

# Getting Your Dog Comfortable with Winter Boots

## step-by-step guide

### WHY DO DOGS NEED BOOTS IN WINTER?

Winter may be beautiful, but it can be dangerous for your pup's paws. According to the AKC, dogs are at risk for frostbite on their paws, tails, and ears in freezing temperatures. Snow, ice, and road salt can also cause burns, cracks, and irritation, making protection essential.

### DOG BOOTS ARE A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO:

- ❄️ **Prevent frostbite:** Keep paws warm and insulated from cold.
- ❄️ **Protect against road salt and chemicals:** Avoid irritation/burns.
- ❄️ **Increase comfort on snow and ice:** Provide traction and prevent slipping. Prevent snow and ice buildup in fur.

### WHY DO DOGS RESIST BOOTS?

Dogs rely on their paws to sense textures and maintain balance, so boots can feel strange and uncomfortable at first. Common reasons dogs dislike boots include:

- ❄️ **Unfamiliar sensation:** The restrictive feel of boots can be unsettling.
- ❄️ **Improper sizing:** Boots that are too tight or loose cause discomfort.
- ❄️ **Lack of acclimation:** Rushing the process can make boots feel scary or stressful.

# How to Train Your Dog to Wear Boots

## **STEP 1: CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOTS**

❄️ Measure your dog's paws accurately. Use a soft tape measure or trace their paw on paper to find the correct size.

❄️ Look for boots with flexible soles and adjustable straps for a snug but comfortable fit.

## **STEP 2: START INDOORS**

❄️ Introduce one boot at a time while your dog is relaxed, like during/after a meal or play session.

❄️ Give them a treat and lots of praise as soon as the boot is on.

❄️ Let them wear the single boot for a minute or two, then take it off. Repeat this process for all four paws.

## **STEP 3: GRADUALLY ADD ALL FOUR BOOTS**

❄️ Once they're comfortable with one boot, put all four on.

❄️ Keep the session short—just a few minutes at first—and encourage them with treats, belly rubs, or their favorite toy.

❄️ Expect funny walking at first! It's normal and will fade as they adjust.

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## **STEP 4: PRACTICE SHORT INDOOR WALKS**

- ❄️ Let your dog walk around the house in their boots.
- ❄️ Distract them with a game of fetch, favorite treats, or playtime to help them forget the boots are on.

## **STEP 5: MOVE OUTDOORS**

- ❄️ Start with short walks in a quiet area where your dog can focus on walking instead of distractions.
- ❄️ Gradually increase the length and difficulty of walks, adding snowy or icy terrain as they gain confidence.
- ❄️ Always check the boots after walks to ensure they fit well and don't cause irritation.

## **COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID**

- ❄️ **Skipping Training:** Don't wait for a snowstorm to introduce boots—start early!
- ❄️ **Improper Sizing:** Boots that are too tight or loose will make your dog resist wearing them.
- ❄️ **Rushing the Process:** Let your dog adjust at their own pace to build positive associations.

# The Dog Care Academy

## ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

With patience and consistency, your dog will be rocking their boots like a pro—and their paws will thank you for it!

❄️ **Want even more help?** We're working on an **exclusive online course** that will walk you through many different challenges dog owners face.

✨ Pre-order below! ✨

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This course is for dedicated pet parents who want to confidently care for their dog's health at home, solve common medical challenges, and prevent avoidable issues without feeling overwhelmed or unprepared.

## DOG CARE ACADEMY

Brought to you by Dr. Laura  
Robinson and the Harry Pupper  
team (Emily, Rob, and Harry)!

