



European Sled Dog Racing Association

Regulation part V - SLED DOG CARE GUIDELINES (Mush with P.R.I.D.E.)

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1 What does "Mush with P.R.I.D.E." mean?

The abbreviation stands for Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment.

So it is a pun - but the mushers (sled-dog drivers) are very serious about it and are proud to dedicate themselves to living in a responsible way with their partners, the dogs. The relation human / sled dog is one of the most ancient in the world. Modern sled-dog owners are proud of their dog-athletes, which are bred and trained to do, what they like to do most: *running together as a team "Human and dogs"*.

The authors of this brochure would like to present to mushers, breeders, dog owners and all who are interested, the possibility and the necessity of *living with sled dogs in a responsible way*.

The brochure is based on the "Sled Dog Guidelines of Mush with P.R.I.D.E.", Fairbanks, AK and on the "Verantwortungsbewußt leben mit Schlittenhunden" of AGSD, DSSV, SHC, TCE and edited with their friendly approval.

2 SLED DOGS

The dog is mankind's oldest and most domesticated pet. Over thousands of years it has been his helper, companion and friend. Tasks he is fulfilling up till now: watch-dog, rescue-dog, guide-dog, assistant for invalids, shepherd-dog and hunting-dog. Often he is the only left friend of lonely or elderly people.

The dogs, who became redundant for their original job and task by our technical and civil progress, like greyhound and sled dog, have nowadays found their occupation as a hobby, touring or racing sports. As well as, being obliged to protect wild living animals and save them from becoming extinct, we have a duty to our old dog breeds, to save them and give them an occupation which they are entitled to. In the case of sled dogs, it is sled dog sport.

Keeping the breeds original selection, based on performance, is necessary, this can only be done at races (there, you have a high demand for physical and mental qualities). This selection leads to more vitality, strength and willingness to work; in the ideal situation it also results in dogs with correct characteristics, friendly and socially sound, and so in the survival of the original breeds. Sled dogs belong to the oldest known breeds. All of them, including some new crossbreeds, do have, in spite of their different appearance, one thing in common: *drive, and willingness to pull as a lifestyle*.

They never guarded house or yard, they were no watch- or classic pet dogs. One should only have a sled dog, if one is prepared to be engaged in sports with that dog. If you don't have that wish, or if the fulfilment is not possible, you should not keep sled dogs. It is a pack dog, which would like to live outside with his fellow dogs.

The different demands of recreational-, tour- or race sport can easily be fulfilled by the various different breeding lines.

They are specially bred to accomplish the task (e.g. long distance in a small or large team, hauling of equipment) and do it well.

The only advise for starters in this sport is, to get as much information on the subject as possible, before deciding to get a sled dog.

Recommendable is to become a member of a breed or sport club. The ideal situation would be also visiting kennels and races. You get the best knowledge by being a dog-handler with a racing team. Those handlers are welcome and important, especially for big teams, who depend on lots of help. If you choose sled dogs, you are not only binding yourself, but also your family, for many years. In the selection of the dogs you set the switch to joy and success in the sport.

Sled dogs are fascinating. The sport and the life with them is very demanding on the musher (sled driver); he is breeder, care taker, trainer, sportsman and best friend of his dogs. A comprehensive task, which - if started carefully and well considered with an awareness of the responsibilities - gives a long time of joy and often becomes a way of life.

3 SLEDDOG SPORTS



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Sled dog sport is an amateur sport, with professional claims on knowledge, discipline and awareness of responsibility of the musher. Sled dog sport is no one season sport, sled dog sport is a life style. Although the races take place in a rather short period of time, about 90 days, everyone, who wants to be involved in this kind of sports, should realize very clearly, that sled dog sports means: **365 days a year living with your dogs.**

4 THE DOG YARD

A dry well-drained area makes life pleasant for your dogs and for you when you are spending time in the yard. These conditions are also best for the dog's feet. A location both visible and audible from a house window allows you to enjoy the company of your animals and alerts you to emergencies.

In summer, shade helps to keep the dogs cool, and a breezy location helps keep bugs away. In winter, a sunny area protected from winds helps to conserve the dog's energy. Planning your dog yard to allow you to do your chores efficiently gives you more time to play with your dogs.

Ask for your national regulations concerning keeping dogs outside, if applicable. If there is none, use the following recommendation:

Each dog should be provided with a 7-square meter space, at a minimum.

More space is even better. Beware of gravel in dog yards. Although some mushers say they have no problem with this, some dogs have died from rock ingestion. Sand, fine gravel, wood chips, coarse wood shavings, and wooden platforms are options if your yard is on sloppy ground. Covering the ground with sturdy fencing before adding the surface material will discourage digging. Concrete surfaces in kennel enclosures may cause foot problems for some dogs, but allows for optimum cleaning and prevents the nails for growing too long.

Cleaning up dog waste every day makes the dogs' environment more pleasant and helps control disease (such as parvovirus) and parasites. This also makes the time you spend with your dogs more enjoyable.

Some dog yards extras that you might consider include a tall (1.50 meter minimum) fence around the yard to allow you to let your dogs run loose together. This is great for socializing if you don't have any fighters. A fence also contains loose dogs and excludes stray dogs, stray children, cats, and so on. Lights in the dog yard make winter chores and emergencies easier to handle, and a simple, heated dog barn is excellent for whelping and for the care of sick or injured dogs.

Keeping the peace.

If you live near other people, it is important to teach your dogs to be quiet. Respect for the rights of other people for peace and quiet makes for happy neighbours and promotes a positive example for the sport. Dogs bark for a reason, such as to get your attention, to communicate to other dogs, or to announce a visitor. A daily howl can express happy communication in the dog yard, but dogs can be trained to be quiet most of the time.

Dog houses.

Each dog should have its own house that is raised a few centimetres off the ground. The house should be large enough for the dog to turn around and relax in, but small enough to conserve the dog's body heat in cold weather. A wooden house or plastic barrel works nicely. Although you must beware of foxtails, straw or hay adds insulation and comfort for the dog in the winter. Contrary to what was once believed, dogs do not grow thicker coats in houses with no insulation.

Replace the hay if it gets wet and replenish it every few weeks.

Also, in winter, dog houses must be continually dug out and placed on top of the snow so that they continue to be useful and safe. In summer, remove straw to prevent irritations from mold and dampness. You might consider constructing your houses with removable roofs or floors to make changing straw easier.

Some other design options to consider include a flat roof, which provides comfortable sunning and relaxing. You might also place the door half way up the wall to help keep the inside dry and hold the straw inside. A trim board around the door helps keep male dogs from peeing through the door and discourages chewing around it. (Be sure to avoid paints and stains containing lead



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and other toxic chemicals.) Constructing dog houses with drywall screws makes repair work easier. In addition, a water can should be secured to the house and cleaned regularly.

Note that forcing a dog to live without a house does not make for tough dogs. Instead, training under adverse conditions will provide both musher and dogs with whatever experience is necessary. The use of straw, insulated dog houses, and even heated dog barns during cold weather will not inhibit the growth of a dog's coat. To the contrary, dogs kept in a warm, comfortable environment will require less food to maintain body weight, will have more energy for running, and will recuperate from minor injuries much more quickly.

Heat pen.

If you have an unsprayed female, you will need a heat pen to prevent unplanned litters. Plan enough space in the pen to contain all of your unsprayed females at the same time, since females tend to stimulate other female's heat cycles, 1.80 m. high walls and a secure gate are minimum requirements. A fenced-in roof keeps climbers out, and burying about half a meter of fence or rimming the pen with boulders helps discourage digging. House the female dog in the pen so that she can't jump over the fence. If you decide to breed your dogs, it's also nice to have a pen large enough to accommodate a pair of dogs. Note that heat pens can also serve as puppy pens later on.

5 TRANSPORTATION

Dogs should travel in safety and comfort. There are several ways to transport sled dogs to training and races. Specially made trailers, vans with built-in dog boxes, pick-up's with dog boxes, caravans with dog compartments, etc. Besides the transport function, the boxes offer shelter against the weather and provide for the necessary resting place, where they can relax before and after the races. Race dogs love their boxes. There is not a dog that doesn't like to jump, or to be lifted in its box (dependent on the height) and makes itself comfortable in it, wherever it is. The dog associates the box with fun, excitement, training, races, running in a team and the assurance of having a den of its own.

The dog box should be large enough for the dog to stretch out, stand up, turn around and curl up in it. It should have dry bedding and adequate ventilation.

Some mushers believe that dogs are more comfortable when doubled up in larger boxes. If you wish to do this, be sure to match compatible companions and adjust the dogs' box, to meet the above recommendation.

6 FEEDING

The ancestors of our dogs were hunters. They had very sophisticated sense-organs, powerful teeth and possessed confirmation of movement enabling them to catch and kill their prey, consisting mostly of herbivores. They devoured their prey with hide and hair, so not only the muscles, but the entrails, stomach and intestines with contents as well as the bones. In this way they got all the necessary nutrients in a suitable digestible form (e.g. pre-digested carbohydrates from the intestines of their prey).

Nowadays very few dogs live like their ancestors. But the conditions for optimum nutrition did not really change. The teeth will cut down the food, the spittle helps the pieces to go down easily. In the stomach the protein digestion starts, fat and carbohydrates are digested in the small intestine. Dogs can only digest opened carbohydrates

The digestion time in comparison with other species is very short, therefore the dog food should be highly digestible and not voluminous.

Choosing feeds.

Sled dog sports today include a wide variety of dogs and activities that are practised in almost every kind of climate. There is no one perfect diet that will meet the requirements of every sled dog under every condition because the right diet for a dog depends upon its genetic make-up, environment, age, physical state, training regime, and the food sources that are available.

Sled dog diet usually consists of commercial dry food, meat-based food, or a combination of the two. Dry foods are convenient to store and feed and, if formulated for working dogs, may not



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require supplementation except when the dogs are working several hours a day. Fresh meat products are usually more difficult to store because they require freezing, and they contain a lot of water (most contain around 75% water) and therefore take up more space per calorie fed than dry food.

Meat feeds are, however, extremely palatable to dogs, and they may help maintain hydration because they contain so much water. Dry foods may experience some nutrient loss due to processing, although manufacturers usually compensate for this, while meat products are more susceptible to spoilage. High-quality feeds from both categories are readily available in all but the most remote locations.

Determining a working dog's dietary needs.

The very best way to monitor your dog's nutritional status is to run your hands over it. Perform this examination at least every two or three days. (in extreme conditions, it is important to keep an even closer watch on a sled dog's weight.) The ribs, spine, and hip bones should not be buried under centimetres of fat, nor should they protrude, but they should be easy to feel. A well conditioned sled dog should be lean and muscled, not skinny. If you are unsure of what the ideal appearance and feel of your individual dogs should be, solicit the help of an experienced musher. Also, take every opportunity to feel and look at the dogs that are doing well in your particular mushing activity.

It is important to note that there is no formula or table that will tell you how much you should feed your dogs. Formulas and tables will give you a place to start, but they should not be relied upon for long term feeding guidelines. There is too much variation in metabolism among dogs and the environment they live in, let alone the workloads they perform, to rely on an 'average' requirement.

However, an 'average' 20 kilo husky living in its kennel in the summertime will require around 65 calories per kilo body weight. An average 30% protein, 20% fat dry dog food (on an as fed-basis) contains about 4,555 cal. per kilo. Therefore, this 'typical' maintenance dog will require about 300 grams of dog food per day. If a dog is genetically more 'husky', it may require less food; if it has more hound in its background, it may require more. Again, monitor your dogs' nutritional status with your hands.

Meeting the demands of training.

As you gain experience in feeding your dogs, you will find that you will frequently need to change the amount you feed them in order to maintain them at their optimal weight. When you begin training and each time you increase the workload, your dogs will require more food. During cold or wet periods, they will need more food just to maintain their normal body temperature. One of the most difficult periods of time to maintain a dog's body weight is during the fall when the weather is often cold and wet and the training kilometres are increasing. During such periods, anticipate your dogs' increasing nutritional needs and begin to feed them more before they start to lose weight. During the most demanding periods of time, a sprint dog may require 2 to 3 times what it was eating during the off-season, a long-distance racing dog may require 3 to 6 times its off-season needs.

Water

Water is the most essential nutrient.

While deficiencies in protein, fat, vitamins, or minerals will affect a dog's health, it may take days or months before such problems are noticeable. In contrast, dehydration affects an animal's health immediately and in severe cases can even lead to death within hours if left untreated.

A dog gains water by drinking it directly, by eating foods that contain water, and by generating water through metabolism. Water is lost each day through urine, faeces, and water vapour in the breath. A non-working dog requires about 60 grams of water per kilo body weight per day. An 'average' 20-kilo husky thus requires around 1,2 litre of water per day.

Anything that increases a dog's daily water loss will increase its daily requirement. When a dog exercises, it exhales more air per minute than when it is at rest.

The exhaled air contains water, and the colder and dryer the outside air, the more water that is lost. Dogs also lose significant water through panting when the weather is warm. Increased food intakes associated with exercise lead to increased faecal output and increased amounts of metabolic waste, which must be filtered through the kidneys. Exercise thus leads to increased



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water loss not only through the breath, but also through the stool and urine. A dog's water requirement may thus increase twofold if it participates in open-class sprint racing, for instance, and three to fivefold if it participates in long-distance racing. Keep in mind that symptoms such as diarrhoea and vomiting also increase water loss.

7 TRAINING

Controlling your team is the basic principle.

Part of the standard equipment is a stable and safe sled, respectively wheeled rig. Rig and sled shall have a safe transportation surface with a dog bag. At least the sled shall be equipped with a brake, a snow-hook (anchor) and a snub-line, the rig shall be equipped with adequate brakes, an additional hand brake, a bumper and also a snub-line and never be too light! Enough harnesses and tug-lines (including spares) are inevitable for a sensible training. The use of non secured hooks is forbidden. Before and after each training or race you should check the feet of your dogs for injuries.

Planning your dogs' training.

Many training principles are specific to the type of activity your dogs will be involved in, and there are hundreds of other variables, such as climate, terrain, age of the dog, breed of the dog, and so on. But all forms of mushing, with all the different variables, are wonderful ways of forming a close bond with your dogs.

In general, training can be thought of as falling into three categories: physical conditioning, mental conditioning and stimulation, and education. When you are planning your training for your kennel, think carefully about your goals and your dogs' abilities. Simply counting kilometres, for instance, can be deceptive. The type of conditions that the dogs encounter are important too - steep hills, trail breaking in heavy snow, extreme temperatures, or wind. New mushers should consult books and experienced mushers for help. But also common sense: would you ask yourself to do the equivalent of what you are asking your dogs to do?

General principles

Physical conditioning.

Do not expect your dogs to do more than they are ready for. Watch each individual. Dogs work as a team, but they have individual needs and abilities. Don't be afraid to be conservative, and don't worry about how far your neighbours or friends are going. Never push a dog to go any farther or faster than it is happily capable of going. Have fun and build relationships with your dogs. Small teams are better for training. Depending on your preference and the size of your kennel, training teams might include only 3 dogs or as many as 6 to 10. Dogs can only run at their own pace and must never be pulled, whether by mechanical or other means. Concerning special ways of training, like e.g. interval- or power training, information is available via various publications, giving circumstantial details, so the new musher can collect a lot of tips and information from them (i.e. MUSH with Pride guidelines).

Your special attention is requested for the fact that good manners and courtesy in our sport are indispensable. Contact owners, hunters and/or foresters when you want to train in their area.

You should plan your training at a time when the tracks are not overflowing with other people, like joggers, walkers and horsemen. Salute passers-by and have consideration, hold your team when they ask for information, it doesn't hurt your training and it is good for the esteem of our sport.

Mental conditioning.

It is important to give your dogs mental stimulation all year around. They need more than proper food and housing - it is necessary to give them something to do. Physical conditioning provides mental stimulation also, give them time together so that they can play with each other, bring them indoors for a visit, play with them in their area, and take individuals on outings.



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Education.

Education does not need to go on all year round or even daily. Much of this is done when they are young. However, anything you do repetitively with a dog is educating it, so be sure you want them to learn what you are teaching. Think over the signals you are giving your dogs. For instance, if you want your dogs to pass well, don't stop and chat with the neighbour every time you pass - you'll be teaching your dogs to stop at every pass. Be sure that most of your interaction with your dogs is positive to offset any discipline that you may feel is necessary. It is important never to lose your temper with your dogs. Try to educate them in a calm, consistent and decisive manner, not angrily.

8 SOCIALIZATION AND REARING

Every social creature needs a meaningful aim in life. Just good food and housing is not enough. The dog's well being requires the possibility of divergent pursuits. The more diverse the occupation is, the sooner the sled dog will be ready to react to the proper training. Easy summer training, running (off leash), or swimming, unite man and dog and ease the start of serious training in fall. If staying in the house a few days, it is 'play' to the dog to recognize the diverse smells and noises. Simple commands like "sit" and "down" make it easier for the dog to learn other commands later. It doesn't matter which activities you do with your dog, every one of them improves the trust between man and dog. The most important thing: ample praise after each exercise well done and enjoy it together. Puppies need lots of human attention early. The more you put into your pups, the more you will get out of them as adults. A dog learns in his youth a lot of basics. Below are some of the most important development stages:

- 1 - 3 weeks:** During their first weeks of life, handle each puppy two or three times a day. Pet them and talk to them. Their relationships to humans can start from the day they are born.
- 3 - 6 weeks:** At this stage playing and trusted contacts with people are very important.
- 6 - 8 weeks:** Now the base for the relationship dog / humans is laid and developed. The pups should react to their names now. During walks they can learn to come in a playful way when called. Make them familiar with water, unequal grounds, obstacles, as well as street noises and strangers. Take a well trained dog along these walks as an "example". These walks can range from 15 min. to 2 hours. Watch that you don't overdo it.
- 4 - 12 months:** At this stage, you can get the pups used to travelling, harness training, put them for short whiles at the stake-out (in the participants area). The young dog should never experience something new on their own, always together with a skilled adult one. The adult dog helps, being calm and secure. By copying the adult, the young dog learns more much quicker, than a human is ever capable of.

When they are up to it, you can start slowly preparing them for their future life as a sled dog. The teams should be small (3-6 dogs), the runs short. Now the young dogs learn very easily the ABC of sled dog sport, to run in a team, without getting tangled, not chewing harnesses and gang-lines, how to pass other teams, different commands and some more skills. Here also, an adult dog harnessed next to a young dog, provides a feeling of security. The first training runs are the most difficult, avoid any negative experience. Praise and fun are most important again.

Twelve months: At this point, a dog has attained its basic size. Depending on the breed and genetic background, many dogs continue to fill out until about 2½ years of age. Although a dog is 12 months old and looks mature, it is not mentally mature yet and needs to gain a lot more confidence and experience.

Every experience a young dog has, is determining for the rest of its life. At an early age the dogs are ready to learn everything. If you leave something out, it is very hard to make up for it later. The more time and energy you put into your dogs, the more you will see trust and self confidence and enthusiasm to perform for 100%.



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You should keep in mind constantly, that a dog does only things inborn or taught. *A dog never makes a mistake.* The trainer makes mistakes, when a dog does not obey commands, or does not act the way it should. Undesirable behaviour should be avoided: if you want to train passing other teams, do not hold at every passed team and chat with your fellow musher. Young dogs, which perhaps are chewing harnesses or gang-lines just out of excitement, are to be hooked up last, so they are not tempted, out of excitement or boredom, to test the material.

The dogs are happy when they did well. It is the responsibility of the musher, to create a situation in which the dogs are able to do well. In Alaska, where the sled dog sport was born, not for nothing it is said: *Keep your dogs happy!*

9 VETERINARY CARE

Develop a good working relationship with your veterinarian. He or she will be a valuable source of information on current dog care practices as well as providing other services as the need arises.

As the dog's owner, you can often perform routine procedures yourself but will also have to obtain professional care when necessary.

De-worming program / internal parasite-control.

Before the yearly vaccination and the racing season every sled dog should be de-wormed, as well as after the racing season. Pups and young dogs have a different de-worming program, depending on the type of medicine used (ask your vet).

Vaccination.

The yearly vaccination of the adult sled dog is administered in summer or early fall. At this leisure time, filled with playing, swimming and short walks, the dog gets the time to build up a good immunity. All sled dogs have to be vaccinated against parvo, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, rabies and kennel cough. Mandatory vaccination and intervals may be different from one country to another, check with your vet and the race organizer.

The musher as animal attendant.

Dealing with your dogs, monitor each dog's appetite and water intake, as well as its faecal and urine output. Small changes in a dog's normal behaviour may be the first signs of a health problem, talk about it with your veterinarian, who, when necessary, can prescribe appropriate treatment in an early stage. The dog's skin and coat are external indications of its health. Preventive treatment against external parasites, especially fleas, lice, ticks and mites, ought to be part of regular attendance.

Integrating a new dog in the team.

Before introducing a new dog, you should keep it 10 days away from your other dogs. It should get an in- and external parasite treatment, monitor daily the total physical condition. Any disease detected this way will prevent the infection of your other dogs.

Checklist for physical examination.

Late summer is the time to perform a thorough physical on each dog. Now is the time to form a picture of the soundness of your dogs, which you can use to compare with later examination results.

General attitude: A dog should be alert and interested in its surrounding.

Weight, coat, condition: A dog should be lean but not thin. It should have a healthy, shiny coat and skin that is a light pink. During cuddling and caressing the musher can check the dog's whole body with his hands for lumps, bumps and sores, these are indications for health problems. If you detect one of those, you should contact your vet.

Eyes: The eyes should be clear without excessive tearing, the pupils symmetrical.

Ears: The ears should be clean inside, without a foul odour.

Nose: The nose should be clean.



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Mouth: The mouth and teeth should be clean, without any strong odours or excessive tartar build up. The gums should be pink, without infections.

Heart rate and respiration: A dog's normal heart rate is 100 to 120 beats per minute, and its respiratory rate should be about 22 breaths per minute. These may both be elevated in an excited dog. The rates are much higher during training or racing.

Body temperature: The dog's body temperature is around 38,5 °C.

Muscles, bones and feet: Check the dog for symmetry of its skeleton and its muscles. Trim nails regularly, check the feet for little injuries between the pads. If necessary grease or rub the feet with ointment, in this case the dog needs protection for its feet, put on booties (dog shoes), so injuries can heal.

Rectum: Check the rectum for open sores, growths, or excessive swelling. Any changes are to be reported to your vet, who, if necessary can prescribe treatment.

10 RACES

Keeping a dog the right way depends on a combination of various factors, like e.g.: for each individual the proper diet, the housing in the kennel or at home, the acceptance in the pack, the adjusted physical and mental demands. If its requirements are sufficiently charged and supported a dog is happy and stable. An excellent way to satisfy the inborn desire to run is sled dog racing for the adult dogs, together with their friends.

Sled dog race organizers.

The organizer of a sled dog race is mostly a local organization in cooperation with a sled dog sports club. These organizers guarantee the regular execution of the race, by fulfilling the following minimum demands:

- sanitary equipment
- ample space for dog care (contestants area)
- hall or tent for the musher meeting
- place for medical and veterinary emergency treatments

The organizer provides water and is responsible for waste disposal. He puts the signs up for the participant's area, place a tow-vehicle at their disposal, provides for a parking controller; fences the start / finish area, takes care of a public address system. The organizer is also responsible for the trail (approximately 2,5 m wide), plans the preparation, secures it by blocking.

The different classes have various trail lengths:

Sprint (ideal distances per heat):

4-dog class 7,5 - 9,5 km

6-dog class 11,5 - 14 km

pulka / skijoring 11,5 - 14 km

8-dog class 6 - 18,5 km

unlimited class 21 - 25 km

Middle distance and long trail races:

from 35 to 150 km a day.

Race marshal and jobs to be done.

The race marshal has the overall responsibility for the execution of a technically correct (in accordance to the race rules), perfectly organised race. He is chairman of the race judge committee and also responsible for a good cooperation with the vets, the animal welfare officials and other officials. Abuse in any form towards dogs and/or humans will never be tolerated.

Other jobs to be done:

organization and supervision of:

- trail marking
- fencing of start and finish area
- organizing a musher meeting



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- distribution of bibs
- starting and results lists
- timing (electronic and manual)
- dog marking, and controlling
- control of the equipment
- control of vaccination papers
- appoint/approve race officials

appointment of the following officials

- trail checkers/stewards with radio
- starter
- sled holders
- announcer

The race marshal decides whether a race is on or off. The following examples should cause cancellation or break off of the race:

- weather (too high temperature, (icy-)rain, wind)
- trail conditions (icy or deep snow)
- storm damage (toppling trees, or branches)
- failing blocking

In case of high temperatures, the race marshal should interrupt the race, to take proper action, postpone the start, reduce the trail length, or even cancel the race.

Stake-out at the race

After the resting stage, the sled dog needs a certain freedom of movement. It needs to get its water and food, do its "business" and have the possibility to contact team-mates and "neighbours". This is not possible in the boxes.

To allow for this, we have the stake-out chain. This is a long chain with shorter sections attached to it. At the end of every such section is a swivel and a snap to hook a dog on. This construction allows every dog to turn around, lay down, stay or stretch. It can eat and drink without interruption by his team-mates and also socialize by smelling and touching each other. The stake-out is made in such a way, dogs cannot become tangled. The musher looks after his dogs during the time they are at the stake-out. Between 10.00 p.m. and 07.00 a.m. no dogs should be at the stake-out, dictated rest for dogs and humans.

Before the race, the dogs are watered, harnessed and hitched in the right sequence.

The stake-out also gives the spectators an opportunity to see, photography, film, or eventually caress the dogs. The dogs love the contact with people. Please check with the owner, if this is the right moment.

It is self evident, that spectators are not allowed to take their own dogs into the stake-out area.

Feeding the dogs, by the spectators, is also not permitted.

The advantage of limited time at the stake-out:

- possibility of individual attention (praise, caress, food rewarding)
- health check (if necessary, medical treatment)
- eating, drinking without stress

The ideal musher.

His behaviour at the race site is exemplary and sportsman-like, his equipment meets the standard requirements. He stands up to the physical and mental demands of the race. The handling and housing of his dogs is absolutely correct and is a token of his love for his pets. He will only race adult, completely healthy dogs, which do meet the training requirements of the race. The musher obeys the instructions given by the race officials and is obedient to all the race rules and regulations. Tolerance and consideration towards his partners, the dogs, are the main issue. Every musher will strive for acceptance and execution of regulations and obligations for the animal welfare. In case of offences the race marshal and the judges are competent to penalize.



Regulation part V - SLED DOG CARE GUIDELINES (Mush with P.R.I.D.E.)

11 WHO IS WHO IN SLED DOG SPORT

All sled dogs have one thing in common; their body conformation, which enables them to run in front of the sled, and their desire to go. According to their origin and their original tasks, you may divide them into several groups.

Alaskan Husky

Sled dog races in Alaska are older than the registration of pure bred dogs. Dogs are used here, with top sled dog qualities, but without similar appearances. They are called *Indian dogs* or *Alaskan husky's*.

The animals that performed well at races were used for breeding, unlike pure bred dogs, there is no fixed standard. The breeding goal is obedience, character, speed, handling and endurance. In the mean time straight line breeding did develop, nevertheless the appearances of the Alaskans still differ very much.

Alaskan Malamute

In the area around Kotzebue-Sound in Alaska lives an Eskimo tribe, the Malamutes, who were famous for the breeding of long lasting, slow moving and powerful sled dogs. That is why their mostly grey-white or black-white dogs were called Alaskan Malamutes. The disruption of the Eskimo culture and the unwanted cross breeding with dogs, which were brought along by colonists, were a threat to the existence of this breed. However, some American breeders succeeded to preserve the Alaskan Malamute from a few remaining specimens. Alaskan Malamutes are the heaviest sled dogs. They don't meet the speed of the smaller Siberian Husky, instead they possess much more power.

Greenland dog / Canadian Eskimo dog

The Greenland dog is bred by the Eskimo's in Greenland and used in a fan shaped team in front of a freight sled, but also for hunting. The *Greenland dog* is a very friendly, powerful, non demanding freight dog, which in former days had to look after his own food during summer.

All colours are allowed for the Greenland dog's fur. His endurance and ability to pull heavy weights, was responsible for the success of Amundsen's South-Pole expedition. In Switzerland *Greenland dogs* were used as freight dogs at the construction of the "Jungfrau"-railway.

Samoyede

The Samoyedes lived between the Urals and the Jenessej, they were reindeer breeders, and were following the reindeer herds. Their dogs were used for guarding the reindeers and also for pulling the sleds.

Already in 1880 some dogs were brought to England, where they got an early breeding standard. Out of various coloured dogs, the British created the uniform appearance of the *Samoyede* with white or biscuit fur.

The *Samoyede* gave proof of its tractive power at polar expeditions of Nansen and Shackleton but nowadays this modest sled-dog is rarely seen at races.

Siberian Husky

The *Siberian Husky* was bred by an east Siberian Eskimo tribe, the Tschuktchi's, and at the beginning of this century, dogs were brought to Alaska. At first they were laughed at, because of their small size, soon the dogs earned their appreciation, because most of the time they beat the teams with the heavier dogs. They got world fame in 1925, when Leonhard Seppala with his Siberians brought a life saving serum to Nome by Husky team, where there was a Diphtheria epidemic. Today the Iditarod race still remembers this grand achievement. Via New-England the sport with *Siberians* spread over the rest of the USA and from the sixties also into Europe, where the *Siberians* are the most numerous breed in sled dogs today. The only way to keep and promote all qualities of the *Siberian*, like willing to work, endurance and speed, is by competing in sled dog sport events.

Hunting dogs

At the race sites we more and more encounter *hunting dogs* or hunting dog cross breeds. The use of this type of dogs originates in the Scandinavian countries where people used their pet



Regulation part V - SLED DOG CARE GUIDELINES (Mush with P.R.I.D.E.)

dogs for outing trips and as such found out that these dogs make excellent sled dogs. Via selective and knowledgeable breeding programs a type of dog was developed with the appearance of a hunting dog (mostly pointers) combined with the other required qualities of the sled dogs. They make tough and very fast dogs, performing in all situations. One has to see these dogs in action, having fun, to believe that a new generation of sled dogs is born.