Greetings to all 4-H Dog Participants!!

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension is pleased to announce the Fourth Annual Canine Companions for Life – Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo, will be held October 13 -14, 2012 at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings, Nebraska. This two day event will start at 9:00 am on both days. Each day will offer new opportunities to learn more about your dog and how to work with it. Hands on clinics will teach you skills you can test out in the show ring with dog handling competitions. There will be educational workshops, hands-on clinics, and multiple show rings operating on both days, all provided in a comfortable indoor venue.

Canine Companions for Life - Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo is designed to provide youth from all across the state several opportunities to meet other youth, to exchange ideas in a fun environment, to learn more about their dog(s) as well as provide an opportunity to work with their dog(s). Educational sessions are also planned for adult volunteers and parents assisting with 4-H Dog programs. Adults are also invited to sit in on the youth workshops. Youth can participate in one day or two days. The following are features of the Nebraska 4-H dog Expo:

Clover Kids that participate will have an opportunity to tell the audience about their dog (ex. Name, Breed, Age and what they like about their dog or special things about their companion). All clover kids will show their dog on an individual basis both days.

- **Educational Sessions + MORE**
  - Careers
  - Behavior and training
  - Biology and science of dogs
  - Health care
  - Volunteer or Leader training sessions
- **Demonstrations**
  - Guidance and herding dogs
  - Advanced obedience skills
- **Hands-on Opportunities** to learn proper training techniques:
  - Showmanship, Obedience, and Agility
  - Rally-Obedience
- **Show classes**
  - Obedience – both days
  - Showmanship – Saturday
  - Agility – Sunday
- **Fun classes**
  - Clover kids, costume contest, dog tricks
  - Dog photography, dog art, educational exhibit displays, crate decorations

Continuing in 2012: Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

On Saturday, youth and their dogs will have the opportunity to take the Canine Good Citizenship test which consists of 10 different items. For CGC test items and a list of equipment that youth need to bring see below. Be sure to check it out and determine if you'd like to try to take this test. An additional fee of $10 is noted on the registration for those wishing to take the test. This test will also be open to members of the public.

Dog Related Exhibits:
Youth will have opportunities to exhibit other dog-related 4-H projects. Bring a photograph you took of a dog, an art project you make related to a dog, or a dog related educational project (poster display in vet sciences or other field, first aid kit, supplies you made at home, etc.).

Dog Photography Exhibits:
For dog photography, please follow guidelines for mounting as described in the 2011 Nebraska State Fair Handbook (http://4h.unl.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=f4655314-1036-45ea-b0ce-1194412e10b0&groupId=466759&.pdf). Art projects should be mounted and ready to be displayed. Bring your projects and share with other counties what you have done. Be sure to mark exhibits with exhibitor name and county on the back. Specialty awards may be provided to best exhibit, most creative, and more based on the decisions of the judging panel.

We will also be judging the best decorated crating area at the end of each day so get creative and decorate your area.

A Pool Party and Quiz Bowl are scheduled for Saturday evening. The quiz bowl will help demonstrate another fun way that youth can learn about their Canine 4-H Program Area. Teams of 4 – 5 members will be formed Saturday evening prior to the event. There will be a limited number of teams accepted for this year. Questions come from the same reference materials used for the 4-H Skillathon (4-H Dog Manuals: manuals 1 & 2 for younger youth and manuals 1 & 2, & 3 for seniors), American Kennel Club Breed Book, and www.akc.org.

Vendors have been invited to sell a variety of merchandise and supplies for the dog enthusiast. Food vendors will be available on site.

Registration: A registration form is enclosed. Please fill out the personal information and mark the appropriate line for a personal image preference. Then mark the form with the anticipated participation in classes. The cost to participate is $15.00 for one day of all classes and clinics or $25.00 for two days of all classes and clinics. Finally, if desired, mark a choice of t-shirt. T-shirts cost $10.00, and will be printed on lime green t-shirts with the Expo logo.

A completed registration form must be mailed to Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, C204 Animal Science, Lincoln, NE 68583-0908 and **must be post marked by September 28, 2012**. Registrations, post marked after September 28, 2011, will be considered late but will be accepted until October 5, 2012. An additional fee will be assessed on late registrations. The cost to participate with a late registration for one day of all classes is $25.00 or for two days of all classes is $40.00.

All registration fees are non-refundable. The registration fee pays for one 4-H participant and one adult attendant. General admission for the public is $3.00 per person, children 7 and under may attend at no cost. Please pay for participation, when sending the registration form, by enclosing a check made to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

Additional registration forms are available at: companionanimal.unl.edu. A confirmation letter and show schedule will be sent out to county extension offices via e-mail prior to the Expo.

Show class rules: All show classes will follow the guidelines in the Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Manual (4-H 419) and the guidelines outlined for the Nebraska 4-H State Fair. There is no limit on the number of classes of participation as long as the dog and the participant are showing in an appropriate class for their level of experience (no more than one dog per class).

All dogs participating in the show must be immunized within the last 12 months of the show for distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and rabies. Dogs must have a completed vaccination form delivered with the completed registration form. If the participant has a copy of their 2011 State Fair Dog show vaccination form, it may be included in lieu of completing a new form. A Certificate of Vaccination for Dogs (Form SF 263) is available at http://go.unl.edu/dogvaccine. Dogs that do not have a completed vaccination form will not be allowed in any the Adams County Fairgrounds buildings at the time of show. As long as proper vaccination forms are provided, participants are allowed to bring a different dog for each show class. All participating dogs must be at least 6 months of age at the time of the show. Females in season will not be allowed to participate in the show.

Dress code: Exhibitors must follow dress code regulations as described in the Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Manual (4-H 419) with the following exceptions: An exhibitor may wear a non-county specific 4-H shirt, a Canine Companions for Life Nebraska 4-H Dog Expo t-shirt (gray or lime green), or a State fair t-shirt. Shirts with specific county 4-H notations are not allowed to be worn in the show arena. Nebraska Dog Expo t-shirts are available by pre-ordered with the Expo registration form.

Dog handling rules: Rough handling of dogs by participant or parent at any time throughout the Expo is not allowed and if this behavior is observed the participant will be dismissed without a refund.

Participating animals are not allowed to remain in Adams County fairgrounds buildings overnight. Please keep all dogs on a leash at all times unless instructed to do so in the show ring or during a clinic. All dogs must be kept on leash on the Adams County Fairgrounds because the city of Hastings does have a leash law for all animals. All participating dogs must be under control and under good behavior at all times.

A dog crating area has been designated to allow exhibitors to securely hold their dogs when they are not involved in show classes. Handlers are expected to pick up and dispose of all dog waste. Please be courteous to the public in and around the fairgrounds, lodging and other areas, remember that not everyone is a canine enthusiast. Keep in mind that participants are in a position to promote the 4-H dog program to the general public in travel and participation in this event.

Lodging: Hasting's Hotel and Convention Center (previously the Quality Inn and Suites) is the Host Hotel for Expo – phone 402-463-6721. Please ask for the Canine Companions for Life 4-H Dog Expo Discount to receive the dog expo special rate - $75 and there is an additional $15 pet charge. This motel registration includes two hot breakfast vouchers per room. Additional vouchers are available for $2 dollars. This is a pet friendly hotel. The hotel is has a block of rooms on hold. These rooms will be released on September 28. Be sure to reserve a room as soon as possible.

Camping: Camp sites are available on the Adams County Fairgrounds. Please contact the fairgrounds office at 402-462-3247 for information and to make reservations.

Traveling with your dog: Make sure to have proper identification on your dog (ex. Tags with phone number and name). Inscribe emergency phone numbers on an ID tag or write your cell number on their collar in permanent marker.

What to bring:

- Dog crate or exercise pen (*strongly recommended if you have one)
- Dog food, water and water bowl
- Flat collar
- 6 Foot leash
- Chain training collar for obedience
- Showmanship leash
- 4 Foot leash may be used for agility
- Small plastic bags for clean up
- Grooming supplies (brushes, combs, etc.)
- Costume or outfit for costume contest
- Toys
- Treats
- Dog bed

Adams County Fairgrounds: located in southwest Hastings at 947 S. Baltimore Ave. It is two blocks north of the intersection of U.S. Highways 6, 34 and 281. For more information and a map see: www.adamscountyfairgrounds.com

Canine Good Citizen – CGC Test – The Canine Good Citizen Test consists of 10 skills needed by all well-mannered dogs. All of the exercises are done on a leash. (from AKC guidelines) the CGC Program is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test will receive a certificate of completion from the American Kennel Club. To participate, a $10 fee needs to be paid via the dog expo registration form. The CGC test will be administered on Saturday afternoon of the Expo.

Equipment to bring for CGC Test - You will need to bring your dog's brush or comb to the CGC test. In the CGC test, dogs must wear a buckle collar or slip collar. For details regarding equipment, expanded descriptions of the exercises above, and how the CGC Test is administered, see: *http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm*

Test 1: The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.
Test 2: The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.
Test 3: The dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.
Test 4: The handler/dog team will take a short "walk" to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.
Test 5: The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.
Test 6: The dog will respond to the handler's commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).
Test 7: The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog.
Test 8: To demonstrate that the dog can behave politely around other dogs, two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.
Test 9: To demonstrate the dog is confident when faced with common distracting situations, the evaluator will select and present two distractions.
Test 10: This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes.