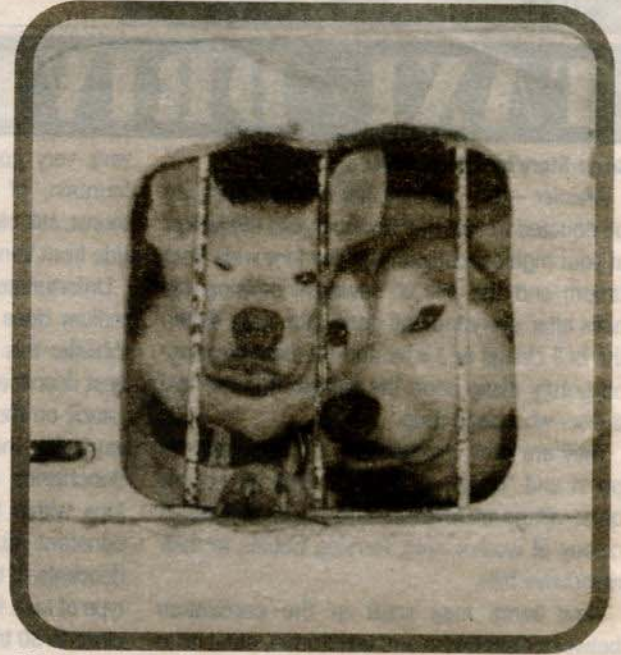


gone to the dogs?

ott Birke
 local resident is so
 erned over a tour
 any housing its sled
 operation near his home
 e Soo Valley, he's written
 als at nearly every level
 government from the
 cipality up.
 anwhile the SPCA has
 rmed they're looking
 he animals' treatment.
 ough David Williams —
 nly resident living near
 enured area used by
 mte Recreation Ltd. for
 71 animal sled dog
 tion — is concerned it
 ges on a migratory route
 al wildlife, his chief beef
 dogs are held two to a
 stacked on top of each
 when they're not off
 g sleds full of tourists.
 says there should be a
 anent year-round
 y constructed for them
 gravel pit they currently
 y.

"Those dogs bust their
 backs all day, then they're
 back in a box for the night,"
 Williams said. "If you're going
 to run those dogs, you just
 can't stick them anywhere."
 He's also worried if the
 dogs escape from their
 temporary housing, as some
 on the site from a different
 company had done years
 before, they'll terrorize
 livestock and pose a danger
 to him and his family.
 Eric Sinclair, co-owner of
 dog tour operator Malamute
 Recreation Ltd., confirmed
 the dogs were being housed
 two to a cage, stacked on top
 of each other, but they have
 enough space to turn around.
 Still he says, they're let out
 frequently on a "strict drop
 schedule" — up to six times a
 day — to relieve themselves.
 "That's the accepted
 practice for sled dog racing,"
 he says. "There's some
 people you just can't

convince."
 He shrugs off the idea his
 dogs aren't being treated
 well. Sinclair says his
 standards greatly exceed
 those of the industry, which
 due to criticism, are now so
 high they're almost overkill. "I
 like to use the term slick,"
 said Sinclair. "This is a slick
 operation. You can pick up
 any of the dogs here and see
 they're clean and healthy."
 Sinclair sent a letter to
 Pemberton Council in
 December requesting they
 consider allowing him to
 move his operation from its
 current Soo Valley location, to
 a temporary location on the
 bare land near the
 Pemberton Airport. At its
 January 4 meeting, Council
 supported the motion. Since
 then things have changed.
 "From what I understand,
 he's staying in the Soo
 Valley," said Mayor Elinor
 Warner at Pemberton
 Council's meeting last
 Tuesday. "It's not an issue."
 After receiving complaints
 about the operation a
 volunteer agent with the
 SPCA, who asked not to be
 named, visited the site with
 an RCMP officer. She then
 informed the SPCA regional
 office in Kamloops there
 needed to be an
 investigation.
 Carl Ottosen, Field Services
 Coordinator of the SPCA in
 Kamloops, says he has been
 notified by one of their local



Sled dogs in the Soo Valley two to a crate. SPCA photo.

volunteer agents of the dog-
 housing situation, but before
 pursuing this case further,
 they have to determine what
 the normal living conditions
 are for sled dogs. Until then,
 he says, he won't comment
 on the Malamute Recreation
 Ltd. case.
 "Concerns might be that
 people are comparing [the
 way sled dog operators treat
 their animals to the way they
 would treat their own dog,"
 said Ottosen, though he says
 they have had other
 complaints concerning sled
 dog operations in the past.
 The volunteer SPCA agent
 said she was concerned the
 dogs used by Malamute
 Recreation Ltd. weren't even
 sled dogs. Sinclair says the
 problem is one of public
 misconception.
 "People's perceptions of
 sled dogs are that they're big
 Siberian Huskies, and they're

built to withstand
 temperatures of 40 below in
 Alaska. You take a dog like
 that and put it here and they'll
 just expire," says Sinclair.
 "This person, who says she
 represents the SPCA, has
 come right out and said she
 doesn't support dogsledding.
 Based on that, she can't be
 objective. We're not
 representing the industry as
 a whole. If she's got a
 problem she better be
 prepared to take on the
 whole industry."

Dog tired?

Whistler — The most recent survey done by the International
 Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS) found:
 There are nearly 46,000 dog teams throughout the world
 mushing events and races total nearly 5,000
 Total prize money at these competitions is over \$2.2 million
 Endurance dogs are capable of running 30 hours with
 minimal breaks
 During the Iditarod — the Boston marathon of dog
 racing — a team of 16 dogs will consume 10,000 calories
 per day
 For most racing, dogs will rest on a one to one ratio: 3 to
 4 hours on, 3 to 6 hours off.

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Feb. 3 answers

WIMPS	LAMB	STEED	ERRS	
AWAIT	EPEE	ARUBA	XOUT	
DOWN	AREEDY	ROGER	MUDDY	
SMERY	RIO	APER	LEDE	
REE	TANK	INACT		
EMERS	SUNDANCE	SHAGS		
LOVE	CARD	TEAS	PANELS	
LOVEMATE	PAWL	SEETOIT		
GRIT	ASS	PAR	DAHL	RNA
HOUS	MATTINES	JIGGS		
EGGAR	PILINAMES	FRESH		
POSSE	ENSNARED	NOED		
ITT	EDIE	WAR	COX	UTE
SHOWN	IN	PHIS	CALYPSO	
CANADA	ALOT	NOVA	AHAS	
NUCH	CANTON	TRYTO		
TWENTY	YOGI	TOA		
SPEED	REEL	LAW	OPRAIL	
PUFFY	DADDY	ALGER	HISSY	
ALOU	ATOOT	DEUS	ATONE	
MERL	DONNE	ASPC	TENTS	

19 Who & Why?

309 Skiers Approach, Whistler, B.C. VON 1B4 Phone: 604.935.3113 Fax: 604.935.3114,

I was 73 dogs
 If they were racing
 dogs would not
 kept 24-7 in
 accommodations
 the time for a

They are not
 let out up to 6
 times a day!!
 I never said
 I didn't support

A year around
 facility has never
 been constructed
 to this day!!