



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**March 15, 2017 (Whitehorse, YT & Fairbanks, AK)** – On February 9, 2017, Firefly, a dog on Yuka Honda’s team, died on the trail a few miles outside of Dawson City.

Head Veterinarian Cristina (Nina) Hansen, DVM, PhD reports that the final necropsy report is complete and that Firefly had dilated cardiomyopathy (an enlarged heart) that was not consistent with athletic heart syndrome. This enlargement likely led to an acute and fatal arrhythmia. Findings in the liver confirm acute heart failure.

The booties ingested are an incidental finding and were not the cause of Firefly’s death.

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**For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:**

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