



# 2024 YQ100

## Musher/Handler Information Package

Updated 9th November 2024

**Yukon Quest International Association (Canada)**

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# Section I

## Information for Musers

Hello YQ100 Musers,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, welcome to the 2024 YQ100 Sled Dog Race!

This Packet contains information you and your handler(s) will need to prepare for the 2024 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 weeks we will be sending you additional information by email.

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 2024 YQ100, please do not hesitate to call, email or come by the office.

Sincerely,

**Abi Horobin, Race Operations Manager**

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Phone: (867) 335 4711

#2 - 1109 Front Street

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## 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/ Time	Event	Location	Notes	What to Bring
Thu, Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 13:30 – 15:00	Musher & Handler Meeting	Sternwheeler Hotel, Whitehorse	Handler attendance is strongly encouraged. Closed YQ meeting	A government-issued photo ID, payment of any outstanding fees, notebook
Thu, Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 15:00 – 16:00	Paperwork Signing	Sternwheeler Hotel, Whitehorse		
Thu, Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024 17:00 – 19:00	Meet the Mushers and Bib Draw	Sternwheeler Hotel, Whitehorse	This is where you will draw your bib number	
Fri, Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2024 08:00 - until completion	Official Vet Check	Northern Windows & Doors		Veterinary Health Certificate and Exam Forms, Proof of Vaccination
Tue, Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024 16:00 – 17:00	Post- Race Musher Meeting YQ100/ 250	Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse	Mandatory for all YQ100/ 250 mushers. Closed meeting	
Tue, Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024 18:00 – 20:00	Finish & Awards Evening YQ100/ 250	Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse	Mandatory for all Mushers who have crossed the finish line up to 6 hours before the ceremony	Your stories
Fri, Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> 2024 16:00 – 17:00	Post- Race Musher Meeting YQ450	Sternwheeler Hotel, Whitehorse	Mandatory for all YQ450 mushers. Closed meeting	
Fri, Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> 2024 18:00 – 21:00	Finish & Awards Banquet YQ450	Sternwheeler Hotel, Whitehorse	Mandatory for all Mushers who have crossed the finish line up to 12 hours before the ceremony	Your stories



## FORMS & DUE DATES

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 Yukon office if you have any questions about these forms.

DUE DATE	REQUIRED FORMS	NOTES
November 24, 2023	Additional Straw Request Form	Submit to YQ office
January 6, 2024	Request for Housing	Contact the YQ office
Between March 2, 2023 and January 14, 2024	Combination Vaccine (Parvovirus and Distemper)	See YQ100 Race Rules 2024, Rule 5(b)
Between Sept. 2, 2023 and January 14, 2024	Bordetella (Kennel Cough) Vaccine	See YQ100 Race Rules 2024 , Rule 5(b)
No later than January 14, 2024	Rabies Vaccine	See YQ100 Race Rules 2024, Rule 5(b)
January 14, 2024	Vaccination records submitted	From musher to designated office
January 20, 2024	Local Contact Form	Submit to YQ office
February 1, 2024	Veterinary Health Certificate	To be completed at <b>Vet Check</b>
February 1, 2024	Veterinary Exam Form	Bring forms to <b>Vet Check</b> with top section completed. Fill in one page for every dog.

## FORMS

The following forms can be down-loaded from the website or requested from the office;

- Request for Extra Straw
- Veterinary Health Certificate
- Veterinary Exam Form
- Local Contact Form

# **VET CHECK INFO SHEET**

## **DATE/TIME**

Friday, February 1, 2024 at 8:00am

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

## **LOCATION**

In Whitehorse – Northerm Windows and Doors, 17 Burns Rd, Whitehorse, YT

## **ABOUT THE YQ OFFICIAL PRE-RACE VET CHECK**

As part of your Entry Fee, you have access to all veterinary services provided at the Official YQ100 Vet Check. The Vet Check is coordinated by the Yukon Quest to ensure that all mushers have access to professional veterinary assessments of their sled dog team, prior to the race start.

## **PRE-RACE VET CHECK BY YOUR OWN VET**

Only entrants who are Iditarod OR YQ1000 veterans may have their dogs examined by a YQ approved licensed vet of their own choice. The vet check should take place within a month of the race start date. Please take your completed pre-race vet check paperwork, in person, to the YQ official vet check. You do not require a scheduled time.

**All other entrants must have their dogs examined at the YQ official pre-race Vet Check.**

## **PLANNING FOR THE VET CHECK**

Your Vet Check appointment will be made with your designated office in early January. A maximum of 10 dogs will be examined at the YQ100 Vet Check.

**Microchips:** Microchips are not required for the YQ100 and the chips will not be available for purchase at the YQ100 Vet Check.

**Vaccinations:** You will need to provide proof that all dogs in your YQ team have received their vaccinations as outlined in the 2024 YQ100 Race Rules, see YQ100 Race Rules 2024: 5(b). 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 YQ100 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 YQ100 Vet Checks or any requirements, please contact the Whitehorse office as early as possible.

## **TIME STATION INFO SHEET**

**There is NO food drop delivered to the time station.** The following information is a guideline only. The best way to learn some of the planning tips and techniques is to get in touch with more experienced mushers, or visit our website to read mushers discuss their preparation.

### **STRAW**

The Yukon Quest provides no straw for the YQ100. Straw may be ordered for Whitehorse and Braeburn. Straw may be carried in the sled to TS1.

### **FUEL**

**Mushers must supply their own HEET/fuel which is to be stored in a certified, approved container and clearly labelled.**

## **MUSHER REQUIREMENTS & INFORMATION**

### **TS1 Dawson Trail – YQ100**

- Mandatory Stop – 4 hours & time differential
- Official check in & sign out with gear check

### **Braeburn – YQ100 hand in SPOT/Trackers, Bibs & Vet Book**

- Official check in with gear check
- Mandatory vet check

Race Veterinarians and mushers shall sign the vet book at all checkpoints. At checkpoints not requiring a mandatory vet check, the Race Marshal / Race Judge may sign the vet book if a Race Veterinarian is not present.

The health and condition of all dogs may be assessed at any checkpoint or time station; or in the case of a suspected emergency, at any point along the trail. Race Veterinarians in conjunction with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may perform a veterinary exam or detain teams at any checkpoint or time station. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

# **TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS OF THE YUKON QUEST TRAIL**

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

Whitehorse            105 D  
Lake Laberge         105 E

## **Where to get the Maps**

### **In the Yukon:**

Maps are available at Mac's Fireweed Books – downstairs in Map Sales, 203 Main Street Whitehorse YT Y1A 2B2. Telephone 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 the Whitehorse Office.



# SECTION II

## Information for Handlers

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Race Vets and Officials, welcome to the 2024 YQ100. This package contains helpful information regarding trail procedures, rules, driving, packing tips and reminders to help you prepare for the 2024 race.

### About the YQ100 Musher/ Handler Meeting

- Thursday, February 1, 2024 – 2:00 p.m. Location TBC
- This meeting is **mandatory** for all 2024 YQ100 Musers and one Handler per team. (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 YQ100 Rules Relevant to Handlers

Here are a few important rules that are especially important to Handlers. **Please note:** A full copy of the Official 2024 YQ100 Rules can be found on our website or acquired from the Yukon Quest office.

#### YQ100 Race Rules 2024: 6(f) - Outside Assistance:

No planned help is allowed throughout the race. No musher may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or if an emergency is ruled to have occurred, after the fact. The intended spirit of this race dictates that the musher be self-sufficient and therefore able to help other mushers in case of real need. No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the YQ100 Trail between checkpoints. In the event of a loose dog or runaway team anyone may assist the musher without penalty to the musher.

Outside assistance is allowed for a team that is arriving at or leaving a checkpoint, including the start line. Any person may assist a distracted, tangled or off course team if it becomes apparent that help is required for that team to enter or exit in a safe and orderly manner.

#### YQ100 Race Rules 2024: 6(a) - Sportsmanship:

The Code of the North dictates all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honourable. Conduct yourself well enough so the next musher will be welcomed with equal hospitality.

**Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a musher or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification. This includes any publication, sharing, posting or comments deemed false, derogatory or negative towards any musher, race manager, official, volunteer, the Yukon Quest organization, or their sponsors or supporters. This rule is in effect from musher sign-up until 30 days after the finish banquet.**

Any competitor or athlete worthy of the name realizes that all people – officials, volunteers, sponsors, media, and fans – are valued and important participants in this event. It is the musher's responsibility to embody the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all.

# 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).**
- **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.***

## Finish Line Procedure

When the handler arrives at the Braeburn Finish Line, 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 locations where the teams will be arriving.
- 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.

## Conduct

**The Code of the North dictates that “all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honourable”.**

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.* YQ100 Race Rules 2024: 6(a)

## Packing the Truck

Here is a list of highly recommended items:

- Food Bags
- 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

## Driving the YQ100

Be careful. This is not a race for you. Stop when you get tired and convoy if possible. Please try to get to Braeburn well ahead of your Musher's arrival.

**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 Station List

### Between Whitehorse & Braeburn

<b>WHITEHORSE- numerous</b>			
TAGS/ Husky	4221 4th Ave.	24hours/day 7days/week	
Petro CANADA	Mile 910 Alaska Hwy	24hours/day 7days/week	
<b>BRAEBURN</b>			
Braeburn Lodge	on Klondike Hwy (at Checkpoint)	0700-0100, full hours at race time	restaurant

As weather can be unpredictable during the Yukon winter, it is strongly advised that handlers keep dog trucks topped up with fuel whenever possible.

## **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 upside 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*

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!

