Chinook Owners Association
Working Dog Program
Draft Group: Sledding

Excellent 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 Excellent level is designed for dogs that have mastered the skills required of a sled dog. These dogs should be trained and capable sustained, successful sledding runs, and may serve as solid, role model sled dogs for new dogs to be introduced to the sport. Some characteristics of this level of sledding competency include the ability for a dog to perform successfully in any location or new trail, and the ability to take directions from their driver despite significant distractions. The Excellent level is also designed to acknowledge the freighting history of Chinooks. A portion of the overall requirements will demonstrate the Chinook's ability to pull heavier weights over longer distances than standard qualifying runs.

There are two variants of Excellent 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-Excellent (WTD-X) 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 Excellent (WLD-X) 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 and 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 the work.

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WORKING LEAD DOG - EXCELLENT

For qualify for Working Lead Dog - Excellent, a dog must have achieved the Working Lead Dog or Working Team Dog title. In addition, it must meet all of the requirements for Working Team Dog- Excellent, using any of the approved methods (racing, recreational, or combination) AND

1. The dog must run in single or double lead lead 50% of the total miles traveled in pursuit of the title
   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 - EXCELLENT

To achieve the Working Team Dog –Excellent certificate and title, a dog must have previously been awarded the Working Team Dog title. In addition, the dog must meet one of the following requirements for distance while pulling. There are three methods for WTD-X titling- racing, recreational mushing, and a combination of the two.

Titling Method	Requirements	Total miles required
Racing	• Minimum 1 mile per dog on the team per race	100
Recreational	• Minimum of 3 miles per run • Minimum of 5 runs that are at least 3 miles per dog on the team • At least 1 run must be validated by an impartial witness. All other runs must be validated by either impartial witness or photographs	200
Combination	• Up to 80 miles from qualifying races • 120+ miles from qualifying recreational runs	200

The detailed requirements to achieve the WTD-X 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.
- New technologies frequently become available to document distances and locations (e.g., mapping tools, ipod apps, etc.). Please consult with the

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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. Excursions and lengthy trips should include additional supplies (e.g., food and water for human and dogs). Sled dog organizations such as ISDRA maintain lists of recommended supplies – please contact a member of the WDP Committee with any questions.

<u>WTD-X Method 1: Racing</u>

1. Dogs must compete in races totaling 100 miles
2. All qualifying races must
    a. Include at least 2 other teams.
    b. Be run under rules where the safety and well being of the dogs is paramount, such as ISDRA. The WDP Committee reserves the right to disqualify race miles run under rules not defined sufficiently to ensure the safety of the athletes. The WDP Committee recommends that mushers compare race rules to ISDRA requirements and refer any questions to the WDP Committee prior to a race.

Note: Mileage earned for qualifying race legs will be the distance reported by the race marshal on the day of the race in the event of any variances to planned race distances.

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

☐ Completed Sledding-Excellent Form(s) summarizing qualifying races
☐ Official race documentation for all qualifying runs
☐ Photo of the team in at least one qualifying race

<u>WTD-X Method 2: Recreational Mushing</u>

1. Dogs must complete a total of 200 miles
2. Qualifying runs must be a minimum of 3 miles
3. Out of the total miles traveled, at least 5 trips must be a minimum distance of 3 miles for each dog on the team.

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

☐ Map of trails traveled with distances noted

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- ☐ Completed Sledding-Excellent Form(s) summarizing qualifying runs
    a. At least one trip must include a signature from an impartial witness
    b. The balance of the trips must be documented with
        i. A video clip at least 10 seconds in length of the team in motion from at least two different qualifying runs
        ii. A photo of the team in motion in at least three other qualifying runs
    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

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<u>WTD-X Method 3:</u> Combination Racing + Recreational

1. Distance- 200 miles of combined racing or recreational runs
    a. Racing miles
        i. Must meet the requirements from Method 1
        ii. A maximum of 80 miles from sprint, freight, or combination of both race categories
    b. Recreational miles.
        i. All runs must meet the requirements from Method 2
        ii. The balance of total 200 miles less racing miles (120+) may come from any combination of excursion and training runs.
1. Out of the total miles traveled, at least 5 trips must be a minimum distance of 3 miles for each dog on the team.

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

- ☐ Completed Sledding-Excellent 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:
    ii. Additional photos / videos of the dogs on trips
    iii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the musher
    iv. Maps with attached geotagged photos

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