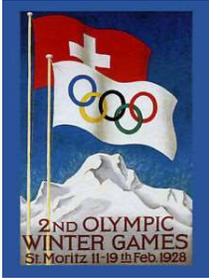


# Puppy Love

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## Debuting In Switzerland

The first worldwide demonstration of dog sledding as a winter sport debuted in 1928 at the Winter Olympic Games in Switzerland, the races were not part of the official program. Dog sledding is traditionally a snowy ground, cold arctic like weather sport, however some folks that don't live in that climate still find a way to compete in world dog sledding competitions. Matt Hodgson from Great Britain, with dedication and tenacity, is a five-time world gold medal winner in the sport. He says, "I love the dogs and the dogs take so much pleasure from it -- if they didn't enjoy it, they wouldn't run and it wouldn't be a lot of fun," The *International Federation of Dog Sports* has been petitioning the *International Olympic Committee* for the inclusion of dog sled races in the Winter Olympics. Today, there continues to be talk of the sport one day making a return to the Winter Olympic Games as an official and fully sanctioned event. For dogs everywhere, cross your fingers! Demonstration sports in the Winter Olympics ceased to exist after 1992.



Katya is home enjoying life with her wonderful parents in New York City.



## Meet Waldi

The Dachshund was the first official Olympic mascot, and was designed to represent the attributes required for the world's best athletes: strength, tenacity and agility. Otl Aicher was the lead designer for the Olympics and was resistant to the task initially, however, he created the much loved, Waldi who quickly became very popular. Aicher used a real long-haired dachshund, Cherie von Birkenhof, as a model for his creation. Over two million Waldi related items were sold around the world. Originally Waldi was not meant to be sold as a souvenir, but as a toy. But, Waldi's popularity was so irresistible he took on a life all of his own and appeared on buttons, posters, stickers, and as a pin. Waldi's debut was in 1972 at the Olympics in Munich, Germany.



## Tradition Altered

The very recognized Olympic symbol of the five multi-colored rings are traditionally intended to represent individual sports, national flags and even the uniforms of the Game's personnel. However, the Olympic committee, in cooperation with Otl Aicher, actually changed the colors of the Olympic ring to more pastel shades for the Munich games. The red and black rings were removed from the rings because they did not want the Olympics to be identified with the Nazis. They were replaced with orange and a new shade of blue that dominated the games in Munich.

## *The Call of the Wild*

Check out this 2020 adventure film based on Jack London's 1903 novel. Buck is stolen from his home in California and sent to the Yukon where he begins his dog-altering role as a sled dog.