



# Getting Your 4-H Dog Ready for the Fair (or any show)

## THE DAY BEFORE

Getting your Dog Ready:



Ears cleaned



Eyes: cleaned - no redness or discharge; should be bright and alert



Coat: check for fleas; treat if necessary



Brushing: use flea comb, regular brushes; shed'n'comb works very well for removing excess hair!



Nails: trim if necessary; can use emery board



Should bathe dog; use dog/puppy shampoo, flea shampoo if needed. Rinse very well!



Do not get water in the dogs' ears

## THE DAY OF FAIR

(expect to be at the show until 3:00 or 4:00 pm)

Things to take to the Show:



Choke collar & leash



Camera with film



Dog brush



Container of water



Water dish



Spray bottle of water (depending on the weather - for you and/or your dog!)



Snacks & drinks, perhaps "entertainment" such as a book for yourself



Dog food? Use your own judgement



Dog snacks



Dog toy



Shorts, sandals for you (you may have several hours between judgments)



Lawn chair or blanket



For accident cleanups: paper towels, small trash bags, baggies or paper bags

*These are just some suggestions - if you think of others, let the rest of us know!*



Dress appropriately: Hair pulled back away from face, blouse (any color), slacks or skirt, tennis shoes are allowed.

It is always a good idea to take pictures of grooming, getting ready to show, at the show, vet visits, etc.; anything else that would be of interest in your dog project. There is a Dog Poster Section to enter at the Fair; you can enter in Recordkeeping, too. Project photographs taken through the years are a requirement when you go on to state-level competition in 4-H.

Throughout the day of the show, try to watch some of the other classes: costume class, obstacle course, more advanced classes, team, junior showmanship. This way you will have some ideas on what challenges (!) lie ahead.

Please don't leave the show early, or at least not until you are sure that all your judging is done. Repeat - you could be at the show until 3 or 4 p.m.

Make lunch plans.

If anyone needs help getting to or from the show, perhaps you could do some carpooling.



REMEMBER TO:



GROOM YOUR DOG



PRACTICE HEEL/SIT, LONG SIT & DOWN



SMILE FOR THE JUDGE!

**Have a good time and let it show through to the judge.**