

## Q&A

### What's in a Name?

In Clarkson Potter's *Move Over, Rover: What to Name Your New Pup When the Ordinary Just Won't Do*, author Kyra Kirkwood divides dogs by personality types and suggests more than 1,000 fitting names, from Adlai to Tater Tot. *PW* recently spoke with the *Dog Fancy* contributing editor.

***PW:* How did you choose your own dogs' names, Annie and Owen?**

**Kyra Kirkwood:** Honestly, we just loved the names and how they sounded. We didn't have any naming guides 13 years ago when we rescued Annie from the animal shelter. But we did see her soulful eyes, courageous spirit and enormous ears, and we knew that she



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needed a strong yet happy moniker. Like Annie. You just smile when you say it. When we adopted Owen in 2001, my husband and I wanted an uncomplicated and festive name, but one that had a touch of "prettiness" to it to honor his rugged beauty.

***PW:* What's the biggest difference between choosing a name for a puppy and a baby?**

**KK:** It's a lot easier to choose a name for your dog rather than for your baby. Babies don't start showing their personalities for months and months, while puppies showcase their true colors within a few weeks. It's easier to choose a name befitting the dog's personality right from the get-go. Also, dogs don't question your choice in monikers. They're happy you're happy. No dog is going to come home one day and say he is sick of being the fourth Jake in his obedience class and from here on out will only answer to Storm.