

# *The Pennsylvania Sled Dog Club, Inc.*



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Mushers' Lingo**

Mushers speak a colorful dialect of their own, that except for a few of the more spicy phrases, may be confusing to the novice spectator of sled dog sports. Knowing a few of the terms and commands that are used makes watching a sled dog race all the more interesting.

**HUSKY** - a term that is generally applied to all northern breeds of dogs.

**ALASKAN MALAMUTE** - probably the oldest breed of sled dog, now used mostly for freighting and weight pulling than for racing, because of its size and weight which can reach 100 lbs.

**SIBERIAN HUSKY** - the "classic" sled dog - these are smaller than Malamutes, weighing 40 to 70 lbs. They were brought to Alaska from Siberia at the turn of the century.

**ALASKAN HUSKY** - a term that applies to racing dogs of mixed breed. These dogs usually share ancestry with the Siberian Husky and some type of hound. Greyhounds, black and tans, and coon hounds have all been used to produce some of the fastest racing sled dogs of today.

**GANGLINE** - the main line from the sled to which all the dogs are attached

**GEE** - command to turn right

**HAW** - command to turn left

**ALL RIGHT** or **LET'S GO** - commands to move forward. These vary depending on the musher. Today the command "MUSH" is seldom used.

**WHOA** - command to stop

**MORE**

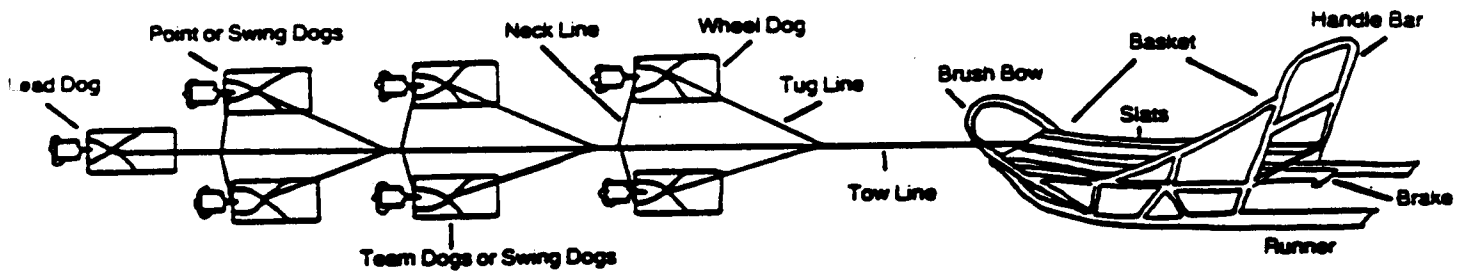
## Mushers' Lingo, Cont'd.

MUSHER - a sled dog driver

HANDLER - There are two meanings to this term. One is the owner and trainer of weight pull dog(s). The term is also used to describe the person or persons helping a musher get his/her team to the starting line.

PEDALING - When the musher keeps one foot on the runner of the sled while pushing with his/her other foot to help speed the team along.

TRAIL ! - request from one musher to another for the right of way when one team wishes to pass another.



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