

## The DogChannel Newswire (03-18-09)

**Bill aims to extend abuse protection to pets; Iditarod race claims two dogs; and other news.**

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### Iditarod Claims Two Dogs as Mackey Leads Race Amid Harsh Conditions

The 1,131-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is nearing completion, and Lance Mackey, a cancer survivor who once lived in a tent, is leading comfortably as he attempts to win the competition for the third consecutive year, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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### Dogs Suspected in Man's Death in California

Authorities suspect a man found dead in Rancho Mirage, Calif., was killed by his pair of Bull Mastiffs, The Associated Press reports.

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### Bill Aims to Extend Abuse Protection to Pets

Under a bill introduced in South Carolina, abused women seeking temporary restraining orders against abusive husbands, boyfriends, and fathers of their children could ask a Family Court judge for custody of a pet, even if the abuser owns the pet, the Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Sun Times reports.

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### Texas Man Trapped in Dog Food Ingredient Tank

Firefighters rescued a man Monday at a pet food factory who was in danger of suffocating inside a tank containing a dog food ingredient, the El Paso Times reports.

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### Man Gets 30 Days in Jail for Abusing Dog

A Clintonville, Wis., man accused of beating a dog hard enough to break the animal's back has been sentenced to 30 days in jail, The Associated Press reports.

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