



2017 YQ300

Musher and Handler Information Package

ALASKA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I: Information for Musers.....	3
Meetings & Events.....	4
Forms & Due Dates.....	5
Food Drop Info Sheet.....	6
Vet Check Info Sheet.....	9
Forms	
Food Drop Inventory Form	8
Pre-Race Veterinary Health Certificate	10
Veterinary Exam Form	11
Request for Extra Straw	12
Local Contact Form.....	13
Topographical Maps of the YQ300 Trail	14
Section II: Information for Handlers	15
YQ300 Rules Relevant to Handlers.....	15
Procedures for Handlers	16
Conduct	18
Packing the Truck.....	19
Driving the YQ300.....	19
Gas Station List	20
Final Words.....	20

SECTION I

INFORMATION FOR MUSHERS

July 2016

Hello YQ300 Mushers,

On behalf of the staff and Boards of Directors in the Yukon and Alaska, welcome to the 2017 Yukon Quest (YQ) 300 Mike Sled Dog Race.

This Musher Package contains information you will need to prepare for the 2017 race. It includes a list of all mandatory meetings and events, other meetings and promotional events, required and optional forms, and information sheets. Over the next few months we will be sending you additional information.

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

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this package or about any aspect of the 2017 YQ300, please don't hesitate to call, email or come by the office.

Sincerely,

Natalie Haltrich
Executive Director

Laura Vinnedge
Operations Manager

Yukon Quest International Association (Canada)

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#2 - 1109 Front St.

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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.

MANDATORY MEETINGS & EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES	WHAT TO BRING
Food Drop	Sat Jan 21	Whitehorse & Fairbanks	Mandatory for all mushers or designates. Contact YQ office for more info	Completed Food Drop Inventory forms
Vet Check	Fri Feb 3	Whitehorse	Mandatory for all Mushers	Veterinary Health Certificate and Exam Forms, Request Forms for Microchips
YQ300 Musher/ Handler Meeting	Fri Feb 3	Whitehorse	Mandatory for all Mushers. Handler attendance is strongly encouraged. Closed YQ meeting. Get trail report, race updates; meet the Officials and Vet Team. Draw Bib Numbers	Local Contact Sheet, payment of any outstanding fees, your notebook
YQ300 Finish Banquet	Tue Feb 7	Pelly Crossing	Mandatory for all Mushers who have crossed the finish line up to four hours before the ceremony	Your stories

OTHER RACE WEEK EVENTS

Meet the Mushers	Wed Feb 1	Whitehorse	For YQ1000 Mushers, but we encourage you to join us	
Yukon Quest Start & Draw Banquet	Thurs Feb 2	Whitehorse	YQ1000 Start and Draw Banquet	Tickets are \$75 CAD, available through the Yukon office



CHECKLIST: FORMS & DUE DATES

Here is a list of forms required by the YQ, 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 Yukon office if you have any questions about these forms.

REQUIRED FORMS	DUE DATE	NOTE
Food Drop Inventory Form (Page 8)	Sat Jan 21	Bring completed forms to Food Drop (need separate form for EACH Checkpoint)
Local Contact Form (Page 14)	Fri Feb 3	Bring to the YQ300 Musher/Handlers Meeting or submit to Yukon office
Release and Hold Harmless Agreement	Fri Feb 3	<u>You will be provided with a copy prior to the YQ300 Musher/ Handlers Meeting</u> , where it will be signed and notarized.
Veterinary Health Certificate (Page 10)	Fri Feb 3	To be completed at Vet Check
Veterinary Exam Form (Page 11)	Fri Feb 3	Bring forms to Vet Check with top section completed. Fill in one page for every 4 dogs.

OPTIONAL FORMS	DUE DATE	NOTE
Request for Additional Straw (Page 12)	Fri Dec 2	Submit to Yukon office

FOOD DROP INFO SHEET

DATE/ LOCATION

Saturday January 21, 2017 from 12-4pm

LOCATION

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

In Fairbanks – Summit Logistics (3453 Truck Street)

ABOUT THE FOOD DROP

As per the 2017 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).

FOOD DROP PROCESS

- Mushers (or a representative) bring all marked and numbered food drop bags (along with their list of contents) to the Food Drop (in either Whitehorse or Fairbanks) on January 21 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. Yukon Quest or YQ300) and musher's last name. They are accessible for mushers upon arrival at each checkpoint.
- YQ300 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. Please contact either 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** (in this package) 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 Yukon Quest 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 Canada who are shipping dog food independently, and travelling across the international border in your own trucks, you may be subjected 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 YQ300, 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 bag has 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 labelled or closed properly. **INDIVIDUAL BAG WEIGHT CANNOT EXCEED 40 POUNDS**. Food drop bags exceeding 40 pounds 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 MUSER DOES NOT FINISH

Scratch: The musher can retrieve or make arrangements to retrieve their food drop bags. If the musher or designate 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 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 Whitehorse for retrieval. Bags will be emptied of all perishables and stored by the Yukon Quest 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). 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.*

VET CHECK INFO SHEET

DATE/TIME

Friday February 3, 2017

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

LOCATION

In Whitehorse – TBA

ABOUT THE VET CHECK

All Mushers 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 the Yukon office in January. A maximum of 14 dogs will be examined at the YQ300 Vet Check.

Microchips: Microchips are not required for the YQ300 and will no longer be available for purchase at the YQ300 Vet Check.

Vaccinations: You will need to provide proof that all dogs in your YQ team have received their vaccinations as outlined in the 2017 YQ300 Race Rules, see General Race Procedure #8. Please ensure that you understand and adhere to the specified dates and vaccinations required.

New for 2017: Vaccination records must be submitted to either YQ office by 5pm on January 9, 2017.

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

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



2017 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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>BAG # _____ OF _____</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>



2017 VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Please bring this form to your scheduled Vet Check appointment and complete with your Vet Check Veterinarian. Musherers 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 #25 – Drugs, of the official 2017 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 #25 – Drugs* of the Official 2017 YQ300 Rules.

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

Veterinarian Signature: _____ Date: _____

2017 VETERINARY EXAM FORM

Please bring these forms to your scheduled Vet Check appointment with the top portion of the forms 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				
Notes:				



2017 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 USD per full bale. Absolutely no straw will be permitted in food drop bags.**

Deadline for extra straw requests: Friday December 2, 2016

MUSHER NAME _____

Checkpoints	STRAW PROVIDED	STRAW TO BE PURCHASED # extra bales (full bales only)
Whitehorse (Start)	0	_____
Braeburn	1	_____
Carmacks	1	_____
McCabe Creek	½	<u> N/A </u>
Pelly Crossing	1	_____
Pelly Crossing (Finish)	0	_____

Total Cost _____ # full bales x \$13 USD = \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp.(MM/YY)____/____ CV2: _____
3-dig # on Back

Musher Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE

Payment Type (*circle*): Credit Card Cash Cheque Money Order Payment Date: _____

Payment Office: _____ YQ Staff signature: _____

Yukon
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 Email: yukonoperations@yukonquest.com



2017 LOCAL CONTACT FORM

Please submit this form to the Yukon office or bring to the YQ300 Musher/Handlers Meeting on Friday, Feb 3, 2017. 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(s) following the race? Yes ___ or No ___

Name: _____ Cell phone (if applicable): _____

Name: _____ Cell phone (if applicable): _____

Emergency Contact Person (other than their musher): _____ **Phone:** _____

WHITEHORSE ACCOMMODATION INFO

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

Please contact the Yukon office with any questions.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS OF THE YQ300 TRAIL

TRAIL DISTANCES (APPROXIMATE)

Whitehorse to Braeburn	100 miles
Braeburn to Carmacks	77 miles
Carmacks to Pelly Crossing	73 miles
Carmacks to McCabe Creek Dog Drop	39 miles
McCabe Creek Dog Drop to Pelly Crossing	34 miles
Pelly Crossing to Stepping Stone and back to Pelly Crossing (Finish Line)	64 miles
Pelly Crossing to Stepping Stone Hospitality Stop (via Pelly River)	32 miles
Stepping Stone Hospitality Stop to Pelly Crossing (via Pelly Farm Road)	32 miles

TOTAL DISTANCE **314 miles/ 505 km**

TRAIL ELEVATIONS*

Whitehorse	2089 ft
Braeburn	2326 ft
Carmacks	1722 ft
McCabe Creek Dog Drop	1466 ft
Pelly Crossing	1558 ft

*according to the Yukon Geological Survey

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Canadian Maps (Department of Energy, Mines & Resources Canada)

Whitehorse	105 D
Lake Laberge	105 E
Glenlyon (<i>N.B. only 6 miles/ 10 kms of Trail are on this map</i>)	105 L
Carmacks	115 I

In Alaska:

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. (P) 907-474-6960

In the Yukon:

Maps are available at Mac's Fireweed Books (downstairs in Map Sales) - 203 Main Street Whitehorse, YT (P) 867-668-2434

Yukon Mapping Online:

The Yukon Government - Energy, Mines and Resources Department has an excellent online mapping tool available for free to the general public (<http://mapservices.gov.yk.ca/Lands/>). It includes a number of tools, data layers, and map views. Feel free to navigate through the interface and if you have any questions contact Holly at the Whitehorse Office.

SECTION II

INFORMATION FOR HANDLERS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Race Vets and Officials, welcome to the 2017 Yuke Quest (YQ) 300 Mile Sled Dog Race. This package contains helpful information regarding trail procedures, rules, driving, packing tips and reminders to help you prepare for the 2017 race. We recommend that you *carry this document with you in the truck at all times*.

ABOUT THE YQ300 MUSHER/HANDLER MEETING

- Date: Friday, February 3. Time and location TBA.
- This meeting is **mandatory** for all 2017 YQ300 Mushers. (Handler attendance is strongly encouraged.)
- **BE ON TIME** or early. **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.

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 2017 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 # 12 - 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 # 17 - 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 #25 - Drugs:

YQI 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

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 or neck tag (provided at the Handler's Meeting) when you are "working" at any checkpoints.
- 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.

CHECKPOINT, VET CHECK AND DOG DROP PROCEDURES

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).

CHECKPOINT

Handler Arrival

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

- The handler should inquire about the following:
 - The locations where the teams will be arriving and departing.
 - The location and limits of the holding area.
 - Location of 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. Prepare – talk with your musher well in advance of the race
 - Clarify their expectations AND yours
 - Develop the plan for camp set-up in Dawson City
- 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.

Except in Dawson City, 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...)
- To enter the mushers sleeping area –only a Race Judge or the Race Marshal can enter the mushers sleeping area to communicate with mushers.

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. 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.

Holding Area

- Only one handler per team will be authorized to be in the holding area at any time, except in Dawson, *to observe only*. 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 or neck tag in a manner that is highly visible.
- While in the holding area, the handler may stand either at the front or at the rear of the team behind the sled. The handler may not walk back and forth or chat with the dogs.
- 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.

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. It is the handler's responsibility to clean up and properly dispose of all waste including trash, debris, straw, and animal waste. 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 #9.*

- It is *strongly* recommended that the handler have a hard tine rake and a broom style rake.
- Use good quality garbage bags to make your life easier (cheap ones break easily in the cold).
- Clean your dog team's parking spaces 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.*

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 – exceptions are in Dawson City and 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 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 #26 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.

DOG DROPS

Remote Dog Drops

Handlers are not authorized to be at remote dog drops - Scroggie Creek and Slaven's Roadhouse. All dogs flown out of remote dog drops and Eagle checkpoint will be flown forward to the next road accessible checkpoint or dog drop (weather permitting).

McCabe Creek Dog Drop

Usually handlers are permitted and welcome to drive into McCabe Creek dog drop. The access is a 1 mile/1.6km narrow driveway. **This driveway is also the YQ trail.** Please drive slowly and watch for dog teams. Ask dog drop volunteers for advice on parking at McCabe Creek, as some areas are reserved for dog team parking. We suggest parking your dog truck at the pull out area near the highway and walking into McCabe Farm.

Retrieving Dropped Dogs

When retrieving a dropped dog from a Race Veterinarian, 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 – this is very important.
- 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. Don't hesitate to have a dog checked again by a Race Vet at the next checkpoint or dog drop.
- Before leaving any checkpoint or dog drop, 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.
- When arriving at Pelly Crossing, Dawson City or Circle City, check with checkpoint personnel to determine if any dogs from your team were dropped at a remote location and are waiting for you or are expected to arrive at that checkpoint.

CONDUCT

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

Please remember that as a handler you are part of the overall YQ image and an ambassador to 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 #32)

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
- 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 2017 Rules, **and this document**

DRIVING THE YQ300

All road sections can be extremely icy and snow packed. Be careful. It's a long journey. Stop when you get tired and convoy if possible. Obey speed limits in communities on the way to and from Dawson City to keep everybody safe. The RCMP is known for doing speed control during the YQ.

Whitehorse to Braeburn (68 mi/ 110 km) From Whitehorse, you will head north on the Alaska Highway and turn right onto the Klondike Highway (north) following the signs to Dawson City. Braeburn Lodge is located on the Klondike Highway. Gas is usually available. It is recommended that you fuel up in Whitehorse. (Gas is reliably available at Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, and Dawson but check the station hours ahead of time.)

Braeburn to Carmacks (42 mi/ 67 km) From Braeburn continue north on the Klondike Highway. The checkpoint is located at the community center on River Drive. From the Highway turn left on Freegold Road and right onto River Drive. You will see the community center just up ahead.

Carmacks to McCabe Creek (40 mi/ 65 km) McCabe Creek Dog Drop is located at Mile 142 on the Klondike Highway. There is very limited signage so keep a keen eye out for the driveway on the left hand side (west side) of the highway. Handlers are usually permitted and welcome to drive into McCabe Creek Dog Drop, however **access is a one-mile long narrow driveway which is also the YQ trail**. Drive slowly, be careful, and watch out for dog teams. Ask Dog Drop volunteers for advice on parking as some areas are reserved for dog team parking. To avoid any conflicts we recommend parking your dog truck at the pull out area near the highway and walking into McCabe Creek Dog Drop.

McCabe Creek to Pelly Crossing (25 mi/ 41 km) From McCabe Creek continue north on the Klondike Highway to Pelly Crossing. The checkpoint is located within the Community Hall at the Northeast corner of town. Turn left at the gas station and follow the road toward the river.

GAS STATION LIST

Between Whitehorse & Pelly Crossing

WHITEHORSE			
TAGS/ Husky	4221 4th Ave.	24hours/day 7days/week	
Petro CANADA	Mile 910 Alaska Hwy	24hours/day 7days/week	
BRAEBURN			
Braeburn Lodge	on Klondike Hwy (at Checkpoint)	7:00-1:00am, full hours at race time	Restaurant
CARMACKS			
Tatchun Center	on Klondike Highway	7:30-22:00	General store
PELLY CROSSING			
Selkirk Grocery	on Klondike Highway	10:00-19:00	Grocery

*Please note – Not all Whitehorse gas stations are listed. This is a guide and winter hours are subject to change.

FINAL WORDS

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 YQ 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 YQ HANDLERS

“Since the inception of the YQ, 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*

Have fun and be safe. Thanks for participating and have a great race!

Yukon

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