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Post No. 8

MY NAME

A lot of people ask me about my name. Some of them do not seem to mind appearing to be nosy and just ask me about how I came to have such an amazing name as soon as they meet me. Others are more polite, and wait to get to know me a little before asking about how I ended up with a name that suits me so well. As this is my eighth blog post, I feel this is the right time for readers of my blog to learn more about my name.

Just to remind you, my name is Harrison Hamster I.

As you can see, my surname is Hamster. I think that Hamster is a wonderful surname. It is a way of telling people that I am a hamster just by introducing myself. Although I think it is very easy to see that I am a hamster just by looking at me, I like matters which are very important to me to be totally and utterly clear. Being a hamster is very important to me. Not being mistaken for a gerbil is also very important to me. Therefore, it is nice to be able to let people know that I am a hamster just by telling them my name.

Imagine how much more confusing my life would be if I had Gerbil for a surname. When I introduced myself, I would constantly have to explain that I was actually a hamster with a very silly surname, and not a gerbil. It is possible that some people would not even believe that I was actually a hamster, because they would think that only someone who was actually a gerbil would have Gerbil for a surname. I cannot even bear to think about it!

My first name is Harrison. My parents have told me the story of how they decided to name me Harrison when I was just a baby hamster.

To digress just for a moment, my mother has insisted that I insert a picture of

myself as a baby hamster at this point.



I have told her that how I looked as a baby hamster is hardly the point of this blog post, but she said that it would really mean a lot to her. As you can see from the picture, I was a messy eater when I was a baby hamster. I have chocolate ice cream all over myself in the picture. I find this very embarrassing, but sometimes it is nice to do something just to make your mother happy.

Now, to get back to the matter of my name, for a long time, my parents could not decide what to call me. They had thought about a lot of names, such as Horace, Henry and Hubert, but could not agree on any of them. Then my mother suggested to my father that perhaps I could be called Harrison.

Before she married my father, my mother's name was Harriet Harrison. She was, of course, a hamster like me, but her surname was Harrison, not Hamster. When she got married, she decided to take my father's surname, so she became known as Harriet



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Hamster. Even though she loved her new surname, which was very useful in reminding everyone that she was a hamster and not a gerbil, she missed her old surname. After all, she had been a Harrison for a long time. For my mother, naming me Harrison was a good way to keep her old surname around without having to give up on her new one.

My father loved the idea of naming me Harrison. He was actually quite surprised he had not thought of it himself. You see, my father's first name is Harris, so I am Harris's son, and when you say Harris's son really, really fast, it sounds like Harrison!

I was the very first person in my family to be named Harrison Hamster. That is why I am known as Harrison Hamster I. My father is called Harris Hamster II, because my Grandpa Hamster's first name is also Harris. In case you are wondering, I was not named Harris because it was already confusing enough having two hamsters named Harris in the Hamster family. My parents like things to be nice and clear, so although there was really nothing confusing about just calling me Harrison Hamster, they decided that in order for things to be totally and utterly clear, they would name me Harrison Hamster I.

The moral of this blog post is that your name can be more than just what people call you. My name, for example, reminds me of my mother and father, and reminds everyone else that I am a hamster.

That's why I love being called Harrison Hamster I.

Bye for now!

Harrison Hamster I

20th September 2011