

Life of a Sled Dog

New book captures the soul of sled dogs in a winter wonderland.

Posted: October 12, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

When Dagny McKinley answered an ad in the paper for a dog-sledding guide, she didn't know what she was getting herself into. But after two years leading dog-sled tours in Steamboat Springs, Colo., the writer and photographer knew she had to share her experience with others.

In her new book, "Wild Hearts: Dog Sledding the Rockies," McKinley shares her unique world with dog lovers through words and stunning photographs. From the piercing eyes of a pack leader to breathtaking winter landscapes, the book welcomes readers to a place few will ever have a chance to go.

Working at Grizzle-T Dog & Sled Works, McKinley's photographs document life at the kennel and in the great outdoors. The kennel is home sweet home to these amazing dogs, and the moments they share in their safe place are fascinating. From births to rivalries to playtime, each dog is a unique creature. But they all have one thing in common: Their DNA drives them to run.

Sometimes so eager to enter the rugged terrain that getting their harnesses on seems near impossible, these beautiful dogs are a force to be reckoned with. But their gentle spirits and eager-to-please personalities make them wonderful companions. With astounding energy and impressive intelligence, the dogs are at home in the harsh surroundings. Yet they have an intimate relationship with their environment and each other.

McKinley captures the essence of these dogs and their environment in photo after photo. From playtime at the kennel to pounding the powder, readers will enjoy this intimate look at the life of a sled dog.

"Wild Hearts: Dog Sledding the Rockies" by Dagny McKinley is on sale now