

## Musher's Responsibilities

### **Be visible.**

- Wear bright colors or a reflective vest.
- Use of a headlamp and reflective vest is a good idea when running at night. Reflective vests on lead dogs and blinking lights on the mainline is also advisable.

### **Take care of the dogs.**

- Carry water.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Take only as many dogs as you can handle.
- Pick up after your dogs.

Leave the parking area as clean or cleaner than you found it.

### **Stay to the right of the trail.**

### **Be prepared for the unexpected.**

### **Relax and have fun.**

## Additional Information

Sled dogs are born to run and pull and therefore love their sports that allow them to do just that. Running and pulling are their best means for happiness - both physical and mental.

Interested in the sport? For more information see [vtmushers.org](http://vtmushers.org).

Funding for these brochures is provided by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources ([anr.state.vt.us](http://anr.state.vt.us)).

## What to Expect

## When You

## Meet a Team

## of Sled Dogs



When the weather turns colder and the nights longer, you may find teams of dogs pulling a cart or bike on the trails you like to use. And once the snow flies, you may encounter dogs pulling sleds or skiers. These very active and excited dogs that may seem intimidating, but remember the following and meeting or passing teams should be uncomplicated:

If you find a dog team (two dogs or more) in a parking lot and the dog driver (or musher) is just preparing to run, the dogs may be very vocal and excited to run. If you have a dog or dogs that you are planning on taking with you, keeping your dogs on leashes until well clear of

the team is extremely important.

The musher will have the their dogs on drop chains, safely controlled.

A team on the trail is in control of the dog driver by way of tug lines to the cart, sled or person. The length of the team line depends on the number of dogs, the more dogs, the greater the length from the musher to the lead dogs. However your loose dog can be a danger to themselves and the dog team if the dogs get into a conflict. It is best to restrain your dog prior to getting close to a dog team.

Meeting a team at the end of

their run, the dog team will be much calmer and quieter. This is the best time to ask questions about the sport and the dogs enjoyment of the sport. If the musher allows it, this is also the best time to approach the dogs.

Remember, a musher can control their team, but they cannot control your dog(s). *However, dog drivers and others that are using the trail should be aware of their surroundings, including who is on the trail.*

**Safety should be everybody's responsibility on the trail.**