



## Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Packing



### Requirements for Excellent Level Certification

The Draft Group of the WDP is designed to recognize Chinooks that demonstrate ability in common working and pulling disciplines. The Packing section rewards achievement in working ability and versatility for the Chinook.

The Excellent level is designed for dogs that demonstrate superior achievement in packing. These dogs are capable of sustained back-country hiking in any terrain while remaining focused on their job and handler.

The WDP supports working responsibly with your Chinook in packing – physical and mental abuse are expressly prohibited. No action or inaction that causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog is allowed. If a dog is tentative or nervous when fitted with its pack or weight, yelling at it or forcing it to be dragged along is not only abusive, it is counterproductive and will lead to an insecure dog.

A dog must meet the following requirements to be awarded the Excellent Pack Dog certificate and title:

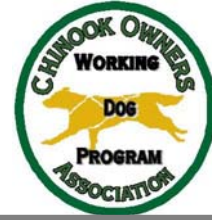
1. **Weight:** At the beginning of the trip, the load must be a minimum of 25% and a maximum of 30% of the dog's weight. Weight in the pack may decrease throughout the trip due to consumption of food and water.
2. **Location:** Trips must be
  - a. Backcountry in a remote area inaccessible and unsuited to vehicular traffic
    - Suitable locations include national forests, parks, hiking trails and undeveloped natural terrain.
  - b. Executed with the dog carrying necessary equipment.
3. **Camping:** A minimum of two overnight campouts are required.
4. **Distance:** Dogs must
  - a. Travel a distance of 100 miles.
  - b. Hike a minimum of 10 miles per trip.
    - For overnight trips, dogs must complete 5 miles per day
  - c. Hike at least one trip of 20+ miles
  - d. Complete qualifying trips on at least three different trails.

Notes:

- Dogs under 1 year old are NOT eligible to earn this title.
- Owners and dogs must “leave no sign” from hikes – all trash and stool must be packed out and disposed of properly.



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- The dog's weight will be verified at a veterinary service by a member of the staff within a month of the first hike. All subsequent hikes must be completed within three months of the weight certification or the weight must be re-confirmed at a veterinary service.
- Pack trips must occur on natural terrain such as hiking trails or cross-country.
- Elevation may be substituted for mileage in the following manner: 1,000 feet of elevation gain is equivalent to 1 mile of flat terrain. Elevation gain will be calculated as the difference between the highest and lowest points of the trip.
- The handler must include narratives and maps of each trip.
- New technologies frequently become available to document distances and locations (e.g., mapping tools, ipod apps, etc.). Please consult with the Committee prior to using any of these tools on qualifying runs to ensure their eligibility.
- Photos must be used to document the trips.
- Handlers are responsible for complying with local leash laws.

### Excellent Pack Dog Application Checklist:

To apply for the certification, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Excellent Pack Dog Form, signed by handler.
- Weight Certification Form for dog from a veterinary service
- Map of locations and distances traveled.
- 3 Photos for each packing trip showing:
  1. Start
  2. Estimated farthest point of trip from start
  3. Finish
- Photo of the campsite for at least 2 overnight camps
- \$5 application fee (check or paypal).
- Extra documentation can expedite review, such as:
  1. Additional photos / videos of the dog packing
  2. Detailed narratives of the trips from the musher
  3. Maps with attached geotagged photos