

**To participants in long distance sled dog race which conducts PreRace check with their local veterinarian.**

First:

**It is very important that you insist that your veterinarian do a microchip control on all dogs. This must be readable. NHF's (Norwegian sled dog federation) regulations state that dogs can not start races without a readable chip. And we experience constantly the chip can not be found on some dogs. It is important to make sure that the chip exists, and that it works when you get to the race.**

**Then you need to, in good time before the race, to check that all dogs have valid vaccinations to be able to start. You also need to check that you have valid vaccinations to follow your intended travel route to get to the race. This check should be done at least two (2) months before the race starts!**

Include "information to PreRace veterinarian" and show it to the vet who is conducting the examination.

Dogs are not allowed to race other races between PreRace check and race start. Riders are obliged to notify about dogs that alter health status between PreRace check and race start. These dogs must be reexamined. PreRace check is to be performed no more than 2 weeks before the race starts.

On the PreRace check form the participant is supposed to fill out the gray section of the form (name, tag once you have decided which dogs go in your team (letter), last five No. of ID number, sex, age, weight, and whether each dog are using gastric acid depressant drugs (Anti-Ulcer medication). The veterinarian must check ID to identify the right dog, and write down relevant info. You do not need a veterinary education to fill the gray section, and there's no point in paying a veterinarian hourly rate to do it either. Proper ID number must be in the dog's passport. In addition, the participant fill out the form Musher information / Risk Evaluation before the veterinarian makes his examination, so that the vet can devote special attention to those dogs that are more interesting.

Be honest and clear about the history of all dogs to be checked. This is absolutely necessary so that your veterinarian is able to make a good, fast and accurate examination of each dog. Both completed forms will be collected and put into your journals.

Good luck and welcome to the competition when the time comes.