

4-H Dog Showmanship Score Sheet Explanation

1. **Gaiting** – Proper speed, lead held properly, lead not tight, arm in correct position.
2. **Stacking** – Proper pose for dog or breed, dog kept stacked, method of placing feet and holding dog.
3. **Control of Dog** – Proper lead for dog size and difficulty, one hand on dog at all times. A difficult dog does not necessarily penalize exhibitor; what counts is his ability to control the dog.
4. **Attention** – Exhibitor does not miss cues.
5. **Proper Spacing** – Should keep a dog's length between his dog's nose and the tail of the dog in front, includes both in line and gaiting spacing.
6. **Knowledge** – Exhibitor should be asked one question from each of the following categories: parts of dog, breed history and standard (of the exhibitor's own breed), general care, other (temperature, number of teeth, etc.) Difficulty of questions should vary with age level.
7. **Individual Exam** – Ability to stack dog quickly and well. Exhibitor replaces feet and smooths hair after judge goes over dog.
8. **Showing Bite** – Dog's mouth pointed at judge, all front teeth exposed, exhibitor's fingers out of the way.
9. **Moves around dog** – Dog kept between judge and exhibitor at all times. Exhibitor switches sides smoothly, does not step over dog.
10. **Knowledge of Ring Procedure** – Exhibitor should know , circle, halt, and come signals. Exhibitors should not pass while gaiting. Each individual pattern ends with a free stack.
11. **Overall Handling** – Anything not covered earlier. To get a perfect score, the exhibitor must show points.
12. **Proper Dress** – Exhibitor neat and clean. Clothes and hair tasteful and practical – hair out of the way. Low-heeled shoes, not sandals, clogs or scuffs.
13. **Courteous** – Exhibitor polite to judge and exhibitors, knows and observes ring etiquette.
14. **Poised** – Confident, not overly shy.
15. **Coat** – Dog clean, no mats or tangles. Poodles, etc., need not be clipped if they are well groomed. No untreated wounds or sores. Coat shiny and healthy looking. Always ask about problem spots before deducting.
16. **Eyes** – free of matter, not red, or infected looking.
17. **Ears** - Free of parasites and wax. When you rub your finger in dog's ear, it should come out clean.
18. **Teeth** – No tartar.
19. **Toenails** – Obviously clipped, not touching ground.