

MUSH WITH PRIDE NEWS

Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment • Number 19, ~~Winter~~ Summer 1999/2000



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Kennel certification draft finished

First Aid book ready for print; Mush For Kids another success

by David Monson

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a successful season. Mine was a real exciting one as I tried sprint racing. My rookie season covered every possible outcome from 1st place to Red Lantern.

I must apologize to all of you that the newsletter is so late. The buck stops here!

I do have some exciting things to report though.

1) Kennel Certification Program: At the 1999 ADMA Symposium, we had an open workshop to finalize a draft for the Pride Kennel Certification. The results you will see printed inside. These guidelines were hashed out extensively by unanimous con-

sent. If you have any concerns with the guidelines, please contact me so we can discuss it as a possible amendment.

2) Our First Aid Book is ready to go to the printer. It will be printed on waterproof, write-in-the-rain, paper and will have blank pages for notes on dog health and may even be used as the Vet book in races where they are required.

3) Mush For Kids, held April 8th in Fairbanks, Alaska was a great success. More on this fund raiser for the Alaska Children's Trust is also in the newsletter.

Please write or call if you have issues you think Pride should be addressing.

Thanks! David •

ADMA Symposium

The Alaska Dog Musers' Association (ADMA) is proud to bring the 2000 International Sleddog Symposium.

This fun and educational event will be at the Alaskaland Civic Center on Airport Way. in Fairbanks, Alaska on September 29, 30 and October 1st. Attendees come from all across Alaska, the Lower 48, Canada, and Europe. They come to learn as much as they can about their sport and its' associated technology, gear, feeds, additives, equipment, and services.

To check out last year's schedule for an idea of the topics discussed check out the ADMA home Web page at www.sleddog.org. •

Members meet Sept. 30

The 2000 Mush with PRIDE general membership meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, September 30 at the Alaskaland Civic Center in Fairbanks, Alaska, following the day's session of the Alaska Dog Musers' sled dog symposium.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Reminder: Nominations for the board of directors will be accepted until September 1. •

Levorsen wins 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award

by Kathy Frost

Mush with PRIDE announces the selection of Bob Levorsen as the recipient of Mush with PRIDE's 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award. Levorsen is being recognized for his lifetime devotion to sled dog sports.

The PRIDE Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals who exemplify the goals and spirit of PRIDE and serve as a role model to others in the sport.

Levorsen and his wife Bella first became hooked on sled dogs in 1965 when they were living in Anchorage, Alaska. Upon moving to California, Bob quickly became involved in the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers. In 1976, realizing the new mushers' need for information about how to train and care for their dogs, Levorsen and his wife Bella worked with the Sierra Nevada Dog Drivers to edit and publish the book "MUSH: A Beginner's Manual of Sled Dog Training."

Levorsen later became President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA). He was responsible for implementing the ISDRA championship point system and medal awards program, which allows mushers to participate in the points

Olympic recognition of
sleddog sports has been
Levorsen's main goal for
several years.

system through local sanctioned races without having to travel all over the country to larger races.

Levorsen was a founding member of the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports (IFSS), and served on the Council from its inception until 1996 when he retired. During his IFSS tenure, he was the driving force in pursuing Olympic recognition for sled dog sports. As Chairman of the IFSS Olympic Committee, he spearheaded IFSS's 1993 application for Olympic recognition of sleddog sports, and since then has traveled around the world to speak on behalf of sleddog sports with Olympic officials and others.

Olympic recognition of sleddog sports has been Levorsen's main goal for several
continued on page 2

MORE INSIDE

★
Nominations for 2000 Lifetime
Achievement Award

★
Updated Voluntary Certification
Guidelines for Review

★
PRIDE thanks 2000 Mush for Kids
volunteers

★

Levorsen wins, continued from page 4

years. A decade ago, when people first talked about Olympic recognition for sled dog racing, he was not afraid to take on a task that looked impossible to some. He has invested a tremendous amount of time, and has personally financed his own travel and the travel of others in pursuit of this goal. According to past IFSS President Glenda Walling, who served with Levorsen during his tenure with both ISDRA and IFSS: "This man is a lead dog, a problem solver, a man of action. He is hard working, he is loyal, he focuses on the finish line, he never quits when the go-

ing gets tough."

As IFSS European Continental Director Bernard Pepin of France said, "Bob was convinced from the beginning that the sled dog sport should be recognized as a real sport and would develop through its recognition by the national and international sports authorities such as the IOC and General Assembly of International Sports Federations (GAISF)."

Levorsen co-chaired the IFSS Survey Committee throughout the 1990s. Convinced that the sport needed good data about sleddog sports and its development through-

out the world in order to be recognized by international organizations, his committee published two worldwide surveys in 1994 and 1998. These surveys, which documented the types of races, prize money, and numbers of participants in sleddog sports around the world, had the added benefit of showing mushers that their sport was practiced by many more people than they had thought, and in countries they had never imagined.

According to Walling at Levorsen's retirement from the IFSS Council in 1996, "Bob has been instrumental in the evolution of mushing into a global activity. He has begged, pleaded and threatened sleddog racing organizations around the world into providing him with information ... so necessary to painting a vivid picture of the nature and growth of our sport."

As Pepin summarizes: "I do not know anybody in the sled dog sports who has been so dedicated to them, who has spent so much of his time and so much of his money for their development without asking for any personal benefit in return. He is a living example to all of us. He deserves a great appreciation from all of us. I am very proud to know him and to have worked with him." •

Nominations Open for 2000 Lifetime Award

Nominations for PRIDE's 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award are being accepted by the PRIDE board of directors. This award is presented to an individual who exemplified the goals and spirit of PRIDE throughout his or her career. A nominee should be able to serve as a role model for other PRIDE members and the mushing community as a whole.

PRIDE's goals are to (1) establish guidelines for proper sled dog care and treatment, (2) facilitate communication among mushers about the treatment and care of sled dogs, (3) educate young people about sled dogs and mushing, (4) enhance the care of sled dogs by improved husbandry and veterinary

practices, (5) promote public understanding about the care, treatment, and traditional and modern uses of sled dogs, and (6) welcome and assist new mushers.

The 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Bob Levorsen, a founder of the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports (see article on page 1). Previous Lifetime Achievement award winners have been Dr. Dominique Grandjean, Mary Shields, Roxy Wright Champaine, and Tim White.

Nominations should include a brief letter of no more than 500 words. The PRIDE board is slated make the final selection at an upcoming meeting. •

**THANK YOU, Members and Advertisers,
For Supporting Mush with PRIDE!**

Cold Spot Feeds

Your complete sled dog catalog and store

Sales and Service • Fast Delivery
Iditarod/Yukon Quest-Proven Equipment
Visa/MasterCard Accepted

Write, call or visit:

471 Tail Waggin' Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
(907)457-8555 • Fax (907)457-8556
www.coldspotfeeds.com



"Oh Lord, help me to be the person my dogs think I am."



Alaskan Tails of the Trail with Mary Shields

Sharing the joys of dog mushing. 907-455-6469



Trail Breaker Kennel

Susan Butcher and David Monson

Dogs for Sale

*Everything from top gee/haw race-proven
leaders to neutered pet dogs.*

Call 907-479-3825

P.O. Box 60249, Fairbanks, AK 99706



RAE'S HARNESS SHOP

Meeting the needs of Alaskan
dogs for over 25 years.

• We carry a complete line of premium
pet foods and supplies.

1(800)-770-1177 • 563-3411

PRIDE seeks input on updated voluntary kennel inspection form

The second version of a voluntary kennel certification, based on the comments at the Mush with PRIDE meeting at the Alaska Dog Musers Association symposium in 1999, is reprinted in full on page 4. E-mail comments about this version to Ken Severin at fnkps@uaf.edu, or mail them to P.O. Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA.

Suggested cover letter for inspecting veterinarian

Dear Doctor:

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 sleddogs 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 sleddogs. Note that inspection is voluntary, and only at the request of the kennel owner, who must be a current member of Mush with PRIDE. Please examine the Sled Dog Care Guidelines, Second Edition prior to your inspection visit for the specific items you will be addressing. Most checklist items have reference to specific page numbers in case clarification is needed.

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 on the day you inspect the kennel. 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 for meeting them.

Please provide us with a representative photo of the kennel, and 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 or 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 inspecting veterinarians set their own fees for service 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 sleddogs.

The Board of Mush with PRIDE •

BITS & PIECES

ISDVMA To Host Symposium In October

The International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association Symposium 2000 will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA from October 19 through 22 at the KI Convention Center/Regency Suites.

The symposium agenda is slated to be published on the ISDMVA website, www.isdvma.org.

For more information about ISDVMA, send e-mail to isdvma@isdvma.org, or write: ISDVMA, P.O. Box 2106, Wakefield, MA 01880 USA. •

PRIDE Sled Dog Rescue

The goal of Mush with PRIDE's Rescue Committee is to help mushers take good care of their dogs. We want to assist in preventing and alleviating the suffering of sled dogs living in inadequate kennel conditions. Kennel owners or others who seek advice will be given support through information and advisory resources. Cases of unwanted animals will be referred to agencies or shelters mandated for that purpose. If you know of someone who may need help, please call any of the following (if none of these volunteers is in your region, please call anyway—we'll still try to arrange for help):

Interior Alaska

David Monson, 907-479-3825
Rick Swenson, 907-488-0393
Ken Severin, 907-455-6552
Tonya Schlentner, 907-455-6861
Jeff King, 907-683-6874

Southcentral Alaska

Dee Dee Jonrowe, 907-495-6691
Martin Buser, 907-892-7899
Vern Halter, 907-495-1197
Susan Whiton, DVM, 907-495-1197

Colorado/Wyoming

Caroline Griffiths, DVM, 970-613-0639

Kentucky

Paula Ciniero, 502-829-0339

Ohio

Kathleen M. Bailey, DVM, 740-344-2606

North Dakota

Eric Hansen, 701-882-3272

Wisconsin

Amy Cooper, 608-857-3615
Nick Vukich, DVM, 920-468-5800
Margaret Terhar, DVM, 920-468-5800

We need volunteers wherever PRIDE has members—let us know if you can help.

KETCHIKAN VETERINARY CLINIC, INC.

DR. VERN R. STARKS
DR. DAN A. WALTON

UNCOMMON
JOURNEYS LTD.

DOGSLED ADVENTURES IN CANADA'S YUKON

Guided dogsled trips into the Yukon's magnificent wilderness.

Mush your own team of northern huskies.

Live in beautiful log cabins and yurts.

All arctic clothing and equipment provided.

Write for colour brochure and detailed information:

RR#2, Site 3, Comp 21, Whitehorse, Y.T. Canada Y1A 5W2
phone: 867 668 2255 fax: 867 668 2254

Mush with PRIDE Voluntary Kennel Inspection Program Checklist For Basic Standards of Sled Dog Care and Maintenance

SECTION ONE - Mandatory Items. All ten items must be marked "Yes" for certification.

1. WATER: All dogs are provided with adequate amounts of clean water every day. (pg 13)
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
2. SHELTER: Every dog has full access to a shelter adequate for the conditions (protection from wind/rain/snow/direct sun). (pg 8-9)
? Yes ? No owner's 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, except as dictated by veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or professionally accepted practices. (pg 13-17)
? Yes ? No owner's 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 9)
 - 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.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
5. FECES: Stools are removed daily from the kennel area and are disposed of in a sanitary and legal manner.
? Yes ? No owner's 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, 24-25).
? Yes ? No ? N/A owner's initials _____
7. SOCIALIZATION: Most dogs should be adequately socialized to the point of allowing contact without aggressive behaviors such as barring of teeth, growling, signs of fear-biter posturing or attempting to bite (without provocation). Dogs exhibiting maladaptive or pathological behavior which could result in self-injury, injury to others, or other undesirable consequences are being managed with an acceptable program for accommodation or remediation.
? Yes ? No owner's 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 behaviours and activities. No dog is forced to live under pain or distress without veterinary intervention for relief from pain/suffering.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
9. ROUTINE TRANSPORTATION: Adequate containers are used for the transportation and confinement of dogs during travel. These containers must provide sufficient space for each dog to turn about freely and make normal postural adjustments (stand, sit, lie down). Where appropriate, the dogs' movement may be restricted when freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the dog, handlers, or other animals or persons.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
10. The kennel owner has a current membership with Mush with PRIDE.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____

SECTION TWO: Optional Items The following items are highly recommended by MUSH with PRIDE. Your kennel will receive an additional star for every two of these items that it meets. If your kennel meets all seven items it will be given a five star rating.

11. KENNEL: Kennel area/dog yard is located for best possible drainage. (pg 7-8)
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
12. FENCING: In places where young children might visit, the kennel area/dog yard is surrounded by a fence of an adequate height and strength to contain loose dogs and keep children out of the yard.
? Yes ? No ? N/A owner's initials _____
13. RECORD KEEPING: Individual records are kept for each dog including vaccinations, deworming and medical history. All dogs have a current rabies certificate if required by local law. There exists a prior valid veterinarian-client relationship and/or an emergency contact phone number for veterinary care is available. (pg 32-33)
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
14. BREEDING: Records of breeding are kept on all sexually intact dogs. Dogs with genetic defects/diseases are prevented from breeding.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
15. WHELPING: If breeding takes place on site, a suitable whelping pen and house is available. (pg 28-29)
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
16. 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.
? Yes ? No owner's initials _____
17. FOOD: Food ingredients are stored in a such a manner as to prevent contamination.
? Yes ? No

Certifications:

I, Dr. _____, have inspected the kennel located at _____ which is owned by _____ at their request.

This kennel (circle) does / does not meet each of the basic standards for the housing and care of sled dogs as given in the Mush with PRIDE Sled Dog Care Guidelines, Second Edition. In addition, it meets _____ of the optional but highly recommended other standards.

Signed _____ Date _____

State Veterinary Lic. # _____

Veterinarian's Comments, if applicable:

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

Signed _____ Date _____

One copy to kennel owner, one to inspecting veterinarian, original to the Board of Directors of MUSH with P.R.I.D.E. 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 for basic sled dog care, the Board will provide a certificate of inspection indicating such was the case on the date of inspection.

PRIDE Extends Big Thanks to Mush For Kids Volunteers

by Chris Terzi

On April 8, 2000 Mush with PRIDE once again had the privilege of working with the Friends of Alaska's Children's Trust in helping raise money for the Alaska Children's Trust.

Bright sunshine enticed many children and their families to the event at the new Pike's Waterfront Lodge where a action-packed day kept everyone busy. Thanks to many enthusiastic sled dogs and their mushers, 1000 plus children enjoyed rides along a snow-packed sled trail near the Chena River. Other activities included the

Mushers Olympics, a magic act and a pen with 3 playful sled dog puppies.

The success of the event was due to many generous volunteers taking time out of their busy schedules to share with the public their favorite aspect of dog mushing. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Volunteers included Patricia Baer, Cheryle Barrett, Carol, Christina, Michelle, Kathy and Jimmy Blevins, Chris DuBois, Ramy Brooks, Randy Brown, Craig and Billy Cole, Bill Cotter, Christie Couckuyt, Kathy

Cromer, Kathy Dimond, Kelly Giraud, Jessica Hendricks, Andy Hutten, Bea and Oly, Claudia Ihl, Carol Kaynor, Carol Kleckner, Judy Kreith, Lathrop High School ROTC, Kathy Leninger, Val and Ray Mackler, Mike Malvick, Tom McGrane, David Monson, Farren Okray, Lynn Orbison, Tonya and Carol Schlentner, Ken Severin, Gerry Stern, Lisa Stuby, Chris Terzi, Ron and Vivian Tinsley, Chuck Vogel, Aliy Zirkle plus several more who's names have escaped our fading memories. Thank you all! •

YES! Please renew my membership in Mush with PRIDE!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- ☐ Individual, \$15
- ☐ Family or Club, \$20
- ☐ Youth under 18, \$5
- ☐ Associate (non-voting), \$10
- ☐ Business/Supporter, \$100

If you wish, on another sheet, please share your comments, mention types of work you can help with when needed, or pass on the address of a friend who might like information about PRIDE.

Please send this form with payment in U.S. funds to:

Mush with PRIDE, P.O. Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA



Mush with PRIDE

"Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment"

Questions?

Call 1-800-50-PRIDE
or 1-907-457-6421

Send e-mail to
pride@polarnet.com



Sure Fire Pet Supply & Feed

Full Line Dog Mushing and Pet Supplies
and Animal Feed • Mail/Bush Orders Welcome

Mile 155.5 Sterling Highway
P.O. Box 822, Anchor Point, AK 99556

Call for Catalog: 907-235-5698 • Fax 907-235-4798



GOLD KING CREEK The Alaska Range, of course

A great destination for training runs, trips, or getaway weekends • Offering meals and cabins

Visit us at <http://www2.polarnet.com/~akrange>

P.O.B. 61497, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 • (907)452-0073 or (907)459-8288

MUSH WITH PRIDE NEWS is published quarterly by Mush with PRIDE, PO Box 84915, Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA; telephone 1-800-50-PRIDE, 1-907-457-6421; e-mail pride@polarnet.com; Internet: www.ptialaska.net/~pride1. Contents copyrighted 1998 by Mush with PRIDE. Submissions are gratefully accepted and considered for publication. Classified ads can be placed for 50 cents per word. Display ads are run for \$20 for a business card, \$48 for 1/4 page, \$95 for 1/2 page, and \$190 for a full page (all U.S. funds). Call or write for more information.

Membership in Mush with PRIDE is open to all. Rates are \$15/individual, \$20/family or club, \$10/non-voting associate member, \$5/youth under 18, \$100/business (includes four business card ads in the newsletter). Members receive the newsletter, 36-page *Sled Dog Care Guidelines*, and a ballot for elections. Memberships begin on Oct. 1 each year. (Those received on or after June 1 are good through the following membership year.) **Your continued support is much appreciated!**

PRIDE stands for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment." Mush with PRIDE provides information to mushers, the public, and the media about the proper care and training of sled dogs. We believe that modern sled dog owners are proud of their dogs as canine athletes that are bred and trained to do what they love—run as part of a team. Mush with PRIDE aims to keep them doing what they love and doing it well. The organization includes a wide variety of mushers—recreationalists and professionals, long-distance and sprint racers, weight pullers, skijorers, freight haulers—as well as sled dog veterinarians and other concerned citizens.

Officers and Directors: David Monson, president; Ken Severin, vice president; Chris Terzi, secretary; Kathy Frost, treasurer; Daryl Darnell, Arna Dan Isacsson, Bill McKee, Debbie Moderow, Arleigh Reynolds, Tonya Schlentner, Kris Swanguarin, Jona Van Zyle, and Dick Westlund.



MUSH WITH PRIDE

PO Box 84915

Fairbanks, AK 99708-4915 USA

Visit us online at www.ptialaska.net/~pride1/
or send e-mail to pride@polarnet.com

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ESTER, AK
USA
Permit No. 1

Thank you for your support!

Mush with PRIDE projects and programs are funded by the generous support of members as well as the following businesses and organizations. THANK YOU ALL!



Cabela's



Current Business/Supporting Members:

Cold Spot Feeds • Gold King Creek • Bob Levorsen • Pfeifer-Hamilton Publishers
Alaska Ice Field Expeditions • Vern R. Starks, DVM • Sure Fire Pet Supply
Rae's Harness Shop • Mary Shields' Tails of the Trail Tours
Alaska Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.

Thank you also to the media outlets that have run Mush with PRIDE ads as public service announcements. They currently include:

Team & Trail • Mushing Magazine

And to the many clubs that print Mush with PRIDE ads in their newsletters!