



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cutest Puppy Contest is this Saturday at Excelsior Brewing *Anyone's puppy can be entered to win through on-site voting.*

EXCELSIOR, Minn. (January 30, 2024) —The [Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby](#)'s 4th annual Cutest Puppy Contest will take place at Excelsior Brewing Co. in Excelsior from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday, Feb. 3. Live music will follow.

In addition to cute puppies, there will be a silent auction, official Klondike merchandise available for purchase, and a kids' education area staffed with veterinarians talking about the sport and incredible athleticism of sled dogs.

The contest accepts anyone's puppy that is vaccinated and 6-months of age or younger as of Feb. 3, 2024. To compete, a puppy must be registered by 2:30 p.m. Feb. 3. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a raffle entry for a Klondike Dog Derby merchandise basket worth \$250 (only those registering a puppy participate in the raffle).

Registrants can pose their puppies under a miniature version of the official Klondike Dog Derby race arch. Each puppy picture will be numbered and attached to a jar in which votes can be collected in the form of a ticket. Attendees can buy one ticket for \$1 or bundles of tickets:

- 20 vote tickets: includes one free collector's edition Klondike Dog Derby pint glass.
- 40 vote tickets: includes one free pint of beer while at Excelsior Brewing Co. on Feb. 3.
- 60 vote tickets: includes one free official Klondike Dog Derby hat.

Votes will be tallied following the contest; 1st, 2nd and 3rd-place winners will be announced on Monday, February 5, 2024, on the official Klondike Dog Derby [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Winners can pick up their prizes at Westonka Animal Hospital: 2125 Commerce Blvd, Mound, Minn., 55364.

Admission is free, though purchases of cutest puppy voting tickets are encouraged. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help pay for the next Klondike Dog Derby sled dog race scheduled for February 2025.

After the cutest puppy contest and silent auction end at 5 p.m., live music will begin with Train Wreck Duet. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. Tony Williams will provide live music.

This Saturday is when the 2024 Klondike Dog Derby sled dog race was to take place. Unsafe conditions on Lake Minnetonka and a lack of snow due to record-warm winter weather forced the cancellation of the race earlier this month. In previous years it attracted more than 30,000 spectators.

(Photos can be found online [here](#).) More than 350 volunteers help put on the race, where up to 35 world-renowned mushers compete for a \$40,000 purse. Net proceeds from each race weekend are donated to three charities: [Adopt a Husky Minnesota](#), [Can Do Canines](#) and [ICA Food Shelf](#).

More about the Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby

The [Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to produce world-class sled dog races to serve as a genuine celebration of the sport and spirit of the authentic North; an opportunity for education on the incredible athleticism and passion of sled dogs and mushers; and a tribute to the history of sled dog racing in Excelsior and the Lake Minnetonka area.

For more information, contact:

Dale Kurschner, (763) 567-9241, media@klondikedogderby.com