

March 2009

# "TEAM WORK"

by  
Sanka  
W.  
Dog



## TEAM WORK

**A group of people and/or animals working together to achieve a common desired goal.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> trait of Iditarod is "T" for Teamwork. It could have been "trustworthy" or "truthful" but I chose "teamwork." In the case of Iditarod, teamwork can be defined as a group of people and/or animals working together to achieve a common desired goal.

There are so many aspects of Iditarod that exemplify teamwork, it's difficult to select just one. The veterinarians work as a team to assure the health of the canine athletes. The Iditarod Air Force works as a team to deliver supplies and personnel to each checkpoint as well as dropped dogs. Anchorage municipal workers work as a team to cover 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue with snow for the ceremonial start of Iditarod. Volunteers work in a multitude of roles to assure smooth operation of the race. Iditarod is team work at it's best!

In her rookie Iditarod Sue Allen of No Snow Kennels had to drop her 3 lead dogs early in the race. Sue found herself in a

serious predicament not having the leaders her team depended on for the journey to Nome. Sue tried 12 of her 13 remaining dogs in lead, but none of the dogs stepped up to be a leader for the team. Without a leader, Sue thought she was going to have to scratch. As a last resort she called on Gopher. Sue describes Gopher as a dog that had never had an original thought in his entire life, never a leader, always a follower. But as is often the case, a leader comes forth in unexpected ways. The dogs came together as a team with Gopher in lead and traveled the remaining distance to Nome as a unified group with perseverance, enthusiasm and a winning attitude. This reminds us that perception should never limit potential.

At Just Guts Kennel, we have our own athletic creed that focuses on the importance of TEAM. Our creed emphasizes that Together Everyone Achieves More. As canine athletes we



work for, believe in and trust our teammates, handlers and musher. Bosca is one of my teammates. Look into his eyes. He is committed to persevering. He is a winner both in and out of harness. He knows that there is no "I" in TEAM.