



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Packing



Requirements for Advanced 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 Advanced level is designed for dogs that demonstrate mastery of the key skills in packing. These dogs should be trained and capable of going out on successful hikes frequently with their handler. Some characteristics of this level of packing competency include the ability for a dog to perform successfully on unfamiliar trails in new terrain, over varying distances. They should understand the “rules of the trail” and be able to pass by distractions while keeping with their handler under all circumstances. These dogs are good role models for other Chinooks working towards Novice Pack Dog certification.

The WDP supports working with Chinooks responsibly 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 Advanced Pack Dog certificate and title:

1. Weight: At the beginning of the trip, the load must be a minimum of 20% of the dog’s weight. Weight in the pack may decrease throughout the trip due to consumption of food and water.
2. Distance: Dogs must
 - a. Travel a distance of 50 miles.
 - b. Hike a minimum of 5 miles per trip.
 - For overnight trips, dogs must complete at least 5 miles per day
 - c. Complete qualifying trips on at least three different trails.

Notes:

- 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. Puppies under 1 year old must have weight confirmed at a veterinarian service within a week of each hike to ensure they are not overburdened.



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- Owners and dogs must “leave no sign” from hikes – all trash and stool must be packed out and disposed of properly.
- 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 figured as the difference between the highest and lowest points of the trip.
- The handler must include narratives and maps of each trip. Photos/videos of dogs during trips are encouraged.
- 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.

Advanced Pack Dog Application Checklist:

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

- Advanced 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
- \$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