

Wisconsin 4-H Dog Bowl - Information Packet



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Updated for 2025 -2026

Please read through the packet, even if you have participated or coached in the past. There have been several updates.

WISCONSIN 4-H DOG BOWL

Competition in the 4-H Dog Bowl encourages youth to develop a more complete knowledge of dogs and related subjects. This contest provides an educational program for all dog project members, including those who may not own a dog, and provides a way to develop self-confidence, study skills, teamwork, inhibition, and alertness.

The Dog Bowl is a "quiz bowl" competition where all questions deal with dog-related topics and attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. Teams of three to four members compete with each other in giving oral answers to questions posed by a moderator. Teams receive points for correct answers and may lose points for incorrect answers. The team with the highest final score is the winner.

The contest is organized on a bracket elimination style contest with winning teams advancing into further rounds until a champion team emerges.

REGISTRATION -

Registration will be done through 4-H online. More information about how to register teams will be shared as soon as it is available.

ELIGIBILITY & TEAMS

1. A team may consist of 3 to 5 team members. A minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 contestants shall be seated on the panel at any one time. An alternate team member may be substituted between, but not during, a match.
2. Team members must be 4-H members in grades 3 - 13. They need not, however, be dog project members.
3. Single-County Teams: All members of county teams are enrolled 4-H in the county they represent. Senior Teams may only register as single-county teams
4. Multi-County Teams: Multi-county team option is for dog quiz bowl Beginner, Junior and Mixed teams only. The counties contributing to a Multi-County Team should be bordering each other. If there is an extenuating circumstance and reason that you need to have a multi-county team that is not a bordering county, please contact jill.jorgensen@wisc.edu to discuss that opportunity. Those decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
5. There will be 4 divisions in the dog bowl contest.
 - a. **Beginner Team** contestants will be in grades 3 to 5 as of January 1st of the contest year.
 - b. **Junior Team** contestants will be in grades 6 to 8 as of January 1st of the contest year.
 - c. **Senior Team** contestants will be in grades 9 to 13 as of January 1st of the contest year.
 - d. **Mixed Team** contestants will be in grades 3 to 13 as of January 1st of the contest year. A mixed team must contain youth in multiple age divisions.
6. Each team must designate a team captain. A captain is a youth team member. The team captain announces the answer to bonus questions and announces challenges.
7. Each team must designate a coach. The coach must be a currently-enrolled 4-H volunteer.

OFFICIAL QUESTION BANK & JUDGING OF ANSWERS

1. An official question bank is maintained by the Wisconsin 4-H Dog Project Board and/or the quiz bowl committee, with input and oversight from 4-H staff.
2. Leaders and volunteers who have children or who coach youth members / quiz bowl teams, and Youth Leaders who participate in quiz bowl contests or study with a team cannot have access to the official question bank.
3. The official question bank is divided into levels, so that teams in each age division receive questions of appropriate difficulty.
 - a. Beginner Team Question Bank
 - i. Questions are intended for youth in grades 3 to 5
 - ii. Approximately one-third of questions are in true/false format. These questions will only be used during the Individual Round.
 - iii. Approximately one-third of questions are in fill-in-the-blank format, with answers directly from the text of the resource(s).
 - iv. Most questions in the question bank have one word answers.
 - v. All answers are directly from the text of the resource, including illustrations and captions. Youth do not need to infer or synthesize answers.
 - vi. Bonus questions may have up to 3 parts.
 - vii. Questions about the breed group and the breeds (Sporting group in 2026) from the AKC website resource noted (see Resources) are restricted to bonus questions
 - b. Junior and Mixed Team Question Bank
 - i. Up to half questions may have answers longer than one word
 - ii. Most answers are directly from the text of the resource(s), but some must be inferred from illustration(s)
 - iii. Answers to bonus questions have up to 5 parts
 - iv. Questions about the breed group and the breeds (Sporting group in 2026) from the AKC resource noted (see Resources) are restricted to bonus questions
 - c. Senior Team Question Bank
 - i. Answers may be inferred by combining information from multiple sentences or paragraphs from the same source.
 - ii. Answers to bonus questions have up to 5 parts

- iii. Questions about the breed group and the breeds (Sporting group in 2026) from the AKC resource noted (see Resources) are restricted to bonus questions
4. All parts of the answer must be correct. Minor mispronunciation is not penalized.
5. If a contestant first gives a correct answer and goes on to add incorrect information, the entire question will be incorrect.
6. If a contestant gives a complete answer, he or she cannot correct it. If a partially incorrect answer is given and the contestant makes the correction mid-answer or word, the corrected answer will not be accepted.
7. When resources have conflicting answers to a question, each answer will be correct.
 - a. For example, if one resource states "blue" and another states "gray", then "blue" and "gray" are both correct answers, "blue *or* gray" is a correct answer, but "blue *and* gray" is an incorrect answer.
 - b. For example, if one resource states "10 years" and the other states "12 years", then "10 years" and "12 years" are both correct answers, and "10 *or* 12 years" is correct, but the range "10 *to* 12 years" is incorrect.
8. If the answer is a range, then the entire range must be stated as the answer. For example, if the correct answer is "3 to 4 years of age", then "3 years of age" and "4 years of age" are both incorrect answers.
9. There are few two-part answers in the individual and toss-up rounds. Both parts of the answer are required for a correct answer. If part of the answer is given, the judge and/or moderator cannot prompt the contestant to complete their answer.

CONTEST PROCEDURES

1. Teams will compete in a series of one-on-one elimination contests until the top team is chosen. Teams will be assigned to the first round of competition before the contest. Some teams may be awarded byes during the elimination as part of the assignment process.
2. No notes, video, or audio recordings may be taken by anyone in the audience, including the coaches, during the conduct of the match. Contestants may use the scrap paper provided to them to make notes during the round but may not take these notes with them at the end of the round.

3. If deemed necessary, the judges can choose to replace any question with a new question.
4. All score cards will be checked before the scores are recorded on the schematic or scorecard. Once both teams have agreed that the score is correct, the judge will sign off on the score. Once the score card leaves the room, all scores are final. Scores cannot be contested once the score card leaves the room.
5. Any ties involved in placings will be broken with three additional questions. If the tie is not broken after 3 additional questions, the contest will go to sudden death. During sudden death, a correct answer will win the contest for the team and an incorrect answer will lose the contest for the team.
6. Competition between two teams will be in two rounds.

Individual Round

Beginner Teams

1. Each team takes a turn answering 12 individual questions. The opposing team will remain in isolation until the team in action completes all questions in the individual round.
2. Each team member will be asked three or four questions in rotation - a total of 12 questions divided by 3 or 4 team members. Signaling devices are not used.
3. Contestants have 10 seconds to answer the questions. The time begins when the moderator finishes reading the question.
4. No teammate assistance may be offered or received.
5. Questions will not be repeated.
6. Each correct answer is awarded 10 points. There is no deduction for incorrect answers.

Junior, Senior, and Mixed Teams

1. The Individual Round is chair versus chair. The moderator addresses a question to Chair 1, Chair 2, Chair 3, and Chair 4, etc., giving only those members of a team the opportunity to use the signaling device. The first contestant to signal has the opportunity to answer the question, after being acknowledged by the moderator.

- When a team with 4 members competes against a team with 3 members, 12 questions will be distributed equally, as follows:

Question 1		Question 2		Question 3		Question 4	
Chair 1	Chair 1	Chair 2	Chair 2	Chair 3	Chair 3	Chair 4	Chair 1
Question 5		Question 6		Question 7		Question 8	
Chair 1	Chair 2	Chair 2	Chair 3	Chair 3	Chair 1	Chair 4	Chair 2
Question 9		Question 10		Question 11		Question 12	
Chair 1	Chair 3	Chair 2	Chair 1	Chair 3	Chair 2	Chair 4	Chair 3

- No teammate assistance may be offered or received.
- Questions will not be repeated.
- Contestants have 10 seconds to answer the questions.
- Each correct answer is awarded 10 points. There is no deduction for incorrect answers.
- If an incorrect answer is given, the question will then be reread to the opposing chair. The opposing contestant must signal to answer the question and wait to be acknowledged by the moderator. The contestant must answer within 10 seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator. If the answer is correct, the opposing team will be awarded 10 points.
- If a contestant answers a question without signaling or without waiting to be acknowledged, the answer will be declared invalid (not correct or incorrect) and the question will be offered to the opposing chair.
- If neither chair can offer an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will announce the correct answer and the question will be dropped. The moderator will move on to the question for the next chair.
- When a signal is activated before a question is completely read, the moderator will stop reading the question. The contestant may answer the question. If correct, the team will receive the credit. The judge may NOT ask the contestant to be more specific, expand, or in any way explain their answer.

Toss-Up Round

1. After both teams complete the Individual Round, both teams compete in the Toss-Up Round. During this round, any contestant wishing to answer any toss-up question must activate the signaling device and wait for the moderator to acknowledge them, such as by the moderator saying "Chair 1." The first contestant to signal must answer within 10 seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator.
2. A total of 12 toss-up questions will be asked, and bonus questions will be awarded to a team when three different team members have correctly answered a toss-up question (see 8).
3. If a correct answer is given, the team will be awarded 15 points. If no answer is given within 10 seconds, or if an incorrect answer is given
 - a. Beginner teams: there is no deduction for incorrect answers
 - b. Junior, Senior, and Mixed teams: the team will lose 10 points.
4. If an incorrect answer is given, the question will then be reread to the opposing team. Any member of the opposing team must signal to answer the question. The contestant must answer within 10 seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator. If the answer is correct, the opposing team will be awarded 15 points. If incorrect, they will lose 10 points. If the opposing team chooses not to answer, no points are deducted from their score.
5. Beginners Only: If a contestant answers a toss-up question without signaling or without waiting to be acknowledged, the answer will be declared invalid (not correct or incorrect) and will not result in a loss of points. The toss-up will then be offered to the opposing team
6. Junior, Mixed, and Seniors: If a contestant answers a toss-up question without signaling or without waiting to be acknowledged, the answer will be declared invalid (not correct or incorrect) and 10 points will be deducted. The toss-up will then be offered to the opposing team (see rule iv. above).
7. If neither team can offer an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will announce the correct answer, the question will be dropped, and no points will be deducted from either team.
8. When a signal is activated before a question is completely read, the moderator will stop reading the question. That person may answer the question. If correct, the team will receive the credit. If incorrect, the team will lose 10 points and the question will then be completely reread for the

opposing team. The judge may NOT ask the contestant to be more specific, expand, or in any way explain their answer if the question was interrupted.

9. Bonus Questions

- a. Bonus questions may be earned in the toss-up round. To receive a bonus question, three different team members must correctly answer a toss-up question. Eligibility for bonus questions does not carry over to another match.
- b. Bonus questions will be asked whenever three team members have answered toss-up questions correctly.
- c. 20 seconds are allowed for discussion on bonus answers before the moderator calls for the answer from the team captain. The only discussion allowed between team members will be on bonus questions in the Toss-Up Round.
- d. Bonus questions are not passed to the other team if not answered correctly or completely. Points are not deducted for an incomplete or incorrect answer to a bonus question.
- e. Partial credit will be given to the portion of bonus answers given correctly. Credit for bonus answers:

2 Parts		3 Parts		4 parts		5 parts	
1 correct	7 points	1 correct	5 points	1 correct	3 points	1 correct	3 points
2 correct	15 points	2 correct	10 points	2 correct	6 points	2 correct	6 points
		3 correct	15 points	3 correct	9 points	3 correct	9 points
				4 correct	15 points	4 correct	12 points
						5 correct	15 points

- f. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four-part answer, the first four answers given by the team will be accepted, any more will not count.
- g. Bonus answers must come from the team captain.

Challenges

1. If a contestant believes a question is incorrect, misleading, or that their answer which was deemed incorrect by the judge was correct, a challenge may be announced. During a challenge, a contestant has 2 minutes to prove their stance using one of the approved resources.
2. A challenge may only be announced after the particular question is read or answered and before the following question is read.
3. Who can announce a challenge:
 - a. Beginner teams: A challenge of a question/ answer may be made by the contestant who was asked or who answered the particular question, the team captain, or the team coach. Coaches may not help the contestant go through the sources.
 - b. Junior, Senior, and Mixed teams: A challenge of a question or answer may be made by the contestant who was asked or who answered the particular question, or the team captain. In the event of a challenge, the contestant will have 2 minutes to prove their stance on the question using one of the approved sources. Coaches may not help the contestant go through the sources.
4. The decision of the judge will be final. Once the judge declares the decision final, the question can no longer be contested.

BEGINNER RESOURCES

4-H Dog Resource Handbook. 2024 edition, 4-H 201R

Chapter	Topic	Pages
Chapter 2	Breeds	Pages 16 - 21
Chapter 3	Conformation	pages 23 - 25
Chapter 4	Grooming	pages 29 - 33
Chapter 6	Communication and Behavior	pages 43 - 52
Chapter 8	Beginning Training Techniques	pages 61 - 68
Chapter 12	Performance Events	pages 113 - 120
Chapter 15	Anatomy and Physiology	pages 130 - 131 (illustrations only) and pages 137 - 138

AKC Sporting Group (website)

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/sporting/>

- Names of breeds in the AKC Sporting Group
- Familiarity with photos of each breed
- Tip: use the filter function to compare breeds with shared traits, such as those with curly coat

BEGINNER SAMPLE QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL AND TOSS-UP QUESTIONS

1. True or false: Dogs were the first animals domesticated by humans.

True

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 13

2. Fill in the blank: Dog breeds are organized into [blank] according to their purpose.

Groups. *Also accept:* breed groups

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 16

BONUS QUESTIONS

1. List 3 breeds in the Toy group.

Any 3 of the following: Affenpinscher, Biewer Terrier, Brussels Griffon, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Chihuahua, Chinese Crested, English Toy Spaniel, Havanese, Italian Greyhound, Japanese Chin, Maltese, Manchester Terrier (Toy), Miniature Pinscher, Papillon, Pekinese, Pomeranian, Poodle (Toy), Pug, Russian Toy, Shih Tzu, Silky Terrier, Toy Fox Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 16

2. List 3 of the 6 main types of ears.

Any 3 of the following: Bat, Button, Drop, Prick, Rose, Semipricket

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, pages 23 - 24

JUNIOR & MIXED RESOURCES

4-H Dog Resource Handbook. 2024 edition, SKU: 4H201R

Chapter	Topic	Pages
Chapter 4	Grooming	pages 34 - 36
Chapter 7	Puppy Care and Socialization	pages 53 - 60
Chapter 9	Obedience*	pages 69 - 90
Chapter 11	Showmanship	pages 103 - 112
Chapter 15	Anatomy & Physiology	pages 130 - 136
Chapter 16	Health	pages 139 - 157
More challenging questions from Beginner chapters		

* Chapter 9 is based on Ohio 4-H obedience levels/ scoresheets, which differ slightly from Wisconsin 4-H obedience levels/scoresheets. There will not be any quiz questions on information that is different between Ohio and Wisconsin 4-H levels/scoresheets.

AKC The New Complete Dog Book 23rd Edition

Topic	Pages	Topic	Pages
Canine Anatomy: An Introduction	pages 16 - 18, and 20 - 23	Golden Retriever	pages 122 - 123
American Water Spaniel	pages 56 - 57	Gordon Setter	pages 126 - 127
Barbet	pages 60 - 61	Irish Red and White Setter	pages 130 - 131
Boykin Spaniel	pages 64 - 65	Irish Setter	pages 134 - 135
Bracco Italiano	pages 68 - 69	Irish Water Spaniel	pages 138 - 139
Brittany	pages 72 - 73	Labrador Retriever	pages 142 - 143
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	pages 76 - 77	Lagotto Romagnolo	pages 148 - 149
Clumber Spaniel	pages 80 - 81	Nederlandse Kooikerhondje	pages 154 - 155
Cocker Spaniel	pages 84 - 85	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	pages 158 - 159
Curly-Coated Retriever	pages 88 - 89	Pointer	pages 162 - 163
English Cocker Spaniel	pages 92 - 93	Spinone Italiano	pages 166 - 167
English Setter	pages 96 - 97	Sussex Spaniel	pages 170 - 171
English Springer Spaniel	pages 100 - 101	Vizsla	pages 174 - 175
Field Spaniel	pages 106 - 107	Weimaraner	pages 178 - 179
Flat-Coated Retriever	pages 110 - 111	Welsh Springer Spaniel	pages 182 - 183
German Shorthaired Pointer	pages 114 - 115	Wirehaired Pointing Griffon	pages 186 - 187
German Wirehaired Pointer	pages 118 - 119	Wirehaired Vizsla	pages 190 - 191

JUNIOR AND MIXED SAMPLE QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL AND TOSS-UP QUESTIONS

1. What is the term used to describe a dog's back, loin and croup?

topline

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 26

2. How many vertebrae do dogs have?

50 to 52

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 12

BONUS QUESTIONS

1. There are 3 parts to the answer: Describe the fiddle front.

1) forelegs are "out at the elbows"

2) the "pasterns are close"

3) the feet are turned out or east-west

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 27

2. There 2 parts to this answer: Light-sensitive cells in the eyes called rods process what types of visual stimuli?

1) low light

2) motion

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 138

SENIOR RESOURCES

4-H Dog Resource Handbook. 2024 edition, SKU: 4H201R

Chapter	Topic
Chapter 5	Selection
Chapter 10	Judging
Chapter 13	Working Dogs
Chapter 14	Showing Your Project Dog
Chapter 17	Nutrition and Exercise
Chapter 18	Reproduction
Chapter 19	Careers
More challenging questions from Beginner and Junior & Mixed level chapters	

AKC The New Complete Dog Book 23rd Edition

- All for the Love of Dogs: The American Kennel Club, pages 8 – 13
- Finding That Perfect Puppy, pages 24 - 33
- Sporting Group, breed profiles and standards, pages – 54 – 193
- Glossary, pages 966 - 981
- More challenging questions from Beginner and Junior & Mixed level sections

WI Obedience Score Sheets

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/state-4-h-dog-obedience-and-showmanship-show/>

- Beginner Pre-Novice
- Pre-Novice
- Novice
- Graduate Novice
- Pre-Open
- Open
- Pre-Utility
- Utility

SENIOR SAMPLE QUESTIONS

INDIVIDUAL AND TOSS-UP QUESTIONS

1. Which foot shape is beneficial for endurance?

cat foot

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 138

2. Identify this topline: a convex curvature of the back involving the thoracic and lumbar regions.

Roach back. Also accept Wheel back (AKC Complete Dog Book 23rd edition page 701 - Bulldog breed standard)

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 26

BONUS QUESTIONS

1. What are the 4 groups of genera of the Canidae family?

dogs or *Canis*, foxes or *Vulpes*, culpeos or *Dusicyon*, bush dogs or "all other genera"

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 13

2. What 3 structures are associated with each primary hair?

Sweat gland, sebaceous gland, erector muscle

Dog Resource Handbook 4-H 201R 2024 edition, page 133

3. What now-extinct breed is considered to have contributed to development of the American Water Spaniel?

English Water Spaniel

The New Complete Dog Book 23rd Edition, page 56