

SPAIN LONG DISTANCE VETERINARY REGULATIONS

AIBAR 2021

The commitment and the major challenge of the Spain Long Distance (SLD) veterinary team is to ensure the health and well-being of the dogs participating in the race. We will not be the SLD gendarmes, on the contrary, our wish is that each Musher considers us as part of his team, it is only through complicity and close collaboration with the committed teams that we will be able to detect any problems that may arise or occur at any time. To do this we will be very attentive to all the problems related to the health of the dogs and to their efforts during the competition.

However, we would like to emphasise that the concealment of information or the lack of collaboration with the veterinary team, always mindful of respecting dogs, mushers and masters, could lead to serious disciplinary sanctions from the organization.

Checks will be carried out on all dogs before the race, their vaccination status will be monitored to avoid possible infections and all medical incidents that may arise and affect the health of the animal. Hence, the veterinary team will carry out all the relevant checks and will be able to carry out any possible and necessary medical intervention in order to guarantee the health of the animal.

If there is a need for clinical or hospital services requiring diagnostic tests and/or more complex interventions, the animal will be transferred to a hospital collaborating with the organization, where all the necessary actions for the patient will be carried out. The final responsibility with regard to the health of the dogs participating in the race is the responsibility of the Chief Veterinarian who will, at all times, be the sole decision-maker of any medical action and/or possible withdrawal of an animal.

1. TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

Dogs registered for the race, and those accompanying the team to the race, must benefit from minimum conditions of space and comfort in their waiting and/or transport boxes. These boxes must allow their free movement, avoid overcrowding and allow them to remain free and without elements and/or cables tied to the neck, for safety reasons.

They must have enough space to be able to stand, stretch, turn around and snuggle up to protect themselves from the elements (extreme temperatures, wind, rain, snow, etc.).

The boxes must be built with strong materials, in good condition and should allow the passage of fresh air, avoiding contact with gases coming from the vehicle's exhaust pipes.

In the case of trailers and trucks, each must have dry and clean equipment to allow rest and provide an adequate temperature to the animals before and after the competition.

The use of straw is recommended, it should be brought by the mushers and should also be healthy, clean and dry so that the dogs can rest in a minimum of comfort conditions.

The transfer of animals at the foot of the racing track must be carried out in these same conditions of comfort for the dogs. Checks will be carried out on the transport of dogs and in the event of non-compliance with these conditions, the Musher will be advised to rectify them. In case of non-acceptance of these conditions, the appropriate sanctioning measures will be taken by the organization.

2. AGE OF DOGS

The minimum age for dogs to participate in the race is set at 18 months on the day of the first stage, but that does not mean that it is the maximum age limit. Compliance with the minimum age will be checked during the veterinary examination before the event. The breed of dogs is not exclusive so that dogs of all breeds can participate in SLD.

3. INITIAL VETERINARY CONTROL

A passport and electronic chip control (MANDATORY) of each dog will be carried out by the SLD veterinary team. To that end, each musher/handler will have to present the passports or health vaccination cards of each dog duly completed. He will also provide a REGISTRATION FORM with the list of competing dogs and data of each participating dogs using the document provided by the SLD organization. In addition, the veterinary team will carry out a basic sportive clinical control on each dog.

4. HEALTH DOCUMENTATION TO BRING

Each dog must bring his passport/health book duly completed by a sworn veterinarian. The following elements should appear:

- Full contact details of the owner.
- Identity card and identification of the dog's MICRO-CHIP.
- Valid rabies vaccine.
- Polyvalent vaccine (at least Distemper, Parvovirus, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis and kennel cough) (annual vaccination compulsory).
- Vaccine against kennel cough (Please note the Parainfluenza vaccine included in the polyvalent vaccine as protection against kennel cough is not valid!)

Vaccination deadline: not later than 21 days before the race!

VACCINES

All participating dogs have to be vaccinated each year. Passports or vaccination records should be stamped and signed by the sworn veterinarian and contain the following vaccines:

- o RABIES: Vaccination against rabies is made compulsory by law and have to be carried out every year.

Mandatory delays and waiting times:

- Less than a year and a half since the last rabies vaccine. In the case of a revaccination, which does not exceed 6 months late, the minimum waiting period to be admitted in the race after the vaccination will be 72 hours.
 - More than a year and a half since the last rabies vaccine. If the animal has been vaccinated more than 6 months late, the minimum post-vaccination waiting period prior to the race will be 21 days.
 - In the case of previous non-vaccination, the minimum post-vaccination waiting period prior to the race will be 21 days.
- MULTIPURPOSE VACCINE: The polyvalent vaccine must at least protect against these four diseases: Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza (DHPPi L). The same rules and exceptions as those for rabies will apply in terms of waiting period.
- KENNEL COUGH VACCINE.
Kennel cough is a very infectious and contagious disease, which also causes serious laryngotracheal complications, the main symptom of which is cough and makes it impossible for the dog to participate in the race. It can have serious consequences on the health due to complications that may arise if it is not treated properly.
To avoid the spread and contagion of this disease, which can have a high incidence in locations of canine concentration, all dogs must be vaccinated against Kennel cough, in order to guarantee their protection.
No dog will therefore be able to participate in the race if they are not vaccinated against Kennel Cough, which is carried out with a vaccine against Bordetella Bronchoseptica. There will be no exceptions!
All types of Bordetella Bronchoseptica vaccines are allowed and the use of Novivac KC (Intervet intranasally), Eurican Penumo (Merial) or CoughGuard-Plus (Zoetis) is recommended.
The maximum waiting period before being able to participate in the race is 21 days. Dogs vaccinated for less than 21 days will not be admitted in the race. Parainfluenza canina Pi. Vaccine (included in some polyvalent vaccines) will not be accepted as a kennel cough vaccine.
- DEWORMING: It is recommended that each dog be dewormed against cestodes and nematodes (roundworms and tapeworms), but it is not mandatory.
- DISEASES: A team coming from a breeder in which appeared cases of rabies, canine distemper, hepatitis, Leptospirosis, kennel cough or any other contagious infectious disease will not be able to enter the race.

If the Race veterinarian diagnoses that any of the dogs in the stake out is suffering from a contagious infectious disease, the team will be disqualified and will have to leave immediately the area.

5. VETERINARY CHECKS DURING THE RACE

During the race, checks will be carried out to verify the good health of the dogs and we will be at the disposal of the teams to intervene on any incident occurring during the race. At the start line or at the checkpoint the health of the dogs will be checked and, in the event that one of the dogs arrives in a bag or carried by the organization, the dog will be cared for as quickly as possible.

MEDICATION USE

The use of any type of pharmacopoeia and medication during the race and in competition without supervision by the veterinary team remains strictly prohibited, their use will constitute grounds for eviction of the entire team from the race. The use of these drugs will only and exclusively be allowed under the supervision of the veterinary team, the dog under treatment will be removed from the race and will not be able to return to it after application of said treatment.

Dogs who leave the race but will not be subjected to the application of a pharmacological treatment, and can develop a sporting activity without endangering their health, will be able to return to the race should the race veterinarian authorized it and at least one hour before the start of the race.

Dogs with tumour lesions or open bleeding wounds that are not under veterinary control will not be allowed to participate. Any other injury occurring during the race will be treated by the veterinary services and the use of medication will result in the dog being permanently withdrawn from the race for health reasons. Participation in the race of pregnant bitches is not permitted.

Types of drugs that cannot be used: antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, stimulants, opioid and non-opioid pain relievers, and hormone therapy in all oral and injectable pharmacological forms.

6. DROPPED DOGS (DOGS REMOVED)

During the stages, dogs which, on the decision of the veterinarian, meet some of the exclusion criteria from the race will be dropped from the race to receive the appropriate treatment.

The Musher may only permanently remove dogs only at control points designated as "Dog removing point" or at Check-points located along the race or at the start and finish lines. In the event of injury or inability to continue in the event for any medical reason on the stage, the Musher shall transport the dog in the bag to the next or previous checkpoint, the closest in terms of distance.

Dogs which will be removed during the race for medical reasons by the organization will be cared for and taken to the end of the race under the responsibility of the Race organizer until being remitted to the musher or to his handler.

The Race veterinarian shall inform the Race director of any dog permanently removed from the race.

7. EVACUATIONS

Dogs with serious illnesses that cannot be treated while racing or need clinical or hospital services, requiring diagnostic tests and/or more complex interventions, will be taken to a hospital collaborating with the organization where all necessary medical procedures required by the patient's condition will be performed. The dog will be accompanied by one of the team's veterinarians or a volunteer, who remit the animal and the ensuing transfer of responsibility to the veterinarian of the hospital.

From that moment on, decisions will be taken between the musher and the hospital at the convenience of the musher.

Should the musher does not want the animal to be transferred to the centre concerned, he will have to sign the **DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY** document, according to which the musher assumes responsibility for the case and totally relieves the SLD organization of its responsibility.

All management, control and treatments carried out during the race by the veterinary team will be borne by the organization, with the exception of hospitalizations carried out due to the evacuation of a dog to the hospital, in this particular case, the costs resulting from the veterinary procedures will have to be paid by the musher.

8. DEATH OF DOGS

Any dog that for any reason dies during the race will first be examined by race vets, with the aim of making an initial assessment of the causes of death, and ruling out possible cases of abuse. The Chief Veterinarian and the Race Marshall (Race Director) will be informed of the death.

The dog will then be identified and transported to the Pathological Anatomy Laboratory for post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.

The protocol will be performed by the veterinary team of the SLD organization and will be mandatory, refusal on the part of the musher will be grounds for disqualification, expulsion from the race and, where appropriate, non-acceptance to participate to next editions of SLD. The results of the medical analyses will be confidential and transmitted in writing by the Chief Veterinarian to the owner/musher, once the causes of death have been determined. The results cannot be made public without the consent and authorization of the organization and of the musher. The costs of this procedure will be borne by the musher.

Jorge A. Luque Garrido

Head of Veterinarian at SPAIN LONG DISTANCE 2021