

## Mushing Terms

**Alaskan** – Generally applied to all Arctic dog breeds. Often a cross of various northern types.

**Basket** – The body of the sled in which freight or passengers may be carried.

**Brush Bow** – Curved rim on the front of the sled.

**Chief Judge** – The person with the final say in determining all race rules and regulations.

**Chute** – Starting point of the race.

**Dog Bag** – The large bag carried in the basket of the sled. Used to carry injured dogs back to the checkpoint or finish line.

**Dog Box** – The carriers in which dogs are transported.

**Double Lead** – Two dogs are used to lead the Team. Usually, one dog is good on commands, the other sets a fast pace.

**Gang Hitch** – A method of running dogs in pairs as compared to tandem or fan hitches.

**Gang Line** – The combination of tug and neck lines.

**Gee** – The voice command used to turn right.

**Haw** – The voice command used to turn left.

**Handler** – A person who helps the dog driver with his/her team.

**Harness** – The webbing that fits around the dog's neck and chest, enabling the dog to pull the sled.

**Hike** – Voice command used to get the dogs running, “let’s go” or “hup” is also used.

**Holding Chute** – An area where dog teams are marked and examined before allowing into the starting chute.

**Indian Dog** – Husky from an Indian village.

**Lead Dog** – A dog at the front of the team that takes all voice commands and sets the pace.

## Mushing Terms

**Lope** – The gait of the dog that resembles a slow gallop.

**Mush** – A term falsely thought to be what a dog driver uses to get his dogs to go.

**Musher** – A name for anyone who drives a dog team.

**Neck Lines** – Short lines connecting the dogs collar to the gang line.

**Petex Plastics** – Placed on the runners in cold weather to make the sled ride easier and faster.

**Pedaling** – keeping one foot on the runner of the sled while pushing with the other.

**Point Dogs** – Two dogs right behind the leader(s).

**Snow Hook** – A heavy metal hook that is jammed into packed snow cover. Used to keep the team stopped when the driver has to leave the sled to handle the dogs.

**Snub Rope** – a Line at the back of the sled used to tie down the sled while not in motion.

**Stanchions** – Braces that hold the runners to the sled.

**Swing Dogs** – The dogs between the pint dogs and wheel dogs.

**Toboggan Sled** – Sled with a low, smooth bottom on the basket. Used when traveling through deep snow or soft trail.

**Trail** – The prescribed, marked course that the team must follow. Also the terminology used when a driver wants a clear pass by the team in front of him.

**Trail Help** – Those standing at road crossings and dangerous parts of the trail to help the drivers.

**Wheel Dog** – The two dogs directly in front of the sled.

**Whoa** – The voice command used to slow and stop the team.

**\*#S%^@#%** - Language sometimes used by a musher when the team takes a short cut or scenic route without the musher's permission. Also used frequently when dogs tangle the lines.