

Iditarod Trail Committee
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2026 IDITAROD MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: June 30, 2026

From: Dan Carter, Race Marshal, Iditarod Trail Committee

Wasilla, Alaska – Charley, a four-year-old female from the race team of Mille Porsild (bib #15), expired en route to the Elim checkpoint on March 17, 2026. Charley was flown to Unalakleet where a necropsy was conducted that day by a board-certified veterinary pathologist. The necropsy did not identify any obvious traumatic or medical abnormalities to explain Charley’s death.

Extensive histologic and toxicologic laboratory testing has since been conducted in accordance with race protocol. Final results report “necropsy-negative sudden unexplained death.”

After reviewing the negative necropsy findings in combination with the history of events and pre-race testing, a fatal cardiac arrhythmia cannot be ruled out. There are no known preventative measures that could have been taken.

Our hearts have been and are still with Mille Porsild and her team as they continue to navigate through the loss of their teammate, Charley.

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