

Honoring Heroes

The Iditarod is the longest, toughest, and most famous sled dog race in the world. It honors the heroes who saved Nome in 1925.

The 1,100-mile (1,770-km) trail runs from Anchorage to Nome. Teams cross a wide **tundra**, a steep mountain range, an icy river, and a stretch of frozen sea. The temperature is often far below zero.

In these **conditions**, mushers must take special care of their dogs. They feed them several times a day. They put booties on their feet and give them plenty of rest. The dogs' health is more important than anything else—even winning the race.



Even though the booties protect the dogs' feet, some dogs take them off every chance they get!

A meal for the dogs might include moose meat, raw fish, or turkey skin. Mushers sometimes snack on Eskimo ice cream, a mix of reindeer fat, seal oil, and berries.

Susan Butcher, four-time Iditarod champion, crossing a frozen lake. Women have competed in every Iditarod since 1974.