is the scientific name for the breastbone or prow? And show me it on the dog.
   A: the Sternum (mid-chest).
10. **Q**: How many teeth should a dog have?
    A: 42
11. **Q**. Give another name for the COCCYGEAL vertebrae.
    A. The TAIL

Health/Diseases

1. **Q:** What is the normal breathing rate for a dog?
   A: 10 to 35 breaths per minute.
2. **Q**: Name three internal parasites that can infect both humans and dogs.
   A: Roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm, threadworm.

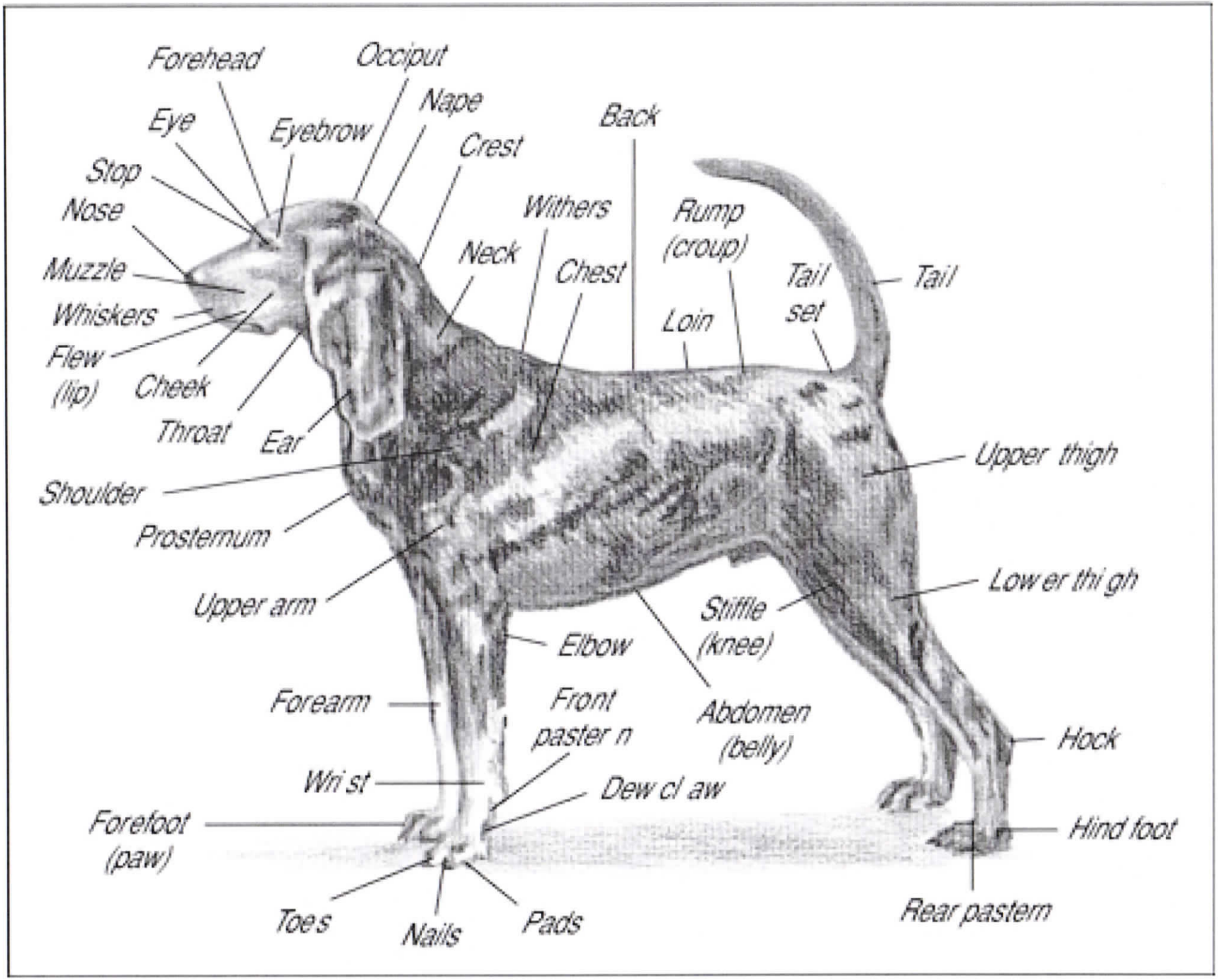
3. **Q**:What are they symptoms of heat stroke?
   A: Panting, dehydration, excessive drooling, high fever (over 103), red gums/membranes, seizures.
4. **Q.** True or False? Ticks are difficult to remove because they bury their heads under the dog's skin.
   A. True.
5. **Q:** What fungus is easily transmitted from dogs to humans?
   A: Ringworm.
6. **Q**: Name three viral diseases seen in dogs?
   A: Distemper, Hepatitis, parvo, Corona, kennel cough, rabies, warts, herpes.
7. **Q**: How is rabies transmitted?
   A: Through contact with the saliva of an infected animal by bite or any broken skin surface.
8. **Q:** Are turkey and chicken bones good for dogs?
   A: No, they can splinter and injure the dog internally.
9. **Q:** Name Three types of external parasites?
   A: Ticks, fleas, sarcoptic mange, Lice, ear mites, follicular mange mites.
10. **Q**: What are two Symptoms of Parvo virus?
    A: Lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, fever, diarrhea (usually bloody).
11. **Q:** What is the only vaccine that is mandated by law in the United States?
    A: Rabies
12. **Q**. What is the most common internal parasite?
    A. ROUNDWORM (ascarids).
13. **Q.** What is the most common infectious disease in dogs?
    A. DISTEMPER
14. **Q**. In a healthy dog, what is the purpose of panting?
    A. It is to lower body temperature.
15. **Q**. After your dogs first Rabies shot. How often should you vaccinate your dog for Rabies?
    A.Every 3 years

4-H Lore

1. **Q.** Give me two examples of show etiquette
   A: Never touch another exhibitor's animal. Never talk out of turn while at the show table. Respect the show venue. Do not complain about the judging. Never speak ill of another breeder/judge/exhibitor. Be a gracious winner
2. **Q:** In what year was the Smith-Lever act established?
   A. 1914
3. **Q**: What is the 4-H Slogan?
   A: Learn by doing.
4. **Q:**What is the Sportsmanship Motto?

A: Keep your head when you win, and your heart when you lose

5. **Q:** In San Juan County, what are the three contests that all animal project members must participate in?
   A: Herdsmanship, showmanship, and judging
6. **Q.** True or false? The 4-H clover emblem originally had three leaves.
   A. true
7. **Q.** Why was the 4-H youth program originally started?
   A. To educate the young people so they would share their new farming techniques with their parents.
8. **Q:** If you are primary 4-H member, name two projects you cannot enroll in.
   A: Swine, sheep, cattle, horse, large breed goats, llama/alpaca, shooting sports, food preservation using hot water or pressure canning, any project using motorized vehicles, livestock sales and shows
9. **Q:** What federal agency oversees 4-H?
   A: U.S. Department of Agriculture
10. **Q:** Where is the annual national teen conference held?
    A: Chevy Chase, MD; Washington DC is also an acceptable answer
11. **Q:** What is the 4-H Motto?
    A: To Make the Best Better
12. **Q:** What do the 4-H colors symbolize? **A:** green for springtime, growing things, youth and life, white for purity
13. **Q.** Name three types of worms dogs can get.
    A. Roundworm, Hookworm, Whipworm, Tapeworm, Heartworm, or Threadworm
14. **Q.** What causes warts?
    A. A VIRUS
15. **Q.** Coccidiosis is caused by a?
    A. PROTOZOA


Forehead
Occiput
Eye
Eyebrow
Nape
Back
Crest
Stop
Withers
Rump
(croup)
Nose
Neck
Chest
Tail
Tail
set
Muzzle
Whiskers
Loin
Flew
(lip)
Cheek
Throat
Ear
Upper thigh
Shoulder
Prosternum
Lower thigh
Upper arm
Stifle
(knee)
Elbow
Forearm
Front
pastern
Abdomen
(belly)
Hock
Wrist
Dewclaw
Forefoot
(paw)
Hind foot
Toes
Nails
Pads
Rear pastern

Handling Guidelines

You have practiced and practiced. Now you are ready to show your dog. Your dog is groomed and so are you. It's time to show. Most judges follow the same basic routine. This section will help you prepare for what you will do in the ring. From the moment you enter the ring your objective is to present your dog to his or her best advantage. Through your actions and attitude you should convey to the judge that you are confident, prepared, businesslike and courteous. The quality or conformation of the dog is not being judged in this class. 4-H Showmanship classes are judged on the ability of the exhibitor to handle their dog in the following areas.

4-H members should:

- Use correct handling of the leash, free stacking, hand stacking, and gaiting (for your breed).
- Be able to present your dog in a smooth, efficient and quiet manner to the judge without creating unnecessary movement.
- Make your dog looks its best in both pose (stacking) and motion, (gaiting).
- Use Bait (food or a small toy) appropriately. If bait is used, it must be used correctly.
- Strive to make your **DOG** stand out as the most important part of the team effort.
- Be able to control your dog at all times
- Keep your dog's attention without using dramatic or unnecessary noise or movements.
- Gait your dog in a controlled trot without distracting or interfering with the judge's view of the dog.
- Concentrate on your dog first, then you and the judge next. Make occasional eye contact with the judge to show attentiveness, but focus the **majority of your attention on your dog**. Always make sure your dog is looking it's best. **The dog is the number one consideration in the ring.**
- Make an effort not to distract or interfere with the judge's view of your dog. Brief blocking moments of moving from side to side inline, done smoothly and efficiently are allowed. The use of ***necessary*** courtesy turns while gating in patterns or around the ring, done in a smooth and efficient manner is allowed. Let's look at and compare the old **"Between the Dog and Judge" (BDJ) rule** to the new interpretation.

Old interpretation; This will be one of the most apparent changes for all 4-H members and showmanship judges. The intention of BDJ is a good one, however the interpretation of this phrase left it very unclear as to what was intended. It meant different things for some than others. When we asked many leaders, members and parents to explain this rule we received many different explanations. Over the years many people have considered this saying to be the number one "Golden Rule" in 4-H and interpreted it to mean; Do not, at any time, under any circumstances, ever get between the dog and the judge. For some, this even included all parts of the dog's body. For instance, while you are stacking were dog, you couldn't reach over the top of the dog's shoulder to stack the left side because your arm would be BDJ. The old interpretation has, at times, **created unnecessary movement** on the part of the handler and the dog. The motion of moving around the back of your dog is usually awkward and unnatural and sometimes pulls the dog out of its stack, not allowing proper presentation by the handler. However, this method of passing behind your dog may still be used and will not be penalized if; the timing and smoothness is not compromised and the 4-H member can still present their dog smoothly.

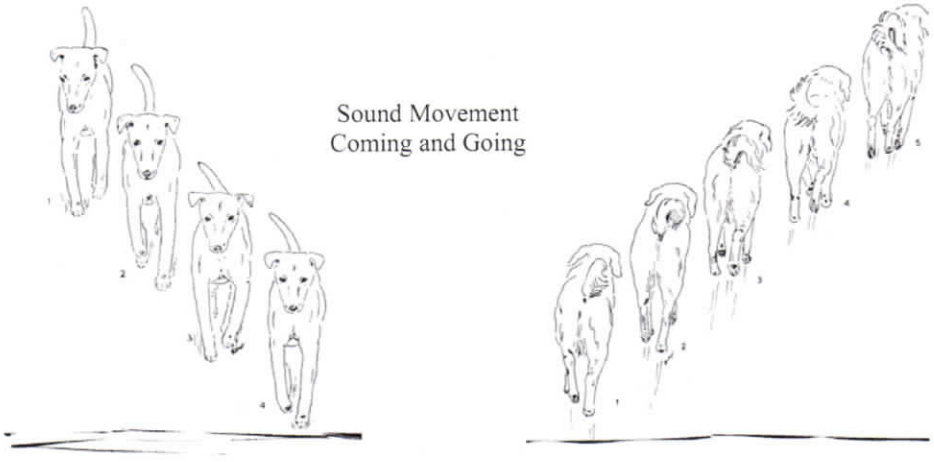
The NEW BDJ Method: Everyone agrees the handler should not interfere with the judges view of their dog. However, brief blocking moments will be allowed if warranted. This method of moving from side to side, allows the handler to move quickly and smoothly, without pulling the dog out of position. If movement to the other side is needed, a simple step around the front of your dog to the other side is allowed. This will take less movement, be less distracting, and will not pull the dog out of position. The presentation on the other side of your dog, the front, the profile, or the rear can be done without adding unnecessary movement or distractions by you and most importantly you will be able to continue to present your dog. This move to the other side can be done right before the judge gets to you or whenever the timing or movement warrants switching sides. Timing of when to move is important. Have a more experienced leader or 4-H member help you. You can move quietly and smoothly continuing to present your dog efficiently.

Tips About the BDJ Skill

BDJ is not how you get from side to side, or how you line up your dog or get from point A to point B. It's not which method you choose to use. It's about how you accomplished the objectives; Moving smoothly, with the least amount of movement and distraction, keeping the dog in their stack, not interfering with the judge's view of your dog, and most of all, continuing to present your dog to the judge. The use of the courtesy turn in-line, at the beginning or ending of patterns, or gaiting around the ring is also considered a brief blocking moment and will be allowed if one chooses to use them and use them for the reasons they were intended. It is better to not use a courtesy turn, than to use it and use it wrong, or for the wrong reasons. Have a knowledgeable person help you with why and how to use these turns.

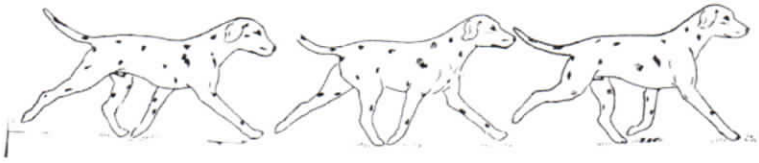
Handling Skills: Gaiting

Gaiting your dog around the ring and in an individual pattern are two different kinds of gaiting, both accomplish different objectives. In order for you to gait your dog correctly you need to understand what the judge is looking for in most breeds, sound movement coming and



going. This is the reason for the patterns. The judge might ask you to do a down and back pattern. They are looking a the dog's rear movement as it goes away from them and its front movement as it comes back to them. This is why it is important to go in a straight line.

Reach and Drive from the side (side gait). **Reach** refers to the dogs ability to fully extend their front legs in balance with the **Drive** from the rear legs. Patterns that show side movement are the "L" pattern, the "Triangle pattern" and the "T" pattern. Side movement is also judged by gaiting around the ring, as a group or individually. So when you hear the request," Take them around the ring" you know that the judge is looking at your dog's side movement. Practice going in a counterclockwise circle with you dog on your left side. Use bait to free stack your dog when you come back to the judge at the end of a pattern or when you get to the end of the line after gaiting your dog around the ring.

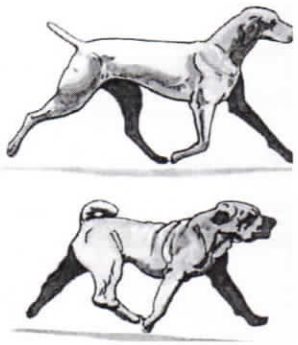


Practically the whole propelling force of the hind limb is dependent on the ability of the dog to straighten the leg from the state of angulation to complete extension, as forcibly and as rapidly as may be required. This is dependent entirely upon the muscle power of a well-developed second thigh.

Gaiting Around The Ring: Training and Practice

Dogs should move at a brisk trot, not a walk or a gallop. Young puppies may start this training. After the puppy is accustomed to wearing a soft collar, take them outside (if possible), and fasten a show leash to the collar. Let them go where they wish at first. If they resist, try luring the pup with food a couple of feet away from their nose and walk them toward it. Use a happy fun tone of voice, pat your leg and encourage the pup. When the pup is walking well, give it an upbeat command such as, "Let's go!" or "Gait!" Do not use the obedience command "Heel!" If your dog always wears their show collar and show leash in showmanship practice, they will eventually learn the behavior that goes with that equipment. If your dog breaks into a gallop, give a quick command and leash correction. As soon as the dog is back under control, say, "Good gait or good let's go" depending on your choice of command. Remember, the most important part in any dog training is praise. Soon your dog will be moving proudly, with it's head up on a loose leash. There is more to gaiting than running. To make it less complicated, let's look at each aspect of gaiting separately.

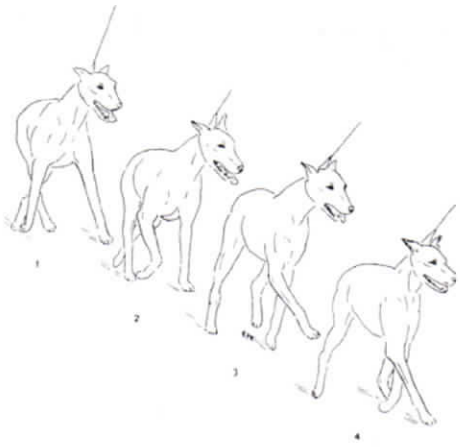
Gait or Speed: Your dog should move at the proper gait. Gait is the a pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed,. Each pattern is distinguished by a particular rhythm and foot placement. The walk, the gallop and the trot are the most common gaits. The amble, the pace, and the canter are also types of gait. The two types of gait acceptable in the show ring are the walk and the trot. The trot is the movement you should be working on with your dog.



Top photo shows dog pacing and the bottom photo shows dog trotting.

- **The Trot** is a rhythmic two-beat diagonal gait in which the feet at diagonally opposite ends of the body strike the ground together (right hind with left front and left hind with right front). Because only two feet are on the ground at a time, the dog must rely on forward momentum for balance. At a normal trot, when the weight is transferred from one pair of legs to the other, there is a slight, period of suspension as the body is propelled forward. This is referred to as "**Spring**." If a dog is of proper proportion, the imprint of the hind feet will cover the tracks of the front feet. Each handler must learn which gait it correct for their dog and breed, you must work with your dog to determine how fast you should gait so that the judge can correctly evaluate your dogs movement. With a small dog you can walk. Some small breeds, like the miniature Pincher, are distinguished by their high flashy steps. This type of gaiting is called hackney gaiting. The suspended or flying trot is a fast gait in which the forward thrust contributes to a longer reach in the front and the dog tends to hang or fly during each stride. The German Shepherd dog is an example of the flying or suspended trot. It is helpful to have someone watch you gait your dog and tell you at which speed your dog looks best. If you go too fast, your dog will gallop (run), or canter; too slow and they will pace (legs on the same side moving together) or walk. At the proper speed, your dog will move smoothly with little bounce, his or her legs reaching forward efficiently. (Reach and Drive)
- **Handler's Arm Position:** The next step is to get your arm in the proper position. Hold the leash in your left hand next to the dog, with the excess lead hidden in your hand. Do not hold the leash so tightly that it chokes the dog. Work with your leader and club members to develop a natural arm position that looks good for you and your dog and keeps your dog slightly away from your body and next to you or in front of you. Your free hand should swing naturally at your side, moving as it normally does when you run. Do not have bait in your free hand unless you can hide it while you are moving. You can pull it out of your pocket when you near the end of your pattern or the end of the line so you can use it for free stacking.
- **Dog Position:** Your dog will gait on your left side around the ring. You will be going counterclockwise in a big circle. You will also need to remember to use the whole ring if you have a large or medium sized dog. With a smaller dog it is okay to make a smaller circle. When you gait, your dog should stay away from your body and be next to or ahead of you. Many dogs do not like to trot at their correct speed and will lag. This makes it look like you have a tight lead and it does not look good to be dragging your dog around the ring. In most cases a dog that lags tends to go progressively slower with continued training, not faster. Hopefully you taught this the correct way from the beginning. In Showmanship or handling you want to **encourage** your dog to go out ahead of you as you start gaiting your dog on the go around. This is the opposite of obedience where he needs to be corrected for forging or pulling you. Do not correct your dog for going out in front of you. As long as your dog holds a gait, it is encouraged for them to go out ahead. Once your dog can hold his gait, you can start working the proper speed and control as you go around the ring.

Handler moving dog out in front.



Moving your dog on a loose lease is important for correct movement. ←Side pull on the lead accentuates the dogs tendency to "cross". Swing from the → end of a tight lead causes this dog to "cross" in front.

GAITING AROUND THE RING TIPS

- You can start this training by using lots of encouragement and making it fun. Even dogs that have been allowed to lag can re-learn.
- In obedience some are taught to hold the leash in both hands, not for handling. Hold the leash in the left hand only, with the excess balled up into the hand. Most handlers will bend their arm at the elbow and hold their hand about waist high or slightly higher. Do what feels comfortable and what looks natural for you with your dog. Have someone watch how you hold your arm and hand and see which looks best. Mirrors are a good training tool.
- Your dog will be on your left side as you gait around the ring. You will need to place your dog's collar: (1) high up under the chin, right behind the ears, in the little gap between the head and neck (occiput). or, (2) Rotate the collar so that the leash comes out from under the dog's chin on his right side. There are pros and cons for both methods. Method one is used mostly for smaller dogs while the second is preferred by larger dogs. Talk with an experienced handler or leader to find out which one works best for you and your dog and under which circumstances. Whichever method you choose, make sure you position the collar and lead high up under the chin before you start gaiting the dog.
- Do not tell your dog to heel. "Heel" means stay on your left and sit when you stop. It is an obedience term. Encourage your dog by saying, "C'mon," or "Let's go," before you start moving and as you run. This is allowed in the ring. Your dog will learn the difference between a "Heel" in obedience and a "Let's Go" in Handling. You will need to be consistent on whatever words you use.
- Do not jerk him back to you if he pulls you, use your voice (praise) to control his forging! Forging is desirable in handling. Now you need to learn how to shape and control it into what you want and need.
- While training your dog, it is good to throw treats out straight ahead of him as he is gaiting so that he looks ahead for cookies and not at you. This also helps a lagging dog move out faster. In obedience we want our dog looking at us. Not in the show ring! This will tend to throw his movement off. Throwing the food ahead of your dog will keep your dog next to you or out in front of you. Lagging will not be a problem any more! Remember throwing the bait in the ring is not allowed, but it is a good practice technique. You may have seen a well trained, experienced dog that goes out on the end of the lead on the go around. This is good training as long as the dog maintains the correct

gaiting speed and you can maintain control. Timing is important also. Time when to let your dog go out and when not to. Crowding or running up on the dogs in front of you can happen if you do not have timing and control. Practice moving in a group and individually Gaiting around the ring is slightly different than pattern gaiting. Pattern gaiting will be covered in the Pattern section.

- If your dog gallops, canters or gets a bit goofy and wants to play do not pull him back or jerk on the lead....say "easy", slow down a bit and start over. Dogs that are happy workers are easier to train than those that are taught to just comply. If you do this every time, your dog will learn what you want.
- Dot not pass other dogs and handlers when you move in a group.
- Leave enough room or space (when group gaiting) between dogs so you do not crowd or run up on the dog in front of you. If you are behind a little dog, remember the judge usually watches only one part of the ring. When you are out of the judge's sight, slow down or even stop and allow more spacing to build up in front of you. As you pass in front of the judge you should time your gait to be right on for your dog. (Timing). Practice following behind different breeds, large and small, going slow and fast is very important.
- When you gait around the ring the judge will **not** move outside the circle or create unnecessary movement. You **do not** need to pass behind your dog or change hands while gaiting around the ring.
- Watch the judge occasionally as you gait around the ring. Make eye contact at least once when you are gaiting in front of the judge. However, most of your focus is on your dog, where you are going and timing.
- If you have a medium to large dog, be sure you use the whole ring. Smaller breeds may make a smaller circle.
- Keep your dog on your left side, away from your body. Your dog can be even with your body or ahead of you. Maintain the proper gaiting speed for your dog and control at all times.
- You may be asked to gait around the ring individually or as a group. Remember to finish the picture at the end of the circle after you go around the ring by either hand stacking or free stacking your dog.

Pattern Gaiting: Training and Practice

Gaiting in a Pattern: Now it is time for the individual gaiting patterns. Practice gaiting with your dog on your right and left sides so he or she will move smoothly on either side in the ring. In 4-H Showmanship, you will be asked to gait your dog individually. You will be given a specific pattern to do. Each pattern is named for its shape. Remember the reasons why you do the patterns in the first place? In all patterns make sure you are lined up with the judge before you move away. Look at a spot straight out from the judge in the direction he or she sends you. Gait your dog straight toward that spot. You should be able to do any pattern as asked. When moving away from the judge, keep your eyes mostly focused on your dog and going in a straight line. When you do your patterns make your turns smoothly, but sharply, do not round off corners. Make sure the lines you make are straight.

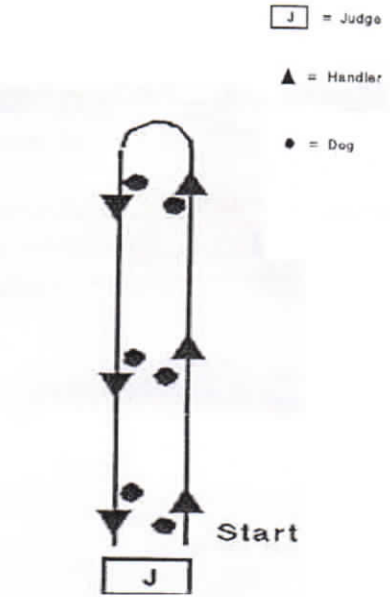
Your dog: Pattern gaiting is slower and more deliberate than gaiting around the ring. You need to remember what the judge is looking for, on your dog, in each part of the pattern. Every dog has a correct speed, you need to decide which is correct for your dog. The speed may

vary from coming and going and side movement. In coming and going (down and back) you want to move you dog at a speed that will allow the legs to move in a straight line from their body to the ground. Usually the line will mingle toward the middle as they move faster. In general slower is better. Most dogs move more erratically and unsoundly with more speed, or the faster they go. So, why show that to the judge? When you are gaiting your dog in a pattern that shows side movement, you want to move at a speed that will allow for reach and drive. You want your dog's front and rear legs to stride out with full extension. You do not want it's legs like pistons, or have them flipping up their front feet. Faster is not better. In all cases of pattern movement you want your dog to move smoothly and flow similar to slow motion with long reach and drive strides. If you go too fast it will all be a blur of legs and awkwardness racing around the ring. If you go too slow it will not allow for your dog to reach and drive fully and show the judge your dogs full potential. It is also important to start and end gradually and build up to the speed you want. Do not take off running when you begin the pattern or come out of the turns. Your dog will be confused and not ready for that fast pace. Don't stop abruptly. You will need to have someone experienced watch you and your dog at different speeds to decide which is correct for your dog and makes the dog look his best. Using a full length mirror is another way of watching movement.

The handler: You will need to practice your running or movement also. You and your dog are a team. With small dogs you can walk at a normal pace. With larger dogs, you will need to run. This will take some time and practice. You do not want to run on your toes or kick your heels up behind you. This will make you bob up and down and be bouncy. These are the most common mistake made by novices. It will also distract from your dogs movement. You will need to practice running without your dog first. When it looks smooth and natural, add your dog. Have someone knowledgeable watch and help you with your running technique. Access to a mirror can help you learn this skill also. When you run, use your whole foot with heel to toe impact. Running should be smooth and natural. You should take longer, smoother strides than a normal run. Before you attempt any of the patterns below, **practice moving your dog on both your right and left side,** so both you and the dog can become familiar and smooth while gaiting on either side. Also **practice hand changes from both your right and left sides**. Start with your dog on either side. Move directly away in a straight line. At the end of the ring, change hands on the leash, turn the dog's head toward you, pivot toward the dog and come back. Once you and your dog are proficient in gaiting on both sides and you are able to make smooth hand changes, its time to work on the four patterns. The **"Down and Back" pattern**. The **"L" Pattern**. The **"Triangle" pattern** and the **"T" pattern.**

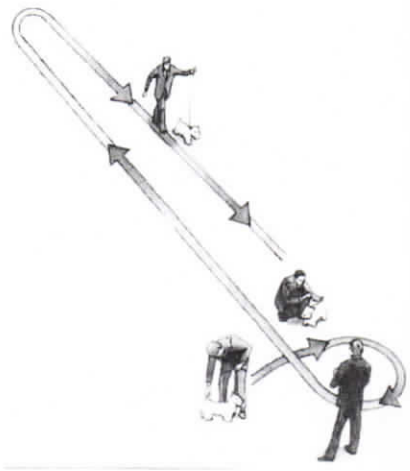
Hand change, turning dog's head toward you.

Down and Back Pattern



Turn Into Dog, Down and Back Pattern. For the judge to watch the dog's rear movement and front movement. Shaped like an "I"

➢ One way of doing the down and back is to turn left into the dog at the turn. Start the dog on your left side. Move directly away from the judge. At the end of the ring, make a tight turn toward your dog (left), using your free hand if you need to turn your dog's head to go back the way you just came. Keep the dog on your left side while you return. Watch or listen for the judge's signal to stop while approaching. If the judge does not indicate verbally or with a hand signal to stop, you should stop at a comfortable distance from them. (About 6 feet with bigger dogs or dogs that show profile or angle stacks and about 4 feet for the smaller dogs that come straight in to show head and expression). Do not crowd the judge or get too close. If the judge wants to be able to walk around your dog or get closer to see expression they will have the room to do so. When you come back to the judge free stacking can be applied**.** You may angle the dog to show profile or bring the dog in straight to the judge to show expression. See what techniques are best used with your breed and why. You can also use the angle free stack to hide faults making your dog look better. Make your movements smoothly, calmly, and quickly. Then present your dog to the judge to show proper expression. This applies to all patterns.

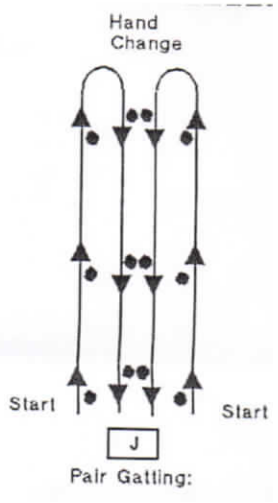


Courtesy turn down and back on a diagonal

➢ **Courtesy Turn Down and Back**. Another way to do the down and back pattern is using a courtesy turn in the corner. Put you dog on your left side. Move directly away from the judge. At the end of the ring, do a tight about turn to the right, away from your dog. Line your dog up and go back the way you just came, keeping the dog on the left side. A brief blocking moment will occur during the courtesy turn. As you are returning, be watching and listening for a signal to stop your dog. If the judge does not give a hand signal or verbal to stop you should stop your dog as above. Again present straight on, angle or profile free stack, depending on your breed presentation. The courtesy turn approach is used to line the dog up and to help the dog work into their proper speed or gait. Courtesy turns may also be

used at the beginning of a pattern to line the dog up and to get the dog up to proper gaiting speed. Small dogs rarely need to do courtesy turns. The turn is mostly used with the larger breeds that need more space for lining up, settling down and moving into gaiting speed. Only use this turn if your dog moves quickly around the turn. The use of courtesy turns in patterns are only necessary if it benefits the dog. Otherwise it will be considered unnecessary movement. So if you decide to use this turn make sure you know why you are using it and you use it correctly. Using this turn when it is not necessary or used wrong will only hinder your performance. Find out from someone who knows the ins and outs of handling and the usage of the courtesy turn.

- **Pair Gaiting Down and Back:** There are times you may need to start the dog out on the right or left side and turn the dog towards you, using a hand change at the turn and come back to the judge. You may be asked to pair gait with another dog and handler. This allows the judge to compare how two handlers show the front and rear movement of the two dogs. Conformation is not being judged here, but your handling skills are. The two handlers bring their dogs to the judge and free stack or hand stack. Unless they judge asks you to face one way or another, it will be up to you to decide how to present when you get in front of the judge. Either face toward or face away from the judge. The dogs will be next to each other, handler's on the outside and dog's on the inside. Dogs should be kept close enough for comparison (3-4 feet apart) but not too close as to distract or interfere with each other. At the judge's direction take the dog's down and back in an "I" pattern. You will be working on either side of the dog depending on which side of the pair you are on. You will also be using a hand change at the turn. Keep the dogs on the inside and next to each other. Handlers and dogs must move together. The faster dog must hold up a bit to wait for the slower or smaller dog and the smaller or slower dog should move a bit faster. Both dogs must give and take. Every effort should be made to keep the dogs gaiting, not walking, running or pacing. An example pair would be gaiting a German Shepherd Dog and a Pomeranian together. Realistically you would not have this size difference for pair gaiting. However the judge is watching your handling skills here, not really comparing the two dogs. In this situation the German Shepherd Dog must move at a slower gait and the Pomeranian must move at a faster gait. Try not to walk or gallop on the part of both dogs. Try to maintain a trot, just adjust the speed of the trot. It is not just the responsibility of the bigger dog to wait for the little dog. Little dogs must move faster. Little dogs can move out quite quickly if needed and can trot alongside the bigger dog without much slowing down from the bigger dog. The handler should at least attempt to gait their dogs at a speed which will accommodate both dogs. It is not fair for the handler of the big dog to make **all** the effort to keep the dogs together. If effort is also made by the handler of the smaller or slower dog to move a bit faster you have shown to the judge you understand the meaning of this skill.



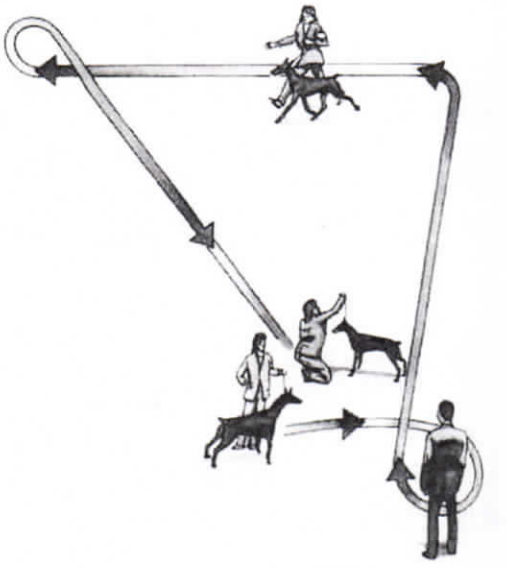
Pair Gaiting:

Down and Back Tips

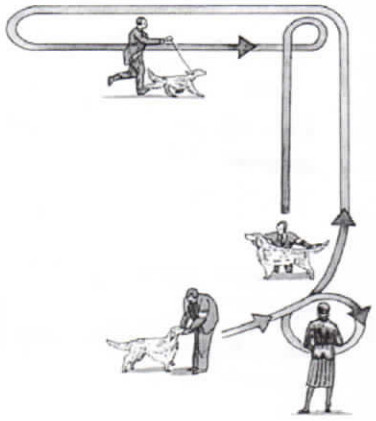
- The judge may tell you to do a down and back. It is your choice of which type of "Down and Back" you want to use. Which ever method you choose, keep in mind that you want to use the one that makes your dog do and look its best.
- Handlers with smaller dogs usually turn into their dogs, (the first method mentioned).
- Larger breeds tend to use the courtesy turn down and back. It gives the larger dog time to adjust to lining up straight coming back to the judge and to work into the proper gaiting speed required of their breed/dog.
- Whichever method you choose, every effort should be made to keep the dog on your left side.
- A hand change in the corner is unnecessary for most down and back patterns, except in pair gaiting or when the ring procedure warrants this hand change. Seek out the advice of those who can help you.
- Align your **DOG** (not you) in front of the judge.
- Make a straight line when going away from and coming back to the judge.
- When returning to the judge, free stack to show expression or profile and know what you are presenting and why.

Triangle Pattern

Triangle pattern If the judge is at the edge of the ring, move directly away from the judge parallel to the edge of the ring. At the end of the ring, make a 90 degree turn toward your dog. Continue across the top of the ring. Turn and move back diagonally to the judge. Keep the dog on the inside of the triangle to avoid any unnecessary hand changes**.** A courtesy turn can be used to come back to the judge if needed. Present your dog upon finish as you did in the down and back patterns. Try to go from corner to corner and use the whole ring. If the judge is in the middle of the ring, you may ask the judge which way they would prefer you go. Go straight away or go corner to corner. The down and back and triangle patterns are recommended for younger and less experienced 4H members

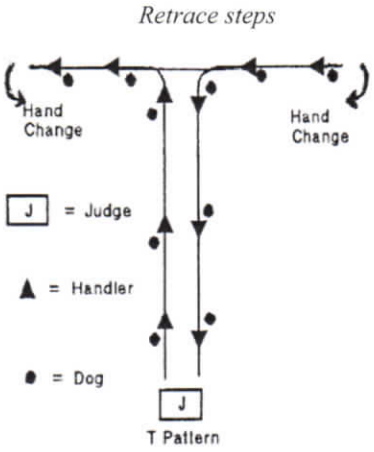


The courtesy turn is optional at the start.



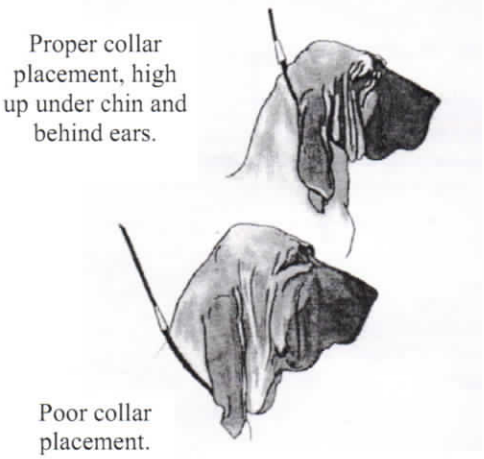
"L" Pattern. Move directly away from the judge. At the end of the ring, make a 90 degree left turn toward your dog. Move to the side of the ring. Change hands on the leash, turn the dog's head toward you, pivot toward the dog and come back, dog will be on your right side now. Move back till you are directly across the ring from the judge, hand change or turn and gait back to the judge. (A hand change can be used coming back to the judge to put the dog on your left side. Present your dog to the judge as above.

"T" Pattern. Move straight away from the judge. At the end of the ring make a 90 degree left turn toward your dog. Move in this direction to the side of the ring. Change hands. The dog will be on your right, as not to get between the dog and the judge, turn the dog's head toward you, pivot toward the dog and come back; move all the way across the top of the ring. When you reach the other side, change hands again. Reverse direction and move back to the point directly across from the judge**.** (Hand change is optional to put your dog on your left side). Make a 90 degree turn and move back to the judge. Stop about six feet away unless the judge raises his or her hand to stop you sooner. These more difficult patterns, the "T" and the "L" will show the judge which handlers are smooth, polished and have trained their dog to work on either side. These patterns could be used as tie-breakers or for the more skilled and advanced handlers.



Stacking

The left side of your dog is considered it's show side. You will be facing your dog on the dog's right side. It is important to remember to not let go of the dogs' head/collar while you stack them. Once you let go of the head/collar you have NO control over your dog. Their body follows their head. If you hold onto the collar or the chin under the jaw you will maintain control and your dog will not be able to move. Adjust the collar high up under your dog's chin and at the occiput on top of the dog's head just behind the ears. You do not need to worry about the leash at this learning stage. Keep it attached to the collar but let it hang down to the ground. You can easily grab it if you need to. Bait can be used to keep your dog focused and motivated. Hold the bait in your right hand in front of your dogs nose, or let him chew on it. Hold the collar/leash with the left hand and **walk your dog** to a gradual stop. Use the words "STAND" and "STAY." You might need to use your left hand in front of his stifle (knee), to get him to stand rather than sit. In most cases sit has been taught first, so stand is something that you will need to teach your dog to do. Release and reward with the bait when your dog stands for just a few seconds. You can build length of time later once your dog understands the concept of stand and stay. Do not worry about foot placement at this time.

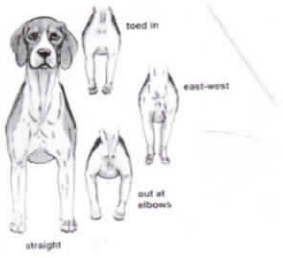


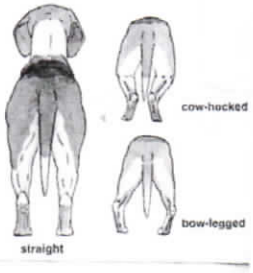
Proper collar placement, high up under chin and behind ears.

Poor collar placement.

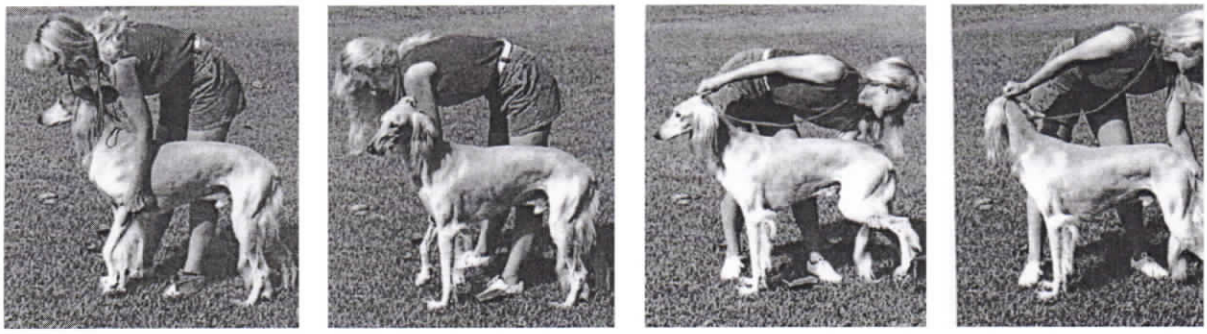
Once the dog understands the concept of stand/stay and is no longer trying to sit, wiggle or dance around you are ready to move to the next phase.

- **Using Bait to Stack**: Now you are ready to position the feet and legs. This method of stacking is good with puppies or dogs that work for bait. It aids as a distraction and keeps them interested in the bait while you position their legs. Let the dog nibble on the bait that is in your right hand in front of your dog's nose. Start stacking with the front left foot. If the foot is out of place, use your left hand to pick up the leg by the elbow and place the foot directly under your dog's chest in a straight line to the ground. You can reach over the top of your dog's shoulder or go under your dog to stack this front left leg. Check to see which method should be used for your dog and why. When you pick up a foot you may need to adjust it so that the toes point forward. Some dog's front legs twist outward (east, west) or toe inward throwing their elbows out. In most breeds, both are structure faults. You will want to show the judge that you know how to correct this, or at least try to. Sometimes by setting the foot in the proper position on the ground and shifting the dog's weight over that leg before you let go of the elbow, helps keep the foot and leg positioned properly; keeping the toes facing forward and the legs in a straight line. A good judge will most likely recognize this structure fault in your dog no matter what you do. However, a good handler will not allow a judge to see this fault or will be able to minimize it by stacking their dog properly. Next, check the right front leg. If it is out of place, stack it in the same manner as the front left. To do so you will need to change hands. Put the bait in your left hand, in front of your dog. Use your right hand to stack your dogs right leg. Make sure you continue to say stand/stay during this stacking phase. Now you are ready to stack the rear legs of your dog. You may or may not need to change hands from setting the front. If you stacked the right front leg of your dog you will need to change the bait back to the right hand and let the dog nibble on it again. You will use your left hand to stack both the rear legs. If both legs need stacking, you will want to stack the judge's side first (the back left) then, the back right leg if needed. Pick up the dog's leg at the hock joint. Place the rear legs straight down to the ground and under your dog. Cow hocking is a common fault with the rear legs in some dogs. This is where the hocks (from the joint to the ground) twist inward and are not straight up and down to the ground. You could use the same principles to fix this fault as you did with the front. Twist the hock so it is straight up and down while placing it on the ground and shift the dog's weight over the leg. Use the stay command every time you place a foot so your dog will understand what you want. Once your dog is still in stack you can hold the collar and bait the head or present your dog's tail etc. Many different options can be used at this point.





Hand Stacking: You can also stack your dog without using bait. Some dogs do not need bait to stack and some actually do better without it. Instead of putting the bait at the dogs' nose, you can hold the collar, chin or side of your dogs' face with the right hand and start the stacking procedure as above. Start with the left hand at the elbow to stack the dogs' left front (show side), change hands and stack the dogs' right leg with your right hand, change hands again and stack the rear of your dog with your left hand. Hold your dogs' head up high and make sure your presentation, positioning and leash work is smooth. Use some eye contact to show you are done stacking and you are ready.



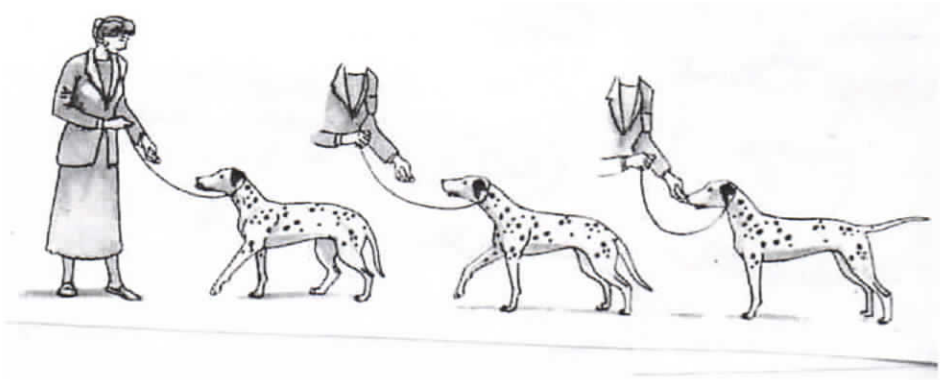
This shows another method of stacking without hand changes.

Using Bait To Free Stack

In all cases of using bait learn how to use it correctly. If you drop or place bait on the ground, be courteous and pick it up.

- Stand in front of your dog.
- Have your leash in your left hand. You will not be using the leash at all with this method of free stacking. Keep the leash loose and down near your side while baiting your dog into position.

Lure your dog with bait. Hold the bait in our right hand close to the dogs' nose or mouth. You can walk your dog forward into a stack or move the bait right and left. Your dog will move his feet to wherever the bait goes. Where the head goes the body and legs follow! If you move the bait to the dogs' right, the left leg moves forward and toward center or crosses over making the dogs' right leg fall naturally in place next to the left leg. You can position the dogs' front legs by moving the bait right or left. Once the front is in place say, "stay", and reward the dog with the bait. The back legs will usually fall into place when the dog moves forward. It is the front that you will be positioning most of the time.



Drawing shows handler using bait to free stack dog. Holding the leash in the left hand and bait in right hand is preferred.

Without bait:

- Some handlers with giant breeds will free stack by using their hand to move the dogs' head and front from side to side while walking their dog into a stack.
- You could also use your leash to move the dog from side to side as they are moving forward in the same manner as you did with the bait. You can move the dog right or left by pulling the dog in that direction. This will position the front legs. The rear legs will usually fall into the correct place when you walk your dog forward a couple steps.

Free stacking tips:

- You can walk the dog into a stack to set all four, three or two legs. You can hand stack the legs that are out of place if needed. Only position the legs that are out of place. Do not reset legs that are in proper placement. In other words don't fidget!
- When you walk your dog into a stack or you have positioned your dogs legs, give a command, "STAY." You can take a step back to give more distance between you and your dog to make your dog stand out. Hold the bait still and at the right level to present proper head placement for your breed.
- You may angle your dog to the judge after returning from your pattern to present profile or to hide faults, or present the head and expression straight in to the judge. Either is acceptable, you will need to research and learn why and which presentation is correct for your breed and dog.
- Do not crowd the judge when you return from your pattern. 4-6 feet away depending on the size of your dog and/or presentation.
- In-line you can use a combination of hand and free stack techniques. This will keep your dog alert, interested and attentive. Playing catch with the bait in-line will motivate and keep it fun for your dog. (Providing that your dog has learned to catch). Playing quietly with your dog while in the ring is allowed if you are not a distraction to others and when the judge is not looking at you or the line. These are good relaxation drills for you too!

Table Stacking

Some breeds are presented to the judge on a table. Smaller dogs that can be lifted by the handler will be presented on a table for their individual exam. The table helps aid the judge in the examination of your dog. You will present smaller (table) dogs on the table and on the floor while in-line. You will need to practice with your dog so they will feel comfortable stacking up on a table without the fear of falling off. You will pick your dog up and place the dog on the table to be examined and then remove your dog back to the floor. Many methods can be used to place your dog on a table. Please check to see which one is right for your breed or dog. Find experienced leaders and other 4-H members to help you learn options and skills.

- If the handler is too small, or the dog too large or heavy to safely lift the dog onto the table. The dog should be examined on the ground.
- Small, long coated or lightweight breeds (terriers and toys) can be picked up by the chin and tail and put up onto the table quickly, in one motion. This method tends not to mess up the carefully brushed coat. Picking up a terrier by the tail is natural for them. Their tails are like handles and are very strong. You can also lift a lightweight, coated breed, (like a Yorkie, Peekenese, Lhasa, ect.) by the chin, leash or collar, with your other arm from behind between their rear legs while supporting the dog on your arm all the way up to its chest. Make sure you learn this these techniques before you lift your dog onto a table.
- If you are a smaller handler and you have a heavier dog, you might want to use the scoop method. Scoop the dog up with both arms from front and back and place up onto the table.
- Another method to place a small dog onto the table is to use one arm under the chin or collar and your back arm over the top of your dog, drawing it toward your body and placing it on the table.
- Place your dog at the front of the table, centered at the judges side. Make sure all four legs are stacked in the proper position for your breed of dog. Do not put the toes or feet on the front edge of the table. Two or three inches from the front of the table is sufficient.
- You may drape the leash around your neck to free up your hands to stack and pick up your dog. You can also ball up the excess leash into your palm. Whatever method you use, keep the leash neat, without dangling across your dog or the table.
- Present the left side (show side) of your dog on the table to the judge.
- After removing your dog from the table, place him on the ground the direction you will be moving. You may fix or quickly bush the coat if it was messed up during the examination. A quick go over is all it should take.

- Taking a comb or brush into the ring is permissible. If you have a place to keep it without interfering with your presentation. Some handlers will place a comb in their armband, hair or pocket.There are many methods to free stack, hand stack and table stack that are acceptable. These are just a few. You will need to research your breed presentation and determine how to stack according to your breed. Get the stack done quickly, smoothly, with the feet in the proper position. Keep in mind that the you will need to practice stacking a lot. The

more you teach your dog through repetition the better your dog and you will work together as a team. The closer you can get your dog to stack each leg itself, the less you have to do. The more perfecting and polishing in the stacking technique will result in a comfortable style for you and your dog working together as a team.

Stacking Tips

Stacking procedures and leg positions vary from breed to breed. Check your breed standard or learn from experienced breeders or knowledgeable people that handle your breed. Watch and learn from 4-H leaders and other experienced members how to present your breed of dog in a stacked position.

- Be gentle with your dog. Heavy handedness is not allowed in the ring.
- Make sure the collar stays high up under the dogs' chin and on top of the dogs' head. Keeping control of the dogs' head will help keep your dog in a stack. Maintain this collar position throughout the stack when you have your hand holding the collar.
- Wrapping your fingers around the collar and holding up the dogs' head will help you maintain proper head and shoulder positioning. Try to avoid stringing the dog up by the leash to stack (holding the leash instead of the collar). Your dog can move all over and you do not have good control of the dog's head. Although this may work on some small breeds, or dogs that have been taught how to stack already. Learning about your breed and how to stack it is going to take some research, watching and practicing on your part. Not all dogs and all breeds stack in the same fashion. There are other good methods of stacking your dog. The above two methods are just a few of many that might work for you.

- If your dog is "Posting" (rocking back), lure it forward with the bait. A good handler will be able to keep their dog over their front or lean forward slightly. Another method you could try, is to pull back slightly on the tail. Your dog will pull or lean forward to counterbalance your pull.

← Picture shows dog rocking or posting.

Picture shows dog→ correctly presented over it's front.

- If your dog moves his feet during the stack, remove the bait and use the word "no" or "stay." Training "blocks" can be used for extra wiggly dogs, or dogs that move their feet a lot. Check with a knowledgeable person to help you with this. As long as the dog remains still you should reward with bait or allow them to chew on the bait. Slowly build distance between the bait and the dog's nose and increase the time the dog stands still. Eventually you will have a dog that will be able to stand still for a long period of time, looking at the bait in your hand.
- The excess leash should be held or presented neatly, either in the palm of your hand at the collar, or draped neatly across your lap while kneeling, or draped around your neck if you have a small breed to present on the table or kneeling on the ground. There are many different and acceptable methods of holding/draping your leash. The objective is to have a smooth and neat presentation. Not sloppy or dangling on the ground or your dog.
- Be attentive and alert to your dog and present to the judge your dog's best qualities. Even if your dog has conformation faults, (all dogs do), you should attempt to stack your dog correctly for its breed.
- You will be judged on your skill and effort.
- Be aware of the judges presence but, do not stare or smile excessively at the judge. Remember the focus is on your dog and how to present the dog to the best of your ability.
- Observe proper spacing. Do not crowd the dog in front of you.
- Do not lift up under your dogs' stomach to stand them. This will cause your dog to roach their back like a camel. A roached topline is fault for most dogs. Walk your dog in a small circle, without disrupting the dog behind you, and restart, or lure and walk the dog slightly forward with the bait, getting them to stand. Place your left hand at the stifle to stand them if needed.

Leash draped around neck; presented neatly.

Handler focusing intently on his dog.

- If your dog is standing correctly and the feet are where they should be, don't move them. Do not fidget!
- Practice a quick stack. One goal should be to stack your dog within 5 seconds. This will take some practice.
- You should be able to stack in a quiet, smooth and efficient manner.
- Your dog should appear posed or interested and under control at all times.

You and your dog should show confidence in the ring. Try to present two, three or more "pictures" or positions to the judge as they glance down the line. Use a combination of hand stacks and free stacking techniques. Whichever methods you use make sure that the dog looks its best. Remember the focus is on how good the dog looks, not how stylish you look.

Handler presents different pictures or positions to the judge continuing to make his dog look good.

- The timing of your stack is very important. Know when the judge is looking down the line and have your dog looking good in a stack or free stack. Some judges will look down the line often and others will not. When the judge is busy going over another dog or watching someone else do their pattern, you and your dog can relax and play a bit.
- If you use bait, use it correctly. Use the bait to get your dog's attention and to show expression to the judge. Some breeds are not baited, some breeds bait to get their dogs ears up. Find out what is appropriate for your breed and why.
- Bait your dog quietly. Do not wave the bait around or make unnecessary jerky motions with your baiting hand. Show it to get your dogs attention and hold it still when the dog is in the proper position. Do not throw bait or distract other dogs or handlers in the ring. Throwing bait may be a good training method outside the ring while practicing but it is not allowed in the ring.

Using bait quietly to show expression.

- Hold the bait at the proper level to present your dog's head. Toy breeds look up more, sporting breeds lean out over their fronts with their head level or slightly lower. Learn the proper baiting position for your dog.
- Learn to stack your dog from either side, front or rear. Use a mirror to see what it looks like, or have someone watch you.
- Stack the part the judge is looking at first. If the judge wants to see fronts stack the front legs first. If the judge is coming from behind your dog, stack the back legs first.
- Set the front legs by picking them up by the elbow
- Set the back legs of your dog by lifting at the hock joint.
- Present your dog by baiting them with a treat, holding the face at the flews or chin, holding the collar, or presenting a tail depending on breed specifics.
- Continue to re-check your dogs foot placement from time to time, to make sure your dog did not move his feet. Experienced handlers can "feel" when their dogs move their feet. You will eventually get to this point.
- Talk to your dog and give a command. Stand, stack and stay are commonly used commands.

- Your dog should look forward to training time. Keep him or her happy. The use of food to lure and motivate during this training phase is recommended. Sometimes you can use toys. If you use a toy remember that it should not distract other handlers or dogs in the ring. Practice keeping your dog's attention and interest by playing catching games. To teach these games start by tossing popcorn to your dog in an arch between his nose and eyes. If your dog does not catch it and the bait hits the ground, pick it up. The dog will not be motivated to catch if he can just eat it off the ground. For some dogs it takes awhile for the light switch to click on. Be sure to make it fun for your dog, even in the ring.

Handler keeps dog interested and alert.

All dog's do not need to be hand stacked. Some breeds are traditionally baited into a stance, rather than being hand stacked. The herding breeds, (Collies, Aussies, Corgi's etc.) are breeds that can use this free stacking technique. Please check with your leader or breeder for proper stacking techniques for your breed. Learning a combination of hand stacking and free stacking techniques are important to learn with any dog. Free stacking takes practice and patience.

Ring Procedure

Individual Examination: The judge will want to see you stack, and present your dog according to proper breed presentation. Remember a mixed breed dog should be presented in the same fashion as a purebred dog. If you declare your dog to be a Lab mix, then the judge will want you to present your dog as a Lab. The judge will be evaluating you on your stacking technique, showing the bite and grooming of your dog. The judge will not be evaluating conformation or structure.

The judge will call you out one at a time for an individual stack and examination. You should have your dog posed and ready if you are next in-line, first impressions are important. Watch for the judge to signal you to come out in front and stack. Stack the show side (left side of the dog) to the judge. Stack quickly, and smoothly and with all four legs/feet in the proper position. Make sure you present yourself in the position you want to be, then….make eye contact with the judge to let the judge know you are ready for presentation. Often a judge will allow the handlers and dogs in-line to relax. This means you don't have to be in a perfect stack at all times. However this is a good time to bait or free stack or play quietly with your dog to keep his attention and your dog happy in the ring while you are waiting your turn for the judges individual examination. You cannot expect to have your dog in a perfect stack without moving for a long time. This is unnatural and your dog will soon loose interest, become bored and not enjoy the ring

ring. You too will become frustrated with your dog because he is not standing still. You should be aware of what is happening with the judge and the ring and should not be talking with others. Concentrate on your dog and the judge. The timing of your stacks while you are in-line is very important. When the judge is going over someone else's dog you can relax and play stack with your dog. As soon as this dog is done with its pattern and going around the ring to the end of the line you will want to have your dog looking good as the judge may glance down the line to see who is paying attention and working their dogs. You will need to know who is the last person in-line. When the last handler and dog are called out for their exam everyone should get their dog back in-line, lined up with the first dog and restack. When the judge turns to look at the rest of the line, all dogs and handlers are stacked and looking good.

What is the judge looking for in the exam:

- The judge will watch you coming from in-line to the point of stacking your dog. They want to see how you handle and stack your dog, according to its breed. The judge will watch your stacking technique and presentation of the dogs' profile.
- Next the judge will go to the front of your dog to check the front quarters, legs and feet placement, the dog's expression and head and neck.
- The judge will ask you to show the bite, teeth or mouth. You will need to show this yourself, according to your breed standard. Not all breeds present in the same way. You will need to research what is proper presentation for your dog.

Handler presenting head.

To show bite- This is how the dogs' front teeth (incisors) meet. Place the leash in the hand if you have it in your palm, under your dogs' jaw. Lift the head up toward the judge so the judge can see the bite. Make sure your head is out of the judges vision. Your other hand will be on top of your dogs' muzzle. Lift the lips of the upper jaw. Keep the mouth closed. Make sure all the incisors between the canine teeth are visible.

•Showing the teeth or mouth- Some breeds like sporting dogs you will need to show the teeth also. First show bite. Then show the teeth. You will need to lift the lips and turn the head and show the first side of molars then the other side. Make sure you turn the dogs' head toward the judge to see both sides. If you have a breed that must have full dentition according to their standard (German Shepherds, Dobermans etc.) You will need to open the mouth to let the judge examine the entire mouth or tongue color. Remember to point your dogs' head to the judge. To show the mouth you will show bite first then briefly open the mouth for the judge. The judge will now continue with the examination gradually going down your dog. The judge will look inside your dogs ears and continue examining the body and legs, working towards the rear. The judge will check your dogs grooming, ears nails and coat.

You will need to hold your dog's head as a courtesy to the judge while the judge is going down the body to keep the dog in the proper alignment and to keep your dog from wiggling or moving. As a courtesy you should warn a judge if your dog is cranky and might snap at them during this exam. You should also let the judge know if your dog is on medications. If the dog's ears are greasy because you are treating an ear infection you should tell the judge so as not to get marked down for dirty ears. You should let the judge know if you are treating for a hot spot or an allergy and be able to name the medication. The judge might lift up the leg to examine the toenails and not replace it in the same spot. You should, when convenient, move it back into the proper placement. All four feet should be back into place and stacked after the judge goes over your dog and steps back to look at the dog's profile again.

Handler holding collar and baiting head during exam.

General Knowledge Questions

The judge will ask you to relax your dog and answer some general knowledge questions. These questions are to test the 4-Her's knowledge of dogs and 4-H. All questions will be taken from either your 4-H materials (dog bowl questions) or from information obtained from the AKC. At the state level you will be asked 5 questions- One from each of the categories below.

- **Anatomy**: You will be asked a question about your dog's anatomy. Most often you will be asked to show a specific part on your dog. You might be asked to define a part. If you are asked to show a part, make sure you show it on the judge's side so the judge can see it. Point to a specific part, such as the hock or stop. If your dog has long hair, make sure your hands can be seen.
- **Breed standard or history**: You will be asked one question about your dog's breed. You should know your dog's breed standard and the history of your dog. This information can be found at the AKC web site akc.org or in the "*AKC Complete Dog Book*."
- **Health and general care**: Questions could be about dog diseases, shots, temperature, etc.
- **AKC**: This is usually a question about AKC and or AKC events and rules.
- **4H**: General questions about 4-H; what is the motto, colors, pledge, where the headquarters are located etc.

At the state level the judge will ask you questions. You may or may not be asked questions at your county or qualifying fair. Answer questions in a clear voice. If you do not know the answer to a question, simply say, "I don't know." The questions asked will be appropriate to age and skill level. No question should be asked in order to stump the competitors. Questions asked need to be relevant to the dog project. Remember to keep the questions that you were asked to yourself. Do not tell other exhibitors in the next groups. This would give the other members an advantage that you or some of the other exhibitors did not have.

It's Show Time!

The armband is worn on your left arm with the number visible. The ring steward will signal you to enter the ring and start the class. Handlers and dogs will enter the ring in the order they are called. The moment you enter ring with your dog the show has begun. The lead is held in your left hand and the dog is on your left side. The excess lead is coiled and kept out of sight in the fist or kept neatly. Keep the show collar high up on top of your dogs' head right behind the ears and high up under the dog's chin for better control and a neater look. When you come into