

VDSV Direktor Sport · Detlef Oyen



Verband Deutscher
Schlittenhundesport-
vereine e.V.

Direktor Sport
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URGENT CALL FOR HELP OF OUR NORWEGIAN FRIENDS FROM HAMAR TK concerning the HAMAR HUNDEKJÖRER ARENA

Hello to every European Federation,

our friends in Hamar (Gasbu) need our help. As you all know, the Hamar Trekkhundklubb runs the sled dog arena near Gasbu. A wonderful place that offers the options for training and racing sled dogs.

We all love the possibilities to stay in the arena itself with a camper or to approach the arena from a rented cabin, the house of friends.

This site is unique in Europe. I do not know any better place to train a sled dog team on international level.

We all are glad to find well groomed tracks, tracks for nearly every distance, a club house with water and toilets, the chance to meet other sportsmen/-women there in the evening – meeting old friends from foreign countries, talking about dogs, training, racing...

And we are always impressed – year by year – by the commitment of our Norwegian friends and the reception that we face as guests.

Imagine that the arena will not exist anymore. Our sports will lose one of the best sites for training and racing in whole Europe. Please remember that we had two European Championships and two World Championships there during the last 20 years.

The Hamar Hundekjører Arena cannot be replaced, neither for racing nor for training purposes.

As a dedicated sportsman and musher and as Vice President of the German Federation VDSV I kindly ask you to write a letter of support as fast as possible.

I think this is not the job for the athletes who race and train their dogs in the Arena. The value of the Arena for our sports and the appreciation of this unique site will be emphasized by an official statement of your national federation.

I write these lines to the mushers of different nations that I know personally. Please forward this letter to your national Federation and ask them to write a statement which highlights the importance of the Hamar Hundekjører Arena for our sports all over Europe.

Please send these statements to sveinerikteslo@gmail.com and k-hi@online.no

Please find attached the German statement.

Below my signature, you can read the text of Svein Erik Teslo, explaining all the problems.

Please help!

Best regards

Detlef Oyen

Call for Support – Hamar Trekkhundklubb Faces Closure

To international sled dog athletes and their national federations

On behalf of Hamar Trekkhundklubb (HTK), and in collaboration with the Norwegian Sled Dog Federation, we issue an urgent appeal to the international sled dog community: Help us preserve one of Europe's most important arenas for dog sports.

HTK is a volunteer-run sports club that, since 1997, has developed and operated the sled dog facility at Gåsbu in Hamar, Norway, as a hub for both national and international events. The venue has hosted two European Championships (2005, 2007) and two World Championships (2011, 2022), and holds the official status of *National Facility*.

Today, this world-class venue is at risk of being lost – despite registered property rights, approved zoning plans, and full public backing – due to a ruling by the District Court of Eastern Innlandet (May 2025). HTK is appealing the verdict but now faces powerful local interests alone.

Background of the Conflict

Eingetragen bei:
Registergericht: Amtsgericht München
Registernummer: VR 201583
Gemeinnützig anerkannt
Präsident: Andreas Wiatowski

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The landowner, Vang Almenning (VA), has for more than 12 years pursued a deliberate strategy to eliminate the facility to allow for expanded cabin development. This has included both physical measures and legal challenges.

HTK has leased the land from VA since 1997. The lease was renewed in 2008 without an expiration date and is formally registered, securing rights to the full facility – including buildings and operational use (Gnr. 202, Bnr. 1, fnr. 192). The area is officially zoned for sports use, approved by municipal and regional authorities, and developed with state lottery funding.

Yet, in a verdict dated 9 May 2025, the court concluded that HTK's rights expire in 2036 – allowing VA to close the facility to sled dog activity. This decision was made despite:

- A registered lease agreement granting established rights of use
- Prior legal rulings (2017, 2022) affirming the legality and validity of HTK's operations
- Approved zoning plans designating the site for athletic use
- A 25-year track record of continuous use and full public support

Legal and Public Interest Implications

The 2008 lease is governed by the Norwegian Ground Lease Act (*Tomtefesteloven*) and grants usage rights in accordance with the facility's purpose (§§7 and 16). Winter parking and use of the designated S2 and S3 areas have taken place openly and continuously since 1997, with the landowner's full knowledge and acceptance.

Despite this, VA has since 2014 sold cabin plots in the vicinity, stating a clear intention to remove HTK. Hamar municipality – a long-time partner in developing the area – has remained passive, even though several local politicians hold usage rights and cabin leases in the same land trust.

Our Appeal

We now ask for support from the international sled dog community and its national federations:

- Express solidarity through public statements in support of HTK
- Help bring this issue to the attention of Norwegian authorities, particularly the Ministry of Culture and Equality (KUD)
- Assist in raising international awareness of the case

The Ministry is responsible for national policy on sports, volunteering, and facility development. We believe this is a case of fundamental importance – not just for HTK, but for

all of dog sports and the principle of voluntary sport conducted on public, non-commercial terms.

HTK stands ready to provide additional background information and documentation. Thank you for your support and solidarity.

Explanatory Notes

- An “*allmenning*” is a traditional Norwegian commons – typically forest or mountain land – where local farms have historical user rights, including grazing, wood harvesting, and seasonal cabin use.
- *Vang Almenning* is one of Norway’s largest commons, covering 220,000 decares and with 355 eligible rightsholders.
- *Ground lease (tomtefeste)* refers to leasing land for purposes such as constructing buildings. The landowner (bortfester) leases the land to the tenant (fester), who pays an annual lease fee (festeavgift).
- Norwegian sports facilities are classified into four levels: neighborhood, municipal, regional, and national. HTK’s facility is a designated *National Facility* – used for elite-level competitions and training.