



DOG PROJECT AREA



Dogs make great pets! Dogs are also used for sport and to assist in working with livestock. The dog project area helps you explore what kind of dog fits into your family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent trainer and caretaker for your dog.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Gather information and determine the best dog for your family.
- Learn about the proper care, grooming, and feeding of your dog.
- Learn to identify the parts of your dog for conversations with your pet.
- Create a plan to prevent your dog from getting lost or finding it if it does get lost.
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Practice appropriate training for your dog.
- Plan a training and exercise program for your dog.
- Prepare for participation in a dog show.
- Decide to breed or not breed your dog.
- Compare the labels on dog food to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your dog's health and eating habits.
- Research cattle facilities in your area and decide if one is right for your dog.
- Create a trainer's diary to assist you when you work with your dog.
- Interview someone who uses a service dog to assist them.
- Help a friend decide on dog ownership.
- Research diseases in dogs.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action if your dog gets sick.
- Learn major dog breeds and identify their characteristics.
- Study the responsibilities of dog ownership.
- Learn dog health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Prepare a demonstration on how to approach a dog safely.
- Demonstrate how to prepare a dog for showing.
- Make a poster of how to select a nutritional diet for your dog.

Civic Engagement

- Help clean up your local dog park.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Write a letter to your local paper about the importance of having dogs spayed or neutered.

Leadership

- Organize a dog show for your club.
- Organize a fundraiser to help benefit an animal shelter.
- Organize a dog therapy club in your community.
- Develop a plan to foster dogs of deploying soldiers.

Entrepreneurship

- Provide dog walking services for your local community.
- Create a local business for dog training.
- Make and sell dog toys or unique dog treats.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Participate in a dog show at your county fair.
- Make a first aid kit for your dog and tell why and how each item is used.
- Share care and nutrition information for raising a healthy dog.
- Interview your veterinarian about a microchip to identify your dog. Develop a video about your options.
- Attend a dog show. Take photos and make a notebook about dog breeds.
- Research jobs related to dogs. Make a poster showing three jobs that interest you.
- Develop a video showing the steps in training a dog.
- Visit a pet store and identify the necessary dog supplies, equipment, and their costs.
- Design a toy for your dog tell about your decisions related to safety and cleanliness.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Dog show judges** provide fair evaluations of livestock and advocate for the industry at various shows.
- **Dog trainers** work to condition canines through training, signals, and exercises.
- **Veterinarians** work to diagnose and treat different animal diseases.
- Become a **K-9 officer** if you enjoy training, exercising, and caring for work dogs.
- **Dog groomers** wash, clip and care for the coat and nails of others' family pets.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Study **animal science** if you're interested in breeding, reproductive physiology, animal behavior, nutrition, and more.
- If you're interested in differing animal behavior, ecology, genetics, and anatomy, then **zoology** may be for you!
- Understand crime, study the **criminal justice** system, and research social factors if you are interested in becoming a K-9 Officer.
- Experiment with lab research, aid in animal surgery, and study animal production as a student in **veterinary medicine**.

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