

# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #1**

Most teams start with 16 sled dogs, which means over 500 dogs leave for Nome at the beginning of the race.



# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #2**

The red lantern is awarded to the last musher to cross the finish line. The longest time for a red lantern was 32 days, 15 hours, 9 minutes, and 1 second.



# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #3**

Historically, dog sleds were used to deliver the mail, the preacher, and groceries. They were also used to haul gold and furs between cities.





# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #4**

“Gee” is the command a musher gives to the dogs to make a right turn.





# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #5**

“Haw” is the command a musher gives to the dogs to make a left turn.



# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #6**

The entry fee is  
\$4,000.00, which  
includes  
membership dues.



# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #7**

The race begins with a ceremonial start, where a special passenger (IditaRider) rides on the sled through the streets of Anchorage. The official race “restarts” the next day.





# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #8**

Every musher must make a mandatory 24 hour stop at a checkpoint through the race.



# **IDITAROD Fun FACT #9**

Every musher must bring an ax, sleeping bag, snowshoes, 8 booties and a harness per dog, a small cooker, and enough fuel to bring 3 gallons of water to a boil.





# **IDITAROD FUN FACT #10**

Mushers must finish the race with at least 5 dogs.

They cannot add dogs after the race starts, but they can leave dogs at checkpoints to be returned to Anchorage.

