



Michigan State 4-H Dog Program Mistreatment & Aggressive Dog Policy Youth Agreement

MISTREATMENT POLICY

- Absolutely no abuse or mistreatment, verbal or physical, of dogs will be tolerated in Michigan 4-H.
- Anyone caught hitting, kicking, or otherwise physically abusing a dog will be immediately dismissed from the class or show.
- Use care with dogs being left in cars in the summer. The temperature inside of a car parked in the sun (even with the windows rolled down) can reach a temperature high enough to cause brain damage in only 10 minutes.
- Leaving a dog in the car in hot weather is considered abuse under Michigan law and law enforcement personnel are permitted to break into cars to rescue dogs.
- Anyone caught leaving your dog in a closed car will be immediately dismissed from the class or show. Three such incidents within a program year can result in the handler being suspended for the remainder of the program year.
- As a parent, if you feel an aggressive incident has taken place, please go to a club leader. Do not confront the child/handler or his/her parent.

AGGRESSIVE DOG POLICY

Remember: Dogs must be kept on leash **at all times** unless instructed otherwise by your dog training instructor or the judge.

- Any dog that actually bites a human or another dog will be immediately sent home. No questions asked. An incident form must be filled out.
- If any judge dismisses a dog for behavior issues from the State 4-H Dog Show, the dog will be done showing for that show. The dog will be removed from the barn.
- Expelling a dog could be necessary for the safety of other members and dogs. Should a dog actually be expelled, it must be remembered that the action is **against the dog and not the 4-H'er**. The 4-H member is welcome to remain at the show.
- It is important to note the **YOU, The Owner** are legally responsible for the actions of your dog. Everyone in class should have appropriate liability insurance (usually a part of your homeowners or renter's insurance policy) for your own protection. **Safety is of paramount importance!**

A signed copy of this policy must be turned in with the State 4-H Dog Show Registration.

Signature of 4-H Youth

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Youth

Date

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.