



Palm Dog 2026: who will succeed Panda for the 25th anniversary of the Croisette's most coveted canine prize?



Panda, winner of the 2025 Palm Dog -
© Woopets

Cannes – On Friday, May 22, 2026, the Cannes excitement will not be limited to the steps of the Palais. Palm Dog, an institution that has become one of the most iconic fringe events of the Festival, is preparing to celebrate its 25 years of history at La Plage du Festival. Who will succeed Panda, the deeply moving 2025 winner in Hlynur Pálmason's *The Love That Remains*, to claim the silver screen's most coveted collar?

25 years of flair, glamour, and commitment

Since the crowning of Otis in The Anniversary Party in 2001—a prize accepted by actress Jennifer Jason Leigh—Palm Dog has come a long way. Created in 2001 by British journalist Toby Rose, what started as an affectionate nod has become a true Croisette institution.

Over the years, the event has been endorsed by legendary figures such as Quentin Tarantino, Tilda Swinton, and Demi Moore. The latter, winner of the *PalmDogManitarian* award in 2024, also made a splash on the red carpet at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Cannes Film Festival.

Today, Palm Dog carries a message that goes far beyond entertainment. The prestigious jury, composed of prominent international critics including Peter Bradshaw (*The Guardian*), pays close attention to filming conditions and the benevolent connection between filmmakers and their furry cast members.

Palm Dog 2026: the dogs in the running for this 26th edition



Dame Joan Collins and the 3 Pugs in *My Duchess* - © Venetia Scott

Last year, the jury was won over by the accuracy of Panda (*The Love That Remains*) and the panache of the Jack Russell Pipa (Jury Grand Prize for *Sirāt*).

For this 26th edition, the caliber of the official selection promises to be exceptionally high once again, featuring canine performances of rare intensity:

- A royal trio: In Mike Newell's highly anticipated *My Duchess*, the legendary Dame Joan Collins plays the Duchess of Windsor. But the real "12-legged" performance is delivered by the film's three Pugs, mirroring the genuine comfort these dogs brought to Wallis Simpson in her final years.
- Pure emotion: Dominga Sotomayor's Chilean drama *La Perra* notably features Yuri, a stray puppy adopted by the heroine, whose disappearance brings buried traumas to the surface. A central performance that places him among the leading contenders.
- Unsung heroes taking center stage: In Félix de Givry's *Goodbye Cruel World*, a scruffy Labrador steals the screen as he tracks down a missing child by their scent under a hotel door. In Guillaume Canet's psychological thriller *Karma*, the camera lovingly lingers on Rolo, an adorable mixed breed, and Popeye, a majestic German Shepherd rewarded with magnificent close-ups.
- A true ensemble cast and tailor-made roles: Bruno Dumont's *Red Rocks* features no less than 4 canine actors, while a Terrier cross plays an indispensable role for the main characters in Clio Barnard's film, *I see tall buildings fall like lightning*.
- A film from the Cannes Classics 2026 selection: The jury is also keeping a close eye on the classic selection with Yang Li-Kuo's *The Dull-Ice Flower*, where the wonderful Cutie transcends the role of a pet to become a mirror of the young protagonist's loneliness and innocence.

À l'issue du Festival, le lauréat de Palm Dog 2026 rejoindra les icônes telles que Uggie (*The Artist*), Brandy (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) ou Messi (*Anatomy of a Fall*).

Join us on May 22 to discover the grand winner and attend an anniversary edition that will continue to remind us that animal performance is recognized and celebrated as a full-fledged art form on the Croisette and in cinema.

Practical Information

- Date and Time: Friday, May 22, 2026, at 1:00 PM
- Location: La Plage du Festival, 52 boulevard de la Croisette, Cannes
- Access: By invitation only. Entry reserved for Palm Dog accreditation or press card holders.
- Official Website: www.palmdog.com



About Palm Dog

Created in 2001 by esteemed journalist Toby Rose, Palm Dog is today owned and organized by Woopets, France's leading independent media dedicated to pets. Since taking over the event in 2023, the platform has continued this prestigious ceremony in close collaboration with its founder. This iconic event blends the love of dogs with a passion for cinema by offering four-legged actors their very own Palme d'Or. Beyond performance, the jury makes animal welfare an absolute priority by ensuring good filming conditions, thereby conveying a strong message of respect and recognition.

- More info at palmdog.com

- Partnerships & Press Contact: <https://www.palmdog.com/contact/>

- Accreditation/Invitation Request: <https://www.palmdog.com/accreditations/>