



Dear Veterinarian:

Thank you for your inquiry! We appreciate your enthusiasm! The Veterinarian race application window is from June to October before the following year's race, with Veterinarians getting notified of their selection in October. Application is via digital link. Requests for this digital link can be made by emailing the Iditarod Veterinary Support Admin Karen McNaught ([Karen.McNaught@iditarod.com](mailto:Karen.McNaught@iditarod.com)) **starting June 1st**. Please refer to the information below to know if you are applicable before applying. **Requirements are firm.**

### General Information for Iditarod Veterinarians

The Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race is a marathon event beginning in Anchorage and ending in Nome. The race kicks off on the first Saturday of March (with the very occasional last Saturday in February). The distance is approximately 1049 miles, which winning teams cover in about nine days. There are anywhere from 500 - 1200 canine participants and a staff of 40 - 50 trail veterinarians to evaluate and care for them.

Veterinarian requirements include:

- Must be physically and mentally capable of working long hours in arctic conditions, often with minimal comforts. You must be adaptable enough to assume various potential roles in a wilderness camp or native village environment. For most, the rewards far outweigh the hardships!
- Must have > 5 years clinical practice experience (must include canines) at time of application
- Must have fluency in the English language
- Must have a current permanent license in good standing to practice within your local jurisdiction. If this is not Alaska (majority of the veterinarians are from "outside" of Alaska), you will need to be issued an Alaska Courtesy License to work the race. If selected for our Vet Team, we will guide you with instructions for this- the fee is covered by the Iditarod.
- Previous work with sled dogs is highly desirable.
- Rookie Veterinarians must have attended the **INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ISDVMA) SLED DOG VETERINARIAN TRAINING SEMINAR** prior to being an Iditarod Veterinarian. This 16 hours CE credit program is held yearly the week leading up to the Saturday Iditarod race-start. It consists of two lecture days and one hands-on day of pre-race vet exams on dogs running that year's race. Rookie Iditarod veterinarians typically attend the week before their first year participating as a trail veterinarian; however it can also be taken within 2 years prior to participating. Veterans must re-attend the lecture component at least 7 years. <https://isdvma.org/>

If you are new to the sport, there are several avenues for improving your knowledge about sled dogs. Membership in the ISDVMA ([www.isdvma.org](http://www.isdvma.org)) and the Iditarod Trail Committee ([www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com)) are recommended.

Thank you for your interest!



**Erika Friedrich, BVetMed**

Chief Veterinarian

[The Iditarod](#)