

Kansas 4-H Dog Bowl Rules

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

I. Eligibility

All contestants must be enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project for the current 4-H program year.

II. County/District Team Division

- a. Counties/Districts may enter teams consisting of three (3) or four (4) contestants. Counties/Districts may enter as many teams as they wish.
- b. County/District teams must register by **published 4-H Dog Conference registration deadline**. Registration must include the names and 4-H ages of all contestants assigned to each team.
- c. Team membership becomes final at the registration deadline. **Contestants may not be added, removed, substituted, or moved between County/District teams after registration unless otherwise due to family emergency or illness AND approved by the contest officials.**
- d. Brackets and matches will be created by officials based on the number of teams participating each year. The format may be Round Robin, Pool Play or Elimination.

III. Open Division

- a. Contestants entering the Open Division will register as individuals rather than as a pre-formed County/District team.
- b. Open Division contestants are strongly encouraged to register by **Dog Conference registration deadline**. Late entries will be accepted.
- c. Prior to the beginning of competition, tournament officials will assign Open Division contestants to teams. Officials will make every effort to create teams with equal distribution of 4-Her age and number of contestants as possible.
- d. Once Open Division teams have been established, contestants will remain with their assigned team throughout the competition.
- e. Open Division teams will compete against other Open Division teams.
- f. Open Division teams will follow the same match procedures, scoring rules, and tiebreaking procedures as County/District teams.
- g. The first-place Open Division team will be named **Open Division Champion**, and the second-place team will be named **Open Division Reserve Champion**.

PROCEDURES OF PLAY

I. Starting a Match

- a. Contestants will be assembled and seated at their respective buzzer panels.
- b. Each contestant will be given an opportunity to test their buzzer before the match begins.
- c. Once the match begins, contestants may not confer verbally or nonverbally during a question. This includes speaking, whispering, gesturing, signaling, writing, or otherwise communicating with another contestant.
- d. The moderator will read each question until the question is completed, or an eligible contestant activates a buzzer. If a buzzer is activated while a question is being read, the moderator will immediately stop reading.
- e. A contestant must wait to be recognized by the moderator before answering. An answer given before the contestant is recognized by the moderator will be considered incorrect.

II. One-on-One Questions

- a. Each match will include sixteen (16) one-on-one questions.
- b. Each contestant will be assigned a chair position: Chair 1, Chair 2, Chair 3, or Chair 4.
- c. The sixteen one-on-one questions will be divided equally among the four chair positions, with four (4) questions designated for each chair.
- d. During a one-on-one question, only the contestants occupying the designated chair position on each team are eligible to activate the buzzer and answer.
- e. If the first contestant gives an incorrect answer, the contestant occupying the corresponding chair on the opposing team will have an opportunity to answer after the moderator re-reads the entire question.
- f. A team competing with only three contestants will have no contestant assigned to Chair 4 and will forfeit its opportunity to answer questions designated for Chair 4.

III. Toss-Up Questions

- a. Each match will include sixteen (16) toss-up questions.
- b. All contestants on both teams are eligible to activate the buzzer on a toss-up question.
- c. Only the contestant who activates the buzzer and is recognized by the moderator may answer.
- d. Team members may not confer before or during an answer.
- e. If an incorrect answer is given, the question will be turned over to the opposing team. The moderator will re-read the entire question, and any eligible contestant on the opposing team may activate the buzzer and answer.

IV. Answering and Timing

- a. After activating the buzzer, a contestant must wait to be recognized by the moderator before answering.

- b. After being recognized, the contestant will have five (5) seconds to begin an answer.
- c. Repeating the question will not be considered beginning an answer.
- d. Once an answer has been initiated, the contestant must continue the answer without unreasonable delay. The moderator may call time if the contestant pauses excessively or attempts to delay completion of the answer.
- e. The first answer given will be accepted as the contestant's answer.
- f. If no eligible contestant activates the buzzer within ten (10) seconds after the moderator finishes reading the question, the question will be withdrawn. The moderator will give the correct answer and proceed to the next question.
- g. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer.

V. Turnover and Re-Reading Questions

- a. If an answer is incorrect, the same question will be offered to the opposing team.
- b. When a question is turned over to the opposing team, the moderator will re-read the entire question.
- c. A contestant who buzzes before the question has been completely read is not entitled to hear the remainder of the question before answering.
- d. Contestants may not request clarification, interpretation, or additional information from the moderator during a question.

VI. Equipment Malfunctions

- a. Contestants will be given an opportunity to test their buzzer before competition begins.
- b. If tournament officials determine that an equipment malfunction affected a contestant's opportunity to answer a question, the affected question will be discarded and replaced with another question.
- c. This may include, but is not limited to, a buzzer failing to register, the buzzer system incorrectly identifying the first contestant, or a timer malfunction.
- d. The moderator's determination regarding an equipment malfunction will be final.

VII. Completing a Match

- a. The moderator will continue until all sixteen (16) one-on-one questions, and sixteen (16) toss-up questions have been completed.
- b. If a question is discarded because of moderator error, equipment malfunction, or another determination by tournament officials, a replacement question will be asked so that the required number of questions remains the same.
- c. At the conclusion of regulation play, the team with the higher score will be declared the winner.
- d. The scorekeeper will record the winning team, losing team, and final regulation score.

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VIII. Match Tiebreakers

- a. If the score remains tied at the end of match play, additional toss-up questions will be asked one at a time. The first team to earn a point will be declared the winner.
- b. Tiebreaker points will be used only to determine the winner and will not be added to the regulation match score.

IV. Forfeits and Withdrawals

- a. Teams are responsible for reporting to their assigned competition area at the scheduled time.
- b. A team that fails to report for a scheduled match may forfeit the match at the discretion of tournament officials.
- c. A forfeited match will be recorded as a win for the team that was present and a loss for the team that forfeited. No match points will be awarded for questions that were not played.

PROTESTS

- I. Only a contestant designated as the team member may initiate a protest.
- II. A protest must be made immediately and before the moderator begins the next question.
- III. A protest may concern the interpretation of an answer, accuracy of a question or answer, or application of a contest rule or procedure.
- IV. Coaches, parents, spectators, and other individuals may not initiate or participate in a protest during a match.
- V. The moderator and designated contest officials will review the protest and make a determination. Their decision will be final.
- VI. If a question is discarded as the result of a protest, a replacement question will be asked so that the total number of regulation questions remain unchanged.
- VII. Courtesy and sportsmanship are expected from all contestants. Abuse of the protest procedure, unsportsmanlike conduct, or behavior detrimental to the contest may result in dismissal of a contestant or team.

SCORING

- I. One (1) point will be awarded for each correct answer.
- II. No points will be deducted for an incorrect answer.
- III. Tiebreaker points will be used only to determine the winner of a tied match and will not be added to regulation match or individual scoring totals.

AWARDS

- I. Champion and Reserve Champion awards will be presented in each established competition division.

II. The team finishing in first place will be named **Champion**.

III. The team finishing in second place will be named **Reserve Champion**.

TRANSCRIBING QUESTIONS

1. Transcribing contest questions by any means during the competition is prohibited. There will be no handwriting, typing, recording, computer or phone use, etc., in the contest rooms. Affiliated teams will be eliminated from the competition for violation of this rule.

RECORDERS, CAMERAS, PHONES

1. Recording devices such as tape recorders, video cameras, cell phones, etc., may not be used during the competition. Electronic communication devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) ARE NOT ALLOWED in a contest room during the match. Cell phones MUST be turned off and not visible if brought into the room during a match.
2. Photographs will only be allowed before or after a match.

QUESTION SUBMISSION AND OFFICIAL REFERENCES

I. Submission of Questions

- a. Each County/District team and/or individuals registered for the Open Division are encouraged to submit **5–15 questions** for possible use during the Dog Bowl Contest.
- b. Submitted questions must be based on the official Dog Bowl reference materials listed below.
- c. Questions should be original and written in the contestant's own words. Contestants should not copy questions word-for-word directly from the reference materials.
- d. Contestants are encouraged to write questions that test knowledge and understanding rather than simply memorization. Questions should be clear, accurate, interesting, and appropriate for Dog Bowl competition.
- e. Whenever possible, the key word or information being requested should appear toward the end of the question. This helps prevent contestants from buzzing simply because they recognize the topic before hearing what information is being requested.
- f. Do not submit true/false, fill-in-the-blank, or "spell the word" questions.
- g. Submission of a question does not guarantee that the question will be used in the contest. Tournament officials may edit, combine, clarify, or decline submitted questions as necessary for accuracy, consistency, and appropriate difficulty.

II. Required Question Format

Each submitted question must include:

1. Question
2. Answer

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3. Source
4. Page number

Questions should be submitted in the following format:

Question: What is the normal number of permanent teeth in an adult dog?

Answer: 42

Source: *[Name of Official Reference]*, page ____

The answer should contain enough information to allow contest officials to determine what constitutes a correct response.

If more than one answer may reasonably be considered correct, the submitted answer should identify the acceptable alternatives.

III. Question Categories

Questions may include, but are not limited to, the following subject areas:

- History
- Nutrition
- Breeding, genetics, and reproduction
- Anatomy
- Physiology and endocrinology
- Breeds and breed associations
- Colors and markings
- Showing and show procedures
- Diseases
- Parasites
- Training
- Behavior

Visual and oral questions may also be included in the contest.

IV. Workshop and Keynote Questions

In addition to questions developed from the official written references, approximately two (2) to four (4) questions per round may be based on information presented during the Saturday workshops and keynote speaker presentations.

Contestants should therefore consider information presented during the educational sessions to be part of the material that may be tested during Dog Bowl competition.

V. Official Dog Bowl References

Questions for the Dog Bowl Contest will be developed from the following official references:

1. **Dog Resource Handbook**, The Ohio State University, 2024
2. **All About Dogs**, The Ohio State University, 2017

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3. **Kansas 4-H Dog Show Rules, 2023**
4. **Wiggles 'n Wags** – recommended for ages 7–10
5. **Canine Connection** – recommended for ages 11–13
6. **Leading the Pack** – recommended for ages 14 and older
7. **Dog Helper's Guide**
8. **Kansas Dog Show Immunization Form**
9. **AKC Breeds list.** <https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/>

Questions may also be developed from the Saturday workshops and keynote speaker presentations as described above.