What's In A Name?

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The anticipation of bringing home a new puppy or shelter pup can be infectious and part of the excitement is the challenge of choosing the "perfect" name. Believe it or not, the right (or wrong) name, can have an impact both on your fur-kid. Building strong recall, promoting quick recognition, triggering good (or bad) memories in a shelter pet, and simple, clear, and ease of use are some of the things you should consider when playing the name game.

Read on to learn about the top 7 things points to ponder.

Choose a Good Dog Name That Ends With a Vowel

Studies show that names with vowels change in tone and when you call your pooch, it will become more recognizable to him. Dogs distinguish higher frequency ranges than humans, so it is believed that a name like "Jeffrey" will trigger their attention more quickly than say, "Jake".

Stick With Two Syllables

It's best not to get too complicated with your choice in a name. Most likely a long name will become shortened pretty quickly anyway. Two syllables is probably the best rule. But, a good test is to repeat the proposed name over several times and assess your comfort level with it. Chances are, you'll find that even a two syllable name will become shortened with a "quick" nickname or two.

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Avoid Creative Names With Negative Connotations

Most dog training experts recommend that you avoid naming your pup names with negative connotations. For starters, it's just not a very nice thing to do. But, besides that, you may find that over time, you'll regret doing so.

Don't Pick a Clever One That Might Get Confused With Commands
As you progress in your training program, it could become quite problematic if you're shouting the command "Stay" and your dog's name is Ray. Since, part of teaching your pup certain commands involves using their name, you need to be sure that there is no chance of confusion.

Choose A Name That's Unlike Your Other Pets
If you're a multi-pet family, you should be careful to assign names that are distinct from each other. Mike and Spike may have a hard time understanding which one of them you are calling.

The exception to this rule may be if you're renaming a shelter pet. There may be two things to consider in this instance.

If your new addition is more than a couple of years old, you may want to choose a name that is very close to the current moniker. That will reduce any confusion for the pooch. However, if you're aware that the fur-kid has come from an abusive or negative situation, a complete change of name may be recommended in order avoid triggering any adverse reactions or behaviours.

Perform The "Nickname Test"
You might have ideas for nicknames right off the bat. For example, I knew right away that Jacob-Milo (named for Bill's and my grandfathers) would be shortened to Jake. But, no doubt, at least in my own experience, nicknames evolve over time; often prompted by your pup's personality or some silly antic or quirk they develop.

Think Of Your Dog's Personality
This is another recommendation by experts that, in my opinion, may not be feasible. More often than not, we have preferred names already on a list before the adoption papers are even signed. If you have the opportunity to observe the pooch before naming her, you may be able to align a name with a personality trait. But, I think this may be tough to do and it's more likely that a nickname will be what's discovered from observing your baby's personality.

In the end, choosing a name for your fur-kid shouldn't be taken too lightly while on the other hand, should be planned with the excitement and anticipation of bringing him home.

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Do you have a story about naming your fur-kid? We'd love to hear it and invite you to share it along with a photo on our Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/PawsToPray/

SHALOM/PEACE & BLESSINGS

Questions, comments, suggestions? Your feedback is always welcome!!