



# Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race™

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June 2023

Iditarod Veterinary Pre-Race Exam (Veterinary Signature Letter)

Dear Veterinarian:

Thank you for supporting Iditarod by performing the canine pre-race veterinary exams! Please spend the time to examine each dog in the team carefully. This is the final exam to be performed on the team before it starts the race. Do not pass any dog in the team if there is any reason why it would not be able to complete a 1,000 mile race. Please enter the Body Condition Score (BCS) value for each dog utilizing the 9 point scale. In the past, dogs that were too thin and dogs that were in the last trimester of pregnancy have made it to the starting line. The Chief Veterinarian has the authority to prevent these dogs from starting the race, but this is a poor reflection on the musher and on the veterinarian who performed the pre-race exam. If you have any questions about the ability of a dog or team to complete the Iditarod, please refer them to me. Do not pass them on the pre-race exam. Dogs with a history of seizures, syncope and/or collapsing in harness are not allowed to compete in the Iditarod.

**All dogs must have their microchips scanned and the number documented on their Pre-Race Exam forms.** Dogs not already having microchips are implanted with one at the time of their Iditarod pre-race screening (ECGs and bloodwork). If you are performing the physical exams on a team before they have gone through the Iditarod pre-race screening, some of those dogs will likely not have a microchip. The last day of scheduled pre-race screening appointments is on Tuesday, February 27, after which all dogs will have a microchip. Iditarod veterinarians will be conducting pre-race physical examinations (at no cost to mushers) on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 with a deadline of 5 PM for all completed paperwork to be submitted. Therefore, this latter option may be necessary for dogs not having a microchip when presented to you.

A separate Iditarod Pre-Race Exam form must be completed for each dog preparing to enter the race. By signing it, you are acknowledging that the dog has passed its physical and appears healthy to race. Please print and sign your name legibly in the event that I need to contact you.

Finally, this completed form may be hand delivered, snail mailed, e-mailed or faxed to the Iditarod office using the contact information included in the header of this letter.

Once again, thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM  
(907) 351-1459

***I have read and understand this letter, and upon examination of this team, I have found no reason for it not to compete in the 2024 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.***

Veterinarian's PRINTED Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinary Clinic/Hospital Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number for Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Musher's PRINTED Name: \_\_\_\_\_