

# HUDSON BAY QUEST 2017 (North route)

## RACE RULES and TRAIL PROCEDURES

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### Introduction

The Hudson Bay Quest is a wilderness race. It is a competition between musher, the musher's dog team, the weather, terrain and other competitors. You have the possibility of encountering severe weather conditions. Past races have had temperatures range from +2 to -5°C with rain, to chilly -30°C with 40 km/hr winds equaling -45°C. The terrain ranges from lakes, rivers, tundra, and snow roads. Possible snow storms or ground blizzards may stop your progression for up to 36 hours.

The Hudson Bay quest is a race like no other and an experience of a lifetime in a dog sledding career. It is not a race to take lightly.

The following race rules are set out specifically for the Hudson Bay Quest. *Footnotes are added to explain why these rules are expressly exclusive for the Hudson Bay Quest.*

## Entry Fee and Dates

1. Hudson Bay Quest (herein referred to as HBQ) entry opens **November 1, 2016 at 12:00:01 pm. CST (noon)**. Receipt of the entry fee, completed application form, and completed driver's biography, will constitute the driver's intent to enter the race and further acknowledge that the driver understands and agrees to comply with each and every rule as stated. Entries and payments will only be accepted online via website at <http://www.hbqrace.com/race-registration/>.
2. HBQ reserves the right to reject any entry.
3. Entries are determined on a first come first served basis.
4. The maximum number of teams for the race is fifteen (15).
5. The entry fee is **\$600**
6. Registration for the HBQ 2017 closes on **January 9th, 2017 at 12:00:01 C.S.T. (noon.)** *Because of the travelling and shipping of race equipment, drop bags, veterinarians and race officials. The HQB organizing committee needs to know official numbers and freight weights to make arrangements with shipping companies during and after the race.*

## Condition of Entry

7. Driver must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
8. Drivers must not be censured by any dog racing organization.
9. No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect may enter the HBQ.

10. Each driver shall sign any and all documents or promotional material requested by HBQ prior to the driver's meeting.
11. Each applicant must have completed at least one (1) 100 miles race as a qualifier before being allowed to participate in the HBQ. Qualifying races maybe reviewed by Race Marshal for eligibility.

## Withdrawal Before the Race

12. Any entrant once registered who then withdraws from the race prior to January 31, 2017 will be refunded their full registration fee, less \$14.80 administration fees.
13. Any entrant wishing to withdraw after January 31, 2017 but prior to February 28th, 2017 will result in 0% refund.
14. Any entrant wishing to withdraw between March 1, 2017 and the start of the race will result in 0% refund and possible sanctions for future HBQ races.

## Pre Race

15. A dog yard is established at the boat launch for Stephen's Lake in Gillam, MB. Snow piled in a semi-circle, with berms inside, are where the dogs are to be kept at all times until the race starts. *(Anchor points for tie outs are provided within each berm opening to tie dogs to. Mushers will need your own pickout line for this location.)*

16. Any dogs brought into the town of Gillam must stay on the vehicle. Under no circumstances are dogs to be dropped within the Town of Gillam limits. If a noise complainant is registered all HBQ dogs will be asked to leave town and be relocated at the dog yard.

17. Mushers and/or handlers may camp in the dog yard with their teams.

## Veterinarian Check

18. All dogs will undergo a physical examination before the race starts.

19. The veterinary check will be done in the Gillam Dog Yard on March 16, 2017. Examinations will be performed between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and booking appointment times will be available.

20. Any dogs or mushers not present for this examination will be subject to disqualification/sanctions against current and future races.

21. Any dogs which do not qualify for a certificate of good health will not participate in this race.

22. All dogs entering the HBQ will have parvo and distemper vaccinations within the last twelve (12) months.

23. Rabies vaccinations must be current.

24. All vaccination paperwork will be checked at the time of examination or prior to the driver's meeting.

## Driver's Meeting

25. The Driver's Meeting will be held at **5:00 pm on March 16, 2017** at the Gillam Recreation Centre, prior to the Meet and Greet.
26. All drivers are to be present for the Driver's Meeting. Handlers are welcome to attend this meeting.
27. Drivers who fail to attend the Driver's Meeting will be subject to sanctions by the Race Giving Organization (RGO).

## Gillam Meet and Greet

28. All drivers are required to attend the Meet and Greet following the Driver's Meeting.
29. The bib selection will be held at the Meet and Greet. Bib selection will be completed by the first person fully registered (see rule #1) and will select what starting position and corresponding bib number, followed by the second musher registered, and so on, until all bibs are selected.

## Race Start

30. The Official Start Time for the race is **March 17, 2017 at 09.30hrs** (local time is CST).
31. The start location is from the HBQ Dog Yard's Start Line at Stephens Lake.
32. Teams will leave the start chute in two minute intervals.

33. Any team not able to leave the starting chute at their designated time will be held until the last team has departed and an additional two minute interval will be required to wait. *(The official start time for this musher being held back will not differentiate from their original start time.)*

34. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within sixty (60) minutes of the last team's mandatory start time may be disqualified.

## Emergency Drop Bags

35. A 30-pound emergency drop bag will be allowed for this race. Emergency drop bags will be left at a designated location in Gillam and transported to M'Clintock Checkpoint in case of emergency.

*(This drop bag may contain any equipment/food that the musher may deem essential if any emergency is encountered along the trail. **This is for emergency purposes only.**)*

36. Anything remove from this bag will be subject to a monetary/time penalty unless an emergency situation is stipulated by the RGO or Race Marshal.

37. All Emergency Drop Bags will be left before the race in the designated area.

# Mandatory Sled Bag Gear

## Starting Line

- A proper cold weather sleeping bag (<-25°C)
- Hand axe with overall length of 22 inches or a snow knife (saws are not appropriate)
- Two man or greater cold weather tent (tarps are not appropriate)
- Minimum 3 gallon cooker and fuel
- Minimum one (1) set of boots (4 boots) for each dog on the team
- Appropriate amount of food to feed the team to the completion of the race
- “SPOT” check device (HBQ will loan each musher a device)
- Fire starting device
- First Aid Kit (triangular bandage, tape, gauze, and regular bandages)
- Signalling device (mirror, whistle, etc.)
- Knife
- Cable cutters (if you have cable ganglines)

## Entry to Mandatory Stop (M'Clintock Checkpoint)

All Mandatory Gear

## Finish Line

All mandatory gear (including 4 pounds of dog food.)

Exception - One set of four unused boots

## Additional Freight

38. HBQ may require a small amount of promotional freight as part of the mandatory load that must be returned to race officials at the end of the competition or when scratching.

## Race Course

The course covers approximately 220 miles (354 km) of sub-arctic wilderness. Trail may consist of snow covered roads, snowmobile trail, rivers and lakes. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race, but due to weather conditions there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race. Trail markers will be positioned every ½ mile on the trail. Markers will be positioned every 1/8 mile entering and leave a checkpoint for the approaching or departing mile.



39. Mushers start the race with the sled's brush bow on the starting line and finishes when the nose of the first dog crosses official timer's finish line.

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## Scratch/ Withdraw/ Disqualification

41. During the race, drivers wishing to end their participation in the race may do so by filling out and signing a Withdrawal/Scratch/Disqualification Form and submitting it to a Race Official or a Checker.

42. A team may be involuntarily withdrawn from the race by the Race Marshal. This decision would be made to protect the dogs, the driver, or the event itself, and does not imply deliberate misconduct or rule violation.

43. Failure of a driver to comply with the published Rules of General Racing and Trail Procedure will result in disqualification, monetary fine, or a time penalty.

44. Disqualified drivers will forfeit all placements and monetary values.

45. If a dog expires while participating in the HBQ, said dog is to be transported to the next checkpoint on the trail and reported to checkpoint staff.

46. If the expiration of the dog happens between the Starting Line and M'Clintock, notification is to be given at the next checkpoint and the dog is to be transported by the musher to M'Clintock Checkpoint at which time an inquiry/disciplinary panel will be assembled involving Head Race Veterinarian, Race Marshal, Representative of the RGO and one Representative of the Canadian Rangers.

If the inquiry is held in M'Clintock, the musher will not be permitted to leave the checkpoint until the inquiry is completed. The inquiry/disciplinary panel have the right to enforce any sanctions determined at that time (disqualification, time penalty, monetary penalty, etc.)

47. If the expiration of the dog happens between M'Clintock Checkpoint and the Finish Line, then notification is to be given at the next checkpoint on the trail and the dog is to be transported by the musher to the Finish Line where an inquiry/disciplinary panel will be assembled.

The inquiry/disciplinary panel has the right to enforce any sanctions determined at that time (disqualification, time penalty, monetary penalty, etc.)

## Dog Sled

48. Only one sled per team will be used throughout the race.

49. Each driver has a choice of sled, subject to the condition that some kind of sled or toboggan is equipped with a brake and/or snow hook.

50. The sled or toboggan must be capable of safely negotiating a 200+ mile (320 kilometre) trail, hauling any injured or fatigued dogs, and required mandatory equipment.

## Team Size

51. Drivers must start the race with no less than eight (8) dogs and no more than ten (10).
52. Finishing teams must have at least six (6) dogs.
53. Dogs may not be added to a team after the start of the race.
54. Expired dogs do not count as a dog on the team for the minimum number required.
55. Only dogs suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race.

## Harnesses

56. All harnesses must have neck and breast panel padding.

## Switching Dogs

57. Switching dogs between teams will not be permitted after they have officially left the start line.
58. If there are two sled dog teams originating from the same dog truck/kennel, each team will be individually marked by race officials.

## One Driver Per Team

59. Only one driver per team is permitted, and that driver must complete the race with that team only.

## Team Configuration

- 60. There will be no loose leaders allowed.
- 61. Necklines are not required on leaders.
- 62. Driver has the option of attaching each dog by a neckline to the tugline.
- 63. All gangline setups must be single or double hitch style.
- 64. Dogs may not be led behind the sled.

## Checkpoints

There will be a number of checkpoints. These checkpoints will be named and the location of each checkpoint will be given at the Driver's Meeting. Checkpoints may vary from year to year based on river, trail and snow conditions.

- 65. Each driver must personally check in and sign out at each checkpoint before moving on.
- 66. The time into the checkpoint is recorded upon the team's arrival.

67. Sled bag checks will be performed, but not limited to the race start, mandatory rest stop, and finish line.

68. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled and leave in harness attached to the gangline.

## Mandatory Stop/Checkpoint

69. There will be a mandatory stop of 6 hours at the M'Clintock Checkpoint, roughly the halfway point of the race. At this time every team will be evaluated by HBQ veterinarian staff and a report forwarded to the designated Race Official for that checkpoint.

70. M'Clintock is the only checkpoint where dogs can be dropped. Any dogs dropped will be walked to the cabin by the musher and the paperwork completed with the veterinarian at the cabin. Musher will supply an 18-inch lead, enough food for 36 hours, and a dog bowl. A bag to contain all this material will be given to the musher when he reports to the cabin to drop the dog.

## Cut-Off Time

71. Halfway point cut-off time will be determined and registered mushers will be advised.

72. All mushers will have crossed the finish line 4 hours prior to the start of the Finisher's Banquet (Banquet scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017 at 18:00 CST). Any musher not finish by this time will be noted as "did not finish," and may be assisted by HBQ staff to the finish area.

## Finish Line

There will be two (2) finish lines as you enter the finish chute.

The first line will be the official time line and the musher's race time will stop when the first dog's nose crosses the line. **(Please do not stop at this line)**

The second line will be the public finish line where all the public will be standing to greet the team.

Please stop your team at the **Public Finish Line**.

Musher will be given 5 minutes to celebrate with spectators and the dog team.

Upon completion of the 5 minutes the HBQ Veterinarian staff will complete their vet checks and a mandatory sled bag check will be completed.

73. No part of the dog team will be permitted to be removed from the Finish Line until released by the Race Marshal or their designate.

74. Should any mandatory gear be missing, a 30 minute per item penalty will be added to the team's finish time.

## Sleeping Areas at Checkpoints

Sleeping areas for drivers are the responsibility of the drivers. At checkpoints, you can set up camp as designated by checkpoint staff but you must be self-sufficient.

There will be a hospitality tent for the drivers at the halfway checkpoint (M'Clintock).

Drivers setting up camp must clear the trail of their gear and dogs, be it at a checkpoint or along the trail.

The Hospitality Tent is not for sleeping in. It is there to warm up and dry items.

75. Drivers may not make demands for food or shelter along the trail or at checkpoints.

## Gillam Dog Yard

76. All dogs must remain in the dog yard at the completion of the race, except dogs being transferred to and from the veterinarian treatment centre and dogs that live in the Churchill area.