



The brave souls who took part in the traditional Ollokot Camp Polar Plunge into the icy Imnaha River during the 2016 Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Races. Participants include veterinarians, vets assistants, communication experts and Ollokot workers.

QUESTIONS

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The first two questions a musher is asked when he/she enters a check point is “Are you alright?” and “Does any dog need to see a veterinarian?”

Teams are limited in how many dogs can be dropped during a race before the team is considered too few for the work and eliminated from competition.

The dropped dogs are left at a checkpoint where they are given care by veterinarians and shipped back to the start point where their regular handlers can continue their care.

Because of the pack nature of dogs, it is necessary for both mushers and veterinarians to regularly check the dogs for exhaustion, dehydration, diarrhea and strain as the dogs will perform through injury rather than be left behind by their teammates. When left behind they will often howl and complain.

One or more of seven veterinarians, many of whom have worked several years with the Iditarod, Yukon Quest and other races, attend to sled dogs at Eagle Cap Extreme.

Veterinarians this year were: Randy Greenshields of

Enterprise; Pat Kyle of Jackson, Miss.; Janiene Licciardi of Bellingham, Wash.; Jim Leach of Big Lake, Alaska; Dean Bauman of Newport, Ore.; Renee Fleming of Joseph; and Caleb Schmerge of Pullman, Wash.

No dogs were seriously injured during the 2016 Eagle Cap Extreme.

How often are dogs given breaks during a 200-mile race

Mushers may give their dogs breaks at any time during the race, but only the manda-

tory six-hour break at the half-way point is “off the clock.”

Mushers may stay from a few minutes to a few hours during the 50-mile and 150-mile checkpoints, but that time counts on their final race time.

Nevertheless, even when a musher leaves a checkpoint quickly, he/she may have watered and “snacked” the dogs during the few minutes in the checkpoint and may do so again on the trail. Some racers prefer to rest or snack on the trail because the dogs are calmer when not in the com-

pany of all of the other racers.

Spectators will see dogs wearing neoprene vests to protect them from harness rub,

neoprene leg warmers, and booties to protect their paws. Most mushers also rub their dogs’ feet with liniments and

other treatments prior to putting on the booties or regularly massage and “warm up” their dogs.



Vets at Ollokot checkpoint help Josi Thyr assess the health of her dogs on Friday morning before she attempts her second 50-mile leg of the 200-mile race.

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BIRTH

A daughter,
Aspen Ruby Gladden,
was born January 18, 2016
in Enterprise to Dustin and
Breeann Gladden of Joseph.

Grandparents are
Rachelle Smotherman,
Sam Hayes, and Lisa
and Frank Gladden III.

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