

The 20 Best Cold-Weather Dog Breeds

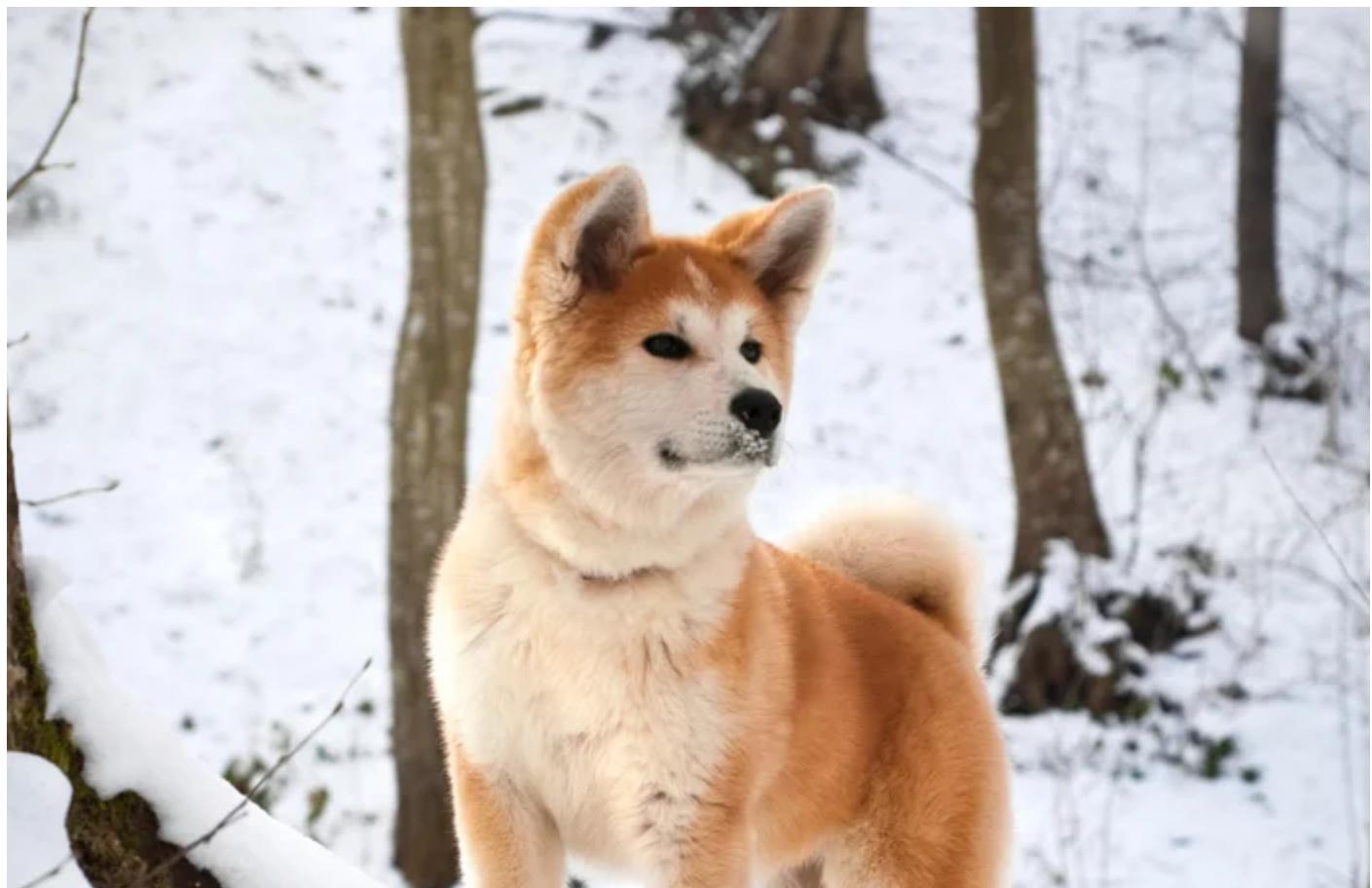
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If you like to rough it in freezing temperatures and wet snow, [your dog should too.](#) “In general, a dog that thrives in a snowy climate has a dense coat that insulates them from the elements,” says Bernadine Cruz, who has worked with arctic dogs as a trail veterinarian for the Iditarod, Yukon Quest, and John Beargrease sled-dog races. “Often, northern dog breeds will have a good foundation by virtue of stout furry paws that allow them to traverse icy terrain.”

If you live in the mountains or are looking for a [furry friend to keep you warm](#) on those single-digit winter camping trips, these are the best snow dog breeds for cold-weather climates. (Prefer to sweat it out in warmer weather? Here are the [best hot-weather dogs](#). If you’re looking for a less well known type of pup, here are some of the coolest [rare dog breeds](#) on the planet.)

20. Akita





(Photo: pedjalaya/Thinkstock)

An Akita is truly a royal pup—hailing from Japan, this breed was once only owned by the Imperial family. Statues of the Akita were also given as gifts to new parents to bring health, happiness, and a long life. This dog, originally bred as a cold-weather hunting companion with a dense undercoat and harsh outer coat, can often be independent and stubborn, but will remain protective and loyal to its family.

19. Alaskan Malamute





(Photo: Liliya Kulianionak/Thinkstock)

Bred to haul heavy loads, run, and roam, the Alaskan Malamute is the ultimate cold-weather canine. “The Alaskan Malamute is a great cold weather breed because of its origin—they come from Alaska and are the oldest and largest of the Arctic sled dogs, having been used for freighting in the Arctic,” says Gina DiNardo, vice president of the American Kennel Club. “They have a thick, coarse coat that keeps them warm.”

18. American Eskimo Dog





(Photo: Christmas w/a K/Wikimedia Commons)

Originating from Germany, the American Eskimo was originally called the White German Spitz but was renamed after World War II, most likely for its white coat—not for any connection with Eskimos. Though this playful and compact and used to perform indoors with the Barnum and Bailey Circus, outdoor activity suits it much better; its coat resists soaking and thick ears stay warm in low temperatures.

17. Anatolian Shepherd





(Photo: Frei Sein/Wikimedia Commons)

The Anatolian Shepherd is a serious mountain dog—the breed is rugged and tough, but still agile and able to handle long treks. Originally used as a flock guard in Turkey more than 6,000 years ago, this breed has low energy but is very protective—the dog should know who is boss from the beginning and will then welcome strangers that the owner introduces.

16. Bernese Mountain Dog

