

# THE TRIPOD

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

September 2014

## Alaska State Fair

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance had a tent at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer from August 21 to September 1. The tent



was staffed by Alliance board members and personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service and the state Department of Natural Resources. Through their efforts many Fair visitors learned about the history of the Iditarod Trail and about the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance.



Inside the tent some Fair visitors from New Zealand learn about the Iditarod Trail.

Of course you can't go to the Alaska State Fair without taking a look at the winner of the Giant Alaska's Midnight Sun



The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes public awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native heritage by encouraging education programs and historical research, assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of the trail, developing partnerships that foster stewardship commitments and support from land owners, local communities, organizations and others.

### The trail for all seasons



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Great Pumpkin Weight Off. This year's winner weighed in at 1,283.5 pounds.

## “Right to Mush”

Governor Sean Parnell has signed Alaska House Concurrent Resolution 24 (shown below).

Nome residents Diana Haecker and Nils Hahn drafted the resolution.

Haecker and Hahn run their own kennel and modeled the resolution on the nation’s “right to farm” statues which protect farmers and ranchers from nuisance lawsuits complaining of farming related activities like noise and smell.

Alaska’s “right to mush” resolution is not statutory, but rather signifies the Legislature’s support of mushing and its significance to the culture and people of Alaska.

28th Legislature(2013-2014)

### Bill Text 28th Legislature

00 Enrolled HCR 24

01 Recognizing, honoring, supporting, and encouraging support for dog mushing and dog  
02 mushers in the state.

03

04 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

05 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is the official sport of the state, and both Native and non-  
06 Native persons participate in the sport; and

07 **WHEREAS** persons who engage in dog mushing help to preserve the culture and  
08 tradition of dog mushing, which has been practiced in the state for thousands of years; and

09 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is an important thread in the fabric of life in this state and is  
10 an important part of the spiritual well-being and cultural identity of the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** dog mushing is not only a sport but also a way of life, with roots in  
12 ancient times when humans first bonded with animals; and

13 **WHEREAS**, before mechanized means of transportation arrived in the state, the  
14 relationship between humans and animals enabled residents of the state to populate the state  
15 and to live, hunt, and thrive in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals want  
17 to eliminate the sport of dog mushing and the dog mushing way of life and have asked people  
01 not to patronize companies that sponsor dog mushing or tours that include dog mushing; and

02 **WHEREAS** dog mushing races attract millions of fans and tourists from around the  
03 world and contribute to the economies of the state and communities in the state; and

04 **WHEREAS** dog mushing contributes to the state's image as the last frontier and  
05 provides excitement and purpose locally; and

06 **WHEREAS** dog mushing, whether in races or for recreation, contributes to the pride,  
07 spirit, physical well-being, and cultural identity of fans and dog mushers alike; and

08 **WHEREAS** dog mushers who treat their dogs humanely and maintain humane dog  
09 kennels need the support of the people of the state so they can preserve the tradition and  
10 culture of dog mushing for future generations;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes this state as a "right  
12 to mush" state and recognizes the practice of dog mushing to be a part of the past, present, and  
13 future culture of the state; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the grit and  
15 tenacity of dog mushers who brave miles of open wild country in harsh weather conditions;  
16 and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports dog mushing in  
18 the state and encourages the people of the state to support dog mushers so they can preserve  
19 the tradition and culture of dog mushing for future generations.