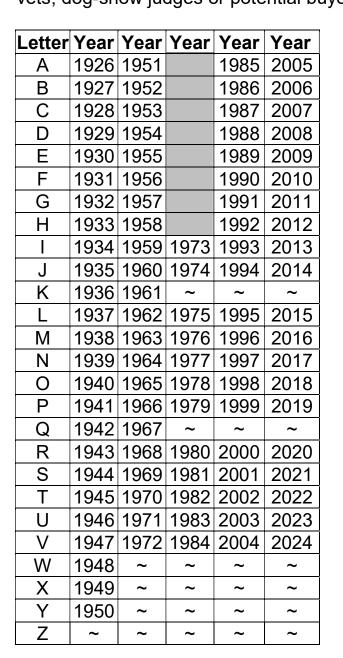
## French Dog Names

In France, the names that you give pedigree dogs must start with the correct letter for that year. This started in 1926, to help people - like vets, dog-show judges or potential buyers - who wanted to know how old the dog was.



France uses the alphabet from A-Y; they do not use the letter Z as the French language does not have a lot of Z names.

In 1972, the system changed again, and the letters K, Q, W, X, and Y were dropped, as it is too hard to think of names that start with them.

Some other countries also name their dogs alphabetically by year:

- Belgium 2019 is the letter S
- Luxembourg 2019 is the letter Q
- Morocco 2019 is the letter R

Other countries make you give all the puppies in one litter (all one dog's brothers & sisters) a name that starts with the same letter. This is true in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

In Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland, the first litter starts with A, the second with B, etc.

You can call your dog what you want to in Argentina, Canada, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, and Spain.

Some things you can do with this information:

- By your name's first letter, figure out what your French dog year of birth would be
- Try to think of as many names starting with one letter as possible
- Think of famous dogs be they stars of movies, TV shows, books or songs and figure out how old they are in French years; everyone has heard of dog years (which are worth 7 of our human years) but not THIS ludicrous system
- See if you can think of names beginning with K, Q, W, X, Y and Z, to prove yourself smarter than the French dog-namers of the past
- Act out a scene where you are yelling for your dog in the park, and confusing French listeners
- Imagine the confusion if your non-French dog goes to a vet in France, and has a name that suggests they are eg 18 years old

