

# Tundra's Run



Through the eyes of a sled dog puppy we follow *Tundra* growing up in a kennel, struggling to find his position within all of the dogs and becoming part of the team. We experience the intense relationship between the musher and the young dog from the very beginning up to *Tundra's* first sled dog race.



## Background

Sled dogs, an essential part of Northern culture, have been working with humans for centuries. Modern day mushers still breed and train huskies for recreational use, and to run races up to 1000 miles. The mushers themselves are a very special “breed” with a distinct and different lifestyle.

## Story

After opening his eyes, *Tundra* sees all the wonders around him: the other puppies in the litter, his mother, the other dogs in the kennel and the humans. The film follows the life of this sled dog puppy as he grows up, starts to train and runs his first race.

Living and working with the others, the new experiences, the socializing, education and training are all important learning steps for the young dog. There are fights in the kennel, he might get injured during the training — not everything runs smoothly.

*Tundra* has to develop relationships not only within the kennel, but also with the musher, the dog handlers and the human family. Will *Tundra* be fast enough to make it in the racing team? Will he be a lead dog? Or will he be sold to another musher?

## Goal

Many of the lessons *Tundra* learns are transferable to the viewer's human world, work place and the teamwork within. To be able to work in a team is important in all aspects of life. *Tundra* and his team show us how. This film also gives the viewer an insight in the year-round lifestyle of a musher, his family and his dogs.

## Visuals

The shooting angles will be very low, out of the POV of *Tundra*. Other dogs and the humans will therefore appear extremely large. This offers interesting close-ups and perspectives. As *Tundra* gets older, the shooting angles are shifting. Dogs and humans are not as large anymore, and younger puppies are even smaller than *Tundra*. The POV of the humans is recorded from their eye levels. We will also use lipstick cameras for very unique viewpoints.

## Audio

Many of the signals exchanged between *Tundra*, the other dogs or the musher are on the acoustic level. There is puppy yawping as well as excited howling—it is all about acoustic signals. A child, a teenager and a young adult narrator translate *Tundra's* feelings into human voices. Total quietness of the North contrasts sharply with the excitement of howling dogs. Out on the trail one can only hear paws touching the snow, breathing of dogs and the sound of runners moving along the trail. A command from the musher, and the lead dog turns the team right. For team building, voice and words are important factors.

## Personal interest in “Tundra's Run”

For more than 20 years, my wife and I operated a Siberian Husky kennel. We trained and raced our team, and we raised litters of puppies. I am still passionate about sled dogs and have great relationships with many mushers in the Yukon. I am also attracted to the important team-building component of mushing.

## Target Audiences

- Children/Youth
- Dog lovers
- Outdoor adventurers
- People who love the North
- People of the circumpolar regions
- Leaders of groups/organizations

**With Broadcaster support, this project is eligible for up to \$35,000 from the Yukon Film Development Fund, and for up to \$500,000 from the Yukon Film Production Fund.**

Contact:

**Werner Walcher**

**Fresh From The Yukon Inc.**  
PRODUCTIONS

Box 10287 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 7A1 Canada

tel 867 668 2883 email [info@yukonimages.com](mailto:info@yukonimages.com)

fax 867 668 3275 [www.yukonimages.com](http://www.yukonimages.com)