Social Codes of Conduct

The way we conduct ourselves today influences sled-dog access tomorrow.
Do your part to enhance our sports' image by following these guidelines.

Traverse open trails only.

- Respect road and trail closures [ask if unsure]
- Avoid trespassing on private lands
- Obtain permission or other authorisation as required
- Leave gates as you found them or as marked
- National Parks are closed to all dogs without special permission
- The way you approach your activity will influence trail access and land management decisions and policies

Leave no trace.

- Be sensitive in the areas you traverse
- Stay on existing trails and don't create unauthorised tracks
- Don't damage trackside vegetation and avoid wet, muddy areas which are more vulnerable to damage
- Stop! And pick up your dog waste and pack it out with you

Control your dogs.

- Regardless of the sled-dog sport you are engaged in, always maintain control of your dog/s or team/s, and always have a tethering / securing mechanism in place if needed

Yield the trail.

- Trails are used by many different recreationalists, and field workers
- Anticipate other trail users around corners and in blind spots
- Show respect when passing others by slowing down and/or stopping your dog/s or team/s
- Yield the trail to all whether on foot, bike, horseback, motorbike or vehicle
- Establish communication in order to pass safely – good trail etiquette
- Avoid conflict with other users by observing these guidelines

Respect wildlife / animals.

- All animals are startled by unannounced approach, sudden movement or loud noise
- This can be dangerous for you, the dogs, others and wildlife
- Give wildlife extra time to adjust to your presence
- When encountering horses, dismount from your rig and keep your dogs under control
- Always keep yourself between the horse and your dogs so the horse focuses on you
- Encourage equestrians to stay on the trail, and talk in soothing tones to horses as they pass

Plan ahead.

- Know your ability, your equipment and the area you are traversing
- Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear, take with you all necessary equipment for the situation and carry neck lines, snub lines water, etc
- Don’t forget the dog waste bags!
- Be self sufficient
- Select your times carefully to suit the weather conditions and to avoid or limit conflict with other trail users