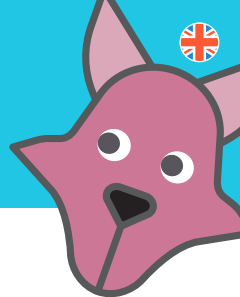


DO YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE A PROFESSIONAL MUSHER IN LAPLAND?

FIND OUT!



You get one point for each correct answer.

On the back of the card, you can find the correct answers.

1. The dogs used on safaris in Lapland are mainly Siberian and Alaskan huskies.
2. Dogs start pulling sleds at the age of six months.
3. Dog sled teams always have six dogs.
4. Driving instructions are also important for the safety of the dogs.
5. Petting the dogs before safaris calms them.
6. Sled dogs can easily eat up to 10,000 calories per day.
7. In summer, the dogs pull sleds with wheels.
8. To get in shape for the season, dogs start training in the autumn.
9. Sled dogs can withstand temperatures as low as -60°C .
10. Sled dogs are able to cover over 80 km a day.

TRUE

FALSE

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THE CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. True.** Most sled dogs in Lapland are Siberian and Alaskan huskies. The Siberian husky is a pure breed that originates in north-eastern Siberia, Russia. The Alaskan husky, unlike the Siberian husky, is not a pure breed. The Alaskan husky is a blend of various northern breeds, chosen particularly for skills such as pulling. This is the reason why Alaskan huskies may be of any colour or pattern.
- 2. False.** Dogs start training on running chains when they are one year old. They are 18 months or 2 years old when they pull sleds with tourists for the first time.
- 3. False.** Sled dog teams have 4 to 6 dogs for solo sleds and 8 to 12 dogs for paired or family sleds. The number of dogs in a team depends on how many people are on the sled, what the weather is like, how experienced the musher is and how much the sled weighs.
- 4. True.** Driving sleds according to instructions is essential for your safety and that of the animals. For example, helping the dogs on the hills and using the brakes correctly will keep the dogs in good shape and lower the risk of injuries. So listen carefully to the driving instructions given by the guides.
- 5. False.** If you pet the dogs waiting for the safari to start, you can disturb them, make them bark more or even make them fight. It is good practice to wait until the end of the safari before petting the dogs.
- 6. True.** While a normal dog might need 1,500 calories a day, sled dogs can easily require up to 10,000 calories per day, depending on the work. In winter, the dogs are fed twice a day. In the morning, they get a meaty drink or mushed dry food soup, and in the evening they are fed a mixture of dry food and meat.
- 7. False.** The dogs generally rest during the summer months. Their summer holidays start in May and last for four months. Even if wheels could be attached to the sleds, pulling in warm temperatures could be harmful for the dogs.
- 8. True.** The training season generally starts in September as the temperature drops. Until November the dogs are trained two to three times a week. A team of 10-14 dogs pulls an all-terrain vehicle for distances from 4 km to 40 km as their condition improves.

- 9. False.** Husky breeds like Siberian huskies can withstand temperatures as low as -40 °C. Nevertheless, it is not good for the dogs or the customers to go sledding in temperatures below -35 °C. Shorter-haired Alaskan huskies in particular are more prone to frostbite in such temperatures.
- 10. True.** Well-trained sled dogs can cover long distances. Nevertheless, 40 km is the maximum distance a day to ensure that the dogs do not lose their motivation to run through the whole winter.

I SCORED...

9–10 points

Excellent! You could move to Lapland to work as a professional musher.

6–8 points

Good. You could work in a sled dog kennel and someday become a professional musher.

3–5 points

Fair. You have probably participated in a sled dog safari before.

0–2 points

Not so good. But don't worry – you can learn a lot about sled dogs and mushing when visiting Lapland.