

TOWN & COUNTRY

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How to Watch the National Dog Show on Thanksgiving So, so much cuter than football.



A YOUNG GIRL HELPS SHOW A LONG-HAIRED CHIHUAHUA AT THE 2017 NATIONAL DOG SHOW. NBCGETTY IMAGES

Thanksgiving is a holiday for homebodies. Traditions include spending the day in the kitchen, preparing a lavish meal, eating said meal, and spending time curled up on the couch with the in-laws, usually with the television tuned to a family-friendly program.

Among the most popular—and arguably the best—of those Thanksgiving broadcasts is the National Dog Show, a celebration of man’s best friend (and the internet’s favorite obsession). Here’s what you need to know about the 2019 edition.

IT’LL START AT NOON.

NBC, the channel that hosts the broadcast, promises that it will begin at 12 p.m. and end at 2 p.m. in all time zones.

Those with cable can watch on any local NBC channel, or login on the NBC website to stream. Other online options include Hulu’s Live TV subscription program, and YouTube TV (also a paid, subscription-based service).

NEARLY 20 MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO WATCH IT LIVE.

The National Dog Show has been an annual event for dog-lovers since 1933, but in

recent years, it’s become something of a phenomenon. These days, according to the *Washington Post*, it’s the highest-rated canine competition in the country, ranking above even the Westminster Dog Show and the all-important Puppy Bowl.

One of the show’s annual co-hosts, John O’Hurley, described it to the *Post* as the “happiest day of the year.” He added, “I’ve always said I’m a better person with a dog in my lap. They just have an infectious influence on our lives. You see it in this room: Everyone was happy today.”