



Major Partner



13  
DAYS

20<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION

13<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY  
2024



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PRESS KIT



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# 01 THE PRESENTATION OF THE RACE



## LA GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF

La Grande Odyssée VVF is one of the last playgrounds for these navigators of the white seas in search of the absolute. La Grande Odyssée VVF is also the story of a dream. The dream of an adventure that would cross our alpine massifs while the standard of this sport, for decades, was to run on frozen areas with little relief.

Beyond the sporting competition, even though in the Great North snowmobiles have replaced sleds, La Grande Odyssée VVF reconnects with adventure with a big A and advocates a certain vision of sport, nature and respect of the environment. Sensitized by these same values, a whole mountain territory between Savoie, Haute-Savoie and Isère is mobilized for the success of this extraordinary race.

Each year, more than 50,000 spectators enjoy a unique experience in the heart of 20 resorts, towns and villages in the Alps, dressed up for the occasion, by attending La Grande Odyssée VVF.

The 20th edition of La Grande Odyssée VVF will take place from January 13th to 25th 2024. The public will also be able to follow the race through a digital monitoring system and daily appointments in the French media with more than 15 hours of TV broadcasting (TF1, TMC, France 3, BFM TV etc.), 13 hours of radio (France Bleu, France Inter etc.) and 250 articles in the written press.

## EDITORIAL



It is quite naturally and in line with the logic of its DNA that VVF has decided to become a title partner of La Grande Odyssee.

VVF, the leading operator of holiday of vacation villages in France, has as its mission is to offer quality vacations to the greatest number of people while contributing to the economic and social development of the regions.

Sensitive to the preservation of the environment, committed to in the development and enhancement of these territories, VVF wishes to participate in promoting them by becoming a partner in an initiative that corresponds to its values.

Indeed, La Grande Odyssee allows to highlight soft practices, more respectful practices that are more respectful of practices, more respectful of the environment, in a logic of development of sustainable tourism and accessible to all. The link « Man-Animal-Nature », intimately linked in this magnificent adventure, has the virtue of touching young audiences, and to make it possible to sensitize them with the preservation of nature.

**STÉPHANE LE BIHAN**  
CEO  
of VVF



La Grande Odyssee VVF takes place in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, which has become over the years the exceptional stage of an event highlighting landscapes which are among the most landscapes of the planet.

In the heart of the Alps, the Grande Odyssee VVF is also an sporting competition, a race that highlights the a race that puts the spotlight on the fascinating discipline that is mushing.

If the sled dog reminds all of us all to almost fairy-tale images, it is also images, it is also a particularly demanding sport particularly demanding sport which imposes rigor and surpassing oneself.

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is very proud to be a major very proud to become a major partner of this of this internationally renowned event international reputation.

**LAURENT WAUQUIEZ,**  
President  
of La Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



We celebrate this year the 20th edition of La Grande Odyssee VVF. We are proud to see an event of this standing still evolving through the time.

The previous edition marked a real turning point in the story of the race with the discovery of a new territory, two more steps and a brand new Title Partner.

Since 2005, we cease evolving the race in order to propose to the mushers and their dogs a new unique challenge. Today, after 19 beautiful editions, bringing people of the whole Europe together around a common passion : the mushing but also the nature and its la nature et sa greatness.

La Grande Odyssee VVF returns this year for the 20th time and we are pleased to be able to show the mountain and the Region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes to a large audience. It will be a festive and spectacular year both sportly and visual.

**ANNABEL KAM,**  
President  
of La Grande Odyssee VVF

## THE RACES



FROM **13<sup>TH</sup>** TO **25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY**

### La Grande Odyssee VVF

La Grande Odyssee VVF is, since its first edition in January 2005, **the annual sled dog event in Europe**. It is the most demanding stage race in a unique alpine setting. This year, an exceptional sporting line-up is expected with **more than 55 mushers and their 600 dog-athletes** coming from the great nations of European mushing (France, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, Italy, Poland, Netherlands and Norway). More than **50 000 spectators** live each year a unique experience, in the heart of **20 resorts, towns and villages** in the Alps, dressed up for the occasion, by attending La Grande Odyssee VVF.

### The Trophies

FROM **13<sup>TH</sup>** TO **15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY**



FROM **19<sup>TH</sup>** TO **21<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY**

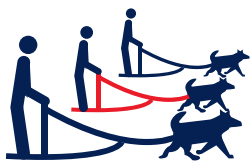


FROM **23<sup>TH</sup>** TO **25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**JANUARY**



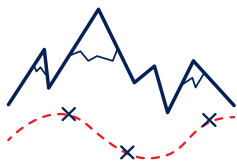
**The mushers of the trophies** will be together and will run on the same tracks as the mushers of La Grande Odyssee VVF for 2 to 3 days. 10 additional mushers will join the race during each trophy. Pool of 8 to 9 dogs (from 5 to 6 dogs at the start).

## KEY FIGURES



### THE INTERNATIONAL RACE... OF ALL CHALLENGES

- **13 days** totalling more than 400km of effort
- **1 presentation prologue**
- **11 stages** « against the clock »
- **1 Mass Start**
- **12 000 m** of positive altitude difference
- **32 km on average** per day
- **600 high level** dog-athletes



### A COMPETITION EXTRAORDINARY

- A **ranking** at each stage
- A race won in **9 h 15** in the general classification of 2023
- At an average speed of more than **20 km/h** and with a gap of 36 min between the winner and the second
- **Twists and turns** on each stage



### A GREAT FESTIVE CONTEXT

- **About 20 resorts**, towns and villages in festive clothes
- Departures and arrivals in the city center
- **Access points** along the routes
- Many **animations**
- An ephemeral **festive village**



### COMPETITORS OUT OF THE COMMON

- **+ 55** of the **best mushers** in the world
- **Many nations** represented



### SPECTACULAR COURSES

- **1 bivouac** in the high mountains
- A great variety of trails: **Nordic, alpine domain, forest path**,...



### MEDIA COVERAGE IMPORTANT (2023 figures)

- Nearly **300 articles** in the print media and digital media
- **107** accredited journalists
- More than **30 million viewers** reached through 5h10 of TV broadcasting
- **12 h 34** hours of radio broadcasting
- More than **900 guests**
- **155 438 visits per year** on [www.grandeodysee.com](http://www.grandeodysee.com)
- **More than 41 600 fans** on the Facebook page @grandeodysee
- **More than 14 700 fans** on the Instagram page @lagrandeodysee

# THE OFFICIALS OF LA GRANDE ODYSSÉE VVF

## ANNABEL KAM

### President

Has been responsible for communication and press relations since 2011. Following the death of her father Henry Kam (founder of the event) in November 2017, she organizes and directs La Grande Odyssee VVF.



## CAMILLE GENIEUX

### Operations Manager

He is in charge of «making real during the race» everything that has been imagined and organized during the period of preparation.



## CÉLINE KUMPF

### Judge

Official judge of the French Federation of Sleds Sports. She is in charge of the application of the rules during the races.



## SANDRINE PEZARD-VAN PARIJS

### Chief Veterinary Officer

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, she manages the team of vets in charge of the health of the «dog-athletes» during throughout the race.



## THIBAUT BRANQUART

### Sports Director

Specialist and passionate about mushing, the Sporting Director is responsible for the sporting aspect of La Grande Odyssee VVF.





# THE KEY NOTIONS OF THE RULES

## The general functioning

On La Grande Odyssee VVF, each dog is identified by a microchip injected under the skin and identified by one of the 10 veterinarians present throughout the race.

The musher has his «pool» for the whole race. La Grande Odyssee VVF. For each stage, a maximum number of dogs is authorized at the start and a minimum number a minimum number of dogs at the finish may be indicated by the the race direction according to the difficulties of the track.

The musher has the possibility to «drop» (leave) his tired dogs at certain check points and he has the the obligation to transport in his sled a tired or injured dog in his sled if he is not on a place where the «drop» is allowed.

A dropped dog or a dog in a sled must be examined as soon as possible by an official veterinarian.

The health of the dogs is a constant concern at all times. A veterinarian has the power to sanction, or even exclude, a musher who would not have care of his dogs.

## Anti-doping policy

Anti-doping tests will be carried out on the dogs by the authorized organizations. The regulations describes precisely the list of authorized products and those that are not.

Controls can also be carried out on the mushers by random urine sampling.

## Mandatory equipment

The musher must have in his sled or on him, a certain number of mandatory equipment for his safety, even his survival and that of his dogs (avalanche victim detector, GPS, survival blankets). This equipment is checked before the departure of each stage, on all the teams.

## Winnings and prizes

La Grande Odyssee VVF offers 25 750 € in prize money as well as special prizes, see opposite.



## The rules

The integrality of the rules of La Grande Odyssee VVF and the trophies, is downloadable here : [www.grandeodyssee.com/espace-mushers-reglement](http://www.grandeodyssee.com/espace-mushers-reglement)

# PODIUMS, JERSEYS AND SPECIAL PRIZES

## Stage podiums

According to the ranking of the stage, the first 3 mushers per category climb on the podium and are rewarded by the station of the day and by the partner.

## The daily presentation of the race shirts



### The Crédit Mutuel « Leader » Jersey

The Crédit Mutuel « Leader » jersey is awarded by category, to the first of the overall.



### The Crédit Mutuel « Best Nordic » jersey

The Crédit Mutuel « Best Nordic » jersey is awarded to the best purebred Nordic (Siberian Husky) team in each category (Siberian husky) with the best overall ranking best classified in the general classification.



### The Royal Canin Dog Care Award

The Royal Canin « Dog Care » Jersey is awarded to the musher whose behaviour towards his dogs the most animal-friendly health, on the stage, with outstanding actions.



### The Royal Canin Best Dog Care Award

The Royal Canin « Best Dog Care » jersey is awarded to the team that has demonstrated the most application, control and efficiency in the care of the dogs of the the team at the end of the race. Awarded by the team of veterinarians.



© Romain Tissot

## The final podium and special awards

Les classements généraux déterminent les podiums finaux et récompensent par catégorie les finishers de la course. Divers lots sont offerts aux mushers par les différents partenaires de l'évènement.

De nombreux lots sont également remis aux mushers pour récompenser les prix spéciaux suivants :



### The Henry Kam Prize

This prize is awarded to the winner of all categories of the Val Cenis stage (stage over 2 days including a night in a bivouac), in tribute to the founder of the race.



### The Golden Harness Award

Awarded by category to the most impressive dog of the winning team, chosen by the musher.



### Rookie of the Year Award

Awarded by category to the highest ranked musher among those who have completed the race and are participating the race for the first time, or who have never finished the race, completed the race.



### The Red Lantern Award

Awarded by category to the last musher in the among those who took part and finished all stages of the and completed all stages of the race in their entirety. This is a tradition in the mushing world that goes back to the dates back to the gold rush. At that time, as long as a musher was on the trail, the lantern remained lit, it was only turned it off when he returned.



### The Fair Play Award with Alpes Ishere

Awarded to the musher of La Grande Odyssee VVF who demonstrated the most fair play and sportsmanship towards towards the other competitors. This prize is awarded by the mushers.



### The Combativity Award with Suzuki

The Combativeness Award is given to the competitor who has performed an «outstanding» action over the course of the race or at a specific moment of the race that shows energy, stamina and the will to never give up in order to achieve to achieve his or her goal.

## THE ODYSSEYS



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During the Chapelle d'Abondance stage of La Grande Odyssee VVF, on Monday January 15th, the children of the Pays d'Evian Vallée d'Abondance become mushers competitors. The Odyssee des Enfants is a race entirely dedicated to children.

It is the result of a partnership with the Territory of Evian - Valley of Abondance. Thus, for one day, the children will evolve in the same conditions as the mushers participating in the official stage of the Chapelle d'Abondance: same infrastructures, same sites of departure and arrival, announcer and many spectators.

Twenty young mushers, from the college Pays de Gavot of the Valley of Abondance, previously selected and trained by professional mushers, will participate in the race « l'Odyssee des Enfants » with teams of 3 or 4 dogs over 4 km, on the track that will be used a few hours later by the world's elite mushers in La Grande Odyssee VVF.



The Odyssey of Hopes is a race for mushers from 12 to 17 years old attached to the hope pole of the FFST (Fédération Française des Sports de Traineau).

The start will be mass start on Saturday January 20 at Bessans at 13 h. The young mushers will travel 11km through the magnificent mountain landscapes. A pool of 4 to 6 dogs is authorized for the race (each musher is independent in terms of equipment and dog).

# 02 THE MUSHERS



# THE MUSHERS

## The mushers of La Grande Odyssée VVF

On 13 days / 11 steps, from 13 to 25 January 2024.



**Hans Lindahl**

 Norway

57

*Veteran*

2



**Cindy Duport**

 France

29

*Veteran*

8



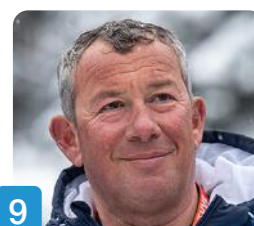
**Claudio De Ferrari**

 Italy

55

*Veteran*

4



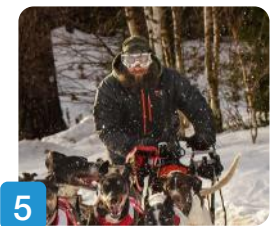
**Philippe Desmurger**

 France

50

*Veteran*

9



**Łukasz Paczyński**

 Poland

44

*Rookie*

5



**Elsa Borgey**

 France

40

*Veteran*

10



**Carlos Calico**

 Spain

52

*Veteran*

6



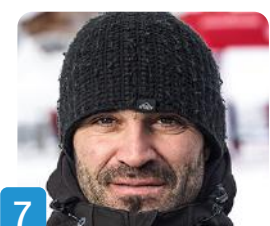
**Rodolphe Lardet**

 France

55

*Veteran*

11



**Iker Ozkoidi**

 Spain

44

*Veteran*

7



**Pierre Chaplain**

 France

48

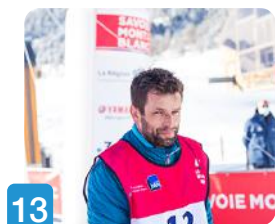
*Veteran*

12

# THE MUSHERS

## The mushers of La Grande Odyssée VVF

On 13 days / 11 steps, from 13 to 25 January 2024.



**Yohann Henry**

 France

49

*Veteran*



**Clément Raux**

 France

33

*Veteran*



**Jean-Marc Tatu**

 France

53

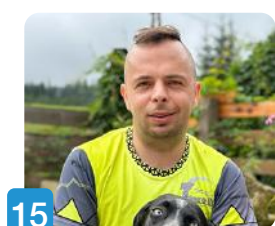
*Veteran*



**Stephane Pla Nou**

 France

46



**Łukasz Ptas**

 Poland

32

*Rookie*

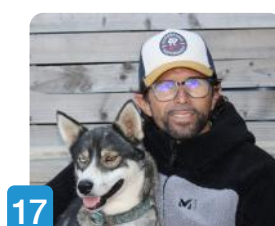


**Jean Combazard**

 France

63

*Veteran*



**Gael Brossette**

 France

46

*Rookie*

# THE MUSHERS

## Trophy HAUTE SAVOIE

On 3 days / 3 steps, from 13 to 15 january 2024.



**Ingrid Abraham Collomb**

 France

47



**Patrick Capelli**

 France

63



**Massimiliano Mancini**

 Italy

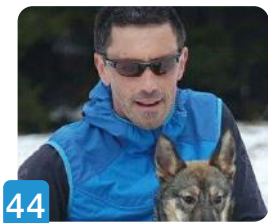
52



**Dominique Grange**

 France

65



**G rard Guimet**

 France

55



**Evelyne Gaze Stauffacher**

 Switzerland

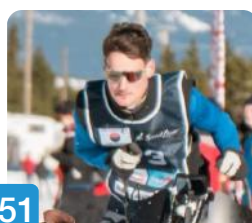
49



**Luca Brioschi**

 Italy

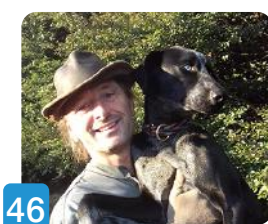
55



**Lucas Benson**

 France

31



**Eric Grosbois**

 France

51

# THE MUSHERS

## Trophy ALLIANZ

On 3 days / 3 steps, from 19 to 21 january 2024.



**Lisa Bonato**

 Italy

31

60

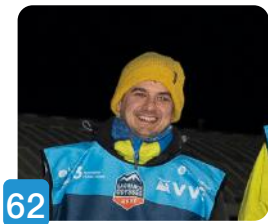


**Guillaume Gervais**

 France

49

68



**Emanuele Scarioni**

 Italy

36

62



**Rémi Desoutter**

 France

38

69



**Julien Lapka**

 France

30

64



**Sébastien Moix**

 Switzerland

34

70



**Franck Canonne**

 France

57

65

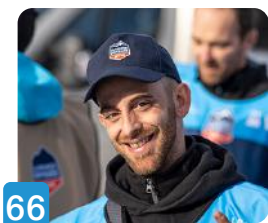


**Laurent Dumoussaud**

 France

58

71

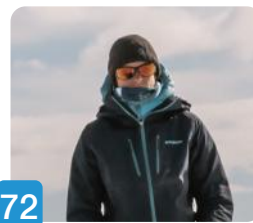


**Matteo Fossati**

 Italy

38

66



**Élise Maroilley**

 France

36

72



**Evelyne Gaze Stauffacher**

 Switzerland

49

67



# THE MUSHERS

## Trophy EBRA

On 3 days / 3 steps, from 23 to 25 January 2024.



**Fabrice Armand**

 France

48

81



**Cindya Lecroq**

 France

37

88



**Matteo Fossati**

 Italy

38

82



**Ismael Pinol Venteo**

 Spain

37

89



**Frank Bonnet Gonnet**

 France

54

83



**Joaquin Saez Astor**

 Spain

51

90



**Boris Hannoteaux**

 France

49

84



**Aizpurua Harkaitz**

 Spain

43

92

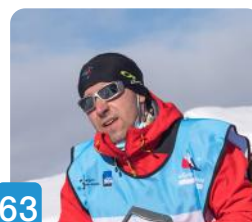


**Carlos Franch**

 Spain

45

86



**Richard Perron**

 France

53

63



**Manel Niubó Eslava**

 Espagne




43 ans

87

# THE NUMBERS

## THE GREATEST NUMBER ...









### ... OF VICTORIES

 • Rémy Coste (FRA).....	7
 • Radek Havdra (CZE).....	3
 • Jiri Vondak (CZE).....	2







### ... OF VICE CHAMPION TITLE

 • Milos Gonda (SLO).....	3
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

### ... OF FINAL PODIUMS

 • Rémy Coste (FRA).....	8
 • Radek Havdra (CZE).....	5
 • Jean-Philippe Pontier (FRA).....	5
 • Milos Gonda (SLO).....	4
 • Jiri Vondrak (CZE).....	3
 • Jacques Philip (USA).....	2
 • Emil Inauen (SWI).....	2
 • Daniel Juillaguet (FR) .....	2

### ... OF VICTORY(S) BY NATION

 • France.....	7
 • République Tchèque.....	5
 • États-Unis.....	2
 • Suède.....	1
 • Slovaquie.....	1
 • Suisse.....	1



### ... OF BEST DOG CARE AWARD

• Rémy Coste.....	3
• Jimmy Pettersson.....	2

## ... OF PARTICIPATIONS

• Daniel Juillaguet.....	14
• Jean Combazard.....	14
• Jean-Philippe Pontier.....	9
• Rémy Coste.....	11
• Radek Havdra.....	7
• Jack-Gerard Gaspard.....	6
• Isabelle Travadon.....	5

## ... THE WINNERS

 <b>2005</b> Jessie Royer (USA)
 <b>2006</b> Jacques Philip (USA)
<b>2007</b> <i>Canceled due to weather</i>
 <b>2008</b> Petter Karlsson (SWE)
 <b>2009</b> Radek Havdra (CZE)
 <b>2010</b> Emil Inauen (SWI)
 <b>2011</b> Milos Gonda (SLO)
 <b>2012</b> Radek Havdra (CZE)
 <b>2013</b> Jiri Vondrak (CZE)
 <b>2014</b> Jean-Philippe Pontier (FRA)
 <b>2015</b> Radek Havdra (CZE)
 <b>2016</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2017</b> Jiri Vondrak (CZE)
 <b>2018</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2019</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2020</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2021</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2022</b> Rémy Coste (FR)
 <b>2023</b> Rémy Coste (FR)

# 03 ANIMAL HEALTH



# ANIMAL HEALTH

## Veterinarians team

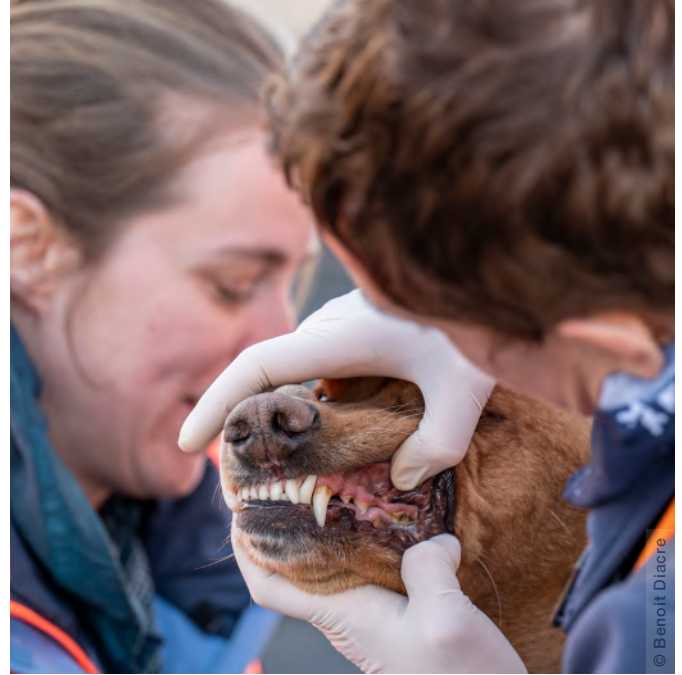
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### Veterinarians Team

The Veterinarians Team Sled dog races, whether they are amateur or professional, speed or long distance, non-stop with check-points or by stages, now all include a team of veterinarians.

On a race like La Grande Odysée VVF, the « Team Vets » is composed of 11 experienced vets, as well as a student vet, permanent and 8 in support for the pre-race controls. All volunteers, passionate about canine medicine and its practice in sports, these specialists ensure the respect of the physical integrity of these athletes, and guarantee their well-being. The Team Vétérinaires is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for its mission. La Grande Odysée VVF's Veterinarians Team is directed by Dr Sandrine Pezard-Van Parijs.

Dr. Pezard-Van Parijs is an associate practitioner of the Association of Veterinarians of the Ark in the Orne and Sarthe regions. Graduated in 2005 from the University of Liege, she first started a general practice before specializing in osteopathy (DIE of Veterinary Osteopathy in 2012).



### The missions of the Team of Veterinarians

The Team of Veterinarians ensures the well-being and good health of the dogs competing during the entire race.

In addition to the regulatory health checks before the race, the veterinarians validate, after a complete and specific clinical examination, the participation of each dog presented at the start of the race. Thus, before each stage, the veterinarians give the approval or not to take the start (the pre-race «vetcheck»).

They also monitor the health of the dogs during the races, intervene in case of emergency and provide recommendations and possible care after each stage. The main problems encountered are infections related to high-level sport, including osteoarticular trauma (e.g. sprains, tendonitis, digestive disorders, pad injuries, etc.).

They are then «on the job» 24 hours a day for the duration of the race, each team being monitored daily on several occasions (before and after each stage, but also via veterinary checks on the track and during the night bivouac at altitude). It is also possible, according to the rules of La Grande Odysée VVF, to temporarily exclude a dog from a team in order to get it back into shape, in the respect of its well-being, its health and the regulations.

Each year the French Agency for the Fight against Doping comes to take unannounced samples from the canine athletes and thus attest to the ethics of the competitors and the race. of the competitors and the race.

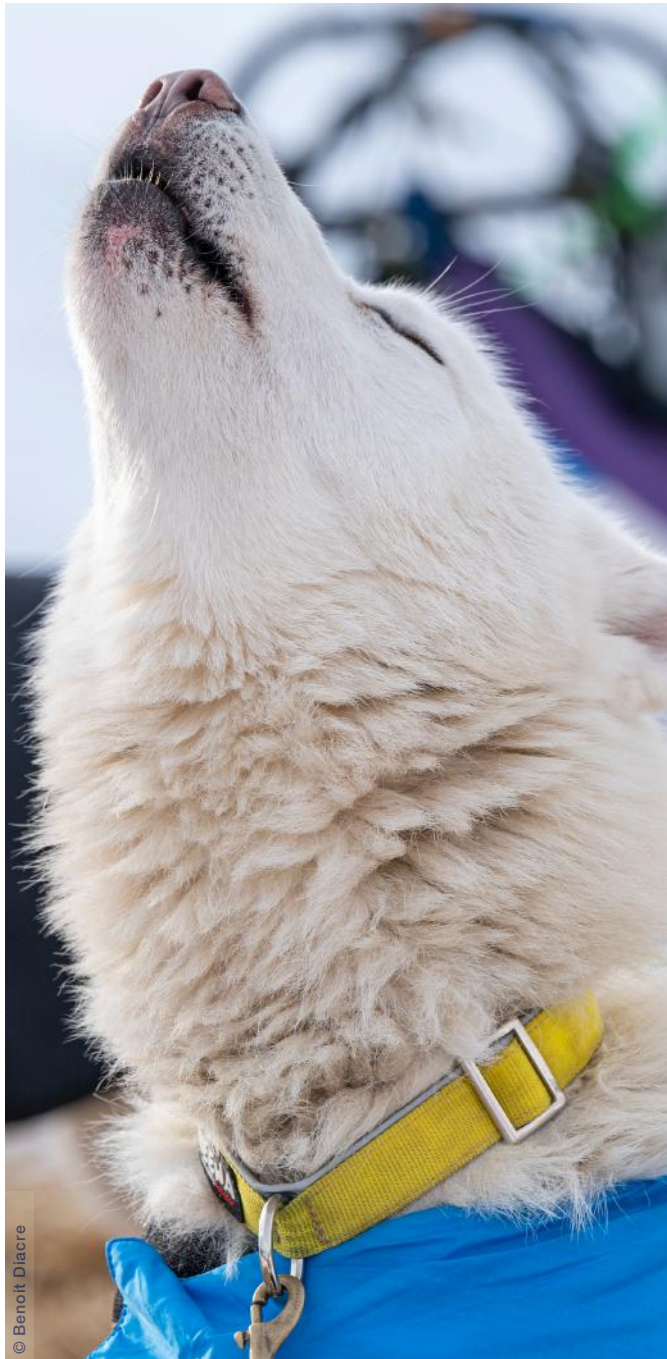


# ANIMAL HEALTH

## The animal health doctrine

In order to meet the objective of animal health and the respect of sporting rules inherent to all major competitions, La Grande Odyssee VVF has enriched, since 2014, the rules of the race with the animal health doctrine.

This document describes the general doctrine followed by the Vet Team. It includes the missions and determines with precision the role of the team's veterinarians, and the general ethics regarding animal health. It is signed and accepted by all mushers participating in one of the events organized within the framework of La Grande Odyssee VVF.



## Scientific & therapeutic advances at the service of animal welfare

### Technology in the service of health

For several years now, the Team Vétérinaires has been using very high level technical equipment: a real field hospital.

La Grande Odyssee VVF is the only race in the world to benefit from this type of equipment in the field. The teams participating in the race are at such a high level of performance that it becomes essential to have the most precise and quickest medicine and diagnosis possible.

Thanks to the scil laboratory (official supplier), it is possible to carry out digital X-rays, ultrasounds and blood tests in the middle of the mountains and in extreme conditions. This high-tech equipment has demonstrated the reliability and precision of the machines in extreme conditions up to 2,500 m altitude and at 15° C below zero.

This year again, the Veterinarians Team is equipped with a real state-of-the-art equipment in the field: digital radiography by autonomous plane sensor, hematology, biochemistry, ultrasound.

### Prevention and treatment actions

The dogs of La Grande Odyssee VVF, just like top athletes, make intense efforts which induce important pressures on their joints. This high stress on the joints can precipitate the onset of a chronic disease that affects about 20% of dogs: arthrosis.

Osteoarthritis in dogs is very similar to that in humans. It can occur in one or more joints and will affect all the components (bone, cartilage, synovial fluid).

This is why it is important to protect them to delay the onset of osteoarthritis or to treat them when it is already present.

In order to support the joint metabolism of sporting dogs and dogs with osteoarthritis, veterinarians recommend a multimodal approach, depending on the progress of the pathology :

- Good hygiene for the animal: limit weight gain, maintain proper muscle training and respect recovery phases
- Physiotherapy with massages and hot or cold therapies. In the recovery phase and in cases of marked inflammation, veterinarians can use a recent technology that helps limit inflammation: laser.
- Chondroprotectors (complementary foods) such as Flexadin Advanced
- Anti-inflammatories and painkillers, during obvious pain crises, which will be prescribed by a veterinarian.

Dogs, like humans, are not helpless in the face of this complex disease. There are therefore complementary solutions that can greatly limit the consequences of osteoarthritis.



## Scientific approach

### Presentation of the project

Since its creation, La Grande Odysée VVF has always attached great importance to animal health.

In parallel to the race, a working group composed of veterinarians and students has been created to carry out a scientific reflection on the sled dog and its health and well-being.

The objectives of this group are to carry out on La Grande Odysée VVF, a scientific analysis of the data collected on the dogs in order to ensure a more effective veterinary follow-up of these high level canine athletes, to improve the knowledge around the sled dog to make evolve the practice in this field and finally to restore these results to the mushers.

The students are recruited and directed by Dr Sandrine Van Parijs Pezard, chief veterinarian of La Grande Odysée VVF. They will carry out their thesis and will contribute to this scientific project thanks to the data collected on the race and to the supervision of several personalities of the veterinary world



# 04 THE OFFICIAL RACE PROGRAM



# THE OFFICIAL RACE PROGRAM

## The course





# THE OFFICIAL RACE PROGRAM

## The program

HAUTE SAVOIE TROPHY

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **PROLOGUE - MEGÈVE : 7 KM** **18 H**  
*PRESENTED BY ROYAL CANIN*

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 1 - MEGÈVE : 32 KM** **11 H**  
*PRESENTED BY EBRA*

**MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 2 - LA CHAPELLE D'ABONDANCE : 38 KM** **16 H**

**TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 3 - BERNEX : 4 KM** **16 H**  
*DRY CLIMB*

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 4 - LA TOUSSUIRE - LE CORBIER : 22 KM** **17 H 15**  
*PRESENTED BY SUNWEB*

**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 5 - LES KARELLIS : 39 KM** **16 H**  
*PRESENTED BY THE GRANDE CAUSE NATIONALE & THE CRÉDIT MUTUEL*

**FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 6 - AUSSOIS : 27 KM** **15 H**  
*PRESENTED BY ZOLUX*

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 7A - BESSANS - BONNEVAL SUR ARC - VAL CENIS : 48 KM** **15 H 30**  
*PRESENTED BY FRANCODEX*

**SUNDAY 21<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 7B - VAL CENIS - LAC DU MONT CENIS : 35 KM** **10 H**  
*PRESENTED BY EDF*

**MONDAY 22<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 8 - VALMOREL - DOUCY : 27 KM** **16 H 30**  
*PRESENTED BY THE GRANDE CAUSE NATIONALE & THE CRÉDIT MUTUEL*

**TUESDAY 23<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 9 - LES 7 LAUX : 31 KM** **16 H**  
*PRESENTED BY AÉSIO MUTUELLE*

**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 10 - COL DE PORTE : 18 KM** **14 H**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** **STAGE 11 - VILLARD DE LANS : 38 KM** **11 H**  
*PRESENTED BY FLEXADIN ADVANCED*  
*FINALS PODIUMS & CLOSING CEREMONY : 17 H 30*

ALLIANZ TROPHY

EBRA TROPHY

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### A spectacular opening ceremony, start and finish

The start of the opening ceremony (Megève) will be given on Saturday, January 13, 2024 during an afternoon full of entertainment that will be closed by fireworks and an opening ceremony.

The start of the 20th edition will be given in Megève Côte 2000 on Sunday January 14th 2024 in front of a very large audience. The finish is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024 in Villard-de-Lans, in the Vercors. This 19th edition will end with a great ceremony closing ceremony.



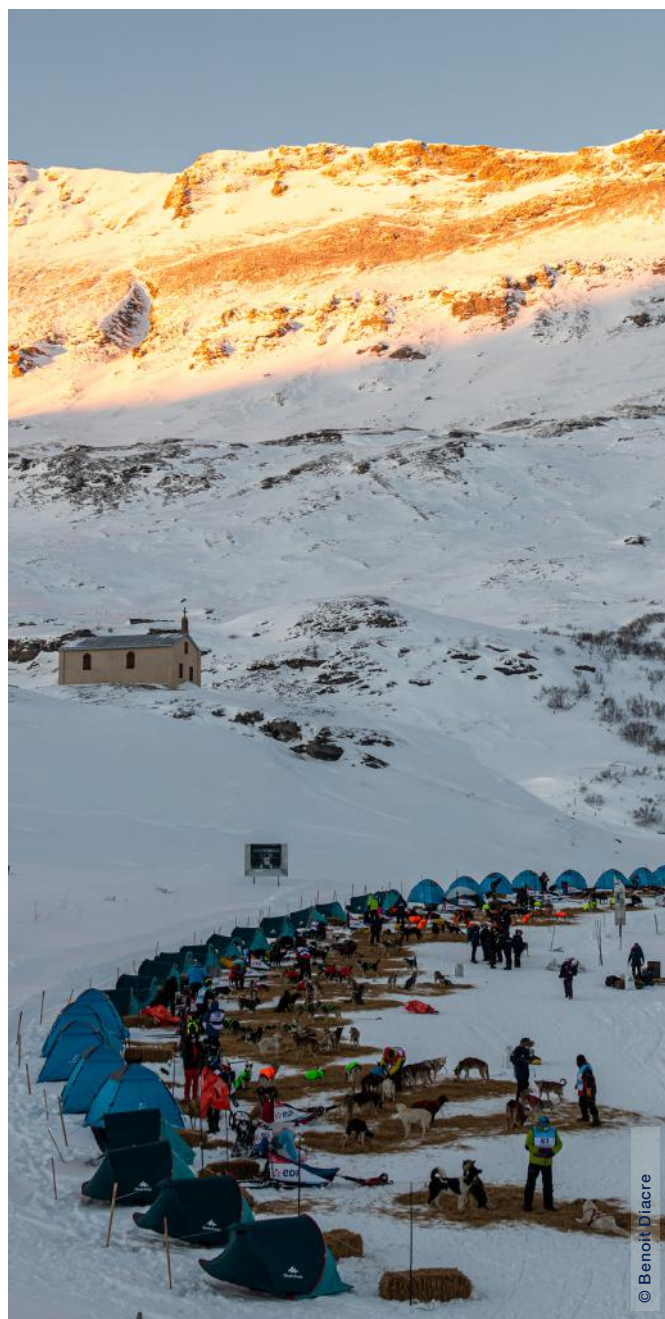
### Bivouac - Polar Base of La Grande Odyssee VVF

Stage 7 of La Grande Odyssee VVF is legendary for its traditional overnight bivouac, where mushers and dogs sleep under the stars at over 2,000 m altitude.

On Saturday night, a camp is set up at the Base Polaire in Val Cenis. Overlooked by the famous Mont Cenis lake, the Base Polaire is a cult race venue.

Located in the Haute Murienne Vanoise region between France and Italy, it offers a unique experience at very high altitude.

A challenge of more than 50 km for the teams over 2 days.



## A show as accessible as possible for the public

A large number of access points are planned along the itinerary so that spectators can get as close as possible to the passage of the teams on foot, snowshoes, cross-country skis, downhill skis and even cross-country skis, possibly accompanied by professionals from the resorts.

The public can follow the evolution of the mushers in real time via the official website of La Grande Odysée VVF : [www.grandeodyssee.com](http://www.grandeodyssee.com)

## The village La Grande Odysée VVF

For the first time this year, a large entertainment village accessible to the general public, located near the start area, has been developed to offer a greater experience to spectators:

- The official “Sitka” mascot present in the starting areas and its daily contest “Super-Fan”
- The Official Store and its official La Grande Odysée VVF products
- The “Grand Nord” activity, a trapper/musher with his dogs
- The VVF entertainment stands:

The Biathlon and snowshoes stand, with a biathlon course and the possibility of testing snowshoes designed for hiking in the snow.

The soft mobility awareness stand, with introduction to mountain biking.

The virtual reality stand, and its headsets that allow spectators to dive into the heart of the mountain and discover its fauna and flora.

## More than fifty activities throughout the two weeks of the race

Under the aegis of the Tourist Offices, mulled wine, campfires, trapper’s village, themed weeks, film screenings, thematic exhibitions will put on a festive atmosphere in about twenty resorts, towns and villages of La Grande Odysée VVF.

Initiation to dog sledding, igloo building, trapper workshops are offered to vacationers and school children in the region.



# 05 AT THE SERVICE OF THE MEDIA



## SERVING THE MEDIA

**The communication team** is at your disposal to study your project and try to assist you in its realization as much as it can.

Are at your disposal :

### Pictures

The photos of La Grande Odyssee VVF are available all year long on its website :

**[www.grandeodyssee.com](http://www.grandeodyssee.com)**

During the race, the pictures will be classified by day.

To access the media space, click on the top right of the screen.

- In the bottom line, select your choice.

To access the HD photos:

- Click on «HD PHOTOS» with the following password: **LGOVVF**
- Download the photos by clicking on the step of your choice.

*The photo credits are indicated in the title of each title of each photo.*



© Romain Trissot

### Receive images

All year long, are available on an FTP server:

- Archival images in the form of bears, not dated (cutaways, landscapes, etc.)
- The trailer of the Grande Odyssee VVF 2024
- The compilation of the beautiful images 2024

During the race are available in addition to the images above :

- A 50 sec PAD of beautiful images, produced every days of the race

*Do not hesitate to ask for the login of this server FTP*

### Ideas for topics

La Grande Odyssee VVF's communication team is at your disposal to help you in the choice and the realization of your subjects. A document « Ideas of subject » is available. This document lists the different angles from which La Grande Odyssee VVF can be approached.

Do not hesitate to to ask for it.



© Benoit Diacre

### Video footage

La Grande Odyssee VVF has its own video production team. These images are shot by a team of professionals. These images are made available to television stations, in the form of bears and PADs, in digital format on servers and will be accessible via FTP.

These images are delivered free of rights exclusively for television stations, as part of reports or or documentaries about the race.

## Accreditation and press reception

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The work of the media on such a race is not simple. More than 80% of the linear kilometers covered by the mushers are in the mountains outside of any accessible area. The motorized means to follow the competitors and their dogs are very limited either by the regulation or for the respect of the environment.

Our material, human and financial means are limited. We wish to optimize their use by providing the best service to the media. This is why we have established, in all transparency, the rules that will prevail for accreditations. The rules are available in the press area of the website.

## The accreditation application procedure

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All requests must be made through the website by filling in a request form : [www.grandeodysee.com/accreditation-medias](http://www.grandeodysee.com/accreditation-medias). A contact is then established by the press relations department of La Grande Odysée VVF in order to know the project behind the request for accreditation.

A list of questions can be sent to the accreditation applicant. A dialogue is then established and an answer is given to the applicant.

## The step info

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The stage info is a document given to journalists who wish to travel to the race. This document lists: the program and the maps of the routes.

## The press releases

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Press releases are sent throughout the year.

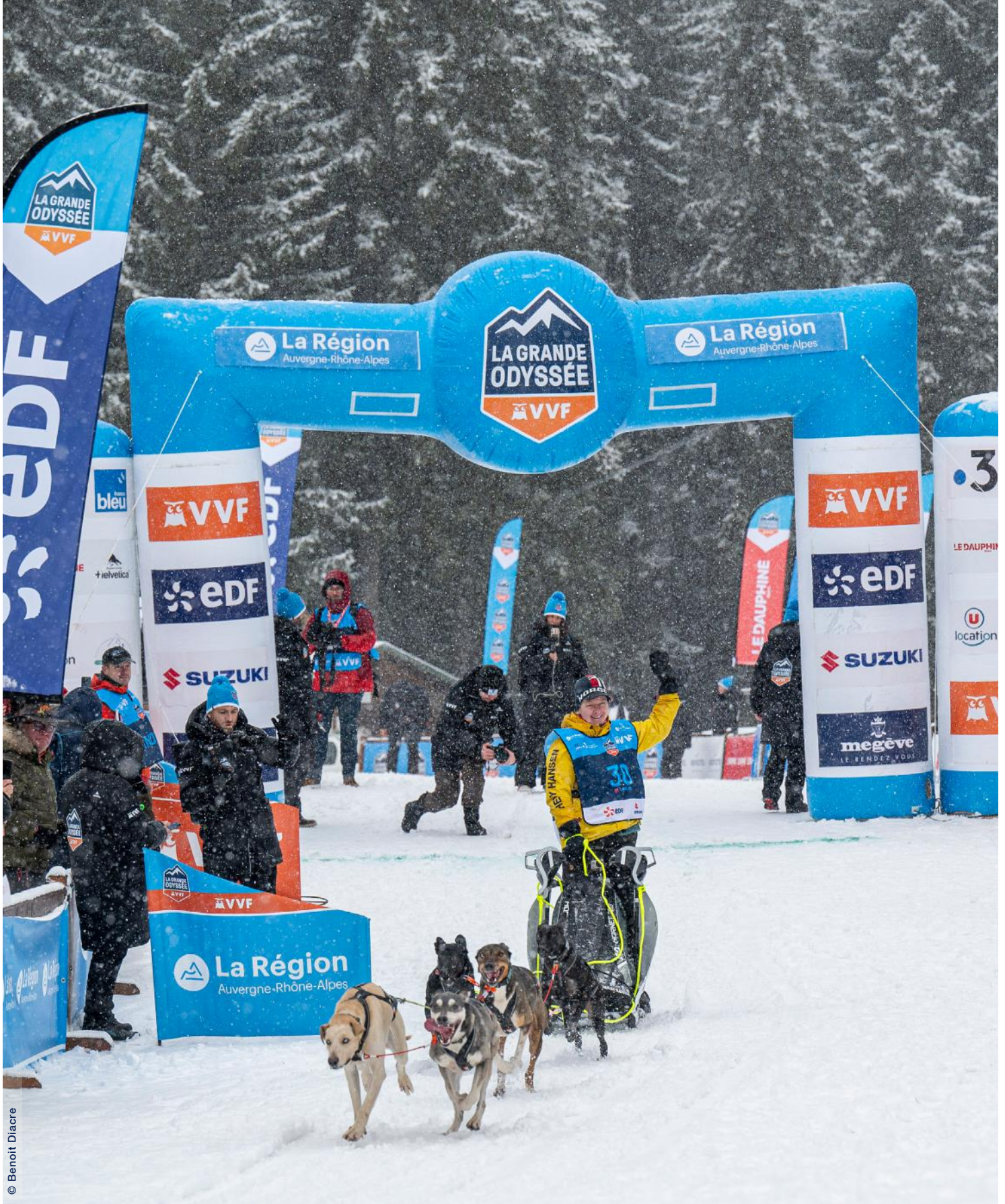
Daily «race» press releases are sent out during the event. These releases contain the results of the day, the photos of the day, as well as a report of the race of the stage.

*If you wish to receive these press releases, please contact the communication department.*



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# 06 OUR PARTNERS



## OUR PARTNERS

### TITLE PARTNER



### MAJOR PARTNER



### OFFICIAL PARTNERS



### TROPHY PARTNER



### BIBS PARTNER



### TERRITORY PARTNER



### STATIONS PARTNERS





## OUR PARTNERS

### STEPS PARTNERS



### INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



### MEDIAS PARTNERS



### OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



### PARTNERS





## LA GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF

**Audrey Bristeau**

Communication and press relations manager

audrey@kciop.fr

06 29 11 62 22

Media space : [www.grandeodysee.com](http://www.grandeodysee.com) (infos download)