



life gone dogs

a passionate musher devotes his life
to sled dogs and creates a unique community of dogs and people





LIFE GONE DOGS

Frank Turner has created a very unique community of dogs and people. He lives on a 100 acre property in the wilderness on the banks of the Takhini River in the Yukon Territory, and shares his home with immediate family as well as over one hundred sled dogs and a group of dedicated handlers and helpers.

Not only is Frank one of the most successful mushers but he also developed unique theories on team-building which can be translated to business management. Having competed in the toughest sled dog race in the world, the legendary Yukon Quest, more often than anybody else, underlines his outstanding personality.

People from all over the world and all walks of life come to live and work with him. They usually stay for a limited time and then move on, having experienced a very intense and unique lifestyle that may have transformed them. They live in simple cabins on the property without the amenities most people are used to, share their meals in the main home and create a close and unique community with all its joys and tensions.

It is exciting to watch new handlers and helpers arrive in the fall and find their place within the community. They have to help prepare the kennel for the winter mushing season. Training dog teams for the winter starts early in order to find the dogs which work best together.

Franks team-building theories, a good training season, reliable handlers, determination and strength enable him to create smooth running healthy teams.

The film tells the story of Frank and his dogs as well as a story on leadership which transcends the Yukon. Robert Norton, an author who visited Frank, was so fascinated that he wrote a book about Franks unique leadership skills entitled *Treat People like Dogs, Six Tasks for Passionate Leaders*.

PERSONAL INTEREST

It was my passion for dog mushing that brought me to the Yukon 25 years ago. I ran my own kennel of sled dogs and went on numerous winter adventures with them before finally moving to the Yukon for good.

When I met with Frank Turner to discuss a poetic short documentary I was planning to do, I was immediately impressed by his unique lifestyle and the people and dogs around him. Many interesting stories unfold in Franks "mushing community" every season. Having spent many days with the people and dogs has given me rare insight into their highly unique lives.

Having been a musher myself and being a Yukoner will help me to capture the stories around Frank Turner and present them from a Northern perspective.

AUDIENCES

The film is of interest to Canadian as well as international audiences, due to the international flair of the handlers and helpers who live together on the property.

Viewers with a passion for dogs will be inspired to see a place where people truly love dogs and where dogs even come before people at times.

Franks theories and unique talent to create successful working teams of dogs and handlers is of interest not only to sled dog mushers, but also to the world of business management or anywhere where teamwork is essential for success.

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.



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