

The dog of the Eskimo is one of the oldest domesticated dogs known to mankind. They were put to work centuries ago and now they pull by instinct. Contrary to popular belief, they are not part wolf. The Krabloonik tradition, like that of Toklat, follows the original Arctic Eskimo style of large freighting teams used to haul supplies and people. The large teams usually pair male and female side by side in harness.

The driver holds no whip or rein. He commands the dogs verbally, using tone and inflection of his voice to control speed. These commands are "down" for lie down, "alright" for go, "gee" for right turn, "haw" for left turn, and "no" and "easy" are the same. Each driver has to establish his own rapport, mutual bond of love, respect, and discipline, all of which must be earned. The experience of driving a sled team is a physical, mental and emotional one beyond anything I know.

The dogs are bred and born here and until they are approximately 1 1/2 years old they do nothing but grow and play with the guests. Then they are placed in the middle of an experienced training team where they learn to follow in the footsteps of the older ones, figuratively and literally. After the adolescent dog learns commands and discipline, he is worked throughout the team until he learns all of the positions except lead, where he has to be groomed slowly. The positions of the team from front to back are lead, point, swing, intermediate, sub-wheel and wheel. I promote the versatility of the dogs by constantly rotating their positions and teams. A lead dog is capable of working all of the positions. The other dogs are not capable of leading because they are natural followers and have no desire to lead and they respect the leader for that trait.

Lead dogs are instinctively born leaders. It is not a trait that I can breed or train. Contrary to some of Jack London's ("Call of the Wild") writings, the lead dog is not always the biggest, strongest, meanest, or most intelligent one of the "pack." Quite often they are smallest and sensitive.

The dogs and driver become one and work as a team, the musher being the supervisor and the lead dog being the foreman, taking the commands and directions from the driver and putting them into action, often going against his own will to please the driver.

"When you take a sled trip you are witness to an example of the first teamwork between man and animal. The man driving the team is so close to nature—it is such a physical thing—he is dealing with something that is so very real. There is a ruggedness about it, a true pioneer spirit that we are able to see and identify—even if we're city dwellers. It's a unique experience and Krabloonik is the only large working sledding operation left in the world today . . ." Kit Mason, friend.

Dog sledding is 10% glamour and 90% hard work. My dog sledding business was a gift of love and is a "labor of love." Each dog costs about \$1.50 a day which covers food, minor vet bills and maintenance. The sled trips and kennel tours defray some costs, but not all. Thus the reason for the restaurant.

I didn't want a carbon copy of Toklat, though the business is, nevertheless, forced in that direction by the demands of the dogs. I have to do something to support

care and attention. It is my desire to preserve and promote the dying art of dog sledding.

For the last few years, I have competed in the Alaska's "Last Great Race—the Iditarod." 1,049 miles from Anchorage to Nome. It is indeed an adventure and a rewarding experience of driving my best dog sled team through the untamed wilderness of our 49th state.

We are planning to extend the opportunities at KRABLOONIK in Snowmass to include catering of special events. We plan to utilize a tent in the summer season where we can host weddings, birthday parties, business meetings and seminars, etc. We will customize a menu for your special event.

DAN MacEACHEN  
*Owner-Operator*

## DOG SLED RIDES

*(Available During the Winter Months)*  
**(303) 923-4342**

### *The Ride*

A scenic and exciting sled trip through the surrounding wilderness of the Snowmass/Aspen Area.

One sled, which can carry two adults and a small child is pulled by 13 Alaskan Sled Dogs. Each sled is controlled by an experienced musher, during your two hour ride.

### *Costs*

Our half-day trips (2 hrs.), include a complimentary 4 course lunch in our upstairs private dining room. Cost per adult is \$185.00 and for children 3-8 years, the charge is \$120.00. Children under 3 years old, not permitted on the ride.

### *Times*

IF YOU ARE TAKING THE MORNING RIDE, YOU MUST BE AT THE RESTAURANT AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP. At this time you are required to view a short video before departure at 9:00 A.M., returning approximately at 11:00 A.M., at which time your lunch hour begins.

The afternoon ride customers MUST BE AT THE RESTAURANT NO LATER THAN 12:30 P.M. At this time you are required to view a short video after the lunch hour. The sled ride will begin at 1:45 P.M. and return approximately 3:45 P.M.

### *Reservations*

**To confirm or hold a reservation a 100% advance deposit is required.**

### *New Adventure*

When you plan a trip to ALASKA, be sure to ask us about "dog sledding through the largest park in America, Wrangell/St. Elias National Park". Dan MacEachen and his ALASKAN Kennels are partaking of a joint venture with ULTIMA THULE OUTFITTERS of Chitina, Alaska. This is the "ultimate" in the last great frontier experience.

**FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, NO ONE IS PERMITTED IN THE KENNEL AREA WITHOUT THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF KRABLOONIK MANAGEMENT. WHEN ON A GUIDED TOUR, EVERYONE MUST REMAIN WITH THE KRABLOONIK EMPLOYEE.**

## TOURS OF THE KENNEL

*(Available During the Summer Months)*  
**(303) 923-3953**

### *Kennel Tour*

A guided educational tour of the working kennel. Special attention will be given to the inquisitive and those who like to pat furry heads.

### *Private Tours*

If you would like a private tour or have a large group, give us a call at (303)923-3953 or write to us at P.O. Box 5517, Snowmass Village, CO 81615.

### *Times*

Our kennels are closed on Mondays. On any other day of the week, the guide will meet you at the restaurant at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The tour runs approximately one hour, depending on how many questions are asked. We like to gear our tours to answering individual questions rather than telling you something you don't want to know.

### *Season*

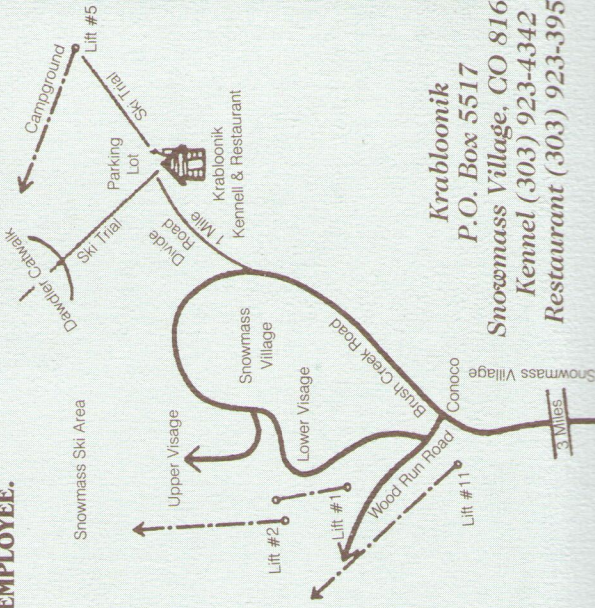
Tours of the kennel run from mid-June (when the kennels dry up from the long winter) to Labor Day. After that, special tours can be arranged.

### *Costs*

Children 12 and under are \$4.00. Those of us who are over 12 pay \$4.50. The little guys must be accompanied by an adult.

### *Reminder*

It is imperative that everyone stay with the guide. This is necessary because it is our desire to give you the best and most informative tour. Our "husky" family has a boisterous form of love which often makes it difficult for your guide to be heard. **FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, NO ONE IS PERMITTED IN THE KENNEL AREA WITHOUT THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF KRABLOONIK MANAGEMENT. WHEN ON A GUIDED TOUR, EVERYONE MUST REMAIN WITH THE KRABLOONIK EMPLOYEE.**



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Snowmass Village, CO 81615  
Kennel (303) 923-4342  
Restaurant (303) 923-3953