



# DOG CARE

It is of great importance for the organizer of Polardistans that everyone takes good care of their dogs and follow the rules and requirements from the authorities. **Although it is a demanding race, dog care may never be compromised in any way.**

The organizer of Polardistans put the dogs and mushers safety first and this is a job that everyone is taking part in. To address this we follow the regulations that exist and follow the routines listed below:

## **Before starting:**

- All dogs must be marked with a chip.
- All dogs must be vaccinated.
- For dogs older than 10 years of age a veterinary certificate issued by the dog's own veterinarian has to be shown in connection with the registration in the secretariat. The certificate can not be older than 10 days. The dog shall even be checked and approved by the race veterinarian to be allowed to start in the race.
- Veterinary check of all dogs.
- Attendance at the mandatory musher/handler meeting where dog care is emphasized.
- Control of emergency supplies and socks for the dogs.
- Control of the mandatory equipment.
- At the start and finish areas there is a place for doping control and care of dogs.

## **During the race:**

- Control of all dogs at the checkpoint.
- Veterinary available around the clock during the entire race.
- Snowmobile with rescue sled/team is standby around the clock at checkpoint in case rescue is required of injured dogs and mushers.
- At the checkpoint there is a place for taking care of dogs.
- In case of dogs being taken out of a team, the organization ensures that each dog is checked by a veterinarian before leaving the race area.
- The musher/handler will be advised by a veterinarian how to care for each of the dogs taken out of the team or quitting the race.
- It is the handlers responsibility to transport dropped dogs from the checkpoint.
- Judges who monitor the dog care during the entire race
- PD300 has two mandatory veterinary checks at the checkpoint
- PD160 has one mandatory veterinary check at the checkpoint

## **At the finish line:**

- Veterinary check of all the dogs.
- Award for best dog care in both races.





- At the start and finish areas there is a place for doping control and care of dogs.

## VACCINATION

The Chief Veterinarian and the Organizers of Polardistans have decided that the race must comply with EU rules concerning transportation of dogs, with Swedish Board of Agriculture regulations and with Swedish Kennel Club rules. Considering the actual epidemiological conditions for transmittable dog diseases in Sweden and after discussing with local Veterinarians about the low risk for such diseases during winter time, in the area where Polardistans is held, the following mandatory and recommended vaccinations applies for participating in Polardistans:

1. Vaccination against **rabies is mandatory for all dogs** coming from other countries than Sweden and Norway. Rabies vaccination must have been done after the microchip is implanted. Dogs from abroad (exception from Norway) are allowed to enter into Sweden at least after 21 days of waiting period from the vaccination date. In case of booster vaccination for Rabies, there is no waiting period, as long as the previous vaccination had not expired when the booster was given. Dogs without a valid vaccination (according EU passport and specifications from the manufacture of the vaccine) are not allowed to take part in the race. The vaccination must be approved in the dogs home country and the validity period can be different between countries. The validity must be specified in the dog's passports.
2. Vaccination **against Distemper is mandatory for all dogs** and is valid, after at least one booster has been done in a 2 to 3 weeks period, until the expiration date of the last booster (as specified by the manufacturer of the vaccine and stated in the EU passport or on the "Vaccination booklet" issued by a veterinarian). The latest vaccination for Distemper has to be done at least fourteen (14) days before the race.
3. Vaccination **against Leptospiros is not mandatory**, although recommended.
4. Vaccinations against **Parvovirus infection, Canine hepatitis, Parainfluenza and "Kennel cough"** (i.e. against Parainfluenza virus + Bordetella bronchiseptica) are not mandatory, although highly recommended.

To avoid problems at the Swedish border and to obtain a smooth registration in the secretariat at Polardistans, competitors are kindly asked to get information's about the vaccines validity from their veterinarian in good time before leaving their home country!





## **DOPING/MEDICIN REGULATIONS**

Each participant is responsible to follow the rules regarding doping and medication of dogs. Rule violation means disqualification. If a participant is caught with medication/drugs in the pulka/sledge the team will be disqualified.

The competition follows the Swedish anti-doping regulations. **Note: The Swedish antidoping regulations are tougher than the common set of rules for IFSS.**

[Draghundsportsförbundet](#)

[Jordbruksverket](#) (New regulations for training and competing with dogs)

[SKK](#)

[RF](#)

## **DOG IN CAR**

Dogs taking into a car, a house or similar during the competition, are not allowed to continue the race.

## **DEAD DOG**

If a dog dies during the race, it must be transported to the checkpoint or the finish area. The dog should be transported in the sledge and be covered upon arrival at checkpoint/finish area. Upon arrival the musher shall contact a veterinarian, race marshal, race judge or checkpoint manager. If possible, the musher or the handler, shall inform a veterinarian or the race organizers that a dog has died before the team reaches the checkpoint/finish area. If possible, the dog can be picked up at another agreed place. The musher can continue in the competition if the first check clearly shows that the dog has died of causes other than neglect.

## **THE MUSER HAS TO BE AWARE OF:**

- All dogs must be ID-marked with a microchip that has to be 15 digit long and ISO 11784/11785 compliant.
- If your dog's microchip is not ISO compliant, then you can either bring your own microchip scanner or ask your Veterinarian to give your dog a compliant microchip before the race.
- If your dog has 2 microchips, the number and implant dates of both microchips must be documented in the EU passport or in the "Vaccination booklet" issued by a veterinarian.
- Dogs passing the border into Sweden and competing at Polardistans must have a valid EU passport for pets and must be reported to customs at the border.





- Dogs that were born and always lived in Sweden can have a valid “Vaccination booklet” (issued by a Veterinarian) instead of EU passport.
- Dogs traveling from an EU-country which do not issue passports must travel with form E9.207.
- A tapeworm treatment is not required when entering Sweden from any country, but dogs entering in or returning to Norway after Polardistans must be treated by a veterinarian within at last 24-120 hours prior to passing the border and the treatment has to be documented in the dog’s EU passport.
- The veterinarian team of Polardistans offers a free certification in the dogs passports for the participating dogs provided that the musher bring the deworming tablets. At the moment there is no pharmacy in Särna, only a pharmaceutical agent with a very limited assortment, therefore we recommend that you bring the needed deworming tablets with you from home.

[Swedish Board of Agriculture](#)

