

Iditarod Veterinarian Signature Letter

2100 S Knik Goose Bay Rd
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-5155



Dear Veterinarian:

Thank you for supporting Iditarod by performing the canine pre-race exams and completing the Veterinary Pre-Race exam forms!

Physical examination should be performed within 14 days of racestart. Physical examinations can be performed by the Musher's local veterinarian or can be performed free-of-charge at Iditarod Headquarters the Wednesday before the race, March 4th, 2026, by one of the Iditarod Trail Veterinarians.

A separate 2026 IDITAROD PRE-RACE EXAM FORM must be completed for each dog preparing to enter the race. Please spend the time to examine each dog in the team thoroughly and document ANY and ALL findings (including suspected benign low-grade cardiac murmurs- these are common). **Any incomplete sections will result in the musher being returned to you for repeat exam and form completion.**

All dogs must be microchipped and this number documented on their 2026 IDITAROD PRE-RACE EXAM FORM AT TIME OF EXAM. All dogs undergo an Iditarod ECG/bloodwork appointment between ~February 15th to March 3rd. At that time, microchips will be scanned, and any dog not having one will have one implanted at no cost to the musher. If you are performing your physical examination before their ECG appointment, some of the rookie dogs may not have a microchip. Either implant one at cost to the Musher, or defer their exam to the Iditarod Vet Team on March 4th as they would have gone through their ECG appointment and received a free microchip implantation.

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. This is the **final exam** to be performed on the team before the race. If you have any questions about the ability of a dog or team to complete the Iditarod, do not pass them on their pre-race exam. **Examples of criteria that you may find on exam that will disqualify dogs from competing in the race:**

- History of seizures, syncope, or collapsing in training or in other races
- Pregnancy
- Poor body condition (too thin)
- Open wounds/frostbite that cannot be healed or protected by race star

This signed letter AND a physical examination sheet for each dog should be given back to the Musher to submit with their other required paperwork. All paperwork is due Wednesday, March 4th, by 5pm. Karen McNaught (karen.mcnaught@iditarod.com) will be collecting all paperwork.

Thank You,
Dr. Erika Friedrich (erika.friedrich@iditarod.com)
Chief Veterinarian - Iditarod

I have read and understood this letter. I have found no reason this team to be prevented from competing in the 2026 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Musher's Name: _____

Veterinarian's Name (PRINT): _____

Veterinarian's Signature: _____

Veterinarian Contact Number: _____

Veterinarian Hospital (if applicable): _____

Date: _____