

The Gateway Sled Dog Club Demonstration Guidelines

September, 2012

The Gateway Sled Dog Club members are active in community service through out the St. Louis area. Each year members are available to put on many demonstrations for schools, scout groups and other organizations, as well as various local pet fairs. Along with an explanation of the history of dog sledding, how sled dogs are trained, and the history of dog breeds in the club, demonstrations also offer instruction in responsible pet ownership and proper pet care.

Besides education of the public in sled dog activities, one of the goals should always be to portray our club in a positive manner. We would never want anyone to have a negative impression of our club, its members or our dogs. That is the main purpose for these guidelines.

I. Setting up demonstrations:

We currently have a notification system through our website. The Demo Chairperson will check the website for requests for demonstrations on a regular basis. Demo requests can also come from club members and other sources. Club members who receive demo requests should contact the Demo Chairperson to follow the correct procedures to ensure a successful demo.

All demos must be approved by the club membership at a monthly meeting. The Demo Chair will describe the event and what type of Demo is being requested. If the Demo is approved the Demo Chair may pass a sign-up sheet for participants. The sign-up sheet can also be passed at a later meeting if time allows. The Demo Chair will/can assign a Representative for each Demo. This person will assume all responsibilities for the event.

In the event the date requested comes before the next regular meeting, the Demo Chairperson may contact the membership by email or phone calls to get approval and elicit participation.

It is important that if a member volunteers to participate in the Demo that they take it as a serious responsibility. If they are not able to attend, they should contact the Demo Chair as soon as possible before the date.

II. General guidelines for participation on the day of the Demo:

- A. All dogs should be clean and brushed. They do not need to be professionally groomed
- B. Club members should arrive at least thirty minutes before the demo will start unless otherwise requested by the Demo Chair or Representative.
- C. There should be one handler per dog. This can be waived if deemed necessary by the Demo Chair on a case-by-case basis. If a person is handling more than one dog, the 'extra' dog should be safely contained in a crate or vehicle until it is time for that dog to participate. Exceptions will be made for rigs and sleds.
- D. In general, there should be at least six Gateway Sled Dog Club members in attendance for it to count as an event. In special cases, smaller groups will be considered.
- E. All handlers should attend in club attire unless told otherwise. Everyone should be in the traditional club colors; currently royal blue tee shirts*, sweat shirts, or jackets with the Gateway Sled Dog Club logo. New members who do not yet have the club logo shirts should wear something similar in color or at least solid color with no logos or other printing.
- F. In order to participate, handlers should be members of the Gateway Sled Dog Club having attended the required three meetings and provide the regular proofs of insurance and current vaccinations for their dog(s). Our club insurance does not allow visitors to participate in demos.

*Update October, 2012 Club colors are Royal or Navy Blue