



## Best Friends 4-H Club's Canine Topics for 4-H and Public Education

Best Friends 4-H Club coordinators and leaders are often called upon to visit a classroom, a library, or a dog event and assist in the public education of dog owner responsibility. With so many canine topics to choose from, Best Friends 4-H coordinators, Linda Shannon-Chaillet and Vicki Williams have come up with a list of topics for canine education on every level of canine ownership.

We sincerely hope that when you begin to plan a "Dog Education Day" this list will assist you in your topics and preparation.

Hands and Paws together always,

Linda M. Shannon-Chaillet;  
Coordinator of Best Friends 4-H Club  
American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Evaluator # 467  
Outstanding 4-H Leader for 2011

And

Vicki Williams;  
Co-Coordinator of Best Friends 4-H Club and Town and Country Paws and Pals  
American Kennel Club Obedience Instructor  
Outstanding 4-H Leader for 2012  
Mutterly Love Proprietor

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## CANINE TOPICS FOR 4-H AND PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### 1. Meet The Breeds

- a. Have several different breeds with its owner explaining about the breed, the breed's history and why the breed is important to man's future.
- b. Know the breed's standards.
- c. Where to find the breed's standards.
- d. Know the difference between a "Puppy Miller," a "Backyard Breeder," and a "Reputable Breeder."
- e. What the American Kennel Club (AKC) has to offer for the breeds?
- f. What the United Kennel Club (UKC) has to offer for our breeds?

### 2. Canine Ownership Responsibility

- a. **Commitment:** A canine is for life...its life. A canine is a pack member. A canine is a family member. A canine is a sentient being.
- b. **Budget:** How much money should you budget each year for your canine's entire life? Can you really afford having a canine as a family member?
- c. **Contracts for Your Canine:** Get it in writing.
- d. **Dog Laws:** What are the canine laws for your community, your county and your state? Are dog tags needed?
- e. **Homeowner's Insurance:** Just what will your homeowner's insurance policy cover should your canine bite someone?
- f. **Loss Prevention:** Microchipping and registering your canine with the AVID or AKC Reunited, versus Identification Collar. What should you do should you find your canine not in your home and/or backyard?



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- g. **Preparing for Your Canine to Come Home:** What items do you need to purchase before your canine enters your home?
  - h. **Canine Proofing Your Home:** Get down on hands and knees and take a look at your home from your canine's point of view.
  - i. **Shelter for Your Canine:** Indoor versus Outdoor shelters. How to shelter your canine in severe weather. Bring in a carpenter to demonstrate how to build a dog house.
  - j. **Nutrition for Your Canine:** Raw food versus commercial food. Poisonous food and plants for canines.
  - k. **Grooming:** Basic grooming tools, bathing techniques, shampoos, tubs and water temperature, drying techniques, trimming of ears, paws and nails, smelling the ears and breath for infections, expressing the anal glands, etc.
  - l. **Canine Language:** The tones of a bark and the body posture language of a canine.
  - m. **Teaching Canine Good Manners:** "A trained dog is a FREE dog."<sup>1</sup> Dog obedience school, sportsmanship etiquette, and acceptable human and canine behavior towards each other, always clean up after your canine and carry poop bags in your pocket.
  - n. **Teaching Your Canine Games to Play with You:** Equipment needed, where to play, safety issues to discuss.
  - o. **Canine Safety Rules:** Have a discussion regarding the proper procedure to ask permission before you pet a canine you don't know. How to approach a canine. What to do should a strange canine approaches you or attacks you. Why you do not run away from a strange canine. How to stand like a tree and drop like a rock.
  - p. **Senior Citizen Canines:** How are you going to take care of your canine when it's old and gray? When should you let go of your senior canine and allow it to die with dignity?
- 3. Dog Training and Competition Events**
- a. **Agility:** Terminology, Equipment needed, obstacles, safety on the obstacles, techniques for and on the obstacles.
  - b. **Breed Conformation:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for breed showing, grooming, and safety in the show ring.
  - c. **American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Program:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in the testing.
  - d. **Disc Dog:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - e. **Dog Jumping:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - f. **Drafting:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - g. **Earth Dog:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - h. **Free Style (Dancing with your dog):** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - i. **Fly Ball:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - j. **Herding:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
  - k. **Hunting:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, gun safety, and safety in training and trials.
  - l. **Junior Showmanship:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for breed showing, grooming, and safety in the show ring.
  - m. **Lure Coursing:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.

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<sup>1</sup> Jack Volhard; *What All Good Dogs Should Know: The Sensible Way to Train.*





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- n. **Obedience:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
- o. **Rally:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
- p. **Terrier Racing:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
- q. **Tracking:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
- r. **Water Rescue:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.
- s. **Weight Pull:** Terminology, equipment needed, techniques for training, and safety in training and trials.

### 4. Veterinary Care

- a. **Canine Anatomy and Terminology**
- b. **Canine First Aid:** Items needed for a first aid kit for your canine, how to give Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and techniques for first aid.
- c. **Canine Diseases:** How to recognizing symptoms? What are the genetic health issues for breeds? Sore throat, fever, tooth ache, muscular and skeletal growth problems.
- d. **Recognizing Stress in your Canine**
- e. **Parasites**
- f. **Worms**
- g. **Poisonous Plants**
- h. **Poisonous Foods**
- i. **Vaccinations**
- j. **Why have a yearly physical for your canine?**

### 5. Canine in History

- a. **Canine in Art:** Example: Painting of *A Distinguished Member of the Human Society* by Charles Landseer.
- b. **Canine Who Helped Shape History:** Example: Seaman (aka Scannon) on the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Core of Discovery). Dixie and Balto on the 1925 Serum Run in Alaska.
- c. **Literature:** Seaman, Rin Tin Tin, Lassie, Balto, Dixie
- d. **Famous People Who Owned What Breed of Canine?**

### 6. Canine with an Occupation

- a. Assistance Dog
- b. Therapy Dog
- c. Drug Searching Dog
- d. Guard Dog
- e. Military Dog
- f. Police Dog
- g. Search and Rescue Dog
- h. Service Dog
- i. Farm Dog
- j. Reading Dog
- k. Companion Dog
- l. Show Dog



## Best Friends 4-H Club's Canine Topics for 4-H and Public Education

### 7. Traveling with Your Canine

- a. **Packing** for your canine's trip: What to take? How to pack?
- b. **How Should Your Canine Travel?:** Car, Plane, or Train
- c. **Equipment Needed For Your Canine's Comfort While Traveling:** Crate, leash, food, water, utensils, etc.
- d. **Medical Information:** A notebook with contact information of yourself, an emergency contact person, your veterinarian, and canine's current immunizations.

### 8. References:

- a. **American Kennel Club (AKC):** Address: 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100; Raleigh, North Carolina 27617-2290; Phone: 919-233-9767; Website: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- b. **United Kennel Club (UKC):** Address: 100 East Kilgore Road; Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002-5584; Phone: 269-343-9020; Website: [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)
- c. **4-H for Berrien County, Michigan:** Michigan State University Extension Office; 1737 Hillandale Road; Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022-4126; Phone: 269-944-4126; Website: [www.msue.edu/berrien](http://www.msue.edu/berrien)
- d. **Pet Key:** Microchip Registration; Website: <http://petkey.org/>
- e. **AVID Microchipping:** Website: <http://www.avidid.com/pet-owners/microchipping101>
- f. **AKC Reunited:** Website: <http://www.akcreunite.org/>



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