

# 4-H

## Guide Dog Proficiency Program

### A Member's Guide

#### OVERVIEW

The 4-H Guide Dog Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project.

Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- The Shasta County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.

There are four levels in this Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I – “Explorer”, you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising a guide dog.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in owning and caring for your guide dog.
- ◆ Level III – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level IV – “Researcher”, you carry out a demonstration or experiment on some aspect of your guide dog project, and prepare a paper or portfolio.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

**GUIDE DOG**  
**Level I - Explorer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify the breeds of dogs that are used by Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How old is your puppy when it receives its first rabies shot and at what age does it get a license?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which vaccine does Guide Dogs want you to have the veterinarian give your puppy? What if your vet does not carry this vaccine?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Between what ages do female puppies normally come into season?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. How often should you groom your puppy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What is the main job of a puppy raiser?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What form of flea control should you use on your puppy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What is heartworm preventative and why should you use it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. How do you know when your puppy needs its vaccinations?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What do you do just prior to relieving your puppy? After?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Demonstrate puppy handling and tell why we do it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. What foods should you feed your puppy? What foods should you never feed any dog?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. What is the first thing you should do if you puppy has diarrhea?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. When should housebreaking begin after getting your puppy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Give examples of when you should praise your puppy.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GUIDE DOG**  
**Level II - Producer**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What forms do you take with you to the vet?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Demonstrate how to brush your puppy's teeth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Demonstrate how to clip your puppy's nails.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Demonstrate how to clean your puppy's ears.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What toys are approved by Guide Dogs for a puppy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. How can you tell if your puppy has an ear infection and what do you do?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. What carries heartworm and how is it prevented?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. How often do you feed your new puppy and how much?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. At what ages do you change how frequently your puppy eats?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What are the basic obedience commands you need to teach?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. What do you say prior to each command you give your puppy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. At what age does your puppy receive his rabies shot?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Name some items that are necessary when raising a guide dog puppy.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GUIDE DOG**  
**Level III - Leader**

Date  
Completed

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Teach and present to members of the project the internal organs of a dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Prepare and give a demonstration relating to guide dogs outside of the project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Explore and report to your project some guide dog-related career and industry options.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Explain in detail how to housebreak your guide dog puppy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Give a presentation to members of your project that outlines the vaccination schedule and lists the diseases to be prevented.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Explore some aspect of your guide dog project through the historical perspective.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Teach and present to members of your project group the skeletal system of a dog.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GUIDE DOG**  
**Level IV - Researcher**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
- The Guide Dogs for the Blind
  - How can dogs become guide dogs?
  - History of your dog's breed
  - Service dogs and their training
  - How to choose the right breed for you and find your next dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Continue to demonstrate skills in record keeping by submitting records including feeding, cleaning, grooming, and training of your guide dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Leader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Certificate of Achievement

*This certifies that*

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*has completed the Guide Dogs Proficiency  
in Shasta County.*

*Explorer*

*Producer*

*Leader*

*Researcher*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

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