DATE: August 17, 2015

TO: State Fair 4-H Dog Show Exhibitor and 4-H Dog Skillathon Exhibitors,

FROM: Kathy Potthoff, 2015 Nebraska State Fair 4-H Dog Show Superintendent  
Jami Ankrom, 2015 Assistant Superintendent

We are anxious for the state fair to begin and look forward to a great day for the dog show! Here is information for dog show exhibitors and dog skillathon exhibitors. Please carefully read the enclosed information for your areas and refer to the additional information available from the web links.

The 2015 Nebraska State Fair 4-H Dog Show is scheduled for Sunday August 30th in the Heartland Event Center (showmanship, obedience, and dog skillathon) and Big Red Barn (agility) at Fonner Park - Grand Island.

PROCEDURE- The show procedures are described in “Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Guidelines 4-H 420. Exhibitors are expected to read and follow the information in the “State Fair 4-H Dog Exhibitor Letter” which is posted on the web with the 4-H dog information.

It is the dog exhibitors responsibility to pick up after their dogs at all times. Dogs soiling in the show ring (during a class) will be lowered one ribbon placing. Dogs soiling anywhere on the show grounds with no pick up will be disqualified from all entered classes on that show day regardless of the person who is holding the dog leash. Use a plastic bag to clean up after your dog in the exercise area and put the bag in the trashcan. ***Take your dog outside frequently to the exercise area and keep your dog close to you at all times so that you know if they have had an accident.

Doors to Enter:

Heartland Event Center – use north or south doors to enter. Check at the registration table for the location of the exercise area.

***NOTE: be sure to read the unloading and parking information.

Big Red Barn – use the east door to be near the agility check in table. The exercise area will be located out the east door.

Link to Driving Directions & Map: http://www.statefair.org/p/other/258

Dog Vaccination Papers: All dog vaccination records must be received and checked in before youth can show at state fair. The SF 263 forms being checked and need to be faxed or emailed to: lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu or fax to 402-472-6362 (fax machine at UNL Ani Sci Dept). We will take a copy of the SF 263 forms and give them to the state veterinarians working at the Check In Trailer. The state veterinarians double check the records and approve the information. So we need to have this information quickly to give them a copy for review. This is the health paperwork (SF 263) that is required for 4-H Dogs (open class / stock dogs have a different requirement for a CVI – Certificate of Veterinary Inspection). Thanks for your help to make this happen quickly!
**Exhibitor Passes** – ALL Dog Exhibitors will pick up your exhibitor packets (dog exhibitor pass, 1 day parking permit for Brunks Lot, badges or parking permits that you may have ordered, etc) from the Check In Trailer located in Brunks Lot. NO PASSES WILL BE MAILED – EVERYTHING WILL NEED TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE CHECK IN TRAILER. All exhibitors who are involved with animals (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, dog, rabbits, etc) stop at trailer located in Brunks Lot. Please allow plenty of time to get in and out of the livestock trailer if you need to stop there the morning of the dog show.

**Check In Trailer Hours:** The Nebraska State Fair Office determines the hours of operation for the Check In Trailer. For the most current and up-to-date times, please go to the Nebraska State Fair Web page for the Livestock Trailer operation times - a day or so before coming to state fair to be sure you have up to date / accurate information: http://www.statefair.org/p/getinvolved/270 and then scroll down to: Check-In Trailer Hours.

**Map** – a map is available on the above web page to locate Brunks Lot.

**Dog Show Schedule** – The entry data will be processed and the dog show schedule determined after entries close. As soon schedule information is available it will be posted to the web: scroll down to Upcoming Events – Nebraska State Fair – 2015 Dog Show at: www.companionanimal.unl.edu

Obedience: Obedience Exhibitors will have Long Sits & Downs first starting at 8 am. Some exhibitors may have dog skillathon as their first class. Please note that for Obedience: the LONG Sits & Downs – will be held at the beginning of day for all followed by each exhibitor’s individual work out (for example: long sit, long down, heel pattern, figure 8, stand for exam, recall, etc…) We plan to have 5 rings for obedience and showmanship.

Dog Skillathon will be located upstairs designated behind a curtain area.

Agility: After youth are finished with obedience, showmanship, and dog skillathon move to the Big Red Barn for Agility classes. Exhibitors will have course walk through (handlers only) and judge briefings. We plan to have 2 rings for agility one for Level 1 and the larger indoor arena will be for Level 2, 3, 4, and 5.

**Show Timeframe - August 30, 2015**

_____ – Check-In Trailer open in Brunk’s Lot (double check schedule for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday hours)

6:30 am – Dog crating area available – Heartland Event Center – use north or south doors to enter and then go upstairs – crating area is upstairs

6:30 am - Exercise area available – check at registration table for location

7:00 am – Dog Show registration opens – Heartland Event Center - check in - come in north or south door – registration table located on main level

8:00 am -- Dog Show – Heartland Event Center –

8:00 am – Dog Skillathon Contest – (check assigned times for check in and start - all participants must start by 10:15 am only – notify the skillathon check-in area if you have a schedule conflict due to finals to let them know you will participate)

_____ Transition to Big Red Barn for Agility Classes –

_____ Tear down fencing at Heartland - ALL supplies & dogs must be removed from Heartland Event Center immediately following the classes held at that facility.

_____ Agility Level 1 and Level 2 & 3 open for walk through – Big Red Barn
Food – Heartland Event Center will have a food stand open during the dog show. Food consumed inside Heartland must be purchased from this vendor. Food and drinks purchased from other outside vendors on the fairgrounds must be eaten outside before people can return inside the Heartland Event Center.

Additional information –

- Exhibitors will want to allow plenty of time for drive time, traffic flow and parking. Other events may be going on at the same time and their exhibitors may be arriving to park or unload in other locations on the fairgrounds at the same arrival times.

- Check in at the registration table (may use north or south door of Heartland Event Center). You will receive your exhibitor’s number, show information and will be given your Nebraska State Fair 4-H t-shirt when you check in for the show. Exhibitors will be given only one t-shirt for the duration of the fair. If you are entered in multiple events you will need to bring your shirt for those other events. Dog wither heights will be checked for those dogs involved in agility.

- Line up at the appropriate show ring and check in with the ring steward/clerk at least fifteen minutes before your scheduled time.

- If you are entered in agility, please be sure to check in at the agility registration table located in the Big Red Barn and attend the Judge’s briefing and agility course walk through opportunities.

- Be sure to take your dog to the exercise area often – we want to minimize accidents and frequent checks will allow exhibitors and their dogs the opportunity to perform to their best ability. Clean up after your dogs on the whole fairgrounds – thanks! There will be an exercise area location near Heartland and also near Big Red Barn.

- Good sportsmanship is expected of exhibitors, their families and friends at all times. Being pleasant and respectful of others is as important in the grooming area and at the ring side as it is in the ring.

Dog Unloading & Parking Information

4-H Dog - Unloading pass and Parking pass - this is a bright blue 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper included in your packet (that you will receive at the Check In Trailer) that has two purposes - as an unloading pass to gain entry to Dog Unloading Gate # 7 and as a parking pass to park in Brunks Lot for one day - which is show day - August 30. This pass will be included in your packet that you pick up from the livestock trailer.

There are two options for unloading:

1 -- Exhibitors may drive along Stolley Park Road and park their vehicles in the parking lot called Brunks Lot – located to the south of the Big Red Barn and walk their dogs and carry supplies to Heartland (put parking permit visible on vehicle dash). Enter through Gate # 2 from 6 – 8 am for walk through. **This option will be the best for many families.**

2 – Exhibitors may use their Dog Unloading /Parking pass and come in Gate #7 to temporarily park their cars north of the Heartland Event Center for unloading purposes in the Keno parking lot. **All vehicles must be unloaded and vehicles moved to Brunks parking lot by 8:30 AM.** When leaving Keno parking lot go to the east and then south to return to Brunks lot to avoid heavier traffic on the west side of the fairgrounds. This is for families who may have heavy or large crates.

- When unloading, be sure valuable items and vehicles are not left unattended. While on the State Fairgrounds, dogs must be either on leash or in a kennel at all times. Dogs are not allowed in buildings, on the midway, or in the barns.
- Note: If you have a break between your show times and wish to look around at the fair, do not leave your dog unattended. Exhibitors may take shifts with their family members, work with other families in their counties, or other exhibitors who are crating in the same area to take turns watching dogs (exchange emergency contact info). Agility will flow directly from one level to the next.
- Use the designated dog exercise area (located on the north side of Heartland / east side of Big Red Barn) and please clean up after your dog.
- **End of Show** - At the end of the show, dogs must be removed from the show and crating area for the next events in Heartland and the Big Red Barn.

**General Agility Information** – In the Big Red Barn, there is an arena in the north side of the building where Agility Levels 2 – 5 will be located. Immediately to the south of the show ring area there will be an additional ring for Agility Level 1. There is a soil surface for all rings.

**Crating** – Heartland Event Center – up the stairs in the north and south open spaces will be the largest crating spaces available. Exhibitors may also keep their dogs with them in the seating spaces some distance from the show ring competitions.

Big Red Barn – a dog crating area has been designated for the area immediately south of Ring for Level 1 Agility or exhibitors may also keep their dogs with them in seating spaces.

**4-H Dog Skillathon Participants** – Noted on the schedule are the times for you to check in with the skillathon check in table. This will help space the start times for all of the participants. All participants must start by 10:15 a.m., or notify the check in table if you are involved in showmanship finals.

**2015 Skillathon Guidelines:** The contest will consist of a series of stations that are designed to test your knowledge of dogs.
The focused breed for 2015 is the **Non-Sporting Group.** Questions will cover:
Breed identification pictures from the focus group (majority of focus)
Breed identification pictures from all other groups (a few)
Conformation Dog Body Language Grooming Parasites Nutrition Obedience Anatomy Life Stage Agility Equipment – collars, leashes, grooming equipment, and items used for general care, etc…

**Body systems**

**SKILLATHON RESOURCES** – info posted on UNL Ani Sci page:
- 4-H Dog Manuals ( Manuals 1 & 2 for Juniors; Manuals 1, 2, & 3 for Seniors)
- American Kennel Club Breed Book and www.akc.org
- www.companionanimal.unl.edu

**Dress Code:** Exhibitors are required to wear the official State Fair 4-H t-shirt available at the registration table. Solid blue jeans are required. No hats, caps or other types of headgear are to be worn. Exhibitors shall not display any local, county or club identification. Closed toed shoes with a non-slip sole are required. No flip flops or sandals are allowed. Exhibitors should always look neat, clean and well-groomed. Any distractions, such as loose hair, distracting jewelry, clothing other than that directed by the dress code or show superintendent, and caps or hats will result in deduction of points by the judge.

**Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Rules SF 420** – is the set of dog rules which has been posted on the web. The link is located at www.companionanimal.unl.edu scroll to the bottom of that page.
State Dog Show Volunteers - We would like a few more volunteers for the show rings, please contact – kpotthoff1@unl.edu with the area you’d like to help with and your contact information to receive a gate pass. If you are willing to help with ring crew when we change over the agility equipment that help would also really be appreciated. Thanks!

Questions - If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at: Kathy Potthoff, office - 402-472-9021 / cell – 308-350-1750. I will be involved with 4-H set up in Grand Island and 4-H exhibit judging starting on August 25 – so please try to address any questions as soon as possible before - August 25.

2015 State Fair Dog Show - Agility – reminders and tips-

Agility Jump Heights:
- Dogs 11 inches or less – jump 4 inches,
- Dogs over 11 inches up to and including 14 inches – jump 8 inches,
- Dogs over 14 inches up to and including 18 inches – jump 12 inches,
- Dogs over 18 inches – jump 16 inches.

Agility –
South Ring - Level 1 Course Walk Through Judges Briefing and Then Competition Runs (run order will be according to wither height)

North Ring – we plan to start with Level 2 & 3, then progress through Level 4 and Level 5.

-Practice jump – a practice bar jump will be available for warm ups outside of the show ring. Exhibitors should not raise the jump bar higher than your dogs competition height.

-Use of leash in levels 1 & 2 - It is appropriate to use the leash as a guide – it is important to maintain a loose leash and to keep tug and release motions to a minimum to direct but not to drag your dog from one obstacle to the next. Use of leash in levels 3, 4, & 5 – It is expected that dogs will be off leash for these levels.

-Voice commands and encouragement - In Agility it is ok to use your voice to encourage dog with praise or to go to the next obstacle – no penalties for encouragement. Exhibitors should feel free to use the commands that you may have been using in Agility practice such as: jump or over, here, tunnel, wait, out, stay, sit, down, walk it, etc.

-Faults – Exhibitors could lose points for refusal, wrong course, rough handling, tight leashes, or a forced push on the rear end of dog into a sit.

-Safety - Be sure to keep safety as your first concern when taking your dog through the obstacles. Having a dog enter straight on the dog walk (making contact with the contact area) will help ensure that the dog is straight and shouldn’t fall off of the walk boards. Be sure to use the practice jump and warm up your dog to prepare them for their run. You can also help stretch your dog’s legs to help prepare them for their run. At the end of your run be sure to praise your dog for a job well done!
Course layout - The number and variety of obstacles that will be used for each level are the same as those listed in the 4-H Dog Show Manual, 4-H 420, but the order will likely be different except Level 1 which is a set pattern (clockwise or counter clockwise). The judges will set the course layout for the State Fair show and will be posted at the time of registration.

Help Out When You Can – It will be appreciated that everyone chip in and help with ring set ups, bar changes, or any other times that equipment needs changed or moved. Your help is greatly appreciated and will help ensure we are able to do a great job and have the show run smoothly and on time.

Agility Briefing – The judge will go over a few notes prior to the start of competition. The judge will share information such as:

- Be sure to give a nature break for your dog
- Clean up any accidents – in or outside of show ring
- Dog must walk on the contact area of an obstacle or a fault and deduction of points will be assessed
- Pause box – judge will designate sit or down – rough handling is a fault and will result in a deduction of points. Do not push your dog into position.
- Pause box – judge countdown – 5 and – 4 and – 3 and – 2 and – 1 and – go. Handler wait 1 more second before going to the next obstacle - (it is recommended that the exhibitor then waits an extra second so the dog does not learn to ‘go’ when the judge says ‘go’)
  - If the dog breaks and moves too soon then the count starts over.
- Type of collar - flat buckle collar – no chain or training collars
- Baiting is not permitted in any show ring
- Watch for tight leashes and excessive tight leashes with a deduction of points.
- Encourage your dog and give them verbal praise and instructions. Have fun!

Travel Tips & Things to Bring

Check the web sites listed above for information such as:

- Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Exhibitor Letter –
- Copy of your vaccination records or SF 263 (to use if needed while traveling)
- Maps
- Dog Skillathon Information
- Check In Trailer – Check In Hours – check web page for times
- Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Schedule
- Etc....
- Small disposable bags to pick up after your dog
- Have your name and phone numbers on your dog’s tag or written in permanent marker on a travel collar
- Water for your dog brought from home and a supply of regular dog food (to help prevent upset stomach or refusal of new water source). **Dogs may want to eat a small sized breakfast and then wait to eat again after they are finished with the show to prevent bloat and minimize accidents.**
- Dog supplies – crate or mats/rugs, grooming supplies, bowls, chain training collar, flat/buckle collar, showmanship lead, leashes, etc…
- Small Fans – for crating area – NOT NEED FOR 2015 – pack lighter than past years
- Lawn Chairs - for crating area – NOT NEED FOR 2015 – pack lighter than past years
