

## **SnoBASH Summary and Description**

Last year we talked to many people about the event beforehand, but when it got down to it we didn't have enough people to help...though many who came to enjoy. A few comments were made that made us think it would probably be a good idea to let people know what it takes to put on an event such as SnoBASH.

### ***What it takes to put on an event like SnoBASH.***

#### ***Timeline for SnoBASH preparation - 16 weeks ~***

**3-4 Months before a weekend is set** - We contact the Bear Valley Cross Country to set up things and we reserve the rooms at the Pines Lodge, where the runs are created. The cutting of the runs is done by the Bear Valley ski lodge team, **behind the Pines Lodge**, which is actually before you get to the Bear Valley ski area. So be looking for it on the right side of the road and do not go all the way up to the Ski Lodge. If there are high snowbanks, it can be easily passed by. The Pines is also where many of the BASH attendees lodge.

**The few months before** SnoBASH, we WATCH the weather...and hope and do a few snow dances for snow. **3- Weeks prior**, when it looks like it is a go, we start putting all the stuff together that needs to go to Bear Valley so we can have a safe and fun event.

#### **What BASH brings:**

- sleds
- hooks
- lines for the sled
- signs
- Poop bags

#### **Limited Qty available of:**

- Harnesses
- Alaskan Collars (required for dogs to run on the sleds)
- Drop lines for the dogs to stay on while there
- Cables to hook the drops between the trees

#### **Be sure you bring:**

- Water bowls
- Water container

All of the above has to be loaded and transported in various attendees' cars, which are going to be there **at the start to set up and stay until the end to take it down**

**Friday set-up** - We have to go out and see what trail they have been able to put in for us. Depending on Snow, owners of the property etc..... they give us what trails they can with loops. We walk it to figure out where we should set up, where to start and how, how many people we will need on the course to help with corners etc. Just putting up

the drops, stomping down the snow with snow shoes and whatever equipment we have. It takes a good 2 hours to complete this. Then we set up the sleds, lines, harnesses and all other equipment. Once this is done, we can run a few teams of dogs to see how the trail works and if changes need to be made. We have set up to run no more than 4 dogs per team. By the time we are done it is dark.

**Saturday morning preparations** – we first do dog walking. We start out anywhere **from 5:30 to 7:00 am**.... Some earlier some later to walk, water and feed dogs etc. Then get our breakfast and **by 9:00 am** we are moving our dogs down to the set up area behind the Pines Lodge. We walk the trail again to see if there have been any changes - as they groom it for us each night. **By 10:00 to 10:30 am** we are running sleds with ours. We were limited by the number of dogs that can run lead. So, we set up only 4-dog teams so dogs that were accustomed to sledding ran in front and dogs that were not ran in the rear.

We are limited to the number of times to sled (which ends up being limited amount of distance) that the dogs can do. Depending on the heat of the day and the number of runs, each set can accomplish about 5-7 runs in the morning. This year, we had 14 dogs that were used to running on a cart or sled. We have set a schedule to do rides from **noon to 4 pm** only.... We could end earlier if the dogs are too tired.

**Sunday** - We start all over in the morning... at 5:30 – 7:00 a. We always plan to finish running dogs in the morning, pick up and put away all that we brought and get it back in the vehicles to leave. It takes 2-3 hours to take down all the equipment holding the dog, loading the sleds etc.....

So, you can see how important and considerate it is to adhere to the schedule, and to be there – on time – at times of needed help and scheduled sled runs.

## What You Want to Know...and More....

### Instructional Youtube Info

Following are some Youtube videos that use some of the dog sledding/carting terms.

#### **Mushing 101**

Tom explains the terms used in sled dog mushing; he reviews the common equipment as well as the optimal dog positions along the gang line.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XELZvgjZpLg>

#### **Measuring for an x-back Harness (sledding or working dog harness)**

An x-back harness is the standard for sled dogs but they are also used for Cani-X, scootering, bikejoring etc. It is essential that your dog wears a correctly fitted harness. Jack and Pam Beckstrom explain how to measure your dog for an x-back harness demonstrates how a harness should fit on a dog. These harnesses are available from xtradog.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdE5k76T2UQ>

#### **Teaching Gee and Haw**

Remember – Gee and Haw from the dog's perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbfivP5XGD4>

#### **Harness on and off instructions**

Approximately half way through, this Youtube video (Urban sledding) has some good info, but the instructor could be a little gentler on the legs when putting on/off the harness. You want to gently bend the front leg in at the knee and slip the harness over to prevent hip displacement or stress. Also, try not to lift the arm up high or out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ6czEomSUg>

#### **These offer good, safe harness on and off instructions with good fit.**

How A Sleddog Harness Should Fit ~ Part I

Part 1 of 3 instructional videos ~ CanaDog Supply explains how a proper fitting harness will look on your dog. Tips on how to properly put on and take off your sleddog harness safely **without causing injury to your dog.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqXixGfqoo>

How A Sleddog Harness Should Fit ~ Part II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoIMmludWHY>

How A Sleddog Harness Should Fit ~ Part III – **X-Back Harness version on a Siberian Husky**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y3wUZMllc4>

### Lending Library

BASH also has a **Lending Library** with dogsledding books, breed information and novels. Ask *Randee McQueen* about check-out.

[BASH@com-ctl.com](mailto:BASH@com-ctl.com)

## Terminology

### ***Mushing Terms:***

1	<b>Mushing</b>	The act of dogs pulling a sled – <i>and oh so much more :-)</i>
2	<b>Musher</b>	Person in the sled, managing the dogs.
3	<b>Hike or Ready-Set-Go</b>	Common terms used to start the dogs pulling/mushing.
4	<b>Harness</b>	Apparatus that surrounds the dog
5	<b>Tug Line</b>	Line that attaches to the back of the dogs harness
6	<b>Neck Line</b>	Connects the dogs collar to the Gangline
7	<b>Gangline</b>	Main line that all dog's Tug Lines are attached to, that attaches to the sled; made of cable for strength, coated in plastic for less distraction and cold temps.
8	<b>Drop</b>	Cable line....they are sold as 4, 6 and 8 dog drops (number of dogs that can be put on the cable. There is a cable that is attached to the trees and the dogs are attached to it far enough apart so that they can't get tangled. The line has to be taut enough so that they can't tangle their legs in the line. Recommend at least a 4 dog drop... a few extra give you room and or to share with others.

### ***Order of the dogs on the Gangline:***

1	<b>Lead Dogs</b>	Front dogs – faster dogs
2	<b>Swing or Point Dogs</b>	Dogs placed behind Lead dogs
3	<b>Team Dogs</b>	All the dogs following Swing/Point dogs the way through the Gangline but not the Wheel Dogs.
4	<b>Wheel Dogs</b>	Back dogs, closest to the sled. Take the brunt of the sleds movement - larger dogs in this position good.

### ***Positioning Dogs:***

The fastest dogs in Lead, strongest dogs towards the back, and resting or lower pressure position in the Team area.

### ***Commands:***

1	<b>Gee</b>	Right
2	<b>Haw</b>	Left
3	<b>Hike</b>	Go
4	<b>On Bi</b>	In case of any Distractions – “just keep going”
5	<b>Easy</b>	Slow down
6	<b>Whoa</b>	Stop

## Equipment:

### SnoBASH collar, harness, drops etc.:

x-Back harnesses & Alaskan collars [www.Nordkyn.com](http://www.Nordkyn.com)

Call Jane at Nordkyn and she will help you with sizing

Phone: 253-847-4128

Email: [nordkyn@nordkyn.com](mailto:nordkyn@nordkyn.com)

**Nordkyn Outfitters:** [www.Nordkyn.com](http://www.Nordkyn.com)

**Nordkyn X-Back Harness (SnoBASH):** <https://nordkyn.com/product/x-back-harness-5/>



This harness is designed for speed and reliable comfort. The X-back design keeps the harness in place, controls vertical motion, but doesn't restrict the dog's gait. The "Sliding X" on top allows the harness to compensate for different dogs, and for the off-center pull of standard gangline hitches. Around \$30

Measuring for the X-Back Harness: <https://nordkyn.com/measuring-dogs/>

**Nordkyn Alaskan Collar:** <https://nordkyn.com/product/alaskan-collar-1-4/>



The Alaskan collar features our two-inch limited slip design. The collar normally lies loosely on the dog's neck; when pulled, it tightens just enough to hold the dog securely. This collar minimizes coat wear around the neck. Around \$15

**Nordkyn Drop Line / Cable Picket:** <https://nordkyn.com/product/cable-picket-4-dog-4/>



5 foot spacing between dogs 12" drops with 3/4" Bronze snaps  
4-dog - about \$58, 6-dog – about \$80

Dog Booties: <https://dogbooties.com/>

Alpine Outfitters X-Back harness: <http://www.alpineoutfitters.net/secur...>

Alpine Outfitters Urban trail harness: <http://www.alpineoutfitters.net/secur...>

Alpine Outfitters scooter noodle: <http://www.alpineoutfitters.net/secur...>

Black Ice: <http://www.blackicedogsledding.com/>

Howling Dogs Alaska: <http://howlingdogalaska.com/>

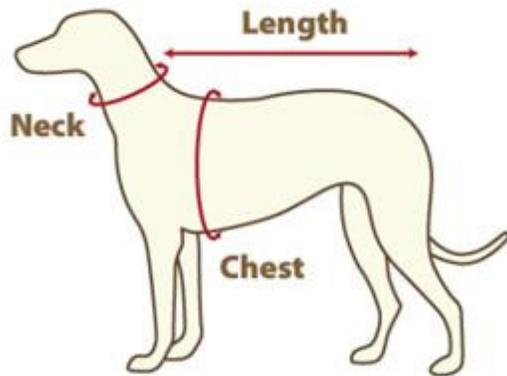
A great place to get information about mushing is sled dog central:

<http://www.sleddogcentral.com/>

## Sizing Your Dog

### ***How do I determine the right size for my dog (apparel & collars)?***

To find the best fit, we encourage you to carefully measure your dog before selecting a size. We suggest using either a flexible tape measure or piece of string to measure. Once you have measured with the string, use a traditional ruler to find its length. Depending on the Felix Chien item that you are interested in, you may need to measure your dog's neck girth, chest girth, or length, as is illustrated in the chart below:



For certain items, such as carriers and beds, it is best to estimate your dog's weight in order to find the right size. We suggest referring to your most recent veterinarian records for a good estimate.

### ***How do I determine which bed size is right for my dog?***

To find the perfect bed for your dog, measure your dog while he or she is in his or her normal sleeping position. You should measure from the nose to the base of the tail. Once you have your dog's length, add about 10" to determine the bed's length or diameter. When choosing the bed shape, consider your dog's sleeping position; does he or she curl up or sprawl out? Round dog beds are great for dogs who like to curl up whereas rectangular beds are better suited for dogs who like to stretch. Does your dog prefer to rest his or her head on a pillow or arm rest? A bolster or furniture style bed may be a good choice for a dog who likes additional support. When in doubt, choosing a size up is recommended.

### ***How do I determine which crate size is right for my dog?***

To properly measure your dog for a crate, have them stand tall on all fours, then take measurement from the base of their tail to the tip of their nose. Be sure to measure from the base of the tail and not the tip, or you will end up with a crate much too large. Next, add 5 to 6 inches to that measurement and you will have the correct length of the crate for your dog. The extra inches allows for your dog to turn around and stretch out comfortably without the crate being too large.

For the next measurement, have your dog sit and measure them from the floor to the uppermost point of their head. The reason for this is because most dogs measure taller when seated in comparison to standing so you want to make sure they have enough room to not hit their head on the top. Next, add 5 to 6 inches to the seated measurement and you will have the correct height measurement for the crate.

### ***How can I be sure that the crate cover I am purchasing will fit my dog crate?***

Measuring your crate for a crate cover is as simple as measuring the length of the crate (front to back) and the width of the crate (side to side). There are no standard sizes for dog crates, as the width and height varies from every manufacturer. However, our wide selection of crate covers accommodate the small variances in sizes.

Please note: Do not size up for crate covers if you are unsure; going up a size usually results in the cover being too big. It is better to stick with the smaller size since each crate cover is made to fit slightly varying crates.

### ***How do I know which carrier will fit my dog?***

When picking the perfect carrier, measuring your dog and following manufacturer sizing are the best way to ensure a comfortable fit. The measurements you will need are his/her length (from the base of the neck to the base of the tail) and his/her shoulder height (from the ground to the top of the shoulders). Please make sure your dog is standing while measuring.

Now that you have measured your pup, you can determine which carrier will be the most comfortable fit. When looking at the carrier's length, make sure it is 2-3" longer than your dog's length. This will ensure your dog is able to turn around and move in the carrier. When considering the height, it can differ by carrier style. When looking at purse style carriers, the carrier should be 1-2" taller than your dog's shoulder height. For soft-sided carriers, the carrier should be 2-3" taller. Hard-sided carriers require an additional 3-5" to your dog's shoulder height.

You may be asking: what about the carrier's weight capacity? Although the weight capacity can be seen as more of a guideline than a true fit indicator, it should never be exceeded. Even if the length and height meet your needs, your dog should also fall below the stated weight capacity for safety reasons. We recommend referring to your most recent veterinarian records for a good weight estimate.

If you find your measurements are between size options, go for the larger size. However, avoid going too big as it can make the experience of using a carrier uncomfortable for both you and your dog. You will know you've achieved the perfect fit when your dog can stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably.