

My Dog Name Shortlist

Five names, side by side, tested against the one naming rule that actually holds up. Write them down, say each one out loud, and tick what's true.

01

THE NAME _____

WHAT IT SHORTENS TO _____

- ☐ Doesn't collide with a cue ☐ Vowel sounds unlike my other dogs' ☐ I can say it fast, the same way, every time
☐ Works shouted across a park ☐ The nickname passes too

02

THE NAME _____

WHAT IT SHORTENS TO _____

- ☐ Doesn't collide with a cue ☐ Vowel sounds unlike my other dogs' ☐ I can say it fast, the same way, every time
☐ Works shouted across a park ☐ The nickname passes too

03

THE NAME _____

WHAT IT SHORTENS TO _____

- ☐ Doesn't collide with a cue ☐ Vowel sounds unlike my other dogs' ☐ I can say it fast, the same way, every time
☐ Works shouted across a park ☐ The nickname passes too

04

THE NAME _____

WHAT IT SHORTENS TO _____

- ☐ Doesn't collide with a cue ☐ Vowel sounds unlike my other dogs' ☐ I can say it fast, the same way, every time
☐ Works shouted across a park ☐ The nickname passes too

05

THE NAME _____

WHAT IT SHORTENS TO _____

- ☐ Doesn't collide with a cue ☐ Vowel sounds unlike my other dogs' ☐ I can say it fast, the same way, every time
☐ Works shouted across a park ☐ The nickname passes too

Say it next to these

The collision test is the one piece of standard naming advice that holds up. Dogs don't reliably hear a one-sound difference, so Kit and sit, Bo and no, Shay and stay are real problems. Say each name out loud right after each cue you'll actually use.

sit stay no down come off
heel wait drop

Two rules you can ignore

× "Use hard consonants — dogs hear K, T and D better." Backed by nothing. When researchers swapped a consonant in a dog's own name, the dogs didn't notice. Swap a vowel and they spotted it at once. Dogs track vowels.

× "Keep it to one or two syllables." Never tested. In a 2024 study the advantage dogs showed for their own name actually grew with more speech sounds in it. Short helps *you* say it consistently — which is a real reason, just not the one you were given.

Say it out loud before you commit.