

## **The Dog Show Circuit is about to begin!**

### **What should I bring to the Shows?**

- **Choke or buckle collar and six foot leash** for obedience classes (remember: prong collars are allowed for training only, not in the show ring)
- **Show lead** for Junior showmanship classes
- **Brushes and combs** for last minute grooming touch-ups.
- **Water bowl and container of water**
- **Crate or pen** for your dog to rest in (dogs may not roam free)
- **Paper towels and baggies** (you must clean up after your own dog)
- **Folding chairs or blanket** to sit on (chairs are provided at Somerset County Shows)
- **Change of clothes:** you will need (dressy clothes) for Junior Showmanship and long pants and shirt for obedience.

### **How long will the show last?**

The show day typically runs from 8:30 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. Although 4-Hers need only remain at the show for the classes they have registered for, they may want to remain to watch and learn more about the advanced classes and show support for their fellow members. Food and drinks are available at the circuit shows. Remember to bring along a few treats for your dog. The shows provide a great opportunity to meet and get to know 4-Hers from different counties, share experiences and build friendships.

### **Do I need to bring shot records?**

Be sure that you have turned in copies of updated Rabies and DHPP vaccinations. The notebook containing these records is carried to each show in case verification is required so that you do not need to remember them each time.

### **What do I do when I arrive at the show?**

First you will need to check at the registration desk and pick up your Arm Band number. You will wear this on your left arm to identify you during classes. Set up your crate or blanket and your supplies. Study the board or class order to be sure that you are dresses correctly and know which collar to put on your dog. (You will participate in grooming class individually so you may go to the Grooming judge when you are ready and are not needed in another ring.) Take your dog for a walk and relax. Try your best while in the show ring and be open to listening to the judges when they discuss your strong points and how to improve your performance. The judges are happy to have you ask questions following your class. Be a good sportsman! Put forth your best effort and if the performance does not go as planned, use the experience as a learning tool to identify areas which need to be improved. Remember that your dog loves you and wants to please you! It can be very hectic at dog shows and your dog needs your understanding and kindness to help him learn to relax and perform well under pressure. Be there for your fellow members, showing enthusiasm when they do well and encouragement when they have a difficult time. In doing so, you can expect the same support in return!