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**Iditarod Trail Committee**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 1, 2017

**Iditarod Trail Committee developing framework for kennel management program**

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA** - The Iditarod Trail Committee announced today that it is developing framework for a “Best Care” kennel management program.

The objective of the kennel management program will be to ensure that all kennels entering the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race meet certain standards in areas such as breeding, shelter, tethers, cleanliness, nutrition, hydration, vaccinations, socialization, bedding, record-keeping, euthanasia, on-site care and kennel size. The program will involve kennel visits and a certification process.

To assist in generating the standards to be included in the “Best Care” kennel management program for year-round care, the Iditarod Trail Committee board of directors appointed an advisory committee made up of the following individuals from the mushing community:

- Vern Halter
- Martin Buser
- Dee Dee Jonrowe
- Jeff King
- Aliy Zirkle
- Sebastian Schnuelle
- Karen Ramstead

The ITC plans on implementing the “Best Care” kennel management program prior to the opening day for entries (June 23, 2018) for the 2019 Iditarod.

For additional information about the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including archival race information, please visit [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

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