

THE WELL-BRED BOOT



Here they come, *striding into fall*:
O took hundreds of pairs for a test-walk,
and these are the *top dogs*—
from over-the-knee to ankle-high, neon to
neutral, glamorous to ruggedly *chic*.

Photographs by DEWEY NICKS

WHITEY
Bearded Collie
↓

→
LITTLE MAN
Bearded Collie

Best in Show

The suede knee-high with a stacked heel (*far left*) is the Birkin bag of boots: object of desire, trend-defying classic, future icon (Hermès, \$2,250). Think ten, 20, even 30 years ahead, and the initial outlay may not seem so outrageous. Coat, Sportmax.
THE HEIGHT OF FASHION: Over-the-knee boots (*near left*) are leading the pack this season (Devani, \$165). They camouflage all manner of leg issues (knobby knees, bigger thighs), can be worn full-length or folded down, and look fantastic over leggings or under skirts. Both pairs are in the latest go-with-everything neutrals—beigy grays that you might call (with apologies to the bearded collies) Weimaraner colors. Jacket, 'S by Max Mara. Leggings, Tse. ▶



“Heel, girl!”
The *best-behaved*
new boots don’t
teeter: They’re high
enough to be *stylish*,
stable enough for
Sunday strolls in
the park.

→
OSCAR
Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel

Stepping Out

The updated scrunch boot (Michael Kors, \$895), equipped with an elasticized ruffled top, flatters calves. Crush it down over leggings (Riller & Fount), as shown, or wear pulled up under a knee-length dress. And if you do orange only with black or brown, you’re barking up the wrong tree; it’s chicer now to juxtapose bold colors—here, a scarlet coat (Moschino Cheap and Chic) and maroon bag (Botkier).



*Old Dogs,
New Tricks*
The desert boot, a comfort
staple since the 1950s, is
reinvented as a lace-up heel in
its signature sand color
(Chloé, \$695). The freshest
way to wear it is with straight-
leg pants (Sportmax) tucked
in—the better to see the
sharply pointed leather cuff.
Wrap, Ralph Lauren Blue
Label. Croc tote, Kroco. On
Keazy: Parka, Fab Dog Inc. ▶

→
KEAZY
Corgi



←
DULCE
Pomeranian



←
JOAQUIN
French Bulldog

Twinkle Toes

Faux-steel toe-caps and heels with a spray-painted look—graffiti art meets heavy metal—are a witty touch for classic suede knee-highs (Marc Jacobs, \$1,000). Pinning on vintage-inspired brooches (R.J. Graziano; House of Lavande) is a brilliant way to punch them up (also a great upgrade for old black boots). Dress, Peter Som. Clutch, VBH. Fishnets, Hue.

A Trend with Teeth

Exposed zippers are everywhere—sometimes functional, sometimes decorative. On this midcalf boot, *above left* (Casadei, \$990), they're both, enabling you to wear the pair half-fastened (the flare makes calves look slimmer) or at their full height. Dress, Michael Kors. Coat, J.Crew. Ring, Mawi. BEASTIE BOY: The shoe-bootie with an animal-print cuff, *above right* (Christian Louboutin, \$975), is like a perfect pump that grew up and went to Hollywood. Skirt, Erin Fetherston. Rings, Mawi. Give black boots some pop with brightly colored bags (fuchsia clutch, Kroco; blue purse, Chanel) or mood-changing patterned tights (pinstripes, Hue; lace, Falke). ▶

Asphalt Jungle

Gray is fall's preeminent shade—an excellent base for stronger colors. Snap on your best friend's leash and head for the street in a double-strapped, stacked-heel boot (Coach, \$528). Good news for muscular calves: Your legs needn't be pipestems to fit into this roomy, gaiter-inspired style. Coat, DKNY. Skirt, Diane von Furstenberg. Tights, Fogal.

→
SAM
Pit Bull

YOUR BOOT SEARCH IS OVER!

BROWSE HERE for 62 finds in nine categories. Look for those marked Great Buy! (under \$100) and Comfort (pairs made for walking).

Over-the-Knee



COMFORT

DO THE FLIP
Pull up over the knee for an edgy, all-suede leg, or turn down. Calvin Klein, \$220.



FULL COVERAGE
The gently bloused leg and seaming at the knee ensure a hassle-free fit. Restricted, \$110.



SWEET PLUM
Wear this luscious boot's thigh-flattering contoured top cuffed or unfolded. See by Chloé, \$715.



HIGH RISE
This flat, foot-friendly boot won't tug at the knee because of the double buckle in back. Volatile, \$88.



GAINING ALTITUDE
Big trend, little price. A slight dip in back minimizes bulk around the knee. Skechers, \$59.



UP IN SMOKE
This side-buttoned, boldly seamed boot is an absolute pearl. Seychelles, \$230.

Ankle



CUFF LOVE
This ankle-high wedge has material to spare. Ash, \$200.



GREAT BUY!

SO FIERCE
From a *Project Runway* winner, faux-snake boots with a spiky heel. Christian Siriano for Payless, \$50.



COMFORT

ALL TIED UP
This lace-up style with a low stacked heel hugs the ankle. Clarks, \$140.



COMFORT

CUTE AS A BUTTON
If you have a vintage soul, these old-fashioned boots are the next best thing to a thrift-shop find. Söfft, \$151.



ZIP DRIVE
Metal trim gives an industrial feel; distressed leather makes for a broken-in look. Twelfth St. by Cynthia Vincent, \$350.



GREAT BUY!

DELICATE MATTER
This dainty boot laces up in back like a corset. Mia, \$89.



GREAT BUY!

EASY RIDER
The familiar biker shape shows a softer side in eggplant suede. Libby Edelman, \$90.



GOOD AT DETAILS
This boot synthesizes cuffs, zippers, and a platform sole into one handsome package. Diane von Furstenberg, \$395.



THIS STUD'S FOR YOU
A graceful pattern takes the menace out of heavy metal. Miu Miu, \$870.



COMFORT

ROOM AT THE TOP
Elastic in back makes this perfect with tucked-in pants. Modern Vintage, \$295.



ON THE MARCH
A military-style army green boot gets a flirty heel. Nine West, \$149.



GREAT BUY!

CRUSH OBJECT
Precreasing makes it easy to achieve the scrunched-down look. Rocket Dog, \$99.



GREAT BUY!

SNOW DAY
From a label known for indoor attire comes this faux-shearing platform. Colin Stuart for Victoria's Secret Catalogue, \$79.



PURPLE HAZE
This leather boot with snakeskin trim reflects the season's '80s obsession. Devani, \$165.



GREAT BUY!

FOREVER PLAID
This buttoned-up boot lets you test-drive fall's dominant pattern. Bakers, \$70. ➤

BEN GOLDSTEIN/STUDIO D. STYLISTS: STELLA REY FOR MARK EDWARD INC. AND GENEVIEVE YRAOLA.



←
KHUFU
Bull Mastiff

▲ **RHINESTONE COWBOY** A midcalf boot (The Frye Company, \$648) gets a dusting of sparkle.

Shoe-Boot



TOUGH CUSTOMER
An incredibly priced shoe-bootie has buckles and an industrial-strength platform sole. Anne Michelle, \$30.

IT'S A CINCH
This year even boots wear belts. From Kim Kardashian's addictively well-priced Web site. ShoeDazzle, \$39.

Midcalf



THE BELT WAY
Buckled, burnished, and practically begging for thick tights and a tweed skirt. Botkier, \$645.



TWO-WAY CHIC
The tightly shirred top can be pushed down to midcalf or extended to its full height. Enzo Angiolini, \$189.



RANCH DRESSING
Don't buck the cowboy trend; here's a citified version with a stacked heel. Born Crown, \$190.



WALK THE LINE
This artful cuff is a standout, with its bicolor geometric precision. Matisse, \$180.



URBAN COWBOY
This sophisticated boot has contrasting topstitching. Lauren by Ralph Lauren, \$198.



IT'S A GIFT
A graceful ankle-high tie makes the slouchy plum suede exceptionally feminine. Circa Joan & David, \$199.

Wide Calf



SADDLE UP
This cotton canvas and leather equestrian boot makes the ankle look slimmer. Silhouettes, \$129.



FREE RANGE
A larger calf can get right into this timeless knee-high. J.Crew, \$345.



LADY IN RED
There's space to spare in a riding-boot-style pull-on. Lumiani, \$179.



STRETCH CLASS
The hand-knit shaft expands to fit any calf. Tashkent by Cheyenne, \$738.



GOING UP
This over-the-knee boot makes wide calves a nonissue. Sam Edelman, \$175.



CIRCLE GAME
Round buckles shine on a roomy boot from the comfort-shoe people. Rockport, \$200.



CROC OF AGES
It's actually stamped leather in a subtle, carefully shaded color. H Williams, \$815.



GET PUNKED
A surprisingly tasteful studded boot: tall, flat, black. It's punk with a better attitude. Daniblack, \$295.



GOOD MILEAGE
A suede knee-high with a flat rubber sole will be your go-to weekend boot—guaranteed. Ecco, \$200.



THE SHINING
This close-fitting pull-on has a sexy vibe—more like fishnets than boots. White House Black Market, \$118.



BLUE HEAVEN
Cloud-walk to work in flat knee-highs with fall's signature three-buckle look. Aerosoles, \$160.



STRAP-HAPPY
Running-shoe technology makes a good-looking stacked heel a dream for the feet. Cole Haan, \$498.



BEYOND THE PALE
This tender blush is not the usual boot neutral. It will put spring in your winter. Fratelli Rossetti, \$720.



TRIPLE PLAY
This shapely version (with those ubiquitous buckles) is a cheap thrill. Merona, \$45.



FLEX AND THE CITY
A leather boot has convenient elastic side panels for on-and-off ease. Corso Como, \$285.



HOT CHOCOLATE
Instead of black, try the more casual warmth of a brown boot. Dexter for Payless, \$45.



WINNING STREAK
A suede boot acquires a slimming patent stripe. Curations with Stefani Greenfield, \$250.



FEELING SHEEPISH
It's faux, but no less cozy than the real deal (and a lot more affordable). Payless, \$45.



A LEG UP
The vertical seam on this supple leather wedge generates a long, slim line. Belle by Sigerson Morrison, \$495.

All-Weather



TAKE A HIKE
The duck boot freshens up with tweed and snake-patterned rubber. Sorel, \$95.



PUCKER UP
A snugly, lined ruched boot has a sole that's a star on ice. Tecnica, \$130.



BEYOND RUBBER
The company that made Wellies famous does a knee-high in water-resistant suede. Hunter, \$495.



SNOW BUNNY
Here comes the fuzz. Totally faux pull-on turns blizzards into comfort zones. Manitoba Mukluks, \$199.

◀ **LEATHER AND LACE**
Unleash your inner Victorian. Donald J Pliner, \$595.

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