

# MUSH WITH PRIDE NEWS

Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment • Number <sup>20</sup>~~19~~, Winter/~~Summer~~ 1999-2000

2001



## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

### On balance, guidelines work

by David Monson

I am very grateful to everyone who took the time to comment on the PRIDE proposal for a Kennel Certification program. There have been a lot of helpful comments that we addressed at the last Board meeting. We definitely took to heart the comments of people who feel that PRIDE's goals should not include a voluntary certification program.

One major concern was that voluntary certification could evolve into a mandatory program, and that not everyone should be required to conform to this - or any - standard for their kennel. The other concern was that voluntary certification could stifle the innovation that has so dramatically improved the lives of dogs by the breeders themselves.

We took a critical look at every one of the mandatory and optional requirements of this program with these criticisms in mind.

We reached two conclusions:

1) This is a voluntary program, and Mush With PRIDE has no authority to require it for anyone. Only government agencies can mandate standards for kennels, but private groups can make standards a condition of membership. This is an example where, involving a private group, a kennel can meet the standards if they want certification; if not, they don't have to. As for some sort of government regulations, the

Board feels that it is in the best interest of our dogs that agencies seeking to impose some type of kennel requirements can come to us first as the experts on the care of our dogs and management of our kennels. These standards will give us a unified voice to represent our views and needs to these agencies, if need be.

2) How can these standards harm the dogs or discourage innovation? On this issue, we went point-by-point through each standard, and we could not find any standards that either went beyond minimum care standards or would discourage innovation. Further, we re-read the critical letters and did not find any specific standards that were challenged or disagreed with. We found only the fear of unwanted intrusion.

As I said, we really appreciated all of the comments given, both positive and negative, because it required us to go through the standards again with a fine tooth comb and a critical eye to address these concerns. Some areas were clarified and defined to answer these criticisms.

Our bottom line is that the certification program is a responsibility of Mush With PRIDE in our continuing education of sled dog owners, as well as other concerned groups and that the program should be implemented.

Dave Monson  
President

### Mushers learn from best at ADMA Symposium

by Carol Kleckner

The Alaska Dog Mushers' Annual Sled Dog Symposium took place September 29 through October 1, 2000 at the Alaskaland Civic Center in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The 274 registered attendees enjoyed a huge trade fair and many informative speakers and panels over the busy weekend.

The Symposium opened Friday night with the Mush with PRIDE workshop, "Checkpoint Strategies." The panel was comprised of Aily Zirkle (2000 Yukon Quest champion), Jeff King (winner of three Iditarods and the 1989 Quest), Vern Halter

(1990 Quest winner), Ramy Brooks (1999 Quest champion), and DeeDee Jonrowe (11 top ten Iditarod finishes). Joe May, a Fairbanks veterinarian and Iditarod racer, was the moderator. The "Checkpoint Strategies" panel of world-class dog racers shared their expertise on gear, packing, feeding and resting. This session was taped and the 2-hour cassettes are available for \$18.00 from Mush with PRIDE.

Saturday morning started off with

### Mush For Kids needs help

Attention, Fairbanks-area mushers: Mush With PRIDE needs your help!

The annual Mush For Kids fundraiser will be held April 7, 2001 at the Pike's Landing restaurant in Fairbanks. The day-long event, which features free dog rides, puppy-petting pens, balloons, refreshments and prizes, raises money for the Alaska Children's Trust and raises awareness for PRIDE. Mush For Kids drew 3,000 to 4,000 people last year, with at least as many expected this year.

Mushers, dog teams, sleds, and puppies for petting (and pens) are all needed to keep Mush For Kids a phenomenal success. PRIDE will make sure there is a good, safe trail for your team. Please contact PRIDE if you can help.

### Thank you, PRIDE members

Thank you to all the members of Mush with PRIDE who have renewed their membership for 2000-2001. In the last month, you should have received a blue renewal form in the mail. If you did not receive one and would like to continue to be a member of Mush With PRIDE, please fill out the following form and mail it back as soon as you can!

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# Becoming a More Active Mush with PRIDE Member

By Carol Schlentner

I hope all of us joined Mush With P.R.I.D.E. because we believe in the mission statement and love our animals. Dogs seem to be one of the most common animals that people own, and I think we should care about all the dogs in our neighborhood.

There are many ways that those of us who do not live in the Fairbanks area can still be active members of Mush With P.R.I.D.E. For those of us who live in the "Bush," it may be too far to go to meetings, and it is hard to find time to get near the e-mail or even use the phone. Instead of feeling out of touch, you can become more active even while staying at home.

Step number one is to go to your friends and neighbors who have animals and help them with their pets. Join them as a helping hand. Observe and compliment a job well done or give them a second hand to make changes to bring an even better quality of life to their animals.

Once a week or once a month - or whatever time frame you see fit - set aside time to visit people who have large dog kennels. Call ahead and make an appointment to help them out, and then another time they can help you out. For instance, worming, trimming toe nails, or giving 5-way vaccinations

goes a lot faster with another pair of hands. Help by providing resources that show where worming medicine and vaccinations can be purchased. Perhaps order together since a larger quantity is usually cheaper. All too often dogs are never wormed because the owners do not know what or where to order, and then don't find time to use it.

Help build doghouses or help find where old doghouses can be recycled, or just go and offer to repair doghouses. While you are in the dog yard, you can check over the chains and help repair them. Make sure everyone knows how to use an "S" hook tool. Perhaps get a community chain (bolt) cutter so new chains can be put together.

Straw has been expensive and hard to come by, so cutting meadow grass is a good alternative. It takes time, but for those re-

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mote dog owners it is available. I've just used a big sharp fish cutting knife to cut the grass. Meadow grass is guaranteed not to have mold or foxtails.

Educate yourselves and others on the best brand of dog foods that have the best success for what they want to do with their dogs. To save money, get together and order a large supply and have it delivered by barge or truck.

Check out the equipment of a new dog musher, especially to make sure their tugline and neckline distance is correct. Use the Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Equipment Guidelines booklet as a reference.

There are probably even more areas, but last of all offer them membership in Mush with P.R.I.D.E. This way the quality of life of your dog neighbors will improve.



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## Sled Dog Symposia On Tape!

If you missed any or all of the Sled Dog Symposia, don't worry. It's all on tape.

Alaska Dog Musher's Association International Sled Dog Symposium discussions and lectures from the last 12 years are available on cassette from Vancom, a Fairbanks firm that is offering a discount to Mush With PRIDE members.

Vancom is waiving shipping and handling charges to PRIDE members through March 31, 2001 for any order from their unparalleled collection of symposium materials. The list of topics, mushers and veterinarians, dating back to the 1988 ADMA symposium, is too long to list here. All of them are listed at, and can be ordered from, Vancom's ADMA symposium catalog website at [www.alaskamusher.com](http://www.alaskamusher.com).

### *Symposium, continued from page 1*

Mushing 076, which is even more basic than Mushing 101!

Next came a panel on "Overcoming Behavioral Obstacles," with Kathy Frost, Mari Hoe-Raitto and Jacques Philip on the panel and Karl Kassel moderating. These top dog trainers offered expert advice on dealing with difficult dogs - from the chewing of lines to fighting.

Keynote speaker Chris Zink, author of the book *Peak Performance*, gave several talks during the afternoon: "Conditioning the Performance Dog," "Geriatrics: Keeping Old Dogs Young," and "Stress and the Performance Dog."

Other activities on Saturday included a Junior Yukon Quest Clinic, a discussion called "Handlers: Expectations from the View of the Musher and Handler," and the Mush with PRIDE Annual Meeting. The Saturday night auction raised over \$11,000 for the Alaska Dog Musher's Association!

Sunday continued with "Trail Emergencies" with Jeff King, and "Skijoring, Evaluating Dog Foods, and Genetically Inherited Conditions in Sled Dogs" by Dr. Arleigh Reynolds and Dr. Jeanne Olson.

Sunday finished with Effie Kochrane showing slides and talking on dog mushing in its early days. Effie is in her 80's and entertained us all with her views of early mushing and her life in the villages and her move to Fairbanks as a young woman.

If ever you want to experience an immersion into dogs, dogs and more dogs, attend next year's Sled Dog Symposium. The dates will be announced in a future issue of the Mush with PRIDE Newsletter. This is a chance to see the latest sleds, harnesses, headlamps, cold weather clothing, skijor set ups, and other equipment, along with being able to talk to and question the leaders in today's dog mushing world.

### Editor/Production Manager wanted

Due to other time commitments, Erin Lillie can no longer edit and produce this newsletter. If you have editing and desktop publishing skills, let us know if you are interested in the job. It includes organizing the provided text, a little wiring now and then, substantive editing, copyediting, layout and production, and coordinating the printing process. If you would like more information, please contact communications director Carol Kleckner at 479-0430.

### Webmaster needed

The webmaster will work closely with the editor/production manager and the communications director. If you can create attractive HTML documents, convert text files to a web format, and manage a remote website, let us know if you are interested in the job.

## 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.*



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# Many Reasons To Implement the Voluntary Kennel Inspection Program

By Tonya Schlentner, Mush With PRIDE board member

I see this program as being proactive. If we regulate ourselves from within with a program created by dog mushers, then we won't be vulnerable to non-dog mushers making rules for us. The professional diving organization and professional bull riding organizations (among others I'm sure) have regulated themselves, and by standing strong with their organization they have avoided being regulated by people who don't understand their sport. I feel that, as dog mushers, we are in the same situation, and we should learn from their apparent success. At one of our Mush with P.R.I.D.E. board meetings, Daryl Darnell played an informative video made by the people who ride bulls. They have to defend their use of animals like we do. I didn't know anything about bull riding before, but I came away from the video with a positive view of the sport.

Every day people are enthusiastically working towards the end of the entire sport of dogmushing. Those people have already made some problems for us. A rule was made in the Iditarod that ended up disqualifying a very experienced musher. Animal rights groups got a rule written in the federal registry banning the tethering of dogs. A tourist took digital pictures while on tour in an Alaskan dogyard and when she got home she put them on the Internet along

with her opinion of how terrible dog mushing is. Now she asks for help in abolishing this "cruel sport."

We can try to convince all these people that we are humane and counterattack each

Each point has been made as simple as possible so as not to exclude inventive ideas that work. But at some point I think we need to just try it out; then we will see what really does and doesn't work.

one of their accusations. But I don't think Doris Day or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are going to be convinced. Instead, I think it is wiser to channel our pro-mushing energies into fortifying ourselves.

I have showed hundreds of tourists a "typical" dogyard. This experience has led me to understand that people who are not a

part of the mushing world have no idea what is O.K. and what isn't. They wonder how this whole thing is controlled in a world where we all know animal cruelty exists. It takes time to explain how chains can be more humane than a fence and how a northern breed has a dense undercoat and can live outside, and so on. When I do explain, people who are initially horrified actually thank me for explaining, because they see how much the dogs are loved and humanely cared for. They go home believing in our sport. For a lot of these same concerned non-dog mushers, they would have been satisfied if they saw a piece of paper saying the kennel is inspected and adheres to generally accepted practices.

Instead of feeling like you have to defend yourself, you can simply show proof that you do indeed adhere to generally accepted guidelines. I think that if we had had an active kennel inspection program that condones chains back when they pushed the tethering rule through, then they would've had to take note of us beforehand. To be sure, the Pride guidelines exist: but who is to say we are complying?

Speaking of tourism, a number of people who have tourism businesses along with sled dogs have expressed their interest in this ken-

*continued on next page*

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**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 Isacson, Bill-McKee, Debbie Moderow, Arleigh Reynolds, Tonya Schlentner, Kris Swanguarin, Jona Van Zyle, and Dick Westlund.



**Reasons, continued from page 4**

nel inspection program. For them a piece of paper proclaiming they have a respectable dogyard would alleviate a lot of questions and ward off accusations. I think having a certificate will benefit recreational and professional racing kennels alike. Of course, non-recreational kennels may seem to benefit more at first. For example: When people buy dogs from out of state, they would like some sort of idea as to what the kennel is like. So yes, if a kennel does not pass inspection or chooses not to get inspected it will be at a disadvantage. For recreational mushers, this process should make everyone proud of being a part of a sport that is taking care of its own future. The more participants we have, the more everyone can benefit.

I am one of the newer board members of Pride, but it is my understanding that having an actual kennel inspection program was suggested by Pride members about eight years ago and thus it has been a goal almost from the inception of Pride. Over the years, members of Pride and veterinarians who are also mushers have put in countless hours to try to come up with a fair plan. The checklist has finally been simplified to one page. Each point has been made as simple as possible so as not to exclude inventive ideas that work. But at some point I think we need to just try it out; then we will see what really does and doesn't work. I can only ask that everyone keep an open mind about this program, and that recreational and racing kennels alike endorse this project. United we stand, divided we fall. The idea is to make a better situation for sled dogs and their owners. As dog mushers working together, I believe we can make this a positive step toward ensuring a stable future for this beautiful sport.

## 2000-2001 Directors for Mush with PRIDE

### Regional Representatives

#### Western

Seat 1 – Kathy Frost (Oct 00-02)  
Seat 2 – Ken Severin (Oct 1999-2001)  
Seat 3 – Tonya Schlentner (Oct 00-02)

#### South Central

Seat 4 – Debbie Moderow (Oct 1999-2001)  
Seat 5 – Jeff Szarzi (Oct 00-02)  
Seat 6 – Jona Van Zyle (Oct 1999-2001)

#### Interior

Seat 7 – David Monson (Oct 00-02)  
Seat 8 – Arna Dan Isacson (Oct 1999-2001)  
Seat 9 – Scott Chesney (Oct 00-02)

#### Other than Alaska

Seat 10 – Harry Beeman (Oct 00-02)  
Seat 11 – Jennifer Deye (Oct 1999-2001)

### At Large Representatives

Seat 12 – Kris Swanguar (Oct 1999-2001)  
Seat 13 – Dick Westlund (Oct 00-02)

### MWP Officers

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Vice President: Ken Severin  
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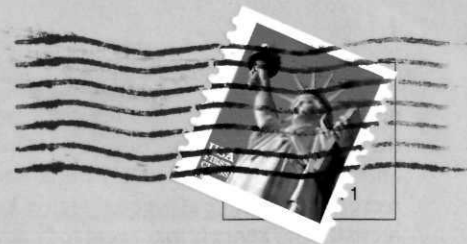


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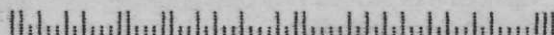
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And to the many clubs that print Mush with PRIDE ads in their newsletters!