DOG SKILL-A-THON

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Overview

The State 4-H Dog Skill-A-Thon is an opportunity for youth interested in dogs to compete using knowledge gained in the 4-H Dog Project. The purpose of the competition is to:

- Help youth learn the techniques of logical and accurate decision making
- Teach youth to recognize the reasons for their decisions.
- Help youth with career guidance.
- Encourage 4-H members to assume responsibility for their decisions and actions.
- Encourage 4-H members to establish goals and determine a course of action that will assist them in accomplishing those goals.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all youth enrolled in the Wyoming 4-H Program. Members are not required to exhibit animals at a show. Eligibility will be determined through ZSuite.

Teams

Teams shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of four (4) members. There is no limit on the number of teams that can be entered in each age division. All members competing on a team must be within the age requirements of Junior (8-13) or Senior (14-18) for their respective team. If there are not enough members to complete a team, they may participate as individuals.

Individuals

All members, regardless of whether or not they are on a team, will also compete as individuals. Counties not having enough members to fill a team are encouraged to send individuals to participate in the contest. There is no limit to the number of individuals able to compete in the contest. Individual age groups will be Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18).

Contest

The contest will consist of four parts; quiz bowl, breed identification, parts of the dog, and hands on skill-a- thon.

Quiz Bowl:

The first part will be in Quiz Bowl consisting of 2 phases for a total of 24 questions that are appropriate for their age category (junior, intermediate, senior). Questions will have a two point value for seniors and a one point value for juniors and intermediates. Questions will be taken from the Study Guide (which is posted on the Wyoming 4-H Website).

Phase One: Toss Up Questions

a. Phase one will consist of toss-up questions with a total of eight (8) questions.

b. Answers must be started within 10 seconds after the question is read.

c. Toss Up Questions:

   a.   Any team member from either team may buzz in to answer a toss-up question.

   b. No teammate assistance may be offered or received in the toss up question.

Phase Two: Team Phase

a. Phase Two will consist of sixteen (16) questions. Each team will be asked four questions each on an alternating basis.

b. Answers must be started within 10 seconds after the question is read.

d. The team will be allowed to discuss questions before answering, but only the team captain (seat 1) can report the answer. If anyone other than the team captain answers or speaks past the ten-second mark, no points will be awarded.

e. Team captain may defer to another team member but must inform moderator which member will answer.

Starting the Contest:

a. Teams are assembled and seated at their respective panels and each contestant is given the opportunity to check the equipment.

b. A team captain is designated and is seated in the direction of the moderator in position number one.

c. The question packet is opened by the moderator.

d. The moderator reads the first question (as with all succeeding questions) until the completion of the reading of the question or until such time as a contestant activates a buzzer. If a buzzer is activated during the reading of any question, the moderator immediately will cease reading the question.

e. The contestant activating the buzzer shall have ten (10) seconds AFTER HAVING BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE MODERATOR to begin the answer to the question.

   i.   The repeating of the question by the contestant shall not be considered the initiation of an answer.

   ii. It shall be the responsibility of the moderator and the time keeper to determine if an actual answer is started within the 10-second period.

g. If the answer to any question, whether read to completion or not, is incorrect that same question will be turned over to the other team. If the question was read to completion, it will not be read again. If not read to completion, the moderator will reread the question for

the other team. If answered correctly, the appropriate points will be awarded. If answered incorrectly, no penalty points will be imposed.

h. If a member of a team activates a buzzer and an answer has not been started within the 10-second allowable time, the question will be turned over to the other team.

Breed Identification

The second part will be breed identification. Participants will be required to name the breed and group in which the dog belongs. Contestants will receive one point for each correctly identified breed and one point for each correctly identified group. Only AKC recognized breeds in the main seven recognized groups (Sporting, Non-Sporting, Toy, Terrier, Hound, Working, and Herding) will be used.

Juniors and intermediates will identify 25 breeds, and seniors will identify 50 breeds. If the officials can determine the breed the youth is identifying, spelling will not be counted against the contestant. However, the number of correct breeds will be used for a tie breaker.

Breakdown of breeds for each age division can be found at: https://wyoming4h.org/opportunities/showcase-showdown/

Parts of the dog

The third part of the contest will consist of identifying the correct parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog, participants will be asked to identify five parts in each section. Juniors and intermediates will be asked to correctly identify the parts and internal organs of a dog. Seniors will be asked to correctly identify the parts, internal organs, and skeletal structure of a dog.

Three points will be given for each correct answer. Diagrams that will be used for the contest can be found at: https://wyoming4h.org/opportunities/showcase-showdown/

Skill-A-Thon (Hands on section)

The fourth part of the contest will consist of a skill-a-thon (hands-on). Contestants will be asked questions, scenarios or identify topics related to subject areas. Seniors will answer 15 questions, juniors/intermediates will answer 10 questions. Three points will be given for each correct answer.

Junior/Intermediate/Senior:
- Tail Types
- Ear Types
- Bite Types
- Eye Types
- Bones of the Foot
- Paw Anatomy
- Dog Sports
- Dog Equipment

2026 Possible Topics:
- Health Records
- Paw Anatomy
- Behavioral Postures
- Eye Types
- Dog Types

Front and Rear Leg Confirmation
Pasterns Confirmation
Conformation Backline
Health Records
Behavioral Postures

The Dog Skill-A-Thon Contest will have a total of 240 points for seniors and 135 points for juniors/intermediates.

	Senior	Juniors/ Intermediates
Section 1 – Quiz Bowl	48 points	24 points
Section 2 – Breeds	100 points	50 points
Section 3 – Parts	45 points	30 points
Section 4 – Skill-A-Thon	45 points	30 points

Awards
Awards will be given to the top three teams in each age division (junior and senior) and to the top ten individuals in each age division (junior, intermediate, and senior).

If you are interested in supporting the Wyoming 4-H Program, please contact:
Wyoming State 4-H Foundation
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Study Materials
The Wyoming 4-H website (http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/showcaseshowdown/dog-skillathon.html) will offer a variety of study materials. The Dog Learning Laboratory Kit distributed through the Ohio Agriculture Education Curriculum Materials Service (check will local extension office for availability) can also be used.