

Chief Veterinarian's statement  
Sarah Love, DVM

On behalf of the veterinary team, we extend a heartfelt welcome to the dogs, mushers, handlers, volunteers and spectators to the 25<sup>th</sup> running of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. We have veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants from all over the country assembled to care for these amazing canine athletes and are very fortunate to have a team with great depth and experience in sled dog medicine. With 80 teams at the starting line under the care of the Beargrease Veterinary Team, that is over 700 sled dogs and over 2,800 feet to care for!

Sled dog veterinarians are members of the International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association, an organization at the leading edge of sled dog veterinary research and are dedicated to the health and welfare of these outstanding canine athletes.

Each dog receives a thorough pre-race physical examination by members of the veterinary team. Along the trail, the dogs continue to receive exams at various checkpoints and their needs are attended to, day and night. Along with the mushers' experience and knowledge, the veterinary team works closely with each musher to ensure the dogs reach the finish line healthy and happy. Excellence in care and management of these canine athletes is the top priority and goes along with helping them to reach their competitive potential.

Thank you to all for attending this very special event, the 25<sup>th</sup> running of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is going to be a great race. Good luck and happy trails to all the dogs and mushers!