

Student Name

Date

It's All in a Name

Link: <http://www.factmonster.com/launchpoll.php3?poll=fm-petnames&format=standard>

The purpose of the FactMonster poll that I took was to choose a name for your pet. The poll listed popular names from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The choices in poll order were Shadow, Smokey, Brandy, Max, Kitty, Bear, Sam, Lady, Buddy, and Molly. After you selected your favorite name, you could see the choices in order of popularity that other students chose. You can also link to the most popular names in order from the ASPCA site.

Using the poll is an easy way to see how your pet name choice matches up with other student's choices and with pet owners' choices. The most popular names are interesting because they seem to follow three patterns. There are specific names that would work only for certain types of pets. For example, Kitty seems to be a name for a cat and lady would work best for a female pet. Other names suggest certain characteristics of the pet, such as Shadow, Smokey, or Brandy for pets with the matching color fur, Bear for a large animal, or Buddy for a friendly pet. Finally, there are the names that people share, such as Max, Sam, and Molly.

After taking this poll, I can guess at the reasoning that some people use when they are naming their pets. However, the poll does not give enough information to develop an understanding of all the ideas people use to name pets. I would like to know more about how pet owner chose the name they did, but I think it will take more than this poll.