



Zuma's
Paw Prints

WE HAVE SNOW !

November 7, 2006

Hi Boys & Girls,

We have snow on the ground here at Iditarod Headquarters. It is all nice and white. It isn't real deep, but it is deep enough for me to toss snow on everyone when they go outside. I run really fast and kick out with my back feet as I go by which throws the snow all over them. I love this game. I don't understand why they sometimes don't like to play this with me. I would not mind if they threw snow on me. You humans are so hard to understand sometimes. I am hoping for more snow so there will be enough for me to build a snow-dog. That will be lots of fun. I will build it at the end of the walk so it can greet everyone coming to Headquarters.

Well, DeeDee Jonrowe is back in Alaska after her first attempt at the Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. She had to withdraw because she didn't do the swim in the prescribed time. There were several who had a hard time this year since they had to swim against a strong tide. DeeDee and the others were not afraid to fail and got out there and tried. That is very important, boys and girls. You should never be so afraid of failing that you never try something new. Here in Alaska, they are calling DeeDee the "Iron Woman" which makes her blush.

We have 94 mushers signed up for the 2007 Iditarod. We are expecting about 10 or 12 more before the deadline on December 1. Right now there are eleven (11) mushers from other countries signed up. There are 23 mushers from other states. Of the 93 mushers signed up, there are 14 women and 80 men and there are 35 rookies and 59 veterans from previous Iditarod races. Some of the rookies still have to get one or both of their qualifying races behind them. If they can't do that, they will have to withdraw. We always have about 15 or so withdrawals before the race, so I think we will have about 85 mushers starting on March 3 in Anchorage.

The Idita-Rider Auction is going on and will continue until late January. People can bid for a ride in the sled of a musher for the 1st eleven miles of the Iditarod Race. It is really exciting to be at the start line and hear the countdown and then there you go up the snow covered street. You can watch the bidding at <http://www.iditaroduction.com/>. When you get there, find the directory on the lower left side of the screen and choose "View All Categories". Bid amounts that in bold print means that there is a bid on that musher for that amount.

These bids will change again and again before the auction is over so you might want to check back every so often to see how things are going.

Things are gearing up for the 2007 race. The web site is being worked on and improvements are being made that will make it easier to navigate around the site. The "Insider" (pay for view site) is also being improved. They learned a lot last year and plan to make improvements to that "pay to view" site as well. There will still have great videos from before the race and all the way through the banquet in Nome. Tell your folks about it. It is only \$19.95 for the whole year. You can go back all year long and look at the videos again and again. I'll bet you will find something new every time you watch one of them.

It is 5 above outside now so I am going to go play in the snow. It is a clear day with a beautiful blue sky. After I come back inside, perhaps I can talk someone into ordering a pizza! I want a turkey pizza for Thanksgiving. What are you boys and girls looking for at your Thanksgiving dinner?

Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma