



# 2018 YQ300

## Musher/Handler Information Packet

(as of 7/12/17)

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# Information for Musers

July 12, 2017

Hello YQ300 Musers,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors in Alaska, welcome to the 2018 YQ300 Sled Dog Race.

This Packet contains information you and your handler(s) will need to prepare for the 2018 race. It includes a list of all mandatory meetings and events, a list of other meetings and promotional events, copies of all required and optional forms, and info sheets. Over the next few months we will be sending you additional information.

All documents are available by request in hard copy from the Alaska office.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this package or about any aspect of the 2018 YQ300, please don't hesitate to call, email or come by the office.

Sincerely,

**Maria "Frog" Roberts, Assistant Director  
Yukon Quest International Ltd.**

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## Mandatory Meetings & Events

We have several events planned before and around the race – some are race-related, and some are focused on fundraising and promotion of the Yukon Quest. Our mushers are crucial to the success of our promotional and fundraising abilities. After all, you and your dogs are the stars of the show. While we require your attendance at some race events, we request that you attend as many other events as possible. This is the easiest way you can contribute to the success of the Yukon Quest and show your appreciation of the supporters and volunteers who make the race possible.

### Meetings/ Events with Mandatory Musher Attendance

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES	WHAT TO BRING
Sat, Jan 20	Food Drop	Fairbanks & Whitehorse	<b>Mandatory</b> for all mushers or designates. Contact YQ office for more info.	Completed Food Drop Inventory forms.
Fri, Feb 2	Vet Check	Fairbanks	<b>Mandatory for all Mushers</b>	Veterinary Health Certificate and Exam Forms, Proof of Vaccination & Request Forms for Microchips
Fri, Feb 2	YQ300 Musher & Handler Meeting	Fairbanks	<b>Mandatory for all Mushers. Handler attendance is strongly encouraged.</b> Closed YQ meeting. This is where you'll draw your bib number.	Local Contact Sheet, Payment of any outstanding fees, Your notebook
Tue, Feb 6	YQ300 Finish Banquet	Central	<b>Mandatory for all Mushers who have crossed the finish line up to four hours before the ceremony.</b>	Your stories

### Other Race Week Events

Wed, Jan 31	Meet the Mushers	Fairbanks	Come and meet the Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile Mushers.	
Thurs, Feb 1	Yukon Quest Start & Draw Banquet	Fairbanks	Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile Race Start and Draw Banquet	



## Form Checklist

Here is a list of forms required by the Yukon Quest, as well as forms available for optional requests and submissions of information. Please submit all required forms to your designated office or to the designated meeting on or before their due dates.

Contact the Alaska office if you have any questions about these forms.

DUE DATE	REQUIRED FORMS & IMPORTANT DATES	NOTES
Between March 4, 2017 and January 4, 2018	Combination Vaccine (Parvovirus and Distemper)	See General Race Procedure, Rule 8
Between March 4, 2017 and January 4, 2018	Leptospirosis Vaccine <b>(NEW for 2018)</b>	See General Race Procedure, Rule 8
Between Sept. 4, 2017 and January 4, 2018	Bordetella (Kennel Cough) Vaccine	See General Race Procedure, Rule 8
No later than January 4, 2018	Rabies Vaccine	See General Race Procedure, Rule 8
January 20, 2018	Food Drop Inventory Form (Page 8)	Bring completed forms to <b>Food Drop</b> (need separate form for EACH Checkpoint)
February 2, 2018	Local Contact Form (Page 14)	Submit to YQ office, or bring to the Musher & Handler Meeting
February 2, 2018	Veterinary Exam Form (Page 11)	Bring forms to <b>Vet Check</b> with top section completed. Fill in one page for every 4 dogs
February 2, 2018	Veterinary Health Certificate (Page 10)	To be completed at <b>Vet Check</b>

DUE DATE	OPTIONAL FORMS & IMPORTANT DATES	NOTES
December 1, 2017	Request for Additional Straw (Page 13)	Submit to designated <b>YQ office</b>
February 2, 2018	Request for Microchips (Page 12)	To be completed at <b>Vet Check</b> if required

# Food Drop Info Sheet

## **DATE/ LOCATION**

Saturday January 20, 2018 from 12-4pm

## **LOCATION**

In Whitehorse – Kluane Freight Lines in the Industrial area (100 Platinum Road)

In Fairbanks – Summit Logistics (3453 Truck Street)

## **ABOUT THE FOOD DROP**

As per the 2018 race rules (See General Race Procedure #4), mushers must use the Official Food Drop service to ship all dog food, personal items and equipment necessary for the entire race (that will not be carried in your sled at the race start). The only exception is the Dawson City Checkpoint, where mushers have access to their handler's truck during the 36 hour layover. Mushers can also include equipment and food for dogs they need before the race start and/or after the race finish.

## **FOOD DROP PROCESS**

- Mushers (or a representative) bring all marked and numbered food drop bags (along with the Food Drop Inventory Form) to the Food Drop (in either Fairbanks or Whitehorse) on January 20 from 12-4pm.
- YQ will issue receipt for the number of food drop bags dropped off. **BAG WEIGHT NO MORE THAN 40 POUNDS.**
- YQ commits to frozen storage of all bags.
- YQ ensures delivery of all food drop bags to each checkpoint.
- Food drop bags are organized by race (ie. YQ1000 or YQ300) and musher's last name. They are accessible for mushers upon arrival at each checkpoint.
- YQ Rules allow mushers to access ONLY food, equipment, and supplies for themselves and their team that was pre-packed and sent to race checkpoints through the Food Drop.
- Only one food drop location is to be used per musher.

## **HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE AT FOOD DROP**

The YQ recommends that mushers deliver their food drop bags to the YQ Food Drop in person; however mushers may designate another person to deliver their food drop bags to the Food Drop. Mushers are still responsible for all contents and their delivery.

## **SHIPMENT OF FOOD DROP BAGS**

Some mushers in the past have used professional expeditors to deliver food and equipment to the Food Drop. This has led to many problems like lost shipments, missed deadlines and thawed out dog food. We discourage you from going this route. **You MUST contact your designated office before you ship any food drop items to us.**

## **FOOD DROP QUESTIONS**

The best way to learn some of the planning tips and techniques is to get in touch with more experienced mushers, or visit our Rookie Page and listen to mushers discuss their Food Drop preparation (<http://www.yukonquest.com/race-central/yukon-quest-1000-mile/rookie-information>).

## **ITEMS ALLOWED IN FOOD DROP BAGS**

You may include dog food, personal food, clothing, dog blankets, booties, batteries, sled parts, extra clothing and other items you may need along the trail.

## **ITEMS NOT ALLOWED IN FOOD DROP BAGS**

- Straw – **NO straw is allowed.** This is to ensure that all straw used during the race is suitable (some import regulations and trail areas have restrictions on types of straw allowed). See **Request for Additional Straw Form** (Page 14) for info about straw that is provided and additional straw that can be purchased for checkpoints.

- Fuel – **NO fuel is allowed** including alcohol, kerosene, or methanol. Methanol is provided at checkpoints.
- Firearms, ammunition, or any items prohibited by law.
- Any spoiled food products. Ensure that your food drop bags are kept frozen.
- If you need to ship any gear that does not fit into the bags, such as sled runners, please contact your YQ office as soon as possible and we will work with you to find a solution. Please be advised that no items to be accessible during the race will be received and shipped after the Food Drop date.

## CUSTOMS

For any mushers coming from the Lower 48 or elsewhere in Canada who are shipping dog food independently, and travelling across the international border in your own trucks, you may be subject to all general import restrictions applied to the general public. These restrictions may include some of the animal products you are carrying as dog food! Please be aware that the US Customs and Canada Border Services have current regulations on importing into the country. For accurate information on what you are allowed to ship and take across the border, please see the appropriate websites:

- US Customs and Border Protection: <http://www.cbp.gov>
- Canadian Border Services Agency: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>

## FOOD DROP BAG PACKAGING

Race rules state that all food and gear must be in **burlap or woven poly bags**. Plastic bags do not stack well nor do they ride on snow machines well. Each bag **MUST be labeled with YQ Race, musher name, checkpoint name, and numbering** (ie. 1 of 3, 2 of 3, etc). Write clearly in large block letters with permanent marker or spray paint. **Please make sure your bags have no other/old labels as this may cause your bags to end up in the wrong checkpoint.**

We recommend **sewing bags shut using heavy thread or twine**. Plastic electrical cable ties and regular wire may break during transport. Also make sure no loose, sharp ends are exposed. We will not accept any bags that are not labeled or closed properly. **INDIVIDUAL BAG WEIGHT CANNOT EXCEED 40 POUNDS**. Food drop bags exceeding 40 lbs will not be accepted and you will be asked to repack your bags. Please be respectful of our volunteers who are hauling hundreds of bags.

### IF MUSHER DOES NOT FINISH

**Scratch:** The musher can retrieve or make arrangements to retrieve their food drop bags. If the musher or designee cannot retrieve their bags, dog food will be removed to reduce the bulk and weight during transport, and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the YQ office in Fairbanks or Whitehorse for retrieval. Bags will be emptied of all perishables, and stored by the YQ for up to 2 weeks. After this, all bags become property of the YQ, and will be discarded.

**Withdrawal or Disqualification:** Food drop bags will be immediately removed from the checkpoints, dog food will be removed to reduce the bulk and weight during transport, and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the YQ office in Fairbanks or Whitehorse for retrieval. Bags will be emptied of all perishables, and stored by the YQ for up to 2 weeks. After this, all bags become property of the YQ, and will be discarded.

### REQUIRED FORMS

YQ **requires** an accurate list of all food drop bag contents. Ensure that the complete contents of each bag are listed on the **Food Drop Inventory Form** (separate form required for each checkpoint, Page 10). You will be asked for this paperwork before you begin unloading your food drop bags at the Food Drop. *We cannot accept your food drop bags without your completed forms.*

Bag count for that Checkpoint  
Last Name  
Race (YQ1000 or YQ300)  
Checkpoint





## 2018 Food Drop Inventory Form

**PLEASE BRING THESE COMPLETED FORMS TO THE FOOD DROP.** Ensure that the complete contents of each bag are listed. YQ requires an accurate list of all contents for the Canada/ U.S. border crossing and permits. **NO STRAW IS ALLOWED IN FOOD DROP BAGS.**

**Note: Use one form for EACH Checkpoint.** Use additional copies of this form if needed for more than 6 food drop bags per checkpoint.

**Checkpoint Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Musher Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total # of Bags:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>	<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>	<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>
<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>	<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>	<p><b>BAG # _____ OF _____</b></p> <p>___ Meat or Fish            ___ Commercial Dog Food            ___ Clothing            ___ Sled Parts            ___ Batteries            ___ Foot Ointment            ___ Personal Food            ___ Dog Booties            ___ Dog Food Supplements            ___ Other (<i>please specify below</i>)</p> <p>_____            _____            _____</p>



## Vet Check Info Sheet

### **DATE/TIME**

Friday, February 2, 2018

You will be contacted by our Vet Check Coordinator in January to set up your Vet Check appointment time.

### **LOCATION**

In Fairbanks – Alpine Lodge (4920 Dale Rd.)

### **ABOUT THE VET CHECK**

**All Musherers must attend the Vet Check.** As part of your Entry Fee, mushers have access to all veterinary services provided at the Official YQ300 Vet Check. The Vet Check is coordinated by the Yukon Quest to ensure that all mushers have access to professional veterinary assessments for all of their sled dogs prior to the Race Start.

### **PLANNING FOR THE VET CHECK**

Your Vet Check appointment will be made with your designated office in early January. A maximum of 14 dogs will be examined at the YQ300 Vet Check.

**Microchips:** Microchips are not required for the YQ300, however they may be available for purchase at the YQ300 Vet Check. Cost is estimated at \$15 each. Please inform the Alaska office immediately if you are interested in getting microchips.

**Vaccinations:** You will need to provide proof that all dogs in your YQ team have received their vaccinations as outlined in the 2018 YQ300 Race Rules, see General Race Procedure #8. Please ensure that you understand and adhere to the specified dates and vaccinations required.

**To Bring:** Veterinary Examination Forms with the top portion filled out for all of your YQ300 dogs; proof of vaccinations; and any additional medical history or notes that you have on your dogs can be helpful.

If you have any questions at all about the YQ300 Vet Checks or any requirements, please contact the Alaska office as early as possible.

## 2018 Veterinary Health Certificate

Please bring this form to your scheduled Vet Check appointment and complete with your Vet Check Veterinarian. Musers will be provided copies of this certificate as well as the Vet Check Exam Form prior to race start. **Please complete and sign 2 copies of this form.**

Musher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Kennel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Musher type (circle one): Rookie or Veteran

### **Medications Declaration Form (to be completed by Musher)**

As registered entrant of the YQ300 Sled Dog Race, I have read and understand Trail Procedure #42 – Drugs, of the official 2018 YQ300 Rules.

I understand which medications (including herbal and homeopathic remedies) are prohibited. I also understand that any and all medications, whether prohibited or not, must be declared if they have been/ will be used from within the 30 days preceding the Veterinary Check to the finish of the YQ300 race.

I have provided accurate and complete information regarding any and all medications administered to any and all dogs entered in my YQ300 team. I also understand that I must inform the Head Veterinarian before the end of the Pre-Race YQ300 Musher/Handler Meeting if any additional medications have been started or administered since the Veterinary Check.

Musher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterinarian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vet Check Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Official Health Certificate (to be completed by Veterinarian)**

I hereby certify that I have inspected each individual canine listed herein and certify, to the best of my ability, that each is healthy, free of restricted drugs, and has all required vaccinations. These animals are in condition to complete a 300 mile sled dog race.

I have read *General Race Procedure #8 – Pre-Race Vet Check* and *Trail Procedure #42 – Drugs* of the Official 2018 YQ300 Rules.

I have certified that all dogs listed herein have current vaccinations, including parvovirus, distemper, and rabies.

Veterinarian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2018 Veterinary Exam Form

Please bring these forms to your scheduled Vet Check appointment with the top portion already completed (dog name, color, age, sex). Use one form for four dogs. **Note: you may bring a max of 14 dogs to the Vet Check.**

Musher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet Check Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

DOG NAME	1.	2.	3.	4.
Color				
Age/ Sex				

Microchip #				
Microchip location				
Weight				
Body Condition				
Temperature				
Heart				
<i>Pulse</i>				
Lungs				
<i>Resp. Rate</i>				
Oral Exam				
<i>mm color</i>				
Eyes				
Ears				
Lymph Nodes				
Abdomen				
Urogenital				
<i>Testicles</i>				
<i>Mammary</i>				
Musculoskel				
<i>Forelegs</i>				
<i>Hindlegs</i>				
<i>Back</i>				
<i>Neck</i>				
Feet				
<i>Front</i>				
<i>Hind</i>				
<i>Dewclaws</i>				
Skin/ Coat				
Frostbite				
Medications				
<i>Current</i>				
<i>Last 30 days</i>				
Vaccines				
<b>Notes:</b>				



## 2018 Request for Microchip Form

Microchips are NOT required for the YQ300. However, they may be available for purchase at the Vet Check. The cost of microchips is estimated at \$15 (approximate at-cost price). If you wish to purchase microchips through the Yukon Quest, please complete this form with the Veterinarian or Vet Check volunteers at the Vet Check.

MUSHER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF DOG	MICROCHIP #	NAME OF DOG	MICROCHIP #
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ # microchips x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Cost**

Musher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ CV2 \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE**

Payment Type (*circle*):    Credit Card    Cash    Check    Money Order    Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Office: \_\_\_\_\_                      YQ Staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yukon Quest International, Ltd.**  
 550 First Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 Phone: 907.452.7954 Fax: 907.452.7959  
 Email: alaskaoperations@yukonquest.com



## 2018 Request for Extra Straw

All mushers automatically receive one bale of straw per checkpoint (except the start and finish) as part of your entry fee.

You may order full extra bales for checkpoints only. No ½ bales may be ordered. **The cost of extra straw is \$13 per full bale. Absolutely no straw will be permitted in food drop bags.**

Deadline for extra straw requests: Friday, December 1, 2017

MUSHER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Checkpoints	STRAW PROVIDED	STRAW TO BE PURCHASED # extra bales (full bales only)
Fairbanks (Start)	0	_____
Two Rivers	1	_____
Mile 101	1	_____
Central	1	_____
Circle	1	_____
Circle (Finish)	0	_____

**Total Cost** \_\_\_\_\_ # full bales x \$13 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Musher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ CV2 \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE**

Payment Type (*circle*): Credit Card    Cash    Check    Money Order    Payment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Office: \_\_\_\_\_    YQ Staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yukon Quest International, Ltd.**  
 550 First Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 Phone: 907.452.7954 Fax: 907.452.7959  
 Email: alaskaoperations@yukonquest.com



## 2018 Local Contact Form

Please submit this form to the Alaska office or bring to the YQ300 Musher/Handlers Meeting on Fri Feb 2, 2018. The information on this form will assist the Yukon Quest in contacting you and your race support team for dropped dogs, important notices and general communications. **Please fill in ALL information on this form.**

**MUSHER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Person** (not your handler): \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone for that person:** \_\_\_\_\_

### DOG TRUCK INFO

Will your truck be following the race? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

License # \_\_\_\_\_ State/Terr/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Dog Box Color \_\_\_\_\_

Other truck details \_\_\_\_\_

### HANDLER INFO

Will you have a handler following the race? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

### FAIRBANKS ACCOMMODATION INFO

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Private Home</b>
Hotel Name: _____	Family/ Contact Name: _____
Phone Number: _____	Contact Name: _____
Name on room booking: _____	Phone Number: _____
	Alternative Phone: _____

Please contact the Fairbanks office with any questions.

**Yukon Quest International, Ltd.**  
 550 First Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
 Phone: 907.452.7954 Fax: 907.452.7959  
 Email: [alaskaoperations@yukonquest.com](mailto:alaskaoperations@yukonquest.com)

# Topographical Maps of the Yukon Quest Trail

**From Fairbanks to Circle - 1:250,000 scale**

## **Maps (U.S. Geological Survey)**

Eagle

Charley River

Circle

Big Delta

Fairbanks

## **Where to get the Maps**

Maps are available at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute Map Office located in room 204 of the International Arctic Research Center (Akasofu Bldg), Fairbanks, AK. Telephone 907-474-6960.

# Information for Handlers

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Race Vets and Officials, welcome to the 2018 YQ300. This package contains helpful information regarding trail procedures, rules, driving, packing tips and reminders to help you prepare for the 2018 race.

## About the YQ300 Musher/ Handler Meeting

- Friday, February 2 - Time and location TBA.
- This meeting is **mandatory** for all 2018 YQ300 Musers. (Handler attendance is strongly encouraged.)
- **BE ON TIME** or early for this meeting. **Roll call is done at exactly at the meeting start time** with closed doors.
- You will be given an overview of procedures, highlights, updated info, and a chance to ask all your questions.
- You will meet the Officials and Vet Team.

## The Rules

### Official YQ300 Rules Relevant to Handlers

Here are a few important rules that are especially important to Handlers. **Please note:** A full copy of the Official 2018 YQ300 Rules can be found on our website at <http://www.yukonquest.com/race-central/yq300> or acquired from either Yukon Quest office.

#### RULE Trail Procedure # 29 - Outside Assistance:

**No planned help is allowed throughout the race. No driver may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or is subsequently so ruled. The intended spirit of this race dictates that the driver be self-sufficient and therefore able to help other drivers in case of real need. No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the YQ300 trail between checkpoints.**

#### RULE Trail Procedure # 35 - Care and Feeding of Dogs:

All care and feeding of dogs will be done by the drivers only. Neither force feeding, nor stomach tubing is allowed.

#### RULE Trail Procedure #42 - Drugs:

YQ Veterinarians or Veterinary Assistants may randomly collect blood and/or urine samples beginning at the Vet Check and up until 2 hours after a dog team has finished, scratched, or been withdrawn or disqualified from the race. It is the responsibility of the driver to assist the Race Veterinarian or Veterinary Assistant in the collection of the samples. The driver or the driver's handler **must** be present at all times during the taking and sealing of such samples. Documents evidencing the procedure **shall** be signed by the driver or their handler. No person may interfere in any way with the collection of samples or procedures conducted under this rule.

#### RULE Trail Procedure # 32 - Sportsmanship:

**The Code of the North dictates that all travelers should be courteous, helpful, generous and honorable.** Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a musher or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification.



# Procedures for Handlers

## General Procedures

The following general procedures will be adhered to throughout the entire race:

- **Park your dog truck ONLY in designated parking areas.**
- **Pay attention to where your exhaust is going when parked (i.e. Keep it away from other dog trucks that might have dogs in it or from blowing into the holding area or into buildings).**
- **Wear your Official Handler armband when you are “working” at any checkpoints.**
- **Please be courteous to everyone.**
- If ever in doubt, ASK a Race Judge or the Race Marshal. They are the only people on the trail with authority regarding questions on rules, assistance or conduct.
- Checkpoint amenities are in place for use by the mushers; food and sleeping arrangements are not guaranteed for handlers. Do not eat the food or use sleeping quarters without first talking to the checkpoint manager.

*Carry this document with you in the truck at all times.*

## Checkpoint and Vet Check Procedures

The following procedures will be adhered to at all checkpoints and during vet checks:

### **Handler Arrival**

When the handler arrives at a checkpoint, they are to identify themselves to the checkpoint personnel.

- The handler should inquire about and familiarize themselves with the following:
  - Debris/trash/straw collection or disposal points.
  - The location and limits of the holding area.
  - The locations where the teams will be arriving and departing.
  - Location of dog holding area, food drop bags, straw, water, methyl hydrate (methanol), musher’s food and musher’s sleeping area – info to pass along to your musher.
  - Current standings and the approximate/expected arrival time of teams.
- Try to arrive at a checkpoint before your musher does. They will be happy to see you and may have important information about dropped dogs. If you don’t make it in time your musher may worry about you, the truck, dropped dogs....
- Prepare – talk with your musher well in advance of the race
  - Clarify their expectations AND yours
- Even if you have a schedule set up with your musher, keep an eye on what’s happening in the race; things change and schedules can vary significantly with weather and trail conditions. Remember that bad weather will also influence your travel time.

### **A handler is not permitted:**

- To pre-order, pick-up or pay for food for mushers at checkpoints
- To access any services for mushers (straw, food drop bags etc...)

## Musher Arrival

When a dog team has entered a checkpoint and the musher has completed the official check-in procedures, the handler may then take control of the team's leader(s) or the sled and assist the musher in moving the team to the location designated as the parking spot for that team. After the team is secured, the handler must immediately leave the holding area. The handler may return to *observe* the team when the musher leaves the holding area.

- Give your musher information about the location of services (straw, food drop bags, sleeping quarters, food) or the location of a Race Judge or Vet.
- Understand that things will happen – your approach needs to be flexible and supportive of others.
- Your musher will be exhausted and may act with disrespect. Don't take it personally. Let it go and discuss any issues after the race when everybody has had a good rest. Don't bother the musher with your problems along the road and try to only have positive news for them on the trail.

## Holding Area

- Only one handler per team will be authorized to be in the holding area at any time.
- If the musher is in the holding area, the handler must leave.
- When the handler is in the holding area of any checkpoint, the handler shall wear the YQI Handler armband in a manner that is highly visible. This armband will be given to each handler at the Pre-Race YQ300 Meeting.
- While in the holding area, the handler may stand either at the front of the team or at the rear of the team behind the sled. The handler may not walk back and forth from the front of the team to the sled or chat with the dogs. "Observe Only."
- Know the rules and understand your responsibilities and limitations.
- If you are not sure about something **ASK** a Race Judge or the Race Marshal **BEFORE** you do it. They are the only people on the trail with authority regarding questions on rules, assistance or conduct. Do not ask checkpoint volunteers.
- A handler may **not** enter the mushers sleeping area – if a message needs to be sent or there is an emergency situation, only a Race Judge or the Race Marshal shall enter the mushers sleeping area to communicate to the musher.

### **A handler is not permitted to touch any dog, gear, equipment, food or water at any time, except:**

- While parking a team or during immediate departure.
- Unless directed to do so by a Race Judge or the Race Marshal .
- Until after the musher and team have officially checked out and left a checkpoint.
- In an emergency where anyone is permitted to assist any team (i.e. dog fight, loose dog, loose team etc. to prevent harm to the dogs).

## Vet Checks

- During mandatory Vet Checks or musher initiated vet exams at checkpoints, the handler will leave the holding area without being asked or instructed to do so – the exception is during the collection of blood/urine samples.
- The handler may be present at all times during the collection and sealing of blood and/or urine samples from their musher's team and is authorized to sign the documents evidencing the procedure and **shall do so if the musher is not there.** See Rule Trail Procedure #25 Drugs.
- At no time may the handler administer or provide any type of substance, including medications, food or water to any dog in any team within the checkpoint unless directed to by a Race Judge or the Race Marshal.
- When a dog is dropped from a team at a checkpoint, the handler may take physical custody of the dog **ONLY** from a Race Vet, a Race Judge or the Race Marshal **AFTER** the appropriate forms have been completed.

## Musher Departure

### A handler is never permitted:

- To notify any checkpoint personnel of a musher's intention to depart a checkpoint.
- To sign any musher out of a checkpoint.

### A handler is ONLY permitted to assist:

- When the team is being moved from the holding area to the check-out location for immediate departure.
- **If instructed to do so by a Race Judge or the Race Marshal** (i.e. this instruction might be issued if an entry or exit to an area is particularly tricky).

## Handler Departure Responsibilities

After the musher has officially departed a checkpoint, the handler may enter the holding area and collect the supplies, debris and trash that were bagged by the musher prior to their departure from the checkpoint. The handler is to then rake, bag, and remove all straw and animal waste remaining from their team. All supplies, trash, debris, straw, and animal waste is to be disposed of properly by the handler. If you are unsure of disposal procedures/locations, ask a Race Judge or the Race Marshal. *The musher will incur monetary and/or time penalties if this collection and disposal is not done properly. Rule Trail Procedure # 19 & 25.*

Ensure you know the procedure for garbage removal for each checkpoint (which may include a designated area on site or may mean taking it to the dump)

- It is strongly recommended that the handler have a hard tine rake and a broom style rake to improve the checkpoint holding area clean up.
- Use good quality garbage bags to make your life easier (cheap ones break easily in the cold)
- Clean your dog team's parking spaces (clean them well).
- Do not remove food drop bags, clean-up your musher's parking area, or leave a checkpoint less than 30 minutes to one hour after your musher's departure. *If your musher has to return to the checkpoint for any reason, they will not be able to access their food drop bags if they have been handled.*

## Retrieving Dropped Dogs

When retrieving a dropped dog from a Race Veterinarian, be sure to discuss that dog's condition carefully with the Vet – if you have any questions, **ASK!**

- Be sure that you completely understand any TREATMENT or PRESCRIPTION that the Race Vet recommends for your dropped dog – it is very important to follow the Race Vet's instructions completely.
- It is advised that you have the dog checked again by a Vet six hours after being dropped, and in some cases regularly for 12-15 hours. This is obviously dependent on your travel schedule. Don't hesitate to have a dog checked again by a Race Vet at the next checkpoint.
- Before leaving any checkpoint, determine if your musher dropped any dogs there – don't start driving unless you KNOW that all of your musher's dogs have been accounted for.

## Conduct

**The Code of the North dictates that "all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honorable".**

Please remember that as a handler you are a part of the overall image of the Yukon Quest and your musher. As such, your behavior and demeanor will be judged by all the people who observe us along the trail. It is critical that we all conduct ourselves in a friendly, courteous and professional manner.

The musher may incur a penalty, withdrawal or disqualification for rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a musher or handler. (Rule - Trail Procedure #47)

## **Packing the Truck**

**Here is a list of highly recommended items:**

- A hard tine rake AND a broom style/garden-leaf rake
- Hand warmers
- Long leash
- Good quality, strong and durable black garbage bags for clean-up
- Snow shovel and toboggan – good for setting up your campsite in Dawson City
- Water and food for everyone in your rig – dogs and humans
- Minimum 5 gallons of extra fuel
- Extra fluids for the truck - power steering, hydraulic, anti-freeze, oil
- Windshield wiper fluids, spare tire, jack, wrench
- Extra-long extension cord, battery charger
- A warm sleeping bag and extra winter clothing for road emergencies
- Maps, a copy of the YQ300 2018 Rules, **and this document**

## **Driving the YQ300**

Be careful. This isn't a race for you. Stop when you get tired and convoy if possible.

### **Fairbanks to Two Rivers checkpoint (58mi/ 93 km)**

Going North on the Steese Highway, take a right at Chena Hot Springs Road Exit, go to milepost 53. Turn left into the checkpoint area. Handlers must park in the first parking area (it will be well marked). Handlers' trucks will not be allowed past this first area as the checkpoint has very limited parking. Gas is available at Pleasant Valley Store in Two Rivers.

### **Two Rivers to Mile 101 (101 mi/ 162 km)**

Completely fuel up your vehicle in Fairbanks or at the Pleasant Valley Store in Two Rivers, and bring extra gas cans - there is no gas between Fairbanks and Central. When leaving Two Rivers, turn right on Chena Hot Springs Road, going back the way you came, all the way to the Steese Highway. Turn right (north-east) on the Steese Highway, which takes you to Mile 101. After that, the road is narrow with lots of curves, overflow across the road and tiny-to-non-existent shoulders.

Be **extremely** careful at 13 Mile Summit and Eagle Summit going in and COMING OUT! When stopping at Mile 101 be very aware of the traffic on the road, snow plows will be out and about.

### **Mile 101 to Central (26 mi/ 42 km)**

You will go over Eagle Summit and then begin a long descent into Central. If you miss the checkpoint you are asleep at the wheel. **Don't do this drive in the dark.** Watch for possible overflow, white-outs and snow plows. Fuel is available in Central, and not guaranteed in Circle.

### Central to Circle (33 mi/ 53 km)

When you drive this section, during the day or night: Have it Together! The road is mostly gravel, no shoulders, lots of curves and numerous places to run way off the road. If you do go off the road the recovery vehicle will have to come from Fairbanks. It is also one of the more mind numbing sections you will drive during this race.

## Gas Station List

### Between Fairbanks & Circle City

FAIRBANKS				
Sourdough Fuel	Airport Rd, S. Cushman, Farmers Loop	24hour credit card pump		
Fox General Store	Mile 11.5 Steese Hwy N	24hour credit card pump	Y	groceries
PLEASANT VALLEY				
Pleasant Valley Store	Mile 23.4 Chena Hot Springs Road		Y	groceries
CENTRAL				
Central Corner		Open during restaurant hours	Y	Food, groceries
CIRCLE				
H. C. Company			Y	Groceries, tire repair

\*Please note - This is a guide and winter hours are subject to change.

## Final Words

Try and have some fun out there. This is an opportunity to meet new people and see some beautiful country. Read the race rules and carry a copy in your truck, you are responsible for the rules that apply to you, and by extension, your team.

The Yukon Quest is unique because you really are part of the team. Your actions can and will have a profound impact on your musher. Be supportive. Be patient. Let your musher “vent” if they need to. Everyone is going to be really tired, so try and stay focused on what your role is during the race.

There have been some impressive blow ups between mushers and handlers on this race in the past, don’t let it happen to you. Some input from Joe May below, used with his permission:

### A Note for First Time Yukon Quest Handlers:

“Since the inception of the Yukon Quest, the handlers’ convoy has, for some, proven to be as grueling as the dog race. Frozen engines, flat tires, and blown transmissions aren’t unknown. Cooperation with other crews long ago has become the norm. Please help each other if needed. It’s a long cold road.

The up side is that it’s an opportunity to meet some great new people. Over the years, waiting in the checkpoints, and on the long haul between Circle and Dawson City, I suspect there’ve been marriages made, divorces announced, 300 mile silences, tons of potato chips consumed, and maybe germination of a notion to run the race someday. In any event, have fun, stay warm, and drive safe....” *Joe May*

That pretty much sums it up. Be safe out there, help each other out, be patient with your musher and if you have questions don’t be afraid to ask the Race Marshal or a Race Judge. Thanks for participating and have a great race!