

## Sled-dog Welfare

The development of a responsible industry

Our History as a Kennel

Started the farm in 2007 Looked at Best Practices & Business Models in > 20 farms / 3 countries

We came from other industries...responsible tourism worldwide (Africa, Asia, Europe) global corporations, dogs in border patrol.

Established our own way of working from a basic moral imperative...

Laughed at in first Kiruna Sled-dog Symposium in 2011 w.r.t. 'naïve' *no* culling, restricted breeding, marketing of 'responsible' etc policies



The reality is that behind the scenes, we are definitely not squeaky clean as an industry...



Commonly accepted practices, even by those at the forefront of the industry, are outdated and not talked about.

Moral Imperative to change or Business Argument (needs-driven in the age of PETA and the popular press?)...either way, it will have to come.



As an industry, we need to both clean up our act and be able to speak from a position of transparent responsibility if we have any chance of success against them.

Or accepted practices like culling unwanted dogs - even when behind closed doors – will come back to haunt us all.

These practices are increasingly unacceptable even to our guides.

And yet, without chipping, it is impossible to hold companies accountable?

In 2015 our work towards raising standards within the sled-dog industry earned us a gold in the World Responsible Tourism Awards

Whenever we are asked to talk about the positive welfare actions taken by sled-dog owners, we try to do so...

Xmas The Dog Rescuers





### Chains: One of the most contentious issues

https://medium.com/hetta-huskies/ ruminating-on-sled-dog-welfare-guidelinesb8e1213665bf





#### Ruminating on Sled-dog Welfare Guidelines



We were asked again, this week, to comment on some of the various guidelines that are being developed about animal welfare around the world.

I spent so long on the formulation of the reply, I figured I should share my thoughts, even though I know that they are contentious, since they apply across any set of guidelines that might be being developed.

#### Tethering vs Caging...the classic debate

With tethering and caging, I believe that the issues are probably quite different for each set of animals, and therefore I worry a little about any guidelines that try to develop mandates that work for camels, elephants, reindeer and sled-dogs under the same umbrella.

All I really know about, is sled-dogs.

From a sled-dog perspective, the e ethering PETA campaigns in the popular press are, to be honest, pretty frustrating.



### A Comparison of Tethering and Pen Confinement of Dogs

Seong C. Yeon, Glen Golden, Wailani Sung, Hollis N. Erb, Arleigh J. Reynolds, and Katherine A. Houpt

> College of Veterinary Medicine Cornell University



Chains not only facilitate maximal client interaction with the dogs, but allow a greater range of view for the dogs and also ensure that they don't get injured when running.

We will not walk calmly into the night when it comes to guidelines saying they are bad by those who don't know better.



99% of our cages (we have two specific exceptions) are designed to house 3-5 dogs whereas in nearly 100% of the cases, we have a maximum of 2 dogs in each.





And yet a bigger question is maybe...how well insulated are the kennels and how well maintained are the kennels and cages?

We don't excel at this aspect of welfare as an industry.

The law doesn't support what we believe should be mandated.

We do our own bit of industry popular press / self-belief that the fluffier arctic breeds don't need insulation...but what, now, IS an arctic breed given that the majority of kennels have Alaskans...Our fluffiest dogs who came from a farm with poorly insulated kennels, have the worst frostbite since they developed a tendency towards it because of their kennels.

GK 6.3 We never have more than three dogs in a standard enclosure although we may have up to four oldies in one of the running fences. The norm is 2.

Gk 6.4 and 6.43 Guideline There is someone on the farm 24/7 to react to any issues. It takes us c.5 mins to walk from one side of the farm to the other.

We do not have elevated platforms etc in the running fences since we have some dogs that we specifically don't want to be able to jump off kennels etc. However, we use the running fences for training or, eg, searching for treats etc. (scenting) during supervised play.



GK 6.2 States that enclosures should be cleaned at least once per day but we would argue that this is not enough. The best farms clean the farm three times per day. We do so twice per day.

Our dog poop is collated and composted to safe temperatures in a fixed area. At present we use a reed bed to filter the nitrates and would need to do wider testing to see if this is better than a closed containment system but we could easily make it one. The compost is ultimately used back on the garden and on the tracks to rejuvenate the tracks.



### Summer Fun



Some of our dogs are fostered over the summer months...but this is obviously just a bonus and not a solution.





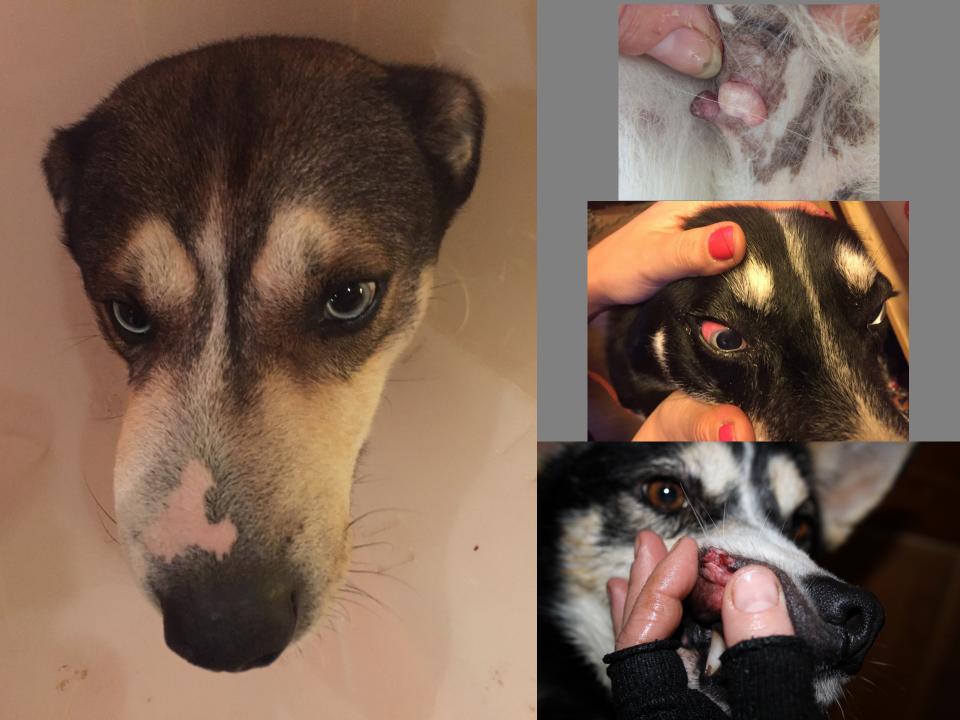






So we also do what we can, inhouse, and have individual training and development targets for each individual dog...



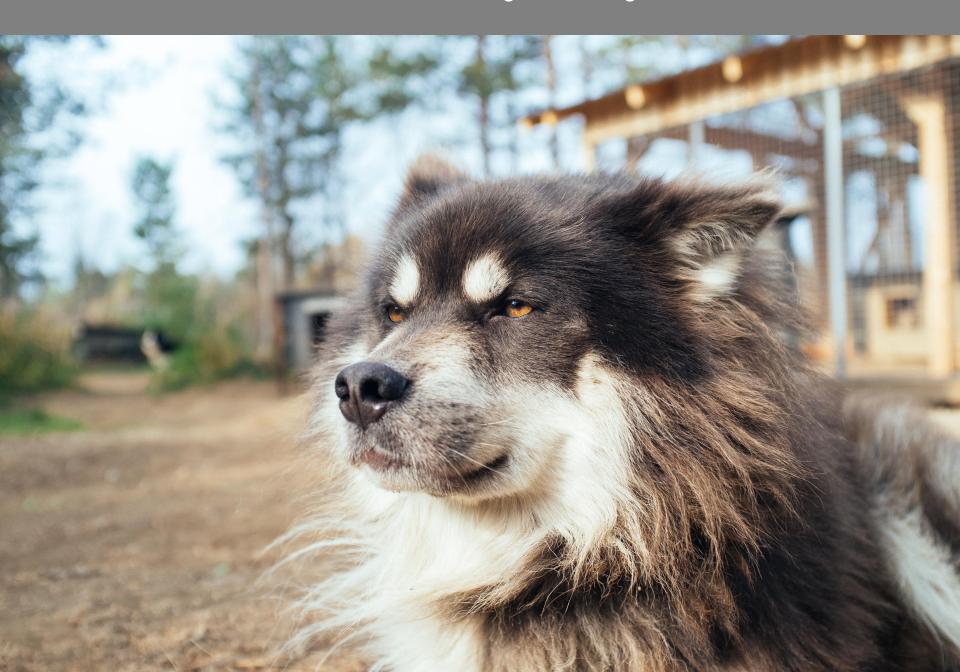


### And detailed Record Keeping





Scheduled Maintenance...Teeth, Nails, Massage, Brushing, Anal Glands



### SHEET FOR PRINTING FOR NAILS / TEETH---Keep Blank

					 	 	 toop Diamit				
Aida			Doffen		June		Muller		Sleet		
Aki			Dole		Jupi		Nakat		Smeagol		
Aknil			Domino		Kailash		Nalle		Soarez		
Akso			Dove		Keksi		Nana		Soda		
Aleu			Dunhill		Kent		Nanu		Sookie		
Amber			Duotta		Keri		Narvi		Starsky		
Andrew			Eclipse		KGB		Nea		Storm		
Anouk			Eden		Kiri-Kiri		Neo		Suka		
Anton			Eiger		Koukoun		Nilak		Svale		
Apple			Elara		Kurpitsa		Nix		Tähti		
Aqua			Elle		Lark		Nomad		Taiga		
Arrow			Elting		Lasse		Nuna		Tarmo		
Arun			Eros		Laura		Nurmi		Tarvos		
Aslan			Eureka		Leon		Oates		Teasers		
Atlas			Falcon		Lhotse		Obama		Teddy		
Bali			Firn		Lindt		Odin		Tengri		
Balto			Flake		Linnet		Olive		Thunder		
Banda			Flight		Litja		Oreo		Tika		
Bella			Frida		Loon		Oscar		Tim Tam		
Benji		(	Gamma		Lumi		Osman		Timon		
Beta			Glock		Luna		Ouzo		Timur		
Billie			Grizzly		Lyngen		Owl		Tinder		
Bino			Grumpy		Lyra		Pan		Titan		
Björnar			Hailey		Madonna		Pandora		Tog		
Blade			Halla		Magnum		Peanut		Togo		
Blizzard			Нарру		Malik		Pegasos		Tore		
Bolle			Harley		Malm		Pekki		Trouble		
Bono			awthorne		Manso		Pia		Tryfan		
Bonzo			Hazel		Manu		Pil		Tundra		
Bran		H	Hendrix		Manus		Pinky		Tuuli		
Breeze			Hera		Maple		Pluto		Ulna		
Bruiser			Herbie		Mars		Princess		Unni		
Bruno			Hercules		Maya		Puck		Uzi		
Buachaille			Hickory		Meggy		Quercus		Vak		
Buddah			Hippi		Mercury		Quest		Varig		
Calypso			Hob Nob		Merlin 1		Ronnie		Venla		
Cedar			Hope		Midori		Samu		Venus		
Cherry			Hulda		Mighty Mouse		Sanna		Vivi		
Chess			Humlis		Milkyway		Saturn		Vulpes		
Chicadee			Ice		Mimosa		Sausage		Willow		
Chocolate		 	less		Mina		Save		Yana		
Cinnamon			Indigo		Minnie		Selje		Yasper		
Cloud			Innoko		Miri		Seljeli		Yena		
Cookie	$oxed{oxed}$	 	Isbre		Mollis		Sequoia		Yesper		
Country		 	Jaffa		Mona		Shadow		Yoda		
Cuillin		 	Jani		Moonshine		Sila		Yukon		
Daisy	$oxed{oxed}$	 	Japp		Moscow		Simba		Zeta		
Denali	$oxed{oxed}$	 	Jenga		Much		Sirbma				
Dino	$oxed{oxed}$	 	Jesse				Sisu				
Diva	$\bot$	 	Jopa								



Whilst the mid-aged dogs enjoy running (in clean, intact and fitting harnesses which are colour coded by size (GK 6.6) in lines which are covered and using booties and winter coats when necessary)...

t is important to remember the old, retired dogs and to instigate a system of regular valking to maintain both fitness and mental stimulation / fun... Walking non-running logs is built into the activity program for our on-farm winter clients and the dogs are valked primarily by guides in the summer months or rotated through one of our running ences. (Only one of our running fences is c.500m2 but we believe that it is sufficient in size).





We don't follow GK's +15/+20 and -25 C limits (GK 6:10) to the letter since it wouldn't make sense —it depends on the dog and how well they heat acclimatize (and isn't really to do with breed!) but we have a selection of dogs that we use as go-to dogs for summer mushing so that we heat acclimatize them over time and a selection that we never use since we know we cannot acclimatize them.



Our temperatures frequently fall below -25C but the right dogs in the right equipment can safely run in those temperatures (contrary to the GK limits which are likely to be fairly arbitrary / based on what Lapland Uni plucked from our documentation and misunderstood at the time).





GK 6.6 On overnight trips, dogs should have lined coats for sleeping outdoors.

In our own wilderness cabins, the dogs have small cages and insulated sleeping kennels to live on, during overnight tours. In non-owned locations eg Harriniva's Galdotieva cabins, we cannot put such places up.



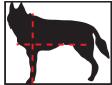
Keskimääräinen husky kuljetuslaatikon koko. Korkeus 65 cm , Leveys 60 cm, Pituus 80 cm. Lattiapinta-ala 0,48 m2

Huskyn rotumääritelmä - Säkäkorkeus: Urokset 53-60 cm Nartut 51-56 cm. - Paino: Urokset 20-27 kg Nartut 16-23 kg.

Carelian Eastpoint ny järjestää kyselyn koirien kuljetuslaatikoiden koosta rekikoiraharrastajilla syksyllä 2009. Kysely jatkuu lokakuun 2009 ja kyselyyn voi vastata os. iinfo@racinghusky.com, jos et halua lähettää henkilökohtaista viestää kyselyn voi osallistua myös STBS keskuslelupalistalla.

Otsikossa mainitut mitat tulevat kyselyn tämänhetkisestä keskiarvosta. - kyselyn viralliset tulokset ja tilasto vastauksista ilmestyy marraskuussa. www.racinghusky.com ja Valjakkourheilulehdessä 3 / 2009.





Rintakehän leveys 20 cm

Säkäkorkeus 55 cm - Paino 22 kg





Pituus makuuasennossa 80 cm Koiran halkaisija nukkuma-asennossa 50 cm

ISDRA - valjakkourheilun kansainvälinen kattojärjestö suositukset kuljetuskoppien minimikoosta 22,5 kg kokoiselle koiralle, jonka korkeus on noin 57 cm. Korkeus 57 cm - Leveys 50 cm - Pituus 85 cm Jos kopissa matkustaa kaksi koiraa, tulee leveyden olla noin 60 cm. Lattiapinta-ala 0,425 m2

http://www.isdra.org/ http://www.mushwithpride.org/Guidelines/Dog\_Yard.htm

- Aiempi laintulkinta koirankuljetuksesta

Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö 2004 Suositus / terve ja hyvinvoiva lemmikki.

Jos koiraa kuljetetaan ajoneuvoon kytketyssä perävaunussa, koiran käytettävissä olevan tilan on oitava vähintään: Korkeus seisovan koiran korkeus mitattuna lattiasta päälakeen lisättynä 5 cm:liä

iisatrynä 5 cm:iia Pittuus koiran pituus mitattuna kuononpäästä hännän juureen lisättynä 20 cm:ilä Leveys vähintään kaksi kertaa koiran rinnan leveys

http://wwwb.mmm.fi/el/julk/tavlemmikki.html#17



Kyselyn laati Carellan Eastpoint RY - Juha Hyvönen -kyselyn tuloksia ei tule sellaisenaan käyttää ohjeistuksena - Maa ja metsätalousministeriö antaa asiasta tarkempia ohjeita



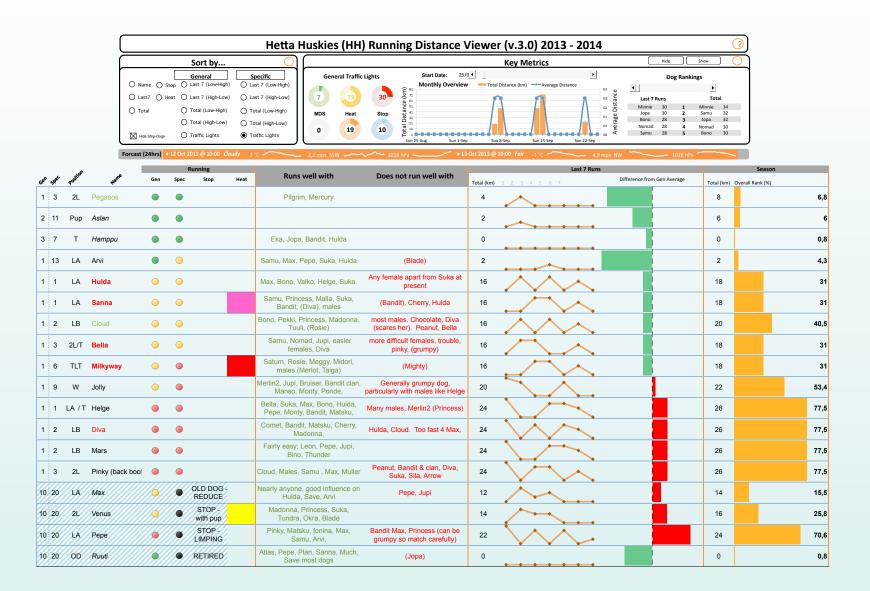
6.13 Lead dogs are never fastened solely by the collar/ neckline in order to keep the team straight \*.

During tours, we have one guide on a SMB and at least one on the front sleigh for up to 6 teams. After that we may have either a second sleigh guide or a second snowmobile depending on capacity.

But it is hard to justify any of this unless the breeding is extremely closely regulated.

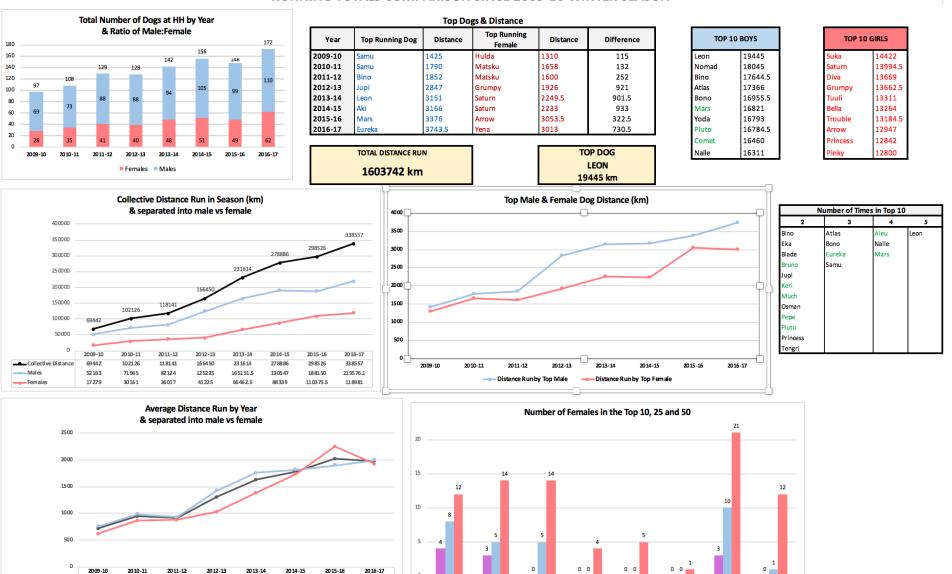
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Name	Weight	ml per dose	Pre-season ml total	Rest of season ml total	TAL ml (pre + in-season
Bella (New addition)	19	0,57	2,28		2,28
Blade	22	0,66	2,64		2,64
Bono	24	0,72	2,88	5,04	7,92
Bruiser	25	0,75	3		3
Jesse	22	0,66	2,64	49000000000	2,64
Keri (New addition)	29	0,87	3,48	13,92	17,4
Leon (New addition)	26	0,78	3,12		3,12
Manso	25	0,75	3		3
Meggy	22	0,66	2,64	4,62	7,26
Mullers	25	0,75	3		3
Nomad (New addition)	28	0,84	3,36	13,44	16,8
Odin	25	0,75	3		3
Tore (New addition)	27	0,81	3,24	5,67	8,91
Yana (New addition)	26	0,78	3,12	12,48	15,6
Sausage	16	0,48	1,92		1,92
Chocolate	25	0,75	3		3
KGB	25	0,75	3		3
Fala	25	0,75	3		3
Storm	22	0,66	2,64		2,64
Jani (one month course)	25	0,75	3	5,25	8,25
Hendrix	27	0,81	3,24		3,24
Jupi ( loose joints)	27	0,81	3,24		3,24
Bruno (New addition)	28	0,84	3,36	_	3,36
TOTAL		16,95	67,8	60,42	128,22
		ml	ml	ml	ml
		1,7	6,8	6,0	12,8
Cost per 10ml bottle	63,85	bottles per dose	bottles total for pre-	hottles required Out April	bottles required for
Dose per dog	0.3ml/10kg	round	season course	bottles required Oct-April	whole season
		€108,23	€432,90	€385,78	€818,68
		per dose round	for pre-season course	for selected dogs on full season course	total cost of cartrophen program



6.11 The dogs are exercised and used for work bearing in mind each individual's physical condition and eagerness to work. A log is kept on exercise, work and rest days.

#### **RUNNING TOTALS COMPARISON SINCE 2009-10 WINTER SEASON**



We analyse performance and share it in a fun way with clients...

Eg the dogs have run 37 times around the world or to the moon and back twice...

2009-10

2010-11

2011-12

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

916

1300

1631

1757

1788

2017

1968

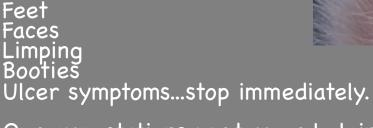




## 7) Love your DOGS









Our expectations w.r.t. your helping in am & pm & pros and cons...(If not keen, work out a rota or you might not see your guides much!)

Don't put yourself in danger

If struggling to hold the team, put the anchor in...

# Road Crossings













### ABTA's Assessment required:

an absence of injuries, An absence of fear An absence of aggression An absence of illness

?

All of these things should be able to be found in a normal population.

If they are not, that is more worrying.

Dogs are put down by a veterinarian (GK 6.21) when all reasonable attempts to preserve their health have failed. We keep records of ages and reasons for death so that we can know the average life spans of both those in the farm and those post adoption (GK 6.22)

We have no accidental litters. (GK 6.21 and 6.23)







Planned Parentood Process

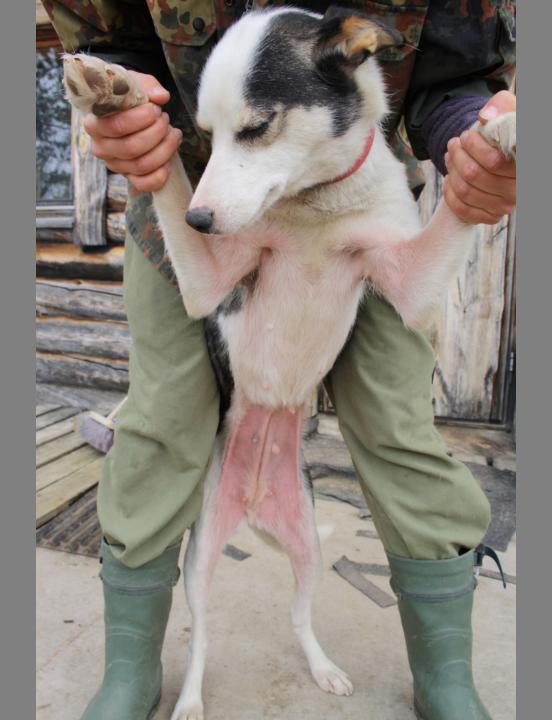


Injured dogs go to the vet if they cannot be given sufficient first aid on site. The vet's number is on our staff contact sheet.

Of course having a vet available is a different matter.

In case of fire, we would relocate the dogs to our secondary location at Kallo.

Dogs needing medications are monitored through complex systems that ensure that they are given what they need.

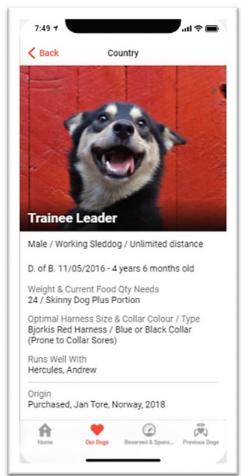


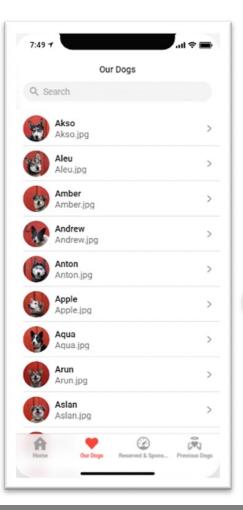
# our Hetta Huskies Dog App here:







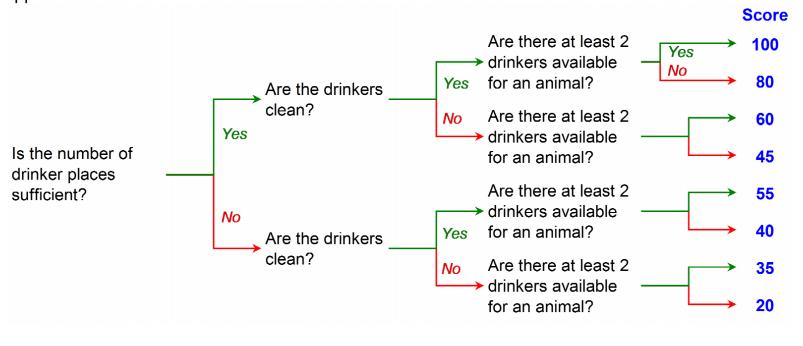




Our dog app is a visual representation about just a bit of the information that we record about the dogs – from pedigree, health, medication, vaccinations etc. We also have training related records and apps, adoption apps etc. All of our dogs are chipped, vaccinated etc. (GK 6.18)

### Explanation box 1: Decision tree as applied to absence of prolonged thirst in growing pigs

Thirst is not assessed directly on animals because signs of dehydration can be detected only in extreme cases. Rather, the number of drinking places, their functioning and their cleanliness are assessed. The recommended number of pigs is calculated (10 pigs per functioning drinking place and 5 for a drinking place of reduced capacity). If there are more pigs in the pen than recommended then the number of drinking places is considered insufficient. Thereafter, cleanliness of drinkers and whether pigs have access to two drinkers in the same pen is considered. The following decision tree is applied:



Feeding & Pooping





Each dog is chained for its individually determined diet quantity, during feeding and so that we can monitor its water intake. (Water constantly available in non-freezing months and available two to five times per day (depending on location and running frequency) in winter.

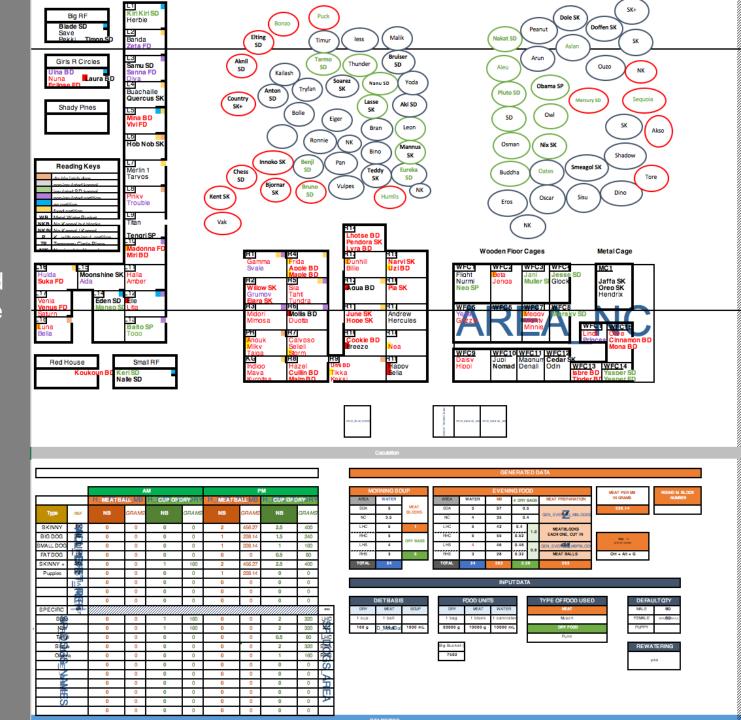
# Feeding Plans

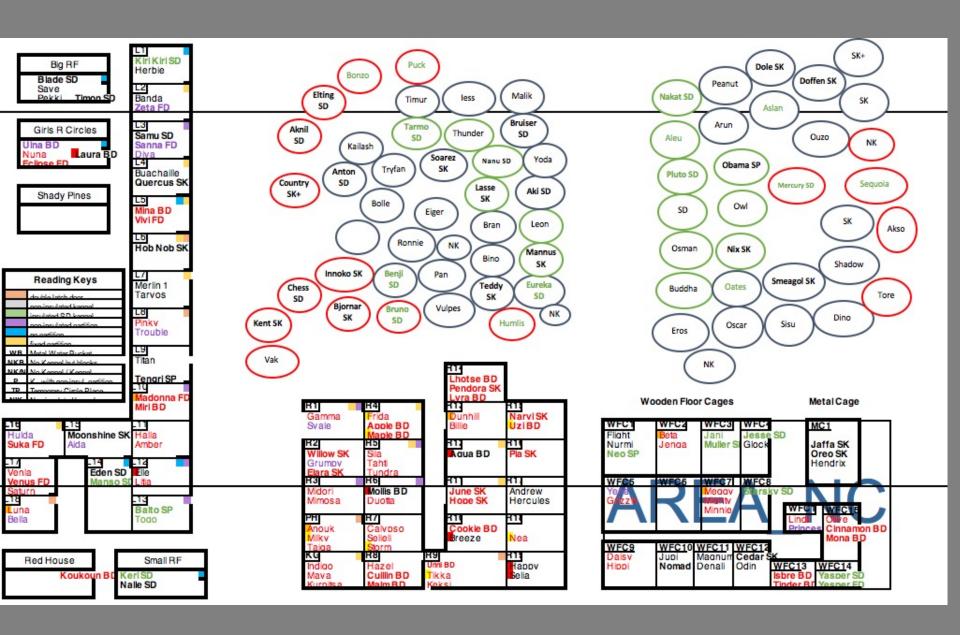
# Skinny Plus, Skinny, Large, Small, Fat Dogs....

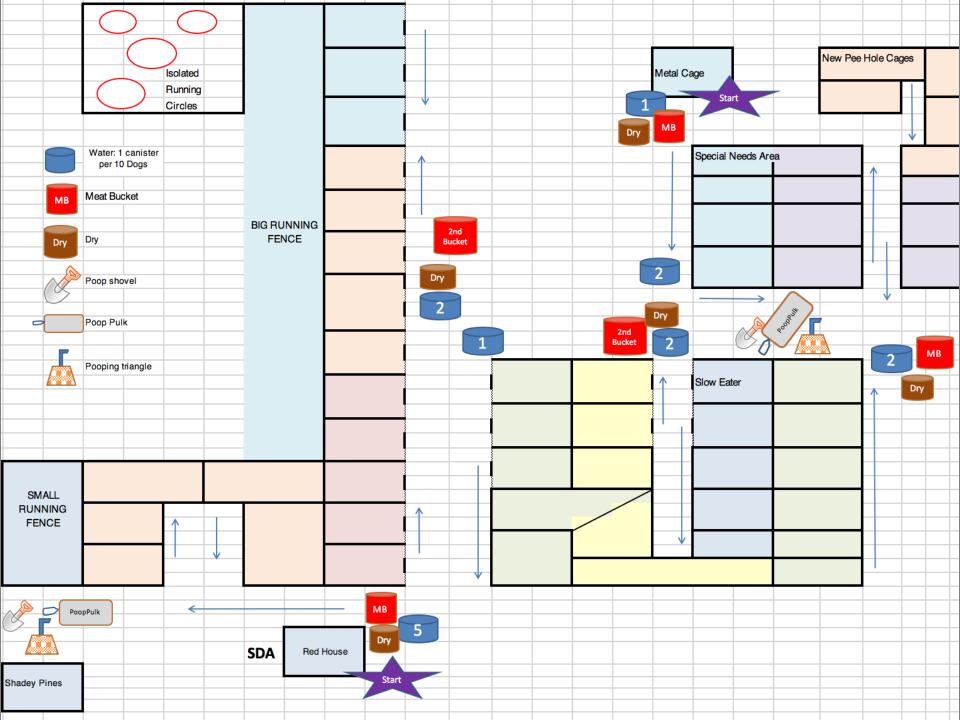
All calculated into # meat blocks and food needed to be cut / prepared...

We use kibble that is between 20 and 30% fat in combination with raw meat which is > 30% fat.

Dogs are fed at minimum twice per day but also after each run.







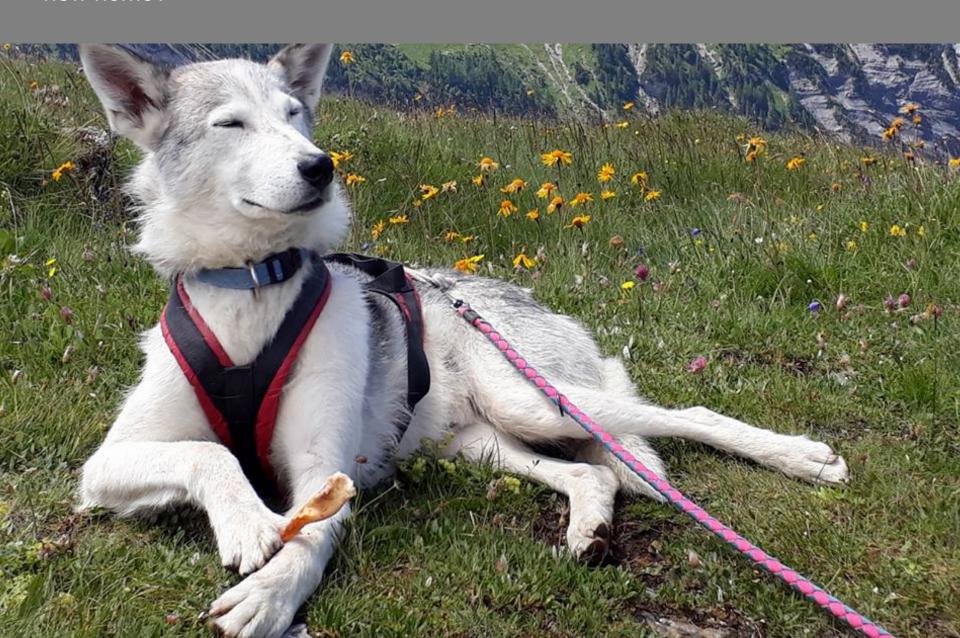
### **LEAN PATHWAY Winter 18** L7A PLEASE DON'T ADD DOG NAMES OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY THERE L6A EVEN IF THEY DON'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU L8A L5A LAA L3A R8A R6A R3A R2A L11A Lassi L9A L2A L10A Ruuti LIBA LIA R9A R1A R4A LЗВ RIOA Manso L4B L6B L2B PoopPulk R14A R13A L78 PoopPulk R11A L5B LIB Tiinu Pekki R6B R12A Dry MB R1B L8B L12B L108 L118 MB Dry R2B L9B R3B Jolly L1C L12C L9C Hertz R4B L10C L11C R108 L2C 13C R118 Tore R7B L8C 1.7C R14B L5C first round R8B 227 NK R13B R9B L6C NEW L4C second round Kent Begin LHS Here third round Begin RHS Here Vak





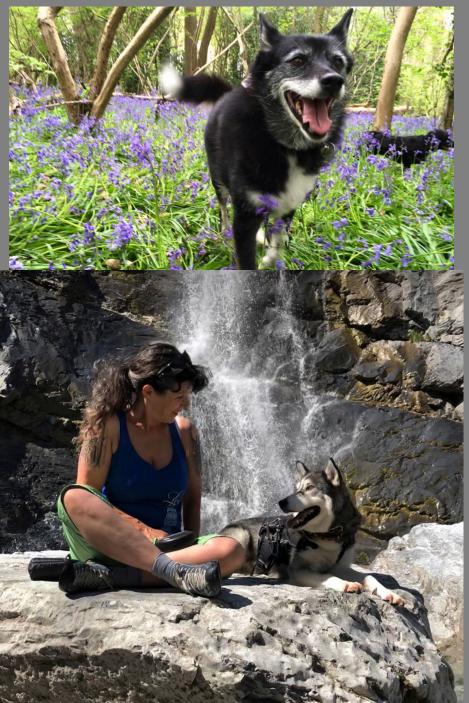


Some people think that it is kinder to put a sleddog down than allow it to go to a new home?



Active Adoption & Sponsorship Scheme Which helps a lot but can't be relied on







## This is also a positive social media message linked to #adoptdon'tshop

