



2007 action plan for efforts against the abuse of sledgedogs

This action plan is to ensure:

- **more information and local involvement with support from the government**
- **that all parties involved engage in closer cooperation with more dialogue and understanding for the wellbeing of sledgedogs.**

This will be implemented as follows:

• **Preparation of information material**

An information campaign and information material targeted at the individual parties. These are the users, municipalities, associations and the outside world. Information and guidance must

- provide information about the efforts currently being made, for example by the use of media spots, newspapers, radio and TV
- advise users on legislation, ordinary diseases, vaccines and types of medicine. These guidelines will be expanded to cover more points, describing for example conditions in areas for dogs, feeding etc.
- maintain local focus by preparing a type of "dog information package" and sending it to municipalities, the local divisions of the hunters and fishers' organisation KNAPK, local radio stations, and to the dogsledge drivers' association KNQK. The package must include an official version of the veterinary officer's travel report from towns and settlements in the sledgedog district.
- provide information about the history and importance of sledgedogs in Greenland over the last 50 - 100 years. By doing this, the status of the sledgedog as an important element in daily life and work should be promoted.

Information material has already been prepared, and will be processed professionally and sent to the parties involved as soon as possible.

• **Closer cooperation between municipalities and the Ministry of Family Affairs and Health in Greenland**

- When a veterinary officer makes an inspection in towns and settlements, meetings with residents are held in collaboration with the municipality, KNAPK and other interest organisations.
- The municipalities call a meeting with residents, attended by the mayor, the police, veterinarians etc., and perhaps Mr Arkalo Abelsen, Member of the Greenland Government.

The administration of Greenland Home Rule Government will meet KANUKOKA, where general initiatives in the municipalities are to be discussed. Pursuant to section 5 of the *lov om slædehundehold*₁ (the

Sledge Dog Act), municipalities are already responsible for issuing the orders and bans considered necessary to comply with requirements placed on the dog owners. For instance, dogs must be treated considerately, they must be fed and given water, and they must have access to a dry area etc. For example, the sledgedog inspector from the municipality can receive instructions in the field, and afterwards make inspections in the areas for which the municipality is jointly responsible.

- The administration of Greenland Home Rule Government will meet the individual municipalities and debate ideas and proposals on where the municipality can make extra efforts. See Annex 1.

Formal education and training of sledgedog inspectors and preparation of material for the inspectors will call for resources.

The municipality may come up with ideas for extra efforts in this area.

- **Closer cooperation between the police and the Ministry of Family Affairs and Health**

- The administration of Greenland Home Rule Government has contacted the police as a follow-up to previous initiatives.

In the past the administration of Greenland Home Rule Government and the police have agreed on procedures, which are to ensure more efficient case-processing in connection with reports and follow-up of these reports.

The police and the veterinary officers already cooperate closely.

The veterinary officers attend meetings at police stations and often travel with police boats, when inspections are to be carried out in settlements.

- **Closer cooperation between the local divisions of the national associations of the hunters and fishers' organisation, KNAPK, the dog-sledge drivers' association KNQK and the Ministry of Family Affairs and Health.**

- The administration of Greenland Home Rule Government will meet KNAPK and KNQK. Including a proposal on incorporating animal protection regulations in the racing rules at the Greenlandic dogsledge championship will be presented.
- The veterinary officer will meet the local dogsledge drivers' associations, when making inspections.
- The administration of Greenland Home Rule Government will be present at the Greenlandic dogsledge championship.

The Administration of Greenland Home Government will contact KNAPK and KNQK as soon as possible. Then local meetings can be arranged, when the veterinarians are visiting the sledge dog district.

- **Improved data collection and preparation of statistics.**

- Preparation of inspection reports for veterinarians and municipalities, which later can be used for statistics for this area.

¹ Greenland Home Rule Parliament Act no. 18 of 30 October 1998 on sledge dogs and keeping dogs and cats

- Preparation of statistics from the inspection reports of the municipalities and veterinarians, reports to the police and legal decisions.

Statistics will be used to assess whether the action plan has been successful.

Annex 1

Discussion paper for the municipality and the veterinary office

In accordance with section 5 of Greenland Home Rule Parliament Act no. 18 of 30 October 1998 on sledge dogs and keeping dogs and cats, the municipal council must issue the orders and bans that are considered necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements stipulated in sections 7, 9, 10, section 13(1), and sections 15, 16, 19 or in the regulations laid down pursuant to these.

This means that the municipality is also co-responsible for inspecting that anyone who keeps dogs, also feeds them, gives them water and looks after them taking into account their physiological, behavioural and health-related needs, see section 15.

Furthermore, the municipality has a joint responsibility with regard to the duty to keep records, see section 6 of Greenland Home Rule Parliament Act, no. 9 of 13 June 1994 on Access to Public Administration. This means records of dog licences and land allotment.

A discussion paper for municipalities with requests for topics that could be brought up in the cooperation, could for example include:

- the municipality preparing a municipal draft by-law on cats and dogs.
- the municipality making it clear that dog inspectors must supervise dog keeping within the existing powers of the municipality.
- the municipality introducing some sort of introduction course/training on employment of dog inspectors, so new inspectors are acquainted with the legislation, and gain basic knowledge of the behaviour and well-being of sledgedogs.
- the municipality preparing a fixed procedure for inspection of the dog inspectors. A plan for inspection could be prepared, so it will be possible to collect data on the status of dog keeping for statistical purposes.
- the municipality keeping precise records of who has been allotted land and where.
- the municipality carefully considering which land areas are approved as dog areas. By this we mean knowledge about the terrain, so that wetlands are avoided.
- the municipality providing "dog packages" when someone is approval to keep dogs. A dog package could include
 - Guidelines for dog owners. The veterinary office has guidelines, where diseases, vaccines and types of medicine are described. These guidelines will be expanded with more points, describing for example conditions in dog areas etc.
 - Legislation for this area with advice on how to meet this legislation.
 - Information on where to search for more information.

- the municipality issuing the orders and bans in accordance with Greenland Home Rule Parliament Act no. 18 of 30 October 1998 on sledgedogs and keeping dogs and cats when dog inspectors make their inspections.
- the municipality preparing procedures for when and how a police report is to be made, if the violations exceed the municipality's own authority.
- the municipality having procedures to follow-up its own cases or reported cases.