



Alaska Musher's Dictionary

Iditarod Trail Annual 1977

Lead Dog or Leader	Dog who runs in front of the others. Must be both intelligent and fast.
Double Leader	Two lead dogs who lead the team side by side.
Swing Dog	Dog that runs directly behind the leader.
Wheel Dogs	Dogs who are placed directly in front of the sled.
Team Dog	Any dog other than a leader, or swing dog.
Mush! Hike! Lets Go!	Commands to start the team.
Gee!	Command for a right turn.
Haw!	Command for a left turn.
Come Gee! Come Haw!	Commands for 180 degree turns.
Whoa!	Command used to halt the team, accompanied by heavy pressure.
Line Out!	Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled.
Tow line, Gang line	Main rope that runs forward from sled.
Neck Line	Line that connects dog's collar to tow line.
Snub Line	Rope attached to the sled which is used to tie the sled to an object.
Tether Line	Long chain with shorter pieces attached to it; used to stake out dogs.
Tug Line	Line that connects dog's harness to tow line.
Toggles	Small pieces of ivory or wood used by Eskimos to fasten tug lines to harnesses.
Trail!	Request for right-of-way on the trail.
Stake	Metal or wooden post driven into the ground to which a dog is tied.
Snow Hook, Anchor	Heavy piece of metal attached to sled by a line. Holds team for a short time.
Stove Up	Injured, generally temporarily. Applies to both musher and dogs.
Dog in Basket	Tired or injured dog carried in the sled.
Rigging	Collection of lines to which dogs are attached.
Runners	The two bottom pieces of the sled which come in contact with the snow.
Slats	Thin strips of wood which make up the bottom of the sled basket.
Husky	Any northern type dog.
Malamute	Original Alaska Breed, AKC recognized. They are big, & strong, but slow.
Pedaling	Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner.
Indian Dog	An Alaska Husky that comes from an Indian Village.
Siberian Husky	Medium sized northern breed dog (AKC). They usually have blue eyes.

Note: Since dogs are not driven with reins, but by spoken orders, the leader of the team must understand all that is said to him and guide the others accordingly.



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