

# BEST DOG PERFORMANCES

 by Kevin Clarke

Who doesn't love a good pup!? Nobody, that's who! These dogs represent, in my mind, some of the very best dogs performing as dogs. You may notice some of the more obvious, showy movie dogs missing from this list, which is by design. No stupid pet tricks here. No talking, anthropomorphized animals (sorry BABE movies). No pandering or mugging for the camera. Just canines being canines to the best of their abilities. If there were an Academy Award for dogs, these guys would all go home with the gold!

## UMBERTO D. (1952)(DIR. VITTORIO DE SICA)

Umberto's terrier Flike (played by Napoleone), as the only one keeping an old man from ending it all. The final scene with Flike, Umberto and a train is one of the most heart-rending scenes in all of cinema. I agree with director Vittorio De Sica, this is his best film.

## THE ROAD WARRIOR (1982)(DIR. GEORGE MILLER)

The greatest silver screen dog of all time. Max's one true friend, known only as "Dog." George Miller and cinematographer Dean Semler have nothing but nice things to say about her in their Blu-ray commentary track.

## THE THING (1982)(DIR. JOHN CARPENTER)

Jed, as the most intense dog ever filmed. My favorite performance in the movie (sorry Kurt). Honestly, one of the most controlled performances, human or canine, in the history of cinema. And he'd better have gotten a whole damn rib-eye steak after suffering the dog pen sequence.



## E.T. (1982)(DIR. STEVEN SPEILBERG)

Harvey, Elliot's golden retriever, who is way more level-headed about this whole spaceman business than any dog should be expected to be. He even runs up the spaceship ramp at the end, ready to head off into the cosmos (but to no avail)!

## WHITE DOG (1982)(DIR. SAMUEL FULLER)

Hans, Folsom, Son, Buster and Duke; all credited as playing the un-named, titular white dog. Maverick director Samuel Fuller's last American movie. A controversial (at the time, unreleased in the United States), hard-hitting, tragic, unvarnished attack on racism, and the structures that teach and breed racism. As relevant now as it was when it was made.



**SCARECROW**  
THE WORLD'S LARGEST  
VIDEO LIBRARY