



Bella Is Back as America's #1 Dog Name, While Labs Reclaim Top Breed Spot for 2026

Ahead of National Dog Day, JustAnswer analyzed nearly 95,000 pet owner-expert conversations to reveal America's top breeds, names and dog questions in 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- 2026 is the year of the comeback for America's canine companions. "Bella" has reclaimed its crown from "Luna" as the country's #1 dog name, and Labrador Retrievers have pushed Chihuahuas out of the top spot to once again reign as the nation's most common dog breed. And while pet parents' naming tastes may change, their biggest worry has not, with "What did my dog eat?" remaining the question that keeps dog owners up at night this year.

These are just a few of the key findings revealed in a just-released analysis from [JustAnswer](#) of nearly 95,000 online conversations between U.S. dog owners and verified veterinarians, trainers, and pet experts on the platform between January and July 2026. In honor of National Dog Day today, JustAnswer compared this year's data to 2025 results—more than 200,000 conversations across the two periods combined—to uncover national favorites, rising trends, and regional differences in America's furry friends.

America's Top Dog Breeds in 2026

In reviewing question + answer data from pet owners and JustAnswer pet specialists this year, a few interesting insights about favorite canine breeds emerged, including:

- Labrador Retrievers reclaimed the #1 dog breed spot, pushing last year's leader, the Chihuahua, down to #3 (Labs were #1 in 2024, Chihuahuas took over in 2025, and Labs are back on top for 2026).
- Pit Bulls climbed to #2, while Goldendoodles and Golden Retrievers rounded out the top five breeds.
- Golden Retrievers, Beagles, Dachshunds, and Goldendoodles saw the strongest year-over-year gains in share of conversations.
- While Labs lead in JustAnswer question volume, American Kennel Club (AKC) registration data shows French Bulldogs remain the most popular purebred breed nationwide for the fourth straight year (on JustAnswer, Frenchies rank #9).

Regional trends reveal breed diversity across the US:

- Labrador Retrievers are the top breed in 30 states, with particularly strong footprints across

the Northeast and Midwest.

- Chihuahuas have a distinctly warmer-weather footprint, ranking #1 in six states (AZ, CA, FL, NM, TN, TX).
- Pit Bulls lead in five states (GA, HI, IN, MO, OK), while Yorkies (AR, MS, WV) and Goldendoodles (KY, ND, UT) each claim three.
- A few states break the mold entirely, including the Beagle in Delaware and the Border Collie in Montana.

"This data tells a story that goes back generations," says [Dr. Grant Little, DVM](#), Pet Health Expert for JustAnswer. "For example, Delaware's Beagles trace to English hunting-dog heritage, the Chihuahua's Southwest stronghold reflects its desert roots and Mexican culture, and Montana's Border Collies are still doing the job they were bred for: moving livestock across wide-open country."

America's Top Dog Names in 2026

Pet owners shifted their naming preferences a bit this year, with a few new entries nudging older favorites off the list, and a few regional differences emerging.

- "Bella" reclaimed the #1 spot after "Luna"'s one-year reign, while Luna slipped to #2, followed by "Daisy," "Lucy," and "Charlie" rounding out the top five.
- "Max" (#6) and "Bailey" (#10) returned to the top 10 after falling off the list last year, joining "Molly," "Coco," and "Cooper".
- The fastest risers of 2026 are "Emma" and "Abby," which more than tripled and doubled their share of dog names, respectively.
- Regional champions include "Emma" leading in the Midwest, "Luna" ruling the Northeast, "Bella" taking #1 in the Southeast, and "Abby" topping the West.
- A handful of states march to their own drummer with distinctive #1 names you won't find topping the charts anywhere else, including "Cameron" in Alaska, "Aspyr" in Delaware, "Jax" in Louisiana, "Amos" in Montana, "Koda" in Utah, and "Elfie" in Wyoming.
- In a few states, the top name and top breed align identically: five states (CT, MN, NH, NY, PA) share a Lab named Luna, while four (CA, FL, NM, TX) share a Chihuahua named Bella.

Most Popular Dog Names by Breed

JustAnswer also looked at the top dog names for each of the most popular dog breeds and found:

- Chihuahua owners favor "Bella" or "Chico"
- Lab owners favor "Daisy" or "Cooper"
- Pit Bull owners favor "Max" or "Nova"
- Goldendoodle owners favor "Charlie" or "Teddy"
- German Shepherd owners favor "Koda" or "Zeus"

What Keeps Dog Owners Up at Night: Top 5 Dog Questions on JustAnswer

Health concerns dominated the trending topics from dog-related questions on JustAnswer in 2026. Specifically, the most popular questions from pup parents this year were:

1. "My dog ate or swallowed something potentially harmful - what should I do?"
2. "My dog is hurt, limping or having trouble walking - what could be wrong?"
3. "My dog is vomiting or has diarrhea - what could be causing it?"
4. "My dog is itching or having skin/allergy problems - how can I help?"
5. "My dog is having urinary problems - what could be causing it?"

JustAnswer dug deeper into the thousands of "my dog ate..." conversations, revealing the top ingested items:

1. Chocolate (nearly 4,800 conversations)
2. Medications / pills (about 4,200)
3. Grapes / raisins (nearly 2,900)
4. Foreign objects / household items (about 1,400)
5. Onions / garlic (about 1,250)
6. Rodent poison / bait (about 665)
7. Bones / rawhide (about 585)
8. Toxic plants / mushrooms (about 530)
9. Marijuana / THC (about 500)
10. Xylitol / gum (about 440)

Visit our blog for more insights about the top dog names, breeds, and question themes, [HERE](#).

About JustAnswer

JustAnswer is an online platform that connects people with live Doctors, Lawyers, Veterinarians, Mechanics and other verified and vetted Experts for real-time, personalized assistance and answers to just about any question or problem 24/7. With more than 12,000 experts across 150 categories, JustAnswer is the leading destination for accessing affordable professional help on-demand when and from wherever you need it.

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