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NED Reveals The UK's Top Ten Most Popular Horse Names

Traditional horse names are slipping out of fashion as owners increasingly name their equines (horses and ponies or donkeys) as they would their children, according to the National Equine Database (NED).

NED, which contains more than a million records of horses with UK passports shows that nine out of the ten most common names are human ones.

The top ten most commonly occurring names for equines in the UK, as recorded on NED are:

(1)Rosie 2)Charlie 3)Molly 4)Jack 5) Murphy 6)Billy 7)Toby 8)Misty 9)Ben 10)Holly

And these names, with the exception on Misty, can be found in the in the top 50 most popular baby names in England and Wales, as recorded by the Office for National Statistics.

Although there is some regional variation in the statistics, there is a very similar picture across the UK (see regional stats below).

The top eight of these popular horse names can also be found in the top 30 dogs names in recent years, so species does not seem to have much of an impact when people are looking to name an animal.

Says NED's Chief Executive Nick Wallbridge: "There was a time when a Dobbin, Trigger, Flicka or Beauty could be found in every other stable at a riding school or a livery yard but these days they have been relegated back to the pages of children's fiction.

"With nine of the top 10 equine names being 'human' names, it seems clear that more and more people consider their horse, pony or donkey as another member of the family rather than a sporting animal or a pet."

There are just 73 equines on NED called Dobbin. But the name "Ned" is twice as common with 132 neighing or braying Neds in the UK.

As well as human names, horses are even being given names inspired by everything from food and seasons, to Christmas. And a significant amount of inspiration has apparently come from Santa's faithful reindeer.

NED marketing officer, Jan Rogers adds: "On NED we have 426 equines called Dancer, 177 Comets, 37 Prancers but less than 30 each of Cupid, Vixen, Blitzen, Dasher, Rudolf and Donner."

Devon based RSPCA worker, Julia Woodman who owns a 16.2hh horse called Rosie, said: "I bought Rosie as a 12-year-old so I was not able to name her. I was very surprised to hear she has such a common name as I don't know any other horses called Rosie."

"They say a name reflects the personality, so from my experience then a Rosie is stubborn, strong-willed but very loving and a great deal of fun – I would not change her for the world."

Nick added: "Over Christmas why not play the NED Name Game at www.nedonline.co.uk? Type in your horse's name to see where it features in the popularity chart. It will be a bit of fun and you can see how many other horses have the same name as yours – and whilst you are there you can upload a photo and tell NED a bit more about your own Rosie, Charlie or Molly!"



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Top Five Most Popular Horse Names Regionally

North East

Rosie
Charlie
Jack
Bobby
Molly

East Midlands

Charlie
Rosie
Molly
Jack
Billy

London

Rosie
Charlie
Molly
Jack
Dolly

Wales

Rosie
Molly
Beauty
Charlie
Jack

North West

Rosie
Molly
Charlie
Jack
Murphy

West Midlands

Charlie
Rosie
Molly
Jack
Ben

South

East
Charlie
Rosie
Molly
Murphy
Jack

Scotland

Rosie
Murphy
Charlie
Molly
Jack

Yorkshire and The Humber

Rosie
Charlie
Molly
Jack
Lucy

East of England

Rosie
Charlie
Molly
Jack
Billy

South

West
Rosie
Charlie
Molly
Poppy
Jack

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www.nedonline.co.uk

