

MUSH with PRIDE Voluntary Kennel Certification

Letter to Designated Inspector

Dear Inspector:

The Board of Mush with PRIDE has developed a kennel inspection certification program at the request of members, mushers and kennel owners. We hope this program will be another step in the educational process to ensure all sled-dogs are given safe and humane care.

The following form is provided to you as a checklist to ensure the kennel meets all the minimum requirements for basic humane care of sled dogs. Note that inspection is voluntary, and only at the request of the kennel owner who must be a current member of Mush with PRIDE. The kennel owner will provide you with a copy of the Sled Dog Care Guidelines, 3rd Edition prior to your inspection for guidance about the specific items you will be addressing. These guidelines are available for free download online. Checklist items are referenced to specific page numbers of this online document. Please contact the Mush with PRIDE Board if you have any concerns.

Please have the kennel owner initial where their endorsement is required. This is required as you cannot verify what kennel practices are on a daily basis. Only if all the mandatory standards are met and all items are checked in the "Yes" box should you certify that the kennel has met the standards as set forth by the guidelines provided by Mush with PRIDE. The optional items are highly recommended by the Mush with PRIDE Board; however the Board does not feel that they are essential. The kennel owner will receive a higher rating ("Certification Plus") for meeting a majority of them.

Please ensure a representative photo of the kennel is provided with the inspection paperwork, along with any comments you feel necessary, either positive or negative.

The Board emphasizes that by signing the statement at the end of the checklist, you agree only that you have personally inspected the kennel and it does or does not meet the described standards on that day. You are not personally or professionally certifying that you agree with or endorse any of the specific guidelines of Mush with PRIDE.

After the form is received by the Board, a certificate of inspection will be mailed to the member stating the level of certification that the kennel has achieved.

The Mush with PRIDE Board suggests that inspectors set their own fees for services for the site visit/inspection and these fees are the responsibility of the kennel owner. Mush with PRIDE does not provide any funds for the kennel inspections.

Thank you for helping promote humane and proper care of sled-dogs.

The Board of Mush with PRIDE

MUSH with PRIDE, Kennel Certification

SECTION ONE – Mandatory Items. All eleven items must be marked “Yes” for certification.

1. **WATER:** All dogs are provided with adequate amounts of clean water every day. (pg 16)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

2. **SHELTER:** Every dog has full access to a shelter adequate for the conditions (protection from wind/rain/snow/direct sun). (pg 10)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

3. **DIET:** Dogs are offered a diet which is complete and wholesome and provided in amounts adequate to maintain normal body condition for the environmental conditions and amount of exercise. All dogs should be adequately fed and watered at least once a day. (pg 14)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

4. **CONFINEMENT:** Dogs are confined in a manner that is safe and free of hazards (i.e. no sharp metal, protruding nails, debris)

a) If tethered, the tethers or chains are tangle-free and of a sufficient length to allow freedom of movement and adequate exercise. (pg 7-9)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

b) If kept in runs, they are constructed of chain-link or wire fencing that is secure and all openings are small enough to prevent entrapment injury to limbs or head. (pg 9)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

5. **FECES:** Stools are removed daily from the kennel area and are disposed of in a sanitary and legal manner. (pg 6)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

6. **ESTRUS:** If intact bitches are kept on the premises, a confinement method is available which can safely house them under conditions within the guidelines and prevent unplanned breeding. (pg 10)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

7. **SOCIALIZATION:** Dogs are socialized to the point of allowing contact with humans without aggressive behaviors such as baring of teeth, growling, or fear posturing. Dogs exhibiting maladaptive pathological behaviors are being managed with an acceptable program for accommodation or remediation. (pg 11)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

8. **QUALITY OF LIFE:** All dogs are provided with a basic quality of life. Each dog is given adequate and appropriate opportunities to engage in beneficial species-typical behaviors and activities. No dog is forced to live under pain or distress without veterinary intervention for relief from pain/suffering.

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

9. **ROUTINE TRANSPORTATION:** Adequate containers are used for the transportation and confinement of dogs during travel. (pg 11-12)

Yes No Owners’ Initials _____

10. The kennel owner has **current membership** with Mush with PRIDE. Owners’ Initials _____

11. All dogs are **current on vaccinations** as required by local laws. Owners’ Initials _____

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SECTION TWO: Optional Items: The following items are highly recommended by Mush with PRIDE. Your kennel will receive a rating of "Certification Plus" if it meets the majority of the applicable items.

12. **KENNEL:** Kennel area/dog yard is located for best possible drainage. (pg 4)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

13. **FENCING:** The kennel area/dog yard is surrounded by a fence of an adequate height and strength to contain loose dogs and keep children and wildlife out of the yard. (pg 6)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

14. **RECORD KEEPING:** Individual records are kept for each dog including vaccinations, deworming and medical history. (pg 23)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

15. There exists a prior valid veterinarian-client relationship and/or emergency contact phone number for veterinary care is available. (pg 23-24)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

16. **BREEDING:** Records of breeding status are kept on all dogs. Dogs with genetic defects/diseases are prevented from breeding. (pg 23)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

17. **WHELPING:** If breeding takes place on site, a suitable whelping pen and house is available. (pg 30)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

18. **EMERGENCY EVACUATION:** A means of safe transport and an emergency evacuation plan is in place to move dogs to safety in a timely manner in an emergency. (pg 11-12)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

19. **FOOD:** Food ingredients are stored in such a manner as to prevent contamination. (pg 14)

Yes No Owners' Initials _____

Certifications:

I, _____, have inspected the kennel located at

Owned by _____ at the kennel owner's request.

This kennel (circle) does / does not meet each of the basic kennel standards for the housing and care of sled dogs according to the Mush with PRIDE *Sled Dog Care Guidelines*, 3rd edition. In addition, it meets _____ of the optional but highly recommended standards (where applicable).

Signed _____ Date _____

Professional Title: _____ Lic. # _____

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I, _____, the owner (or agent designated in writing by owner) of the kennel listed in these documents, have requested this inspection and accompanied the signing inspector during the inspection. I have initialed each statement above in a truthful manner to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please retain one copy for kennel owner, one for kennel inspector, and send original to Board of Directors of Mush with PRIDE. Please include a recent photo of the general kennel area. The Board will maintain a record that this kennel was inspected on this date. If the kennel has met all the minimum standards (numbers 1-11), the Board will provide a certificate of inspection and a metal kennel plaque indicating compliance with Mush with PRIDE Kennel Certification standards on the date of inspection. If the kennel meets a majority of the optional standards, the Board will issue a certificate for "Certification Plus" compliance.