



March 25, 2022

Dear Mr. Neff:

Since you missed out on the Iditarod's top prize this year, I'm writing from PETA to suggest a career change. *Now* is the time to kiss the Iditarod goodbye and move into a job no one despises you for doing. PETA will even pay you to do it! We'll help cover the costs of training, classes, equipment, and whatever else you may need to set a new course.

As condemnation of a race that forces dogs to run to their deaths grows and major companies like Alaska Airlines, Coca-Cola, Exxon Mobil, and Millennium Hotels and Resorts continue to drop their Iditarod sponsorships, being a musher is becoming as irrelevant as being a VCR repairer. Since you are an experienced cold-weather professional, opportunities abound: park ranger, ski instructor, or snowplow operator—all of which would allow you to continue working in the great outdoors. This doesn't have to mean the end of your competitive racing career, either. For decades, athletes have been participating in the Iditarod Trail Invitational and Iron Dog races, which follow the historic Iditarod trail but feature only willing human participants.

Pursuing a new line of work would be a winning decision: You could make more money, and you wouldn't be contributing to animal suffering, which is inherent in the Iditarod. During this year's race, two dogs went missing, you were apparently forced out of the race after the dogs you used were found in poor condition, dogs were attacked and one was killed during training before the race even began, and nearly 250 dogs were pulled off the trail due to exhaustion, illness, or injury.

It's time to embark on a different path, and we're here to help. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President

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