



October 4, 2024

ITC Announcement on Further Tests from the 2024 Iditarod

Wasilla, Alaska – Further testing has been completed for Bog, a two-year-old male, George, a four-year-old male and Henry, a three-year-old male, each who tragically passed away during the 2024 Iditarod.

As previously reported, gross necropsies were conducted on all three dogs by board-certified veterinary pathologists immediately after their passing, with each being given an undetermined cause of death. Since the end of the 2024 Iditarod race, further extensive testing and review has been conducted by five veterinarians, including specialists in toxicology, internal medicine/cardiology, and pathology, in order to finalize the report for each dog.

“Despite this investigation, a definitive cause of death is not identified, and we cannot rule out the occurrence of a fatal cardiac arrhythmia in one or more of the dogs. While a pre-race ECG was unremarkable and typical for an elite endurance-trained sled dog, cardiac arrhythmias may be intermittent and may only occur during exercise. Cardiac arrhythmias may occur in the absence of significant microscopic lesions. Ultimately, the cause of a presumed arrhythmia is unknown and presumed idiopathic at this time. There are no known preventative measures that could have been taken,” stated Iditarod Veterinarian Dr Erika Friedrich.

Like all Iditarod dogs, these athletes received exceptional care and were highly trained with months of conditioning on various terrains. In the weeks leading up to the Iditarod, the dogs received thorough physical examinations, including blood tests and EKGs, to identify any medical issues. These tests indicated no medical abnormalities for Bog, George or Henry.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the mushers and mushing community who cared deeply for these dogs. The ITC will continue to provide world-class healthcare to all Iditarod dogs, as well as health care, checkups and vaccinations to dogs in the communities and villages along the Iditarod Trail.

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