

Kontiki Reisen – Animal Welfare Agreement

between

Kontiki Reisen

Bahnhofstrasse 31

5400 Baden

SWITZERLAND

(hereinafter referred to as «**Principal**»)

and

Name/company of Supplier

Address

Postal Code, Town

Country

(hereinafter referred to as: «**Supplier**»)

hereinafter jointly referred to as the «**Parties**»

PREAMBLE

Kontiki Reisen strives to ensure animal welfare in all its activities. All experiences we offer and partners we work with must promote the well-being of the animals and protect them from exploitation, neglect and cruel treatment. To this end, we implement a strict animal welfare policy. This document outlines minimum requirements for the use and welfare of domestic dog breeds used in a working capacity as sled dogs, which all our suppliers must abide by. This Animal Welfare Framework for Sled Dogs defines requirements consistent with the extended Five Domains Model by Mellor & Beausoleil (2015), and industry best practice criteria. The criteria were created in collaboration with industry partners such as husky kennels, and ANIMONDIAL, experts in animal and nature protection in tourism. The complete version of **Kontiki's Animal Welfare Framework for Sled Dogs** including background information and possible best practice criteria will be sent to suppliers upon request.

Kontiki Reisen expects its suppliers to be familiar with the criteria outlined below and ensure they are implemented and respected. The policy is meant to work in harmony with regulations and guidelines at regional, national, or international levels. Stricter regulation shall always apply. By signing, the supplier commits to undertake all obligations and responsibilities as outlined in **chapter 5 of the Kontiki Reisen Animal Welfare Framework for Sled Dogs**.

The Parties are Contracting Parties. All contracts concluded and in force between the Contracting Parties shall be supplemented by this Supplementary Agreement.

1. Organisation, Staff and Emergency Protocol

- 1.1 The supplier has a valid government-issued license to operate.
- 1.2 The supplier has an adequate number of sufficiently qualified staff for the size of the business and number of dogs.
- 1.3 The staff contracts ensure a fixed minimum monthly pay or guaranteed working hours per month for all employees. Exceptions may apply to volunteers. Unpaid volunteers receive contractually agreed-upon compensation for their work, e.g. free lodging and/or meals.
- 1.4 The supplier has a training plan that ensures that all personnel working with the animals have a good understanding of animal welfare principles and how they are applied.
- 1.5 Guides must be experienced enough to be able to sufficiently handle the dogs.

- 1.6 The supplier has an emergency plan that covers different forms of incidents (injuries of the dogs/guests, accidents, equipment malfunctions, extreme weather, fire outbreak, dogs fighting, etc.). The supplier ensures that staff or another form of appropriate support is available in the area in case of emergency.
- 1.7 Staff are trained for emergencies.
- 2. Animal Welfare Safeguards**
- 2.1 The supplier acknowledges a commitment to animal welfare.
- 2.2 The supplier guarantees that no animals who are young (<1yrs), injured, ill, distressed, or fatigued will be used for work.
- 2.3 Animals are trained and worked within their willingness and physical capabilities, with regular daily rest periods and health checks.
- 2.4 The supplier ensures that the animals are fed, cared for and housed in a manner appropriate to their species, breed and needs. The dogs receive individual treatment and housing based on personality.
- 2.5 The supplier monitors, recognises and respects social grouping and compatibility.
- 2.6 In handling and training the animals, the supplier avoids and reduces negative emotions such as fear, sadness, frustration or apathy and promotes positive emotions such as security or contentment.
- 2.7 Animals are handled with respect and humanely.
- 2.8 Dogs are never handled using methods that could harm the animal or scare them.
- 3. Records**
- 3.1 The supplier maintains an up-to-date list of all their animals, including births, deaths and rehoming.
- 3.2 Veterinary records are maintained for each individual, including, as a minimum, vaccinations, medication, injuries, illnesses, and where deaths occur, date of and reason for death.
- 3.3 All records are identifiable through a unique number, or animal's name.
- 3.4 A daily log records at least: hours worked and participation in tours / total distance run. The record is available for the past 12 months (or, if this agreement has been signed less than 12 months ago, for the time period since signing).
- 4. Tour Planning**
- 4.1 The supplier ensures compatibility between guests, dogs and tours (this includes weight, age, experience/skills of the guests, length and difficulty of the tour).
- 4.2 During overnight safaris, the supplier takes appropriate measures to ensure the animals are comfortable, have food and access to clean water, and are protected from extreme weather and cold.
- 5. Equipment**
- 5.1 Equipment (harness, leash, etc.) is appropriate and fits the animals and does not cause distress or injury.
- 5.2 Equipment is in working order and cleaned and dried, if necessary.
- 5.3 Equipment is repaired or replaced as soon as it becomes worn or damaged.
- 5.4 Sled equipment must allow mushers to stop and remain stationary on trails.
- 5.5 No electrical or metal collars with pins, or other pain-inducing equipment is used.
- 6. Nutrition**
- 6.1 All animals have access to appropriate high-quality food and clean, fresh water both in the kennel and when on tours. Feeding occurs at least two times a day. Drinking water is regularly checked and refilled to prevent freezing.
- 6.2 Food is of an adequate amount that is suitable for the animal's sex, age, size, body condition, activity level, and reproductive and health status.
- 7. Housing**
- 7.1 Every dog has a doghouse available that is safe, insulated, includes clean and dry bedding, is of an appropriate size to allow a dog to turn around, and provides shelter from extreme weather. Ideally, it has a platform to lie on top.
- 7.2 The kennel, pen or shelter is weatherproof and raised off the ground, allowing dogs to shelter in a dry, draught free and comfortable area.
- 7.3 The kennel is designed so that dogs can express normal and species-appropriate behaviour, with proper facilities and enrichment materials, and contact with other dogs.
- 7.4 The kennel area provides sufficient space, is free of excessive artificial noise and provides a stress-free environment for the dogs.
- 7.5 Enclosures, food storage, preparation and treatment facilities are hygienic, well maintained and safe.
- 7.6 The kennel has security surveillance (staff in immediate proximity or surveillance cameras).

- 8. Tethering**
- 8.1 Tethering or chaining as a method of (permanent) confinement is discouraged. If still in use, the kennel should have a plan to phase out tethering confinement in favour of pen structures.
 - 8.2 If used, the tether must provide a means for the dog to walk, lie down and stand up (without tension on the tether) and to reach food, water and shelter at all times.
 - 8.3 No dogs <1 year are tethered.
- 9. Physical Health and Provision of Healthcare**
- 9.1 The animals are healthy, within an appropriate weight range (Score 4, 5 or 6 acc. on the Body Condition Score Guidelines by ISDVMA).
 - 9.2 The animals' physical and mental well-being is monitored daily by the tour guides and dog handlers to spot any changes or stress-related behaviours. Tour guides and dog handlers must receive appropriate training in this matter.
 - 9.3 Animals are protected from pain, injury and disease by health planning, prevention, rapid diagnosis and treatment and avoidance of unnecessary procedures.
 - 9.4 The supplier has a vet or contracts a vet who provides curative treatment and routine healthcare, ensuring vaccination and worming protocols are kept up to date.
 - 9.5 The animals have access to at least one annual health check.
 - 9.6 The supplier has the possibility of placing sick/injured dogs indoors.
 - 9.7 Handlers are trained in basic first aid for dogs and humans.
- 10. Expression of Normal Behaviour and Social Interaction**
- 10.1 The dogs have daily opportunity to interact and socialise with other dogs off-tether or go on a walk/tour.
 - 10.2 The dogs have free-running exercise or playtime with other dogs at least once a week, weather permitting, including in summertime.
 - 10.3 Enrichment and stimulation are provided (through feeding procedures, toys, exercise, social interaction).
- 11. Work, Rest Periods and Training**
- 11.1 A dog must be at least 1 year old before it starts to work.
 - 11.2 Dogs have an appropriate rest period between tours and for at least one full day per week.
 - 11.3 During rest periods all dog harnesses are removed, and the dogs have the opportunity to interact and socialise with other dogs.
 - 11.4 Training starts at least 3 months before the first full-length tour, if the weather permits.
- 12. Euthanasia, Retirement and Rehoming**
- 12.1 The supplier has a written euthanasia policy.
 - 12.2 An animal may not be killed without reasonable cause, such as terminal illness, critical distress, serious injury, genetic or congenital defect, overall exhaustion/weakness, old age or if all possible avenues to rehome/retire the dog have been exhausted and were unsuccessful.
 - 12.3 An animal may only be killed under effective analgesia (stunning) in a state of insensibility or otherwise, as far as reasonable under the given circumstances, only under avoidance of pain.
 - 12.4 An animal may only be killed by someone who has the necessary knowledge and skills to do so: a registered veterinarian does so in accordance with the standards of the practice of veterinary medicine, an agent authorised and instructed by a veterinary, or an agent with a suitable license.
- 13. Breeding**
- 13.1 Breeding is planned while maintaining good animal welfare.
 - 13.2 Weaning of young occurs naturally.
- 14. Visitor Information**
- 14.1 Customers receive instructions on animal welfare, safety and humane handling in German or basic English. Alternatively: written instructions are displayed in German/French.
 - 14.2 Customers are advised only to touch or feed those dogs that are open to contact.
 - 14.3 Poor driving styles and harmful animal handling practices including jerking of reins, harsh stops and direction changes and whipping are not permitted. Staff intervenes, if necessary.

☐ Suppliers who **do not yet comply with individual requirements** of Kontiki Reisen's minimum requirements have the opportunity to commit to a **program to improve standards**. By signing up, the supplier commits to undertake appropriate remedial measures to fulfil all requirements until a mutually agreed-upon date. If you wish to participate in the improvement program, please check this box and submit a detailed plan of action (measures and timeline) in the Appendix. Kontiki Reisen is happy to assist in this process.

☐ In exceptional and justified cases, Kontiki Reisen may exempt partners from their obligation to fulfil certain criteria, as long as the partner's practices a) fulfil the overall purpose of the criterion (e.g. provide shelter for the animal from extreme weather and cold), and b) align with Kontiki's general requirements for animal welfare. If you wish to be exempt from fulfilling one or more criteria, please tick this box and provide further details (criterion concerned and reasoning) in the table in Appendix. Please submit this document to cr@kontiki.ch. Kontiki staff will review the request and get in touch.

SIGNATURE

The supplier hereby confirms to have read and understood the requirements of Kontiki Reisen's Animal Welfare Agreement for Sled Dogs (2024 Version) and to accept and follow all rules and obligations outlined. If not all requirements are met thus far, the supplier commits to the improvement program or requests a derogation.

Place, Date

Place, Date

on behalf of the Principal

on behalf of the Supplier

Appendix – Plan of Improvement

By signing up for the improvement program, the supplier or subcontractor commits to undertake appropriate remedial measures to fulfil all minimum requirements until a predefined date. The partner must submit a plan and a concrete timeline to Kontiki Reisen accordingly. This time frame will be decided on individual basis. Kontiki Reisen verifies the implementation of the measures and compliance with the animal welfare policy during the implementation period, as well as after the deadline. During the implementation period, Kontiki Reisen will continue to conduct business with the supplier. If the partner is not able to implement the agreed-upon measures on time, an extension may be granted, or, if no other solution is found, Kontiki Reisen reserves the right to terminate the contract.

CRITERION CURRENTLY NOT FULFILLED (NUMBER)	MEASURES	DUE DATE