



Entry Fees and Deadlines:

\$1.50 per entry
\$3.00 per entry

Due June 12, 2026
After June 12, 2026

For Questions, please contact: Email: smallanimals@alamedacountyfair.com

[Register Online Now!](#)

DEPARTMENT 8

Youth Dog Show

(Open to surrounding counties)

SPECIAL RULES

1. Show will be open to exhibitors in Alameda County and surrounding counties.
2. LIMIT: One dog per exhibitor and one exhibitor per dog in Showmanship. Exhibitors may enter more than one dog in Obedience class, Rally class, and Agility and only one class per exhibit in each event. Exhibitors may enter ONE Standard and/or ONE Jumpers Agility class per dog.
3. Exhibitors must enter an Obedience and/or Rally class and Showmanship. Any previous winner of "High in Trial" at the County or State Fair may, but is not required to, omit the Obedience Requirement. Any previous winner of "Best Junior Handler" at County or State Fair may, but is not required to, omit the Showmanship Class Requirement.
4. Eligibility for showing in an "A" class is defined as "no training or showing experience for the handler and/or dog prior to the county's current project year." Handlers and/or dogs not meeting this requirement MUST show in a "B" class. Refer to "A" class information in the rules for each show discipline.
 - A. Class – refers to the two classes within certain disciplines and/or discipline levels. The letters "A" and "B" refer to the experience of the youth and dog.
 - B. "A" classes are for handlers or dogs with NO training or showing experience prior to the county's current project year. "A" classes can never be repeated by the same youth, regardless of what dog is shown. "A" classes can never be repeated by the same dog, regardless of what youth shows that dog. Refer to "A" class information in the rules for each show discipline.
 - C. "B" classes can be repeated by the same youth regardless of what dog is shown, and by the same dog, regardless of who shows that dog.
 - D. Exhibitors are encouraged to move to the next level (i.e.; Beginner Novice to Novice) once they have received three or more qualifying scores.
5. 4-H and FFA Exhibitors must be currently enrolled in a Dog Care and Training project. 4-H and FFA members not currently enrolled in a Dog Care and Training project may enter as an Open Youth. Dogs (pure or mixed breeds) must have been trained by the exhibitor (for 4-H and FFA members as part of his/her project) and must be at least six months old.
6. Dogs must be owned or co-owned by the exhibitor or immediate family member and has been trained by the exhibitor as part of his/her project.
7. 5 – 8-year-old exhibitors are only eligible to show in FOR-EXHIBITION-ONLY (FEO). Exhibitors will receive participation awards only.
8. Exhibitors only may groom and handle dogs on the Fairgrounds. Adults may assist in the loading and unloading of dogs and in the case of a real emergency.
9. Females in season will not be allowed to compete. Owner of a female in season may request a substitution. Please call the Small Animal Coordinators for a substitution. Uncontrolled or aggressive dogs will be excused from the Fairgrounds immediately.

10. A six-foot leash (leather, cloth, or nylon) is required for showing in obedience/Rally classes. Some levels of obedience, rally, and agility require the dog to work off lead.
11. Dogs need their current shots: DHL, rabies, bronchitis. Proof of shots must be stapled to the back of entry form. For online entries, proof of shots must be mailed separately to the Exhibits Department by June 2nd.
12. Breed of dog must be identified on entry form in the section "Brief Description of Entry"; if mixed breed is being exhibited, write "Mixed Breed" under "Brief Description of Entry".
13. All exhibitors are required to wear show attire. See Youth Department Rules.
14. All exhibitors must clean up after their own dogs while on the Fairgrounds.

Judging and scoring of the Obedience, Rally, and Agility Class will be based on the American Kennel Club Regulations. The Judges' decisions are final.

Showmanship American Judging System

Placements will be at Judge's discretion

(Exhibitor's Age as of January 1, 2026)

ADVANCED SHOWMANSHIP CASH AWARDS							
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00

BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

DIVISION

A. Dog Showmanship

CLASS

1. Junior Novice. Exhibitors 9 – 12 years of age as of January 1, 2026. Ribbon Only
 2. Junior Open. Exhibitors 9 – 12 years of age (as of January 1, 2026) who have won two or more first place awards in competition showing a dog (4-H or other). Ribbon Only
 3. Senior Novice. Exhibitors 13 years of age and over (as of January 1, 2026). Ribbon Only
 4. Senior Open. Exhibitors 13 years of age and over (as of January 1, 2026) who have won two or more first place awards in competition showing a dog (4-H or other). Ribbon Only
 5. Best Junior Handler. 1st and 2nd place winners in the previous classes. Ribbons, Trophy, and Cash Awards. Winner is eligible to enter Small Animal Round Robin.
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Obedience

American Judging System

Cash Awards Per Obedience Level

HIGHEST SCORE TEAMS IN ALL OBEDIENCE CLASSES

NOTE: Changes to 2026 Classes are in coordination with the American Kennel Club currently offered classes.

AWARDS			
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
\$10.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$3.00

DIVISION

B. Dog Obedience

CLASS

BEGINNER NOVICE OBEDIENCE

All exercises on six-foot leash, heeling, figure eight recall, sit for examination, sit/stay, and recall. Beginner Novice shall be for dogs that have not yet completed in any obedience trials and are just beginning their training.

1. Beginner Novice A: First year exhibitor and first year in dog project.
2. Beginner Novice B: Second year and over exhibitor in dog project.

PREFERRED NOVICE OBEDIENCE

All exercises on six-foot leash, heeling on-leash, figure eight on-leash, stand for examination off leash, heel free, recall, long sit OR long down while Handler walks around the ring. Sit/Stay and Get Your Leash. Dog has never been qualified in Novice obedience at any obedience competition (4-H or other).

3. Preferred-Novice A: First year exhibitor and first year in dog project.
4. Preferred-Novice B: Second year and over exhibitor in dog project.

NOVICE OBEDIENCE

Heel and figure eight on leash, stand for examination, heel free, recall, Sit/Stay-Get Your Leash, Group Exercise--PERFORMED ON LEASH--long sit one minute, long down one minute. Dogs that have received a qualifying score in Novice, Graduate Novice, or Open obedience at any obedience competition (4-H or other) must enter those classes. Second year or higher; dog and handler are approved to compete in Novice class.

5. Novice A: This is the only dog the exhibitor has trained. Dog or exhibitor has not received more than two qualifying scores in Novice at any obedience competition (4-H or other)
 6. Novice B: All other Novice exhibitors.
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GRADUATE NOVICE OBEDIENCE

Heel on leash, figure 8 off leash, drop on recall, dumbbell recall, recall over high jump, recall over broad jump, and three minutes long down out of sight. Dogs that have received a qualifying score in Graduate Novice or Open at any obedience competition (4-H or other) must enter Graduate Novice Obedience.

7. Graduate Novice

OPEN OBEDIENCE

Heel free and figure eight, Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit), drop on recall, retrieve on flat surface, retrieve over high jump, broad jump, Stay--Get Your Leash. Dogs that have received a qualifying score in Graduate Novice or Open at any obedience competition (4-H or other) may enter Open Obedience.

8. Open

Dog Rally American Judging System

Cash Awards Per Rally Level

AWARDS			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th
\$10.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$3.00

Introduction

Rally is a sport in which the dog and handler complete a course that has been designed by the rally judge. The judge tells the handler to begin, and the dog and handler proceed at a brisk pace through a course of designated stations, 10-20 depending on the level. Each of these stations has an 8 ½" x 11" sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed, via words, directional arrows, colors, and geometric shapes. The dog and handler team moves continuously at a brisk but normal pace with the dog under control at the handler's left side. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler both during the numbered exercises and between the exercise signs; however, perfect heel position is not required. After the judge's "Forward" order, the team is on its own to complete the entire sequence of numbered signs correctly. Unless otherwise specified in the AKC Rally Regulations, handlers are permitted to talk, praise, encourage, give additional commands and or signals using one or both arms, clap their hands, pat their legs or use any verbal means of encouragement. The handler must move in a natural manner. The handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position. At any time during the performance, loud or harsh commands, intimidating signals, and touching the dog (unless specified in the AKC Rally Regulations) will be penalized.

DIVISION

C. DOG RALLY

CLASS

Rally Novice

All exercises are judged on leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Novice must have 10 to 15 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) stationary exercises per class.

1. Rally Novice A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog that has no training or showing experience in Obedience or Rally prior to the county's current project year. Once an exhibitor and/or dog shows in this class, he/she must move to Rally Novice B at the very minimum. This class can never be repeated by an exhibitor or dog.

2. Rally Novice B

This class is for the first (1st) or second (2nd) year Rally Novice exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing at the Rally Novice level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to the Rally Advanced A level or higher.

Rally Intermediate

All exercises are judged on leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Intermediate must have 12 to 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises per class.

3. Rally Intermediate

This class is for the first (1st) or second (2nd) year exhibitor and/or dog who has had prior experience showing in Rally and/or have earned three or more qualifying Novice Rally scores at 4-H or other level prior to the county's current project year. They have not yet progressed to the Rally Advanced A level or higher. Intermediate courses will have a minimum of three advanced level signs. There are no jumps in this class.

Rally Advanced

For Rally Advanced classes, all exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Advanced A and B must have between 12 - 17 stations (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises per class. Courses shall have a minimum of three Advanced level stations plus one required jump per class.

4. Rally Advanced A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who have not had any training or showing experience at the Rally Advanced level prior the county's current project year. If they have any training or showing experience at the Rally Advanced level prior to the county's current project year, they must show at the Rally Advanced B level at the very minimum. Once an exhibitor shows in this class three times, he/she must move to Rally Advanced B at the very minimum.

5. Rally Advanced B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Rally Advanced A OR has had any training or showing experience at the Rally Advanced level prior to the county's current project year. Once winning this class, the exhibitor and/or dog must move to Rally Excellent A at the very minimum the next project year.

Rally Excellent

All exercises are judged off leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. All dogs must enter and leave the ring on leash. Rally Excellent must have between 15 to 20 stations (Start, Finish and Call to Heel marker not included) with a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) stationary exercises. Courses shall have a minimum of two (2) Advanced level stations and a minimum of three (3) Excellent level stations, plus the two (2) required jumps and the Sit Stay exercise per class. Unlike in the Rally Novice and Advanced classes, in Rally Excellent, handlers are not allowed to pat their legs or clap their hands to encourage the dog. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any position at any time. Handlers may not touch their dog or make any physical corrections.

6. Rally Excellent A

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who have not had any training or showing experience at the Rally Excellent level prior the county's current project year. If they have any training or showing experience at the Rally Excellent level prior to the county's current project year, they must show at the Rally Excellent B

7. Rally Excellent B

This class is for the exhibitor and/or dog who has shown in Rally Excellent A OR has had any training or showing experience at the Rally Excellent level prior to the county's current project year.

Dog Agility
American Judging System

Cash Awards Per Agility Level

AWARDS			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th
\$10.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$3.00

Special Agility Rules

1. For competitions, there will be a judge's briefing followed by a walk-through. At the completion of the walk-through, the first dog and handler team will then have 5 minutes to be on the start line. Walk-throughs may be split by height at the judge's discretion.
 2. A supervised warm-up area consisting of only a single jump will be provided in a specified area outside of the ring. Exhibitors should not exhaust their dogs on the warm-up jump and may be asked to refrain from further use if they are observed overusing the warm-up jump.
 3. Exhibitors in the On-Lead class must hold their lead at ALL times except when the dog is going through a tunnel. After each tunnel, the lead MUST be picked up before going on to the next obstacle.
 4. Training aids, toys, and/or treats are not permitted on the competition course at any time, including judge's briefing, walk-throughs and competition runs.
 5. Handlers may not jump over the jumps with their dogs and are not permitted on the contact obstacles.
 6. Handlers may not touch their dogs or any obstacle while running a competition course.
 7. Any dog unable to complete the course for any reason (including leaving the ring, being out of control, not finishing in the maximum course time allowed, etc.) will be excused and will receive no awards.
 8. Anyone not following the judge's direction will be excused and receive no awards
 9. Handlers may use voice commands, signals, or both. Handlers are encouraged to talk to their dogs and encourage them as the team navigates the course.
 10. All agility jumps must be of the type that have a displaceable bar or plank.
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Jump Heights and Measuring Dogs (Dogs will be measured as a part of registration.)

Dog's Height	Jump Height
10" or less	4"
Over 10" to 12"	8"
Over 12" to 18"	12"
Over 18" to 22"	16"
Over 22"	20"

**Dogs are permitted to jump + or– one jump height of the listed heights above, with 4" being the minimum allowable jump height and 20" being the maximum allowable jump height. For example, a dog that measures to jump 16" may jump 12", 16" or 20". However, a dog that measures to jump 4" may not jump at a height lower than 4" and a dog that measures to jump 20" may not jump at a height higher than 20". The desired jump height MUST be declared on the Entry Form and CANNOT be requested the day of the show.

DIVISION

D. Dog Agility

CLASS

Standard Class

Standard Class may consist of jumps, open tunnels, dog walk, teeter, A-frame, pause table, and six weaves. Dogs must enter and exit the ring on leash. Standard course time is 75 seconds. Maximum time is 120 seconds.

1. On-Lead Level

- a. On lead (handler must hold lead at all times except when dog is in the tunnel)
- b. Dogs must be a willing participant. Handlers must not use the lead to make the dog perform the obstacle. A major point deduction will be taken per occurrence for using the lead to make the dog perform
- c. The handler should avoid stepping on the lead to regain control of the lead.
- d. Teams can skip obstacles but will receive a MAJOR deduction
- e. No more than 10 obstacles are to be used and may include:
 - A-Frame
 - Dog Walk
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps

2. Off Lead Level I

- a. Judged the same as On-Lead but dogs complete the obstacles without a leash.
- b. Dogs must be under control while in the ring
- c. A total of 10 obstacles are to be used and may include:
 - A-Frame
 - Dog Walk
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps
 - Tire Jump

3. Off Lead Level 2
 - a. Dogs must be under control
 - b. This course is slightly more challenging than Level 1
 - c. A total of 12-14 obstacles are used and may include:
 - A-Frame
 - Dog Walk
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Tire Jump
 - 6 Weave Poles
 - Jumps

4. Off Lead Level 3
 - a. Dogs must be under control
 - b. A total of 13-15 obstacles are used and may include:
 - A-Frame
 - Teeter
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Dog Walk
 - Tire Jump
 - 6 Weave Poles
 - Jumps

Jumpers Class

Jumpers Class may consist of jumps, open tunnels, and six weaves.

Dogs must enter and exit the ring on leash. Standard course time is 60 seconds. Maximum time is 90 seconds.

5. On-Lead Level
 - a. Handler must hold lead at all times except when dog is in the tunnels
 - b. Dogs must be a willing participant. Handlers must not use the lead to make the dog perform the obstacle. A major point deduction will be taken per occurrence for using the lead to make the dog perform.
 - c. Teams may skip obstacles but with a MAJOR deduction in score
 - d. Course will consist of 10 obstacles and may include:
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps
 6. Off-Lead Level 1
 - a. Dogs must be under control
 - b. Scored as On-Lead Level but dogs are off leash
 - c. A total of 10 obstacles are used and may include:
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps
 7. Off-Lead Level 2
 - a. This course is slightly more challenging than Level 1
 - b. Dogs must be under control
 - c. A total of 12-14 obstacles are used and may include:
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps
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8. Off-Lead Level 3

- a. Dogs must be under control
- b. A total of 13-15 obstacles are used and may include:
 - Open Tunnel(s)
 - Jumps
 - Six weaves

For complete rules and regulations related to Youth Dog Classes, please contact Laura Finco (lfinco@aol.com)
