



Alberta Association of Harness Dog Sports - Directors Report 2023

The Alberta Association of Harness Dog Sports was formally created in January 2022.

Since then the small but mighty board has accomplished a number of pivotal tasks in formalizing an association and regional organization for the province of Alberta.

2022

- Created AAHDS Logos
- Launched AAHDS Social Media
- Created and Launched AAHDS Website
- Created the Official Documents Listed
 - Bylaws of the Alberta Association of Harness Dogs Sports
 - Code of Conduct for the Board of Directors of the Alberta Association of Harness Dog Sports
 - Code of Conduct, Ethics and Animal Welfare of the Alberta Association of Harness Dog Sports
 - Rules and Requirements for Participants
 - Rules and Requirements for Organizers
 - Rules and Requirements for Officials
 - Sanctioning Applications for both Dryland and On Snow Events
- Submitted and got approval to act at the Regional organization for the province of Alberta, operating under the umbrella of the Canadian Association of Harness Dog Sports (CAHDS)
 - This provides Alberta a board position on the CAHDS Board of Directors
 - Our Alberta Member of the Board of Directors to CAHDS is the Current CAHDS President
 - Additionally, this provides Alberta a Class A membership to CAHDS, with voting rights at the CAHDS AGM, and Alberta was present for the 2022, and 2023 CAHDS AGMs

- Added the first affiliated clubs
 - Mush for Fun
 - Medicine Hat Tails and Trails (formerly Medicine Hat Dog Running)
- Launched a membership program to help provide benefits for Alberta Based Harness Dog Sports participants
- Secured Board of Directors and Small Event Insurance for Dryland and On Snow Events
- Secured a timing app 'Webscorer' for Sanctioned Event hosts
- Hosted the Members Speaker Series with special guests Karen Sargent

2023

- Partnered with Erich and Cathrine Touche to host our first officially sanctioned event, the Running Dogs and Riverbend On Snow Event in Feb 2023. This event was well attended, received a lot of positive feedback, and served as a learning tool to improve the sanctioning process for future AAHDS Events
- Partnered with Mush for Fun to offer the first AAHDS sanctioned Dryland event, which also served as a Golden Ticket event for CAHDS Dryland Nationals in 2024.
- Renewed BOD and Event Insurance for 2023/2024 Event Season
- Hosted the well attended Speaker Series with Scott Dahlquist
- Began securing Sponsorships for membership benefits with businesses - both local & across Canada
 - Balto Sports
 - Dog Powered Sports
 - Back to Basics Raw
 - Nahak

2024

- Further Event Sanctioning
 - Plans for Clinic and Winter Series with Mush for Fun
 - Running Paws at Riverbend
- Affiliate more Clubs
 - Particularly looking for growth in and around Edmonton/ Northern Alberta
- Created a new club support fund
- Add AAHDS members to the CAHDS committees

- Form an AAHDS Volunteer committee to help manage larger tasks such as fundraising, membership drives, events volunteers and more as needed
- Support Alberta Athletes who wish to travel and compete at upcoming Dryland and On Snow National Championships, or even World Championships
- Bring on additional Sponsorships for members
 - Province wide - call out to members to provide contacts who may be interested
- Work with CAHDS to host a Nationals event in Alberta (2024 or 2026)
- Seek not for profit status to allow our organization and host clubs and athletes to seek funding grants
- Continue the growth of our sport in Alberta