

Letter to take to your designated inspector

Dear Inspector:

The Board of Mush with PRIDE has developed a kennel inspection certification program at the request of members, mushers and kennel owners. We hope this program will be another step in the educational process to ensure all sled_dogs are given safe and humane care.

The following form is provided to you as a checklist to ensure the kennel meets all the minimum requirements for basic humane care of sled_dogs. Note that inspection is voluntary, and only at the request of the kennel owner, who must be a current member of Mush with PRIDE. The kennel owner will provide you with a copy of the Sled Dog Care Guidelines, Second Edition prior to your inspection visit for guidance about the specific items you will be addressing. Most checklist items are referenced to specific page numbers in case clarification is needed. Please contact the Mush with PRIDE Board if you have questions.

Please have the kennel owner initial where their endorsement is required. This is required as you cannot verify what kennel practices are on a daily basis. Only if all the mandatory standards are met and all items are checked in the "Yes" box should you certify that the kennel has met the standards as set forth by the guidelines provided by Mush with PRIDE on the day you inspect the kennel. The optional items are highly recommended by the Mush with PRIDE Board; however the Board does not feel that they are essential. The kennel owner will receive a higher rating ("Certification Plus") for meeting a majority of them.

Please provide us with a representative photo of the kennel, and any comments you feel necessary, either positive or negative.

The Board emphasizes that by signing the statement at the end of the checklist, you agree only that you have personally inspected the kennel and it does or does not meet the described standards on that day. You are not personally or professionally certifying that you agree with or endorse any of the specific guidelines or Mush with PRIDE.

After the form is received by the Board, a certificate of inspection will be mailed to the member stating the level of certification that the kennel has achieved.

The Mush with PRIDE Board suggests that inspectors set their own fees for service for the site visit/ inspection and these fees are the responsibility of the kennel owner. Mush with PRIDE does not provide any funds for the kennel inspections.

Thank you for helping promote humane and proper care of sled_dogs.

The Board of Mush with PRIDE

SECTION ONE - Mandatory Items. All eleven items must be marked "Yes" for certification.

1. WATER: All dogs are provided with adequate amounts of clean water every day. (pg 13)
 Yes No owner's initials _____

2. SHELTER: Every dog has full access to a shelter adequate for the conditions (protection from wind/rain/snow/direct sun). (pg 8-9)
 Yes No owner's initials _____

3. DIET: Dogs are offered a diet which is complete and wholesome and provided in amounts adequate to maintain normal body condition for the environmental conditions and amount of exercise. All dogs should be adequately fed and watered at least once a day, except as dictated by veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or professionally accepted practices. (pg 13)
 Yes No owner's initials _____

4. CONFINEMENT: Dogs are confined in a manner that is safe and free of hazards (i.e. no sharp metal, protruding nails, debris)

a. If tethered, the tethers or chains are tangle-free and of a sufficient length to allow freedom of movement and adequate exercise. (pg 9)

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

b. If kept in runs, they are constructed of chain-link or wire fencing that is secure and all openings are small enough to prevent entrapment injury to limbs or head.

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

5. FECES: Stools are removed daily from the kennel area and are disposed of in a sanitary and legal manner.

Yes No owner's initials _____

6. ESTRUS: If intact bitches are kept on the premises, a confinement method is available which can safely house them under conditions within the guidelines and prevent unplanned breeding. (pg 10, 24-25).

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

7. SOCIALIZATION: Most dogs should be adequately socialized to the point of allowing contact with humans without aggressive behaviours such as baring of teeth, growling, signs of fear-biter posturing or attempting to bite (without provocation). Dogs exhibiting maladaptive or pathological behavior which could result in self-injury, injury to others, or other undesirable consequences are being managed with an acceptable program for accommodation or remediation.

Yes No owner's initials _____

8. QUALITY OF LIFE- all dogs are provided with a basic quality of life. Each dog is given adequate and appropriate opportunities to engage in beneficial species-typical behaviours and activities. No dog is forced to live under pain or distress without veterinary intervention for relief from pain/suffering.

Yes No owner's initials _____

9. ROUTINE TRANSPORTATION: Adequate containers are used for the transportation and confinement of dogs during travel. These containers must provide sufficient space for each dog to turn about freely and make normal postural adjustments. Where appropriate, the dogs' movement may be restricted when freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the dog, handlers, or other animals or persons.

Yes No owner's initials _____

10. The kennel owner has a current membership with Mush with PRIDE.

Yes No owner's initials _____

11. All dogs have current vaccinations as required by local law.

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

SECTION TWO: Optional Items: The following items are highly recommended by MUSH with PRIDE. Your kennel will receive a rating of "Certification Plus" if it meets the majority of the applicable items.

12. KENNEL: Kennel area/dog yard is located for best possible drainage. (pg 7-8)

Yes No owner's initials _____

13. FENCING: In places where young children might visit, the kennel area/dog yard is surrounded by a fence of an adequate height and strength to contain loose dogs and keep children out of the yard.

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

14. RECORD KEEPING: Individual records are kept for each dog including vaccinations, deworming and medical history.

Yes No owner's initials _____

15. There exists a prior valid veterinarian-client relationship and/or an emergency contact phone number for veterinary care is available. (pg 32-33)

Yes No owner's initials _____

16. BREEDING: Records of breeding status are kept on all dogs. Dogs with genetic defects/diseases are prevented from breeding.

Yes No owner's initials _____

17. WHELPING: If breeding takes place on site, a suitable whelping pen and house is available. (pg 28-29)

Yes No N/A owner's initials _____

18. EMERGENCY EVACUATION: A means of safe transport and an emergency evacuation plan is in place to move dogs to safety in a timely manner in an emergency.

Yes No owner's initials _____

19. FOOD: Food ingredients are stored in such a manner as to prevent contamination.

Yes No

Certifications:

I, _____, have inspected the kennel located at

_____ which is owned by _____ at their request.

This kennel (circle) does / does not meet each of the basic standards for the housing and care of sleddogs as given in the Mush with PRIDE Sled Dog Care Guidelines, Second Edition. In addition, it meets ____ of the optional but highly recommended other standards. I understand that if the kennel complies with a majority of these highly recommended standards (where applicable) it will receive a "Certification Plus" rating.

Signed _____ Date _____.

Professional Title: _____ Lic. # _____.

I, _____, the owner (or agent designated in writing by the owner) of the kennel listed above, have requested this inspection and accompanied the signing inspector during the inspection and I have initialled each statement indicated above in a truthful manner to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____ Date _____.

One copy to kennel owner, one to inspector, original to the Board of Directors of MUSH with PRIDE. Please include a recent photo of the general kennel area. The Board will maintain a record that this kennel was inspected on this date. If the kennel has met all the minimum standards for basic sled dog care, the Board will provide a certificate of inspection indicating such was the case on the date of inspection. If the kennel meets the majority of the optional standards, the Board will issue a "Certification Plus."