

Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Kennel Inspection and Certification Program

The Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Kennel Inspection and Certification Program provides a means by which sled dog kennel operators can demonstrate that their kennel is managed in a manner that is consistent with the recommendations of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines at the time the kennel is inspected. It is intended that the inspection be performed by an approved, objective 3rd party with professional standing within his or her community.

Mush with P.R.I.D.E. approved inspectors include only the following:

- A doctor of veterinary medicine, licensed to practice in the jurisdiction in which the kennel is located.
- A veterinary technician employed by a doctor of veterinary medicine licensed to practice in the jurisdiction in which the kennel is located.
- An employee of an animal control agency authorized to enforce animal welfare statutes, regulations and/or ordinances.
- A law enforcement officer employed within the jurisdiction in which the kennel is located.
- A layperson inspector authorized by the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Board of Directors to perform kennel inspections within the jurisdiction in which the kennel is located.

Recent certification demonstrates that the sled dog kennel operator provides a standard of care that is consistent with the recommendations of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines. It demonstrates that the kennel operator is dedicated to providing a high standard of care that goes well beyond the legal requirements of most jurisdictions.

Mush with P.R.I.D.E. strongly recommends that inspectors download and read the current revision of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines prior to conducting the inspection. The Sled Dog Care Guidelines are available free of charge. Just scroll toward the bottom of the home page of our website at www.mushwithpride.org. Reading the Guidelines will help the inspector understand the intent of each Guideline and understand the relative importance of each recommendation.

Important Information for the Musher and/or Kennel Operator:

The kennel operator is the person who is legally responsible for the management of the kennel and care of the kennel's sled dogs in the legal jurisdiction in which the kennel is located. To participate in the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Kennel Inspection Program you must be an individual, kennel or business member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. If you are not yet a member you can join P.R.I.D.E. by clicking on the "Join Mush with P.R.I.D.E." link on our website at www.mushwithpride.org.

You may schedule your kennel inspection for any time that is convenient to both you and the inspector. If there is no Mush with P.R.I.D.E. approved inspector available to you in your community please contact us by email to info@mushwithpride.org and we will try to work with you to find a mutually agreeable alternative. Regardless of your qualification you are not permitted to inspect your own kennel.

Print a copy of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Kennel Inspection Checklist for the inspector prior to his or her arrival at your kennel. We highly recommend that you conduct a self-inspection using the checklist prior to scheduling your official inspection to make sure that all of the recommendations ***printed in bold italic font**** can be marked either "Yes" or "N/A" (not applicable). Such recommendations which are required in order for your kennel to be certified by Mush with P.R.I.D.E.

You or a caretaker familiar with your dogs should accompany and assist the inspector throughout the inspection process.

Before the inspector leaves please go over the Kennel Inspection Checklist with the inspector to make sure that every recommendation has been checked as either "yes", "no" or "N/A" (not applicable). Every recommendation must have one of those three options checked. Also be sure the inspector has filled in the Kennel Inspector Information on the inspection form.

After either your or the inspector has filled in the Kennel Operator Information on the form you have a choice of two options to submit the form and payment of the \$25.00 kennel inspection fee.

Option #1: Submit the form and payment electronically.

To submit the form electronically you will need to scan the entire Kennel Inspection Checklist as a .pdf or .jpeg document. Pay the kennel inspection fee by clicking on the "Kennel Inspection Program" link on our website at www.mushwithpride.org and then send the scanned copy of the inspection checklist to our secretary by email to info@mushwithpride.org.

Option #2: Submit the form and payment by mail.

Mail the entire Kennel Inspection Checklist form and your check or money order to pay the inspection fee to;

Mush with P.R.I.D.E.
P.O. Box 1915
Kenai, AK 99611

If submitted by mail please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery of your kennel inspection certificate.

**Mush with P.R.I.D.E.
Kennel Inspection Checklist
Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines Revision 4-2.**

Instructions:

- This form represents the recommendations found in the current revision of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines. Block headings refer to the chapter of the Guidelines in which those specific recommendations appear.
- To be complete, each recommendation in this form should be marked as either Yes, No or N/A.
- N/A indicates the recommendation is not applicable to this kennel. For example, if the kennel is inspected during summer the winter watering recommendation should be marked N/A and vice versa.
- Recommendations in ***bold italics followed by an asterisk**** are required for inspection certification (meets minimum standard). All recommendations are used to determine if the kennel receives "Certification Plus" status (exceeds minimum standard).
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Environmental Management

Pen Confinement. Number of dogs confined in pens or runs _____

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Dogs confined in pens have at least 1 companion sharing the same pen unless single housing is necessary to prevent unwanted breeding, is necessary due to illness or injury, or is necessary to confine a dangerously aggressive dog.			
<i>Pens are constructed of sturdy materials and are tall enough to prevent dogs from escaping.*</i>			
<i>Spaces and gaps within wire fencing are small enough to prevent entrapment of heads or feet of dogs housed within.*</i>			
<i>Pens provide at least 150 square feet of space for 2 dogs plus an addition 50 square feet of space for each additional dog sharing the pen.*</i>			
<i>Dog houses placed within pens are placed such that they are unlikely to be as platforms from which the dog may climb or jump over the fence.*</i>			
Gates are wide enough to permit access while carrying feed or water pails.			

Tether Confinement. Number of dogs confined by tethers _____

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Tethers are spaced to permit each dog to interact with at least 1 other dog without chains becoming tangled.*</i>			
<i>Chains used in circular tethering system are at least 6 feet long, measured from the anchor to the snap.*</i>			
<i>Non-circular types of tethering systems (i.e. "gang chain" and linear systems) provide each dog at least 100 square feet (3.5 square meters) of space*</i>			
<i>Collars of dogs confined by tethers are of durable material, at least 3/4 inches wide, non-slipping or limited slipping (martingale) type and there are no signs of skin chafing beneath the collars.*</i>			
<i>No dogs are tethered by cable, rope or other small diameter material that can tangle and cinch tightly enough to constrict breathing or blood circulation.*</i>			

Indoor Confinement. Number of dogs confined indoors _____

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Ventilation is adequate to remove excess heat, dampness, odor and pollutants.*</i>			
<i>A-B-C rated fire extinguishers are available within 50 feet of any location within the structure in which dogs are housed.*</i>			
Evacuation routes such as hallways or aisles or alleyways are clear of obstructions			
No straw, wood chips or flammable liquids are stored in the structure in which dogs are housed.*			

Perimeter Fencing

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Kennel is surrounded by a perimeter fence that is tall and sturdy enough to prevent dogs from dogs from escaping and prevent wild animals, stray pets or human trespassers from coming into contact with the dogs.			

Shelter

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Every dog spending <u>unsupervised</u> time outdoors or inside a structure without climate controls is provided a doghouse or similar type shelter.*</i>			
<i>Each doghouse is adequate to provide protection from wind and all forms of precipitation.*</i>			

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Doghouses provide appropriate insulation based on each dog's coat type and condition, body condition and general health.*</i>			
<i>Each doghouse is large enough for the dog to turn around and relax inside, but small enough to conserve heat.*</i>			
<i>During winter dogs are provided insulative bedding in the form of straw, hay or wood chips and that bedding is clean and dry.*</i>			
<i>During winter the doorway to each dog's house is elevated above the snow level and snow is shoveled away from the doorway to permit easy access.*</i>			

Substrate

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Kennel provides adequate drainage to prevent long term exposure to mud or wet surfaces that can result in foot injuries.			
Organic material used to reduce exposure to mud or water is removed when weather improves.			
<i>Dogs confined to solid surfaces such as floors, platforms or pavement are provided ample opportunities to play and exercise on natural surfaces.*</i>			

Waste Management

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Absence of visible feces indicates that feces is removed from primary confinement areas at least once each day.*</i>			
Feces removed from the kennel is disposed of in a manner that is legal, reasonably sanitary and does not expose the dogs or neighboring properties to obnoxious odors.			

Professional Opinion

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
This kennel operator meets his or her responsibility to confine his or her dogs in a manner that prevents escape, provides protection from natural or human threats, and helps promote a good quality of life for his or her dogs.			

Watering and Feeding

Note to inspector: This inspection requires a hands-on examination of at least 10% of the dogs housed in this sled dog kennel. Dogs should be randomly chosen by the inspector. The kennel operator or designated caretaker may assist in handling dogs.

Hands on examinations. Number of dogs examined _____

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Every dog examined has moist gums with capillary refilling time less than 2 seconds and normal skin turgor (tent test),*</i>			
<i>Every adult dog examined has a body condition score within the ideal range of 4 - 6 on a nine-point scale or is being appropriately treated to return BCS to the ideal range.*</i>			
<i>Every puppy, geriatric dog and pregnant or nursing female examined has an appropriate body condition score based on their special needs.*</i>			
Any injury or illness detected in the examination is being appropriately treated by the kennel operator			

Water

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>If temperature is above freezing, every dog has clean, fresh water available.*</i>			
<i>If temperature is below freezing, each dog is provided water at least twice daily.*</i>			

Feed

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Commercially manufactured dog food is labeled as complete and balanced for the life stages of the dogs receiving that food.*</i>			
Kibble is stored in the original manufacturer's bags until opened for feeding.			
Kibble is fed within 1 month of opening each bag.			
Kibble is not stored beyond 12 months of manufacture or the "use by" date printed on each bag.			
Kibble storage area is dry and the temperature does not exceed 80° F (26.6° C).			
<i>Animal sources of protein used in homemade diets are stored frozen at a temperature less than 0° F (-18° C).*</i>			
Meat or fish based homemade diet includes 1.4 to 4 grams bone meal (or equivalent alternate source of calcium) per dog in each ration.			

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Dogs fed primarily a meat or fish based diet are given at least 1 canine multi-vitamin daily.			
<i>Puppies under 6-months of age are fed commercially manufactured dog food specifically formulated for puppies or all life stages.*</i>			

Professional Opinion

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
This kennel operator meets his or her responsibility to provide each dog a complete and balanced diet and adequate water to support good health?			

Basic Health Care

Availability of Veterinary Care

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Kennel operator has established a valid veterinarian-patient-client relationship with a veterinarian licensed to practice in this jurisdiction. If "No", see below.*</i>			
- <i>If No or N/A above, the kennel operator has an alternative means of seeking emergency veterinary advice telephonically or electronically.*</i>			
Contact information of emergency veterinary care providers are appropriately posted and immediately accessible.			

Veterinary and Health Recordkeeping

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Kennel operator can produce a health record for each dog within the kennel, either hard copy or digital.*</i>			
- Health record includes identifying information, date of birth or acquisition, and reproductive status of each dog.			
- Health record includes current certificate of vaccination against rabies or all dogs over 1 year of age.			
- Health record includes a record of all vaccinations received by each dog			
- Health record includes date and name of dewormers received by each dog			
- Health record includes estrus cycles of each intact female			
- Health record includes veterinary examinations, treatments and/or procedures received by each dog			
- Health record notes the administration of all medications received by each dog			

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
- Health record includes observations of changes in the dogs physical or behavioral condition that may indicate injury or disease			

General Health

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Majority of dogs in this kennel appear to be in good general health.*</i>			
<i>Dogs displaying signs of illness or injury are being appropriately treated for their condition.*</i>			

Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Food dishes, water containers and enrichment items are clean and free of debris.			
Uneaten food is removed and discarded			
<i>Puppies not yet fully vaccinated and any dogs with suppressed immune systems are managed to ensure they interact only with fully vaccinated dogs.*</i>			
<i>All age-eligible dogs are vaccinated against rabies as required by statutes and/or regulations pertaining to the legal jurisdiction of the kennel.*</i>			
All age-eligible dogs are vaccinated against canine distemper virus (CDV), canine adenovirus (CAV; types 1 and 2) and canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2) and its variants.			
All dogs are regularly dewormed of parasites common to the geographic location of the kennel.			
<i>Kennel operator has developed a response plan to identify dogs that may be infected by contagious disease and includes provisions to isolate infected dogs away from the general kennel population.*</i>			

Professional Opinion

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
This kennel operator meets his or her responsibility to prevent or rapidly provide appropriate treatment of disease and injury, and to foster good muscle tone, posture and cardiorespiratory function			

Population Management

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>Kennel includes an isolated pen in which intact females can be sequestered away from males during estrus.</i>			
Dogs affected by known or highly suspected genetic diseases are spayed or neutered to remove them from the gene pool.			
Dogs not intended for breeding are spayed or neutered after achieving puberty to prevent inadvertent breeding.			

Safety, Emergency Management and Security

Identification of Dogs

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Every age-eligible dog has an injected RFID microchip registered to the musher or kennel operator. If "no" see below.			
- Dogs that have not been microchipped bear a permanent identification tattoo?			
Each dog has emergency contact information permanently affixed to his or her collar.			

Safety and Emergency Response Planning

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
The kennel operator and/or caretakers have received formal training in first aid and/or emergency medical care.			
The kennel operator has a plan for managing a range of common emergencies that is likely to achieve a satisfactory outcome should that emergency actually occur.			
All family members and/or sled dog caretakers who work within the kennel are familiar with the emergency response plans?			

Disaster Preparation and Response

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
The kennel operator has prepared written plans to respond to disasters likely to occur in his or her geographic region (i.e wildfires, floods, earthquakes, &c).			
<i>The kennel has an adequate stock or source of water, feed and supplies for both dogs and humans to shelter in place for at least 7 days.*</i>			

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
<i>The kennel has an evacuation plan that is likely to enable all animals and people to evacuate to a preplanned, safe location in a reasonably timely manner.*</i>			

Kennel Security

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
Appropriate no trespassing signs are posted at entryways or along property lines to forewarn potential trespassers.			
The kennel's dog confinement area is located within view or earshot of the musher, kennel operator's or caretakers residence. (if "No" see below)			
- The remote kennel area is regularly patrolled by law enforcement, animal control, neighborhood watch or private security officers.			
- The remote kennel area is protected by a security surveillance camera system that can notify the kennel operator should unauthorized people enter the area.			
<i>The kennel operator has a plan to safely prevent or intervene should trespassers attempt into directly interact with dogs.*</i>			

Professional Opinion

Recommendation	Yes	No	N/A
This kennel operator meets his or her responsibility to protect each dog and each human caretaker from foreseeable circumstances or risks that can threaten their health and well-being.			

End of Inspection

	Yes	No	N/A
Each recommendation marked "No" in this inspection has been discussed with the owner, kennel operator or caretaker requesting the inspection. Suggestions for correcting deficiencies have been offered.			

Professional Opinion

	Yes	No
It is my professional opinion that this kennel is operated and managed in a manner that is consistent with the recommendations contained in the current revision of the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines and that certification of this kennel should be granted.		

Inspector's Signature and Date:

Kennel Inspector Information

Inspector's Name	
Inspector's Job or Position Title	
Inspector's Clinic or Agency Affiliation	
Inspector's Phone Number	
Inspector's Email Address	
Inspector's Mailing Address	

Kennel Operator Information

The Kennel Operator is the person legally responsible for the care of the dogs residing in this kennel.

Kennel Name	
Kennel Operator's Name*	
Kennel Operator's Position (circle)	Owner Co-owner/Partner Manager Caretaker Other (Describe)
Kennel Physical Address	
Kennel Mailing Address	
Kennel Phone Number	
Alternate phone number	
Kennel Email Address	