

CANINE CORNER

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Irish dog names...

US President Dwight D Eisenhower was quoted as saying, "Everybody is Irish on St Patrick's Day..." In this, the March issue, I take a light-hearted look at all things Irish and dogs.

One word for 'dog' in Irish is *madra*. I'll illustrate this column with a photo of Madra, a Hungarian Vizsla, who is owned by a proud Irishman in Christchurch.

There are many names for dogs which can help you celebrate an Irish connection.

For black dogs, Ciara/Ciarán (pronounced 'kee-ra'), meaning dark or Darragh (pronounced 'darra'), meaning dark oak might appeal.

If you are partial to a drink or two, there are plenty of Irish drink-inspired names for your dog:

- Bailey
- Murphy
- Guinness
- Porter
- Whiskey
- Jameson

If you have a strong-willed pup, an appropriate name might be Conchobhar (pronounced 'Connor'), which means high will, or Fiadh (pronounced 'fee-a'), which means wild.

If your ancestors hail from Ireland, you could choose an appropriate place name for your dog. These include:

- Dublin
- Cork
- Blarney

- Dingle
- Derry
- Galway

There is also an Irish proverb: A dog owns nothing but he is seldom dissatisfied.

There is even a dog version of a traditional Irish blessing, which normally starts with the phrase 'May the road rise up to meet you':

May your dog rise up to meet you,
with a bark and a wag of the tail.

When your day's journey is o'er,
may the woes of the day be gone.

As your faithful companion greets you,
eager to welcome you home.

May God hold you both in the
palm of His hand.

According to the Irish Kennel Club, there are nine native breeds to Ireland:

- Hounds: Irish Wolfhound and Kerry Beagle
- Gundogs: Irish Water Spaniel, Irish Red Setter and Irish Red & White Setter
- Terriers: Irish Terrier, Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier, Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Kerry Blue Terrier

On this St Patrick's Day, why not find a local dog-friendly pub or café and join in the celebrations? After all, everyone is Irish on St Patrick's Day — and that includes dogs. 🐾

