



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Sledding



Advanced Level

The Draft Group of the WDP is designed to recognize Chinooks that demonstrate ability in common working and pulling disciplines. The Sledding section rewards achievement in the traditional pulling area. The WDP recognizes that pulling a sled is not possible for some dogs in areas without snow and therefore allows wheeled vehicles such as scooters, bicycles, and rigs to be used in the fulfillment of the requirements.

The Advanced level is designed for dogs that demonstrate their abilities as recreational sled dogs on working teams. These dogs should be trained and capable of going out on a successful run frequently with their musher, enjoying the experience, without requiring significant intervention from others (e.g., a team to chase, lots of handlers, etc.). Some characteristics of this level of sledding competency include the ability for a dog to perform successfully in an unfamiliar place on new trails, reliably perform with outings of different distances, and take direction from a musher on which branching trails to follow. In addition, these teams should be able to pass by distractions and other teams, and be passed by other teams of people on the trail. The dogs in these teams are good role models and can function as lead teams for other Chinooks working towards Novice Sled Dog certification.

There are two variants of Advanced Level recognition - Lead Dog and Team Dog. Any Chinook that participates on the team pulling a sled or other vehicle and meeting the key requirements will be awarded the Working Team Dog (WTD) title by the COA. Dogs leading the team – those dogs farthest away from the driver and taking directions and trail commands – and meeting other requirements may be awarded the Working Lead Dog (WLD) title by the COA.

Working in harness should be an exciting and fun experience for Chinooks. It is critical that owners and mushers continue to focus on providing a positive experience for their dogs while out sledding. In particular, mushers are encouraged to evaluate their dogs, trail, and weather conditions and ensure that planned distances are challenging but realistic for the dogs on any given day.

The WDP supports working with Chinooks responsibly – physical and mental abuse are expressly prohibited. No action or inaction that causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog is allowed – this includes any action such as pushing a dog too far in a run so that it is injured or gains an aversion to the work.



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Sledding



WORKING LEAD DOG

For Working Lead Dog recognition, a dog must meet all of the requirements of the Working Team Dog, using any of the approved methods (racing, recreational, or combination) AND

1. The dog must run in single or double lead
 - If two or more teams are traveling together, the dog must be in the lead team 50% of the total miles traveled.
 - Lead dogs of "chase" teams are eligible to earn certification as a Working Team Dog.
2. The dog must lead a team consisting of a minimum of three dogs.

WORKING TEAM DOG

To achieve the Working Team Dog certificate and title, a dog must first have received Novice Sled Dog certification. Once Novice certification has been attained, a dog may begin to work on the requirements for the WTD title. There are three different methods for a dog to achieve WTD recognition - racing, recreational mushing, or a combination of the two. A dog must meet the requirements of only one of these methods.

Titling Method	Method Details	Requirements	Total miles required
Racing	Sprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of 3 races in any class ● Minimum 1 mile per dog on the team per race 	40
	Freight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of 3 races in any class ● Minimum distance of 5 miles per race ● Minimum of 40 lbs / dog added to sled 	50
Recreational	Excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of 4 trips of 10+ miles each ● Appropriate equipment must be included 	40
	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum of 3 miles per run 	100
Combination	Racing + Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to 30 miles from qualifying races ● 70+ miles from qualifying recreational runs 	100



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Sledding



The detailed requirements to achieve the WTD title with each method are outlined in the following pages. Included with each method is a checklist of the documentation that must be submitted to the WDP Committee. Regardless of the method used,

- Vehicles may be snow sled or wheeled vehicle.
- The team does not have to be all Chinooks.
- Dogs do not have to run on a team with the same dogs for all trips.
- Safety is paramount, and drivers are responsible for the safety of their dogs.
- New technologies frequently become available to document distances and locations (e.g., mapping tools, ipod apps, etc.). Please consult with the Committee prior to using any of these tools on qualifying runs to ensure their eligibility.
- Appropriate supplies such as First Aid equipment should be included on all runs - for excursions and lengthy trips this includes food and water for human and dogs, and other trail equipment (such as snow shoes, small hatchet, etc.). Sled dog organizations such as ISDRA have lists of recommended supplies – please contact a member of the WDP Committee with any questions.

WTD Method 1: Racing

1. Eligible Races - Dogs may qualify in either sprint races or freight races.
 - a. Option 1: Sprint races – Dogs must
 - i. Complete runs in at least 3 races
 - ii. Race a total of 40 miles from individual runs
 - iii. Travel a minimum of 1 mile per dog on the team in each qualifying run
 - b. Option 2: Freight races – Dogs must
 - i. Race a total 50 miles from individual runs
 - ii. Run a minimum of 5 miles per race
 - iii. Pull at least 40 pounds per dog on the team on the sled in each qualifying run
2. All qualifying races (sprint or freight) must
 - a. Include at least 2 other teams.
 - b. Be run under ISDRA rules OR the WDP Committee must approve the rules prior to the race.

To apply for the WTD title using the racing method, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Completed Sledding-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying races and miles
- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs
- Photo of the team in at least one qualifying race
- \$5 application fee (check or paypal)



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Sledding



WTD Method 2: Recreational Mushing – Dogs may demonstrate WTD abilities through recreational outings. Either of the two options detailed below may be used to qualify for the title.

1. Option 1: Excursions
 - a. Complete 4 runs of 10+ miles each
 - b. Carry supplies in the sled on the trip (see Note) OR
2. Option 2: Training runs
 - a. Complete 100 miles in qualifying runs
 - b. Travel a minimum of 3 miles per qualifying run

To apply for the WTD title using the recreational method, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Map of trails traveled with distances noted
- Completed Sledding-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying runs
 - a. At least one trip must include a signature from an impartial witness (not the owner of the dog)
 - b. The balance of the trips must
 - i. Include a signature from an impartial witness OR
 - ii. Be accompanied by 4 photos with time/date stamp showing:
 1. Start
 2. Estimated farthest point of trip from start
 3. Team pulling during the run
 4. Finish
 - c. Extra documentation can expedite review, such as:
 - i. Additional photos / videos of the dogs on trips
 - ii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the musher
 - iii. Maps with attached geotagged photos
- \$5 application fee (check or Paypal)



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Sledding



WTD Method 3: Combination Racing + Recreational

- Distance- 100 miles of combined Racing or Recreational runs
 - a. Racing miles
 - i. Must meet the requirements from Method 1
 - ii. A maximum of 30 miles from sprint, freight, or combination of both may be used
 - b. Recreational miles
 - i. All runs must meet the requirements from Method 2
 - ii. The balance of total 100 miles less racing miles (70+) may come from any combination of excursion and training runs.

To apply for the WTD title using Method 3, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Completed Sledding-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying races and recreational runs
- For All Racing Runs*
- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs
 - Photo of the team in at least one qualifying race
- For All Recreational Runs*
- Map of trails traveled with distances noted
 - At least one run must include a signature from an impartial witness (not the owner, co-owner or breeder of the dog)
 - The balance of the trips must
 - i. Include a signature from an impartial witness OR
 - ii. Be accompanied by 4 photos with time/date stamp showing:
 1. Start
 2. Estimated farthest point of trip from start
 3. Team pulling during the run
 4. Finish
 - In addition, extra documentation can expedite review of a submission, such as:
 - i. Additional photos / videos of the dogs on trips
 - ii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the musher
 - iii. Maps with attached geotagged photos
 - \$5 application fee (check or Paypal)