

7-9 OF MARCH



WSA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
SPRINT & MIDDLE DISTANCE
SLED DOG 2008
ÅSARNA SWEDEN



IN BRIEF

PLACE: ÅSARNA,
JÄMTLAND, SWEDEN
DATE: 7-9 MARCH 2008
NO OF STARTS: 1000
NO OF MUSHERS:
APPROX 330
NO OF DOGS: 2000

WSA WORLD SLED DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

THE GREATEST RACE EVER

It is now apparent that the WSA Sled Dog World Championships 2008 in Åsarna, 7-9 march, will be the largest sled dog competition ever held. More than 2000 dogs will make more than 1000 starts over a period of three days. It will be a dog's life, such as the world has never before seen.

The next World Championships is waiting to take over the spotlight from the Biathlon World Championships in Östersund. One hundred kilometres south of Östersund the ski legend, Tomas Wassberg, has spent four months preparing the trails for the thousands of paws that will invade Åsarna in Jämtland, Sweden, in early March.

"We will have over 1000 starts in only three days, more than the Biathlon World Championships had in a week," says the president of the World Championships, Jan Nordlöf, proudly.

The first start is at 08.00 and then there is a new start every minute until 15.00. This is a hectic timetable that would have any race organiser trembling – to then involve dogs doesn't make things any easier.

Åsarna is a village with only 270 permanent inhabitants who, during this week, will host more than 300 sled dog mushers, plus their teams. This means that there are more than 1000 people who will be occupying every cabin in the area. These figures do not include spectators. When 2000 dogs raise their voices in a common evening chorus they are bound to wake even the soundest of sleepers.

SOUTH AFRICA IS COMING

A team is coming to the World Championships all the way from South Africa, but otherwise Germany is bringing the largest team. A total of more than twenty nations will be battling for the World championship trophies. Pedigree breeds compete in the Dog Sled World Championships: Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed. The classes are 4-dog, 6-dog, 8-dog and Open, with a maximum of 20 dogs. In the Nordic style the musher competes on skis, either with a line between themselves and the dogs, or a pulka.

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