

# Winter Care for Dogs: Keeping Your Dog Safe & Healthy This Winter

March 1, 2018

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Cuddles with your furry friend are extra welcome on cold days, but the winter months also carry some unique challenges for dog health and safety. So, with the coldest weather ahead of us, we’ve put together a few tips on winter care to help you keep your dog safe and healthy this winter.

## Winter Care for Dogs: Top 5 Tips for Dog Health

### Cold Weather Tip #1: Limit exposure

When temperatures drop, so too must the duration of outdoor adventures. If you’re used to long walks and bouts of play outside, keep an eye on the temperature and pay close attention to your dog’s comfort level. Dogs and cold weather shouldn’t mix for too long—hypothermia and frostbite become real dangers as the temperatures dip below freezing.

If you’re still walking your usual route but your doggo seems to lose some of her familiar energy by the end, you might want to map out a shorter jaunt for the colder months. You may be bundled up in cold weather gear, but your pupper is working with a considerably more limited wardrobe—and burning additional calories just keeping warm. This tip is essential for dog health and safety.

### Cold Weather Tip #2: Bundle up

Speaking of coats, your dog might need some extra insulation during cold weather. Dogs that are on the smaller side have less body mass and therefore don’t generate as much heat. Dogs with short coats—or no coat, like a Chinese Crested or Peruvian Inca Orchid—definitely require additional insulation in winter weather.

If your pup could use an extra layer, find a warm dog coat that fits well. Consider getting at least two—that way, you’ll always have a dry one on hand. A damp or wet coat is counter-productive since it can exponentially increase the risk of hypothermia.

### Cold Weather Tip #3: Protect those paws

Cold surfaces, ice, and snow can be rough on your pup’s feet. The addition of salt on roads and sidewalks can be especially irritating, and even dangerous, to sensitive paws. Toy breeds like Yorkshire Terriers and Miniature Pinschers tend to be especially susceptible to extreme cold. If your regular walk and play areas get salted in the winter, consider protecting your dog’s paws with some winter booties or paw balm.

Once you’re back home, towel your pup’s paws or rinse them in warm water, making sure to get any snow, ice or salt between the toes. For longer haired or lower-to-the-ground pups, be sure to cleanse any salt from their bellies, tails, and ears, too.

### Cold Weather Tip #4: Stave off kennel cough

Just like human flu season, kennel cough is most prevalent in the colder months. Officially called canine infectious tracheobronchitis, kennel cough is highly contagious and is commonly spread in places like kennels, dog parks and doggy daycare where there are a lot of dogs coming and going.

Arming your pup with the bordetella vaccination is a good preventative measure and is sometimes required at boarding facilities. However, even vaccinated pups aren’t 100 percent immune. The most prevalent symptom is a honk-like cough. Your dog might also exhibit a runny nose, fatigue, or a low-grade fever. If you’re worried your pup might have picked up kennel cough, contact your vet who can treat it with antibiotics.

### Cold Weather Tip #5: Know your dog’s history


Breeds like Samoyeds, St. Bernards, and Alaskan Malamutes are winter weather pros with cold-resistant, double-layered coats. Greyhounds, Whippets, and Chihuahuas, on the other hand, are examples of breeds who require extra care in cold climates.


Knowing your dog’s background and the climates in which its ancestors acclimated can help you be more informed when it comes to your dog’s preparedness for colder weather.


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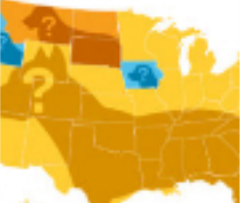
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# Announcing the Nominees for the Dog Academy Awards (The Osc-grrr-s)

March 1, 2018


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Academy Awards season is upon us once again. Oscar buzzworthy films and performances are the talk of the town. This left us at Embark pondering: If there was an awards show for dogs, who would be the nominees in the “Dog Academy Awards?”

We decided to pull together our nominees across a few canine categories. Then we would leave it up to you, our friends and fans, to pick the winners. Since this is the first year presenting the Osc-grrr-s, we opened up nominations to performances from all years. Further, we included television dogs in our considerations.

Here are the categories for the Dog Academy Awards (the Osc-grrr-s).


## Canine In a Leading Role

**Embark Vet**  
about 2 years ago

Vote for the Osc-grrr-s! At Embark, we wondered — if there was an Academy Awards show for dogs, who would win? Help us decide. We'll reveal the winners and our favorite comments in the coming weeks. May the best pooch win!


Category: Canine in a Leading Role

More info on the nominees (including video clips): [https://embarkvet.com/.../announcing-the-nominees-for-the-do.../... See More](https://embarkvet.com/.../announcing-the-nominees-for-the-do...)



70%

Clyde as "Marley"



30%

"Winston" in Feast

This poll has ended.

30 Votes

2 1 1

These are the obvious dog stars-the pups who are lead characters and the central drivers of their respective films' plots. The nominees for Canine in a Leading Role are:


### Clyde as “Marley”-“Marley & Me”

There aren't many dog stories that tug at the heartstrings as deftly as “Marley & Me.” The film, based on John Grogan's novel of the same name, starred Clyde, a yellow Labrador Retriever. While 22 dogs were used to portray Marley throughout the various stages of life, three-year-old Clyde was the dog who got [the most screen](#) time in the titular role. His emotional range as a mischievous yet charming companion made the film a dog-lover favorite. For your consideration: [watch Clyde here](#).

### “Winston”-“Feast”


This precocious puppy stole the hearts of filmgoers as the star in the Pixar short, “[Feast](#).” The short won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film, but we think the puppy deserves consideration for his performance as the lead protagonist. Given the Streep-like status of the Oscar-winning film he starred in, Winston is a favorite contender in this category. For your consideration: [watch Winston here](#).

## Classic Film or Television Dog

**Embark Vet**  
about 2 years ago


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Category: Classic Film or Television Dog... [See More](#)



11%

Skippy as "Asta"



89%

Moose as "Eddie"

This poll has ended.

18 Votes

3 1 1

From Lassie to Rin Tin Tin and Benji to Hooch, television and film dogs have a storied tradition of stealing our hearts. This year, we're looking back through the century for the most standout performances of dogs in film and television. The final 2018 nominees in this category are:


### Skippy as "Asta"-“The Thin Man”

If you're a crossword puzzle enthusiast, you know Asta as “The Thin Man's best friend”. This plucky Wire Fox Terrier was the [unspoken comedic secret](#) to the popularity of this film series, co-starring Myrna Loy and William Powell, and his investigative skills were, at times, major plot points. Skippy's fame has waned over the decades, however, making him the underdog in this category. For your consideration: [watch Skippy here](#).

### Moose as “Eddie”-“Frasier”


This expressive Jack Russell Terrier is one of the most recognizable pups from the 1990s and present-day syndication. As Eddie, Moose's talents were the source of many visual jokes on the classic sitcom, “Frasier,” [upstaging](#) star Kelsey Grammar himself. We wouldn't be surprised if he took this category given his awareness advantage over Asta whose films are not as widely viewed as “Frasier.” For your consideration: [watch Moose \(and co-star, his son Enzo\) here](#).

## Canine-Like Character or Duo in a Supporting Role

**Embark Vet**  
about 2 years ago


Vote for the Osc-grrr-s! At Embark, we wondered — if there was an Academy Awards show for dogs, who would win? Help us decide. We'll reveal the winners and our favorite comments in the coming weeks. May the best pooch win!

Category: Canine-Like Character or Duo in a Supporting Role... [See More](#)



68%

Timon & Pumbaa



32%

BB-8

This poll has ended.

22 Votes

2 Comment 1

There are many films where supporting roles are performed by unconventional, dog-adjacent characters. This category recognizes the achievements of actors who captured the essence of “man's best friend.” The nominees are:

### “Timon” and “Pumbaa”-“The Lion King”

This dynamic duo not only stole the show in Disney's “The Lion King”. They also got their own film spin-off and television show! These sidekicks are the faithful companions of Simba, winning them Osc-grrr buzz in this nontraditional category. After all, what captures the spirit of a dog like a trusty duo who reminds you to live life with “no worries?” For your consideration: [watch Timon & Pumbaa here](#).

### “BB-8”-“Star Wars: The Last Jedi”

Sure, BB-8 is an [astromech droid](#), not a living canine, but as his scenes with companion Poe Dameron demonstrate, he might be the closest thing in the “Star Wars” franchise to a puppy. The undeniable challenge of conveying emotion as a metallic droid-limited to sounds, lights and only minimal movement of its parts-could bring BB-8 a win this year in this tough and unconventional category. For your consideration: [watch BB-8 here](#).





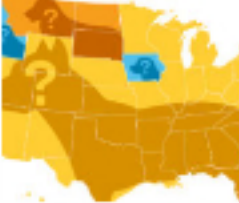
Cast your vote for the 2018 Dog Academy Awards on [Facebook](#), or find us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @embarkvet and take the poll for each category there. (And of course, here at [Embark](#), we wonder: If BB-8 were a dog, what breed would he be?)

We'll reveal the winners and our favorite comments in the coming weeks. May the best pooch win!

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