



Nome Kennel Club
PO Box 1892
Nome, Alaska 99762

To the
City of Nome
Att.: Mr. Glenn Steckman, City Manager
PO Box 281
Nome, AK 99762

RE: Nome Kennel Club Races in 2021

December 11, 2020

Dear Mr. Steckman,

The Nome Kennel Club, founded in 1907, plans to host five sled dog races this winter season. The NKC would like to propose holding races with COVID-19 precautions in place on January 2 (8-dog, 8-mile), January 16 (12-dog, 20 miles), January 30 (12-dog, 30 miles), February 20-22 (race to Pilgrim Hot Springs and back), and March 25-28 (to Serpentine Hot Springs and back).

The NKC has a standing MOA with the City of Nome, which graciously had allowed the club to start our sled dog races from the northeast side of the snow dump facility on Greg Kruschek Avenue.

The Board of Directors would like to reaffirm the MOA and ask the City to allow NKC to go forward with the planned events.

The NKC has consulted with Norton Sound Health Corporation's Medical Director Dr. Mark Peterson and Incident Command team member Dr. Tim Lemaire. We feel confident that we can hold these races safely with the following precautions in place:

1. The customary Pre-race meeting between mushers and race officials to go over rules will be held via zoom prior to the race.
2. The mushers stay apart, wear masks while preparing their teams at the race start. Masks can be removed once the teams start.
3. The start line is from the poles, where people can distance, not a designated start and finish line.
4. Race officials will wear masks when checking for mandatory gear and when signaling the teams' starting times.
5. Spectators are welcome, but need to remain in their cars from where they can watch the teams take off.
6. One volunteer will record the finish times and will avoid close contact with the mushers.

For the shorter distance races in January, we expect only local teams to participate. For the longer races in February and March, we are working on a more comprehensive COVID-19 plan that will adhere to local, state and federal mandates and best management practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil Strandberg", with a stylized, cursive script.

Neil Strandberg, President NKC Board of Directors