



COLORADO MOUNTAIN MUSHERS MUSHER ETIQUETTE CHAPTER 2

The Race Parking Lot

For some novice mushers, the parking area at a race can be very confusing.. Its sometimes very confusing to us seasoned mushers.. In the past, getting a good parking spot at a race involved getting up earlier than others and getting to the parking area first. Most races now have assigned parking. Some in Michigan put out pie plates all over the area with your name on them for your assigned parking. Most of the Colorado races that do assigned parking usually just do it by classes with the larger classes being up front and closer to the starting line. This makes it easier to get the larger teams up to the line.

When you get to the parking area, where ever you park, leave enough room between your truck and the ones on either side of you so people can walk between them with everyone's dogs out. And be sure to notice if the one's next to you have outriggers or not. If they do, they will need much extra room. Some novices at their first race, seem to park way out in the boonies. I suppose they feel since they are new people they should be outcast to the 'back 40'... Don't be afraid to park with your class. That way you will meet new people and can pick up tips from the trucks around you.

Where ever you park, it is very important that you park in the SAME spot the next day. The basic reason for this is so you or someone else doesn't transfer something that your dogs might have to other dogs. All dogs at one time or another seem to get the 'doggy flu' from traveling around to the various races.. Its more than polite to keep your 'sick' dog away from the other dogs.

The other reason for parking in the same spot the next day is that that is YOUR spot. If you wanted closer to the starting line or under a tree or something else, you should have gotten there earlier...:)



People use various things in their dog boxes for bedding from straw, hay and wood shavings. At some races that are in National Forest areas, the only straw or hay you can use is 'Certified'. Meaning that it doesn't contain any foreign weed seeds. Wood shavings are pretty much ok anywhere. Some areas don't care if you leave your straw etc., on the ground after the race is over. Some do.....

The biggest place to watch the bedding from coming out of your boxes is at the motel. There is always going to be some coming out when you put dogs in and out but try to keep it at a minimum. If a large amount does come out, carry a large trash bag with you and pick it up. Just like at the motel, don't drop your dogs at a race site and then walk off and leave them unattended. Anything can happen from broken chains to tangled or strangled dogs to someone just letting them loose.. Always stay around close enough to your truck you can keep an eye on them or have someone else watch them for you.

These are just a few tips. I'm sure other people have lots more to share with the beginners. The best thing beginners can do to get started in racing is to talk to EVERYONE... Talk to the old guys and to other beginners. Everyone has different ideas about everything in this sport. Ask all the questions you can, listen to everyone then sort it all out and use what works for you, your dogs, and your situation..

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