

## Sled-dog Welfare

The development of a responsible industry

Our History as a Kennel
Started the farm in 2007 Looked at Best Practices \& Business Models in > 20 farms / 3 countries

We came from other industries...responsible tourism worldwide (Africa, Asia, Europe) global corporations, dogs in border patrol.

Established our own way of working from a basic moral imperative...

Laughed at in first Kiruna Sled-dog Symposium in 2011 w.r.t. 'naïve' no culling, restricted breeding, marketing of 'responsible' etc policies


The reality is that behind the scenes, we are definitely not squeaky clean as an industry...


Commonly accepted practices, even by those at the forefront of the industry, are outdated and not talked about.

Moral Imperative to change or Business Argument (needs-driven in the age of PETA and the popular press?)...either way, it will have to come.


As an industry, we need to both clean up our act and be able to speak from a position of transparent responsibility if we have any chance of success against them.

Or accepted practices like culling unwanted dogs - even when behind closed doors - will come back to haunt us all.

These practices are increasingly unacceptable even to our guides.
And yet, without chipping, it is impossible to hold companies accountable?

In 2015 our work towards raising standards within the sled-dog industry earned us a gold in the World Responsible Tourism Awards

Whenever we are asked to talk about the positive welfare actions taken by sled-dog owners, we try to do so...

Xmas The Dog Rescuers


Chains: One of the most contentious issues
https://medium.com/hetta-huskies/ ruminating-on-sled-dog-welfare-guidelinesb8e1213665bf


We were asked again, this week, to comment on some of the various guidelines that are being developed about animal welfare around the world.

I spent so long on the formulation of the reply, I figured I should share my thoughts, even though I know that they are contentious, since they apply across any set of guidelines that might be being developed.

Tethering vs Caging...the classic debate
With tethering and caging, I believe that the issues are probably quite different for each set of animals, and therefore I worry a little about any guidelines that try to develop mandates that work for camels, elephants, reindeer and sled-dogs under the same umbrella.

All I really know about, is sled-dogs.


# A Comparison of Tethering and Pen Confinement of Dogs 

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99\& of our cages (we have two specific exceptions) are designed to house $3-5$ dogs whereas in nearly $100 \%$ of the cases, we have a maximum of 2 dogs in each.



And yet a bigger question is maybe... how well insulated are the kennels and how well maintained are the kennels and cages?

We don't excel at this aspect of welfare as an industry.

The law doesn't support what we believe should be mandated.

We do our own bit of industry popular press / self-belief that the fluffier arctic breeds don't need insulation...but what, now, IS an arctic breed given that the majority of kennels have Alaskans...Our fluffiest dogs who came from a farm with poorly insulated kennels, have the worst frostbite since they developed a tendency towards it because of their kennels.

GK 6.3 We never have more than three dogs in a standard enclosure although we may have up to four oldies in one of the running fences. The norm is 2.

Gk 6.4 and 6.43 Guideline There is someone on the farm $24 / 7$ to react to any issues. It takes us c .5 mins to walk from one side of the farm to the other.

We do not have elevated platforms etc in the running fences since we have some dogs that we specifically don't want to be able to jump off kennels etc. However, we use the running fences for training or, eg, searching for treats etc. (scenting) during supervised play.


GK 6.2 States that enclosures should be cleaned at least once per day but we would argue that this is not enough. The best farms clean the farm three times per day. We do so twice per day.

Our dog poop is collated and composted to safe temperatures in a fixed area. At present we use a reed bed to filter the nitrates and would need to do wider testing to see if this is better than a closed containment system but we could easily make it one. The compost is ultimately used back on the garden and on the tracks to rejuvenate the tracks.


## Summer Fun



Some of our dogs are fostered over the summer months...but this is obviously just a bonus and not a solution.



So we also do what we can, inhouse, and have individual training and development targets for each individual dog...



And detailed Record Keeping


## Scheduled Maintenance...Teeth, Nails, Massage, Brushing, Anal Glands <br> Scheduled Maintenance... Teeth, Nail

.


SHEET FOR PRINTING FOR NAILS / TEETH---Keep Blank



Whilst the mid-aged dogs enjoy running (in clean, intact and fitting harnesses which are colour coded by size (GK 6.6) in lines which are covered and using booties and winter coats when necessary)..
is important to remember the old, retired dogs and to instigate a system of regular valking to maintain both fitness and mental stimulation / fun... Walking non-running logs is built into the activity program for our on-farm winter clients and the dogs are valked primarily by guides in the summer months or rotated through one of our running ences. (Only one of our running fences is c .500 m 2 but we believe that it is sufficient in ize).


 the dog and how well they heat acclimatize (and isn't really to do with breed!) but we have a selection of dogs that we use as go-to dogs for summer mushing so that we heat acclimatize them over time and a selection that we never use since we know we cannot acclimatize them.

Our temperatures frequently fall below -25C but the right dogs in the right equipment can safely run in those temperatures (contrary to the GK limits which are likely to be fairly arbitrary / based on what Lapland Uni plucked from our documentation and misunderstood at the time).


GK 6.6 On overnight trips, dogs should have lined coats for sleeping outdoors.
In our own wilderness cabins, the dogs have small cages and insulated sleeping kennels to live on, during overnight tours. In non-owned locations eg Harriniva's Galdotieva cabins, we cannot put such places up.


6.13 Lead dogs are never fastened solely by the collar/ neckline in order to keep the team straight *.

During tours, we have one guide on a SMB and at least one on the front sleigh for up to 6 teams. After that we may have either a second sleigh guide or a second snowmobile depending on capacity.

## But it is hard to justify any of this unless the breeding is extremely closely regulated.

HEAT CHECK 2

## mark in green)

\& marked in blue) \& additional information about 'dangerous issues'/ females to watch if necessary.

CASTRATED MALES: A Cloud, Eureka, Glock, Hick Kiri Kiri, Malik Manso, Ma Nalle, Neo, Oates, Pegasc Teasers, Ti
ink a doo miaht be coming into heat but vou are not sure, mark in pink. This colour notation on the chart should remain in place irrespective of vour findinas on the following check. When vou think that a doo hasnt come into heat for a long ent chanoes are produced and even then it is difficult to notice, iust by looking that the female doo is oreanant. However vou can look out for various sions: 1 mood changes, either the bitch becoming more agitated aoressive or affection a


| Name | Weight | ml per dose | Pre-season ml total | Rest of season ml total rAL ml (pre + in-season) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bella (New addition) | 19 | 0,57 | 2,28 |  | 2,28 |  |
| Blade | 22 | 0,66 | 2,64 |  | 2,64 |  |
| Bono | 24 | 0,72 | 2,88 | 5,04 | 7,92 |  |
| Bruiser | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| lesse | 22 | 0,66 | 2,64 |  | 2,64 |  |
| Keri (New addition) | 29 | 0,87 | 3,48 | 13,92 | 17,4 |  |
| Leon (New addition) | 26 | 0,78 | 3,12 |  | 3,12 |  |
| Manso | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| Meggy | 22 | 0,66 | 2,64 | 4,62 | 7,26 |  |
| Mullers | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| Nomad (New addition) | 28 | 0,84 | 3,36 | 13,44 | 16,8 |  |
| Odin | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| Tore (New addition) | 27 | 0,81 | 3,24 | 5,67 | 8,91 |  |
| Yana (New addition) | 26 | 0,78 | 3,12 | 12,48 | 15,6 |  |
| Sausage | 16 | 0,48 | 1,92 |  | 1,92 |  |
| Chocolate | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| KGB | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| Fala | 25 | 0,75 | 3 |  | 3 |  |
| Storm | 22 | 0,66 | 2,64 |  | 2,64 |  |
| Jani (one month course) | 25 | 0,75 | 3 | 5,25 | 8,25 |  |
| Hendrix | 27 | 0,81 | 3,24 |  | 3,24 |  |
| Jupi ( loose joints) | 27 | 0,81 | 3,24 |  | 3,24 |  |
| Bruno [New addition) | 28 | 0,84 | 3,36 |  | 3,36 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL |  | 16,95 | 67,8 | 60,42 | 128,22 |  |
|  |  | ml | ml | ml | ml |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1,7 | 6,8 | 6,0 | 12,8 |  |
| Cost per 10 ml bottle | 63,85 | bottles per dose | bottles total for pre- | bottles required Oct-April | bottles required for |  |
| Dose per dog | $0.3 \mathrm{ml} / 10 \mathrm{~kg}$ | round | season course |  | whole season |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ¢108,23 | ¢432,90 | 6385,78 | 6818,68 |  |
|  |  | per dose round | for pre-season course | for selected dogs on full season course | total cost of cartrophen program |  |


| LIMITED DAY PRODUCTS |  |  |  |  | ALL DAY PRODUCTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2k/Non-Runnin | 6k MAX | 12k MAX | 20k MAX | 30k MAX | 40k MAX | Palojoki / Kota | Palojoki / Kota | FEMALE 3 / 5 DAY |  |  | MALE / Sterilised Females 3 / 5 DAY |  |  |
| Chocolate (11) Jani | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Hendrix (12) } \\ & \text { Jupi (11) } \end{aligned}$ | Blade Cherry (10) | Arrow Bella | Bruiser Merlin 1 | Aida (8) Bjornar | Aki (10) <br> Aknil (10) | Apple <br> Bali (10) | Amber Anouk | Hazel Laura | Selje <br> Sila | Andrew <br> Aleu | Hickory Humlis | Peanut Pil |
| Jopa (13) | Keri | Hawthorne | Bono (10) | Milkyway | Harley | Atlas | Calypso | Beta | Hippi | Sirbma | Anton | less | Pluto |
| KGB | Neo | Madonna | Cloud (10) | Nea | Moonshine | Balto | Elara | Billie | Indigo | Storm | Arun | Innoko | Sequoia |
| Manso | Yana | Mighty Mouse | Grumpy (10) | Tuuli | Teasers | Banda | Keksi | Cookie | Isbre | Tähti | Aslan | Japp | Shadow |
| Much | Pegasos | Nalle (11) | Hulda | Odin | Teddy | Cedar | Kurpitsa | Sookie | Jenga | Taiga | Benji (9) | Kailash | Simba |
| Sausage (11) |  | Nana | Jesse (11) | Hera | Varg | Domino | Luna | Cuillin | Lhotse | Tikka | Bino | Kent | Sisu |
| Timon |  | Nomad | Meggy | Breeze |  | Elting (10) | Maple | Daisy | Mina | Tundra | Bolle | Kiri-Kiri | Smeagol |
| Yasper |  | Pekki | Muller | Aqua |  | Flight | Narvi | Diva | Litja | Tinder | Bonzo | Lasse | Soarez |
|  |  | Princess (10) | Pinky (10) |  |  | Hob Nob | Pandora | Dunhill | Lyra | Unni | Bran | Lyngen | Starsky |
|  |  | Soda | Trouble (10) |  |  | Jaffa | Seljeli | Duotta | Lindt | Uzi | Bruno (9) | Magnum | Tarmo |
|  |  | Suka | Zeta |  |  | Leon (10) | Willow | Elle | Malm | Venla | Buachaille | Manus | Thunder |
| Blizzard |  | Tore (12) | Samu (11) |  |  | Nurmi | Koukoun | Frida | Maya | Venus | Buddah | Malik | Timur |
| Nilak |  | Yesper | Sanna (11) |  |  | Oreo | Hope | Gamma | Midori | Vivi | Chess | Mars | Tog |
| Lumi |  | Minnie | Save (12) |  |  | Quercus |  | Grizzly | Mimosa |  | Country | Mercury | Togo |
| Flake |  |  | Svale |  |  | Ronnie |  | Hailey | Mollis |  | Denali | Moscow | Tryfan |
| Ice |  |  | June (1) |  |  | Tarvos |  | Halla | Nuna |  | Dino | Nakat (10) | Vak |
| Sleet |  |  | Cinnamon (1) |  |  | Tengri |  | Happy | Olive |  | Doffen | Nanu | Vulpes |
| Firn |  |  | Mona |  |  | Timtam |  | Miri | Pia |  | Dole | Oates | Yoda |
| Dove |  |  |  |  |  | Titan |  |  | Saturn |  | Eden (10) | Obama | Akso |
| Falcon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Eiger | Oscar | Nix |
| Linnet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Eros | Osman | Quest |
| Chicadee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Eureka | Ouzo | Puck |
| Loon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Glock | Owl | Yukon |
| Lark |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Herbie | Pan |  |
| Manu |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Hercules |  | Eclipse |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Ulna |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Yena |



6.11 The dogs are exercised and used for work bearing in mind each individual's physical condition and eagerness to work. A log is kept on exercise, work and rest days.

RUNNING TOTALS COMPARISON SINCE 2009-10 WINTER SEASON


We analyse performance and share it in a fun way with clients...
Eg the dogs have run 37 times around the world or to the moon and back twice...


## 7) Love your DOGS



Downhills
Uphills
Corners
Overtaking
Separating Fights
Feet
Faces
Limping
Booties
Ulcer symptoms...stop immediately.
Our expectations w.r.t. your helping in am \& pm \& pros and cons...(If not keen, work out a rota or you might not see your guides much!) Don't put yourself in danger
If struggling to hold the team, put the anchor in...

## Road <br> Crossings





I

ABTA's Assessment required:
an absence of injuries, An absence of fear
An absence of aggression
An absence of illness

## ?

All of these things should be able to be found in a normal population.

If they are not, that is more worrying.
Dogs are put down by a veterinarian (GK 6.21) when all reasonable attempts to preserve their health have failed. We keep records of ages and reasons for death so that we can know the average life spans of both those in the farm and those post adoption (GK 6.22)

We have no accidental litters. (GK 6.21 and 6.23)




## Planned Parentood Process

Injured dogs go to the vet if they cannot be given sufficient first aid on site. The vet's number is on our staff contact sheet.

Of course having a vet available is a different matter.

In case of fire, we would relocate the dogs to our secondary location at Kallo.

Dogs needing medications are monitored through complex systems that ensure that they are given what they need.




An '80:20' virtual snapshot of our dogs.



Male / Working Sleddog / Unlimited distance
D. of B. 11/05/2016-4 years 6 months old

Weight \& Current Food Oty Needs
24 / Skinny Dog Plus Portion
Optimal Harness Size \& Collar Colour / Type Bjorkis Red Harness / Blue or Black Collar (Prone to Collar Sores)

Runs Well With
Hercules, Andrew
Origin
Purchased, Jan Tore, Norway, 2018



Our dog app is a visual representation about just a bit of the information that we record about the dogs - from pedigree, health, medication, vaccinations etc. We also have training related records and apps, adoption apps etc. All of our dogs are chipped, vaccinated etc. (GK 6.18)

## Explanation box 1: Decision tree as applied to absence of prolonged thirst in growing pigs

Thirst is not assessed directly on animals because signs of dehydration can be detected only in extreme cases. Rather, the number of drinking places, their functioning and their cleanliness are assessed. The recommended number of pigs is calculated ( 10 pigs per functioning drinking place and 5 for a drinking place of reduced capacity). If there are more pigs in the pen than recommended then the number of drinking places is considered insufficient. Thereafter, cleanliness of drinkers and whether pigs have access to two drinkers in the same pen is considered. The following decision tree is applied:

Is the number of drinker places sufficient?


Feeding \& Pooping



Each dog is chained for its individually determined diet quantity, during feeding and so that we can monitor its water intake. (Water constantly available in non-freezing months and available two to five times per day (depending on location and running frequency) in winter.

Feeding Plans
\# Skinny Plus, Skinny, Large, Small, Fat Dogs....

All calculated into \# meat blocks and food needed to be cut / prepared...

We use kibble that is between 20 and $30 \%$ fat in combination with raw meat which is $>30 \%$ fat.

Dogs are fed at minimum twice per day but also after each run.




LEAN PATHWAY Winter 18





Some people think that it is kinder to put a sleddog down than allow it to go to a new home?


## Active Adoption \& Sponsorship Scheme <br> Which helps a lot but can't be relied on




This is also a positive social media message linked to \#adoptdon'tshop

## KPhotos of Hetta Huskies Rehomed

 5
it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved. Winston Churchill

