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Luxury unleashed



Doggie Couture:
Haute Coats, Jackets,
and Sweaters

By Charlotte
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Before Britney Spears had her new baby to dress for success, she was styling her dogs Lacy, Lucky, and Bit Bit in Little Lily clothing. For those who don't know Little Lily, she was the first fashionista Yorkie to stomp around Beverly Hills, Calif., in high-top doggie sneakers. Her clothes and shoes are a favorite of celebrity and jet set crowds, including Mrs. Federline. And according to Britney's Web site, the hot mama likes to dress her Chihuahua, Bit Bit, in Little Lily's pink faux mink.

Now, not every dog owner dares to make such a bold fashion statement, but many do outfit their dogs in fashionable overcoats or sweaters to keep their little darlings warm, dry, and clean. After a thorough search, I've compiled a selective list of some of the season's most fashionable outerwear:

Urban street chic. Your canine can be hip-hop cool by wearing a great-fitting camouflage hoodie. Pink for girls, blue for boys, and styles for larger dogs, too! www.cloakanddawggie.com

Pure luxury. Uber-pampered pets wear Oscar Newman sweaters with hand-embroidered appliqués, beads, ribbons, sequins, and pearl clusters. The Butterfly Chenille sweater is my favorite. www.oscarnewman.com

Rain, rain, go away. Preppy pooches sport the Thayer & Ridge Argyle Plaid Rain Coat. This coat will keep your dog dry and stylish with its faux fur trim. www.thayerandridge.com

Real sportswear. Dress your dog like the pros in officially licensed apparel. Whether wearing a Red Sox jersey or a Lakers varsity jacket, your pet will have lots of fun and be labeled a real team player. www.sportyk9.com

Glamourama. On the ski slopes in Aspen or on the streets of New York, your dog will look hot in this season's shimmering Kwigy-bo parka. www.kwigy-bo.com



Just fabulous. Imagine a coat as a work of art and you have the Hallström Couture Collection. Cottons, linens, cashmeres, and silks are gathered from around the world to make limited edition designs. No more than five coats in each size of any design will be created, according to E&E Hallström. www.ehallstromc.com

When shopping for a doggie coat or sweater, consider fit, functionality, and fashion, advises Mike Campbell, owner of Doggie Styles pet boutique in Beverly Hills, Calif. He also suggests that before embarking on a shopping spree for the perfect overcoat or pullover, you carefully measure your pooch while she's in a standing position. To find the best fit, you will need to collect three measurements: the circumference of the bottom of her neck; the distance from the base of her neck where the collar naturally lies to the base of her tail; and the widest area of her rib cage, directly behind her front legs.

If measurements are near or over those given on the clothing's sizing chart, round up to the next larger size. For difficult-to-fit dogs, Campbell recommends a sweater because it will have more give for dogs with wider chests and will even fit long dogs.

Whether you choose a cool coat or a gorgeous sweater, your pooch will look hot this winter. **DF**

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