

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.

Letter	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
A	1926	1951		1985	2005
B	1927	1952		1986	2006
C	1928	1953		1987	2007
D	1929	1954		1988	2008
E	1930	1955		1989	2009
F	1931	1956		1990	2010
G	1932	1957		1991	2011
H	1933	1958		1992	2012
I	1934	1959	1973	1993	2013
J	1935	1960	1974	1994	2014
K	1936	1961	~	~	~
L	1937	1962	1975	1995	2015
M	1938	1963	1976	1996	2016
N	1939	1964	1977	1997	2017
O	1940	1965	1978	1998	2018
P	1941	1966	1979	1999	2019
Q	1942	1967	~	~	~
R	1943	1968	1980	2000	2020
S	1944	1969	1981	2001	2021
T	1945	1970	1982	2002	2022
U	1946	1971	1983	2003	2023
V	1947	1972	1984	2004	2024
W	1948	~	~	~	~
X	1949	~	~	~	~
Y	1950	~	~	~	~
Z	~	~	~	~	~

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