

O is for Owl

Characteristics:

The owl is the eternal mentor. They resemble whales but are more versatile, more mobile and less prone to mistakes and accidents. Owls can survive well enough as independent individuals, but they prefer to take others under their wing to protect them and develop their capabilities.

Owls have a great knowledge, a fine sense of the environment and the behaviors of the creatures within their immediate environment. They have adapted to being kept in the dark by developing very keen hearing when their good eyesight cannot be used. Owls have been proven to be able to catch prey completely in the dark by sound alone.

They have learned to monitor a range of signals in order to get the optimal outcome. Despite being very capable predators, they are not outwardly aggressive. They know when to pounce and when to silently wait. They use logic, intelligence and strategy to manage their own affairs and to assist others whom they trust and respect.

Relating to the Owl:

The owl should be respected and approached when you think they can be of assistance. Generally they are willing to help if they can and if they believe your purpose to be honorable. They may show a wise reluctance to contribute when they know their best advice will not be taken or used appropriately. They know how others are likely to misuse advice to inappropriately manage a situation. In such circumstances, they may remain as a hidden advisor in the background, but not actively engaged in the program.

Owls take it upon themselves to mentor others. They carefully self select candidates they believe are worthy of their investment. However, the Zoo benefits by providing some formality around owl mentoring activities. This increases the beneficiaries and the impacts of the mentoring.

Many owls are long-term (although not necessarily senior) employees who have a wide set of experiences and who have a collaborative attitude. They actually like to contribute. They understand that the Zoo improves when they can educate others and have more people working more productively. They know that the power of knowledge comes from sharing it to multiply its effects. Creatures less wise than the owl try to keep knowledge to themselves, thinking this makes them more valuable and more powerful. However, they fail to realize that this means they will always be bound to the role they currently have, unable to move on to something better. Owls see themselves, and are seen by others, as respected mentors.

Success for the Owl:

Developing another junior into a capable manager, or assisting with a significant project. Although recognition is not the objective for the owl, it is appreciated and it does help to continue the collaborative behavior.

Attributes often applied to the Owl:

Wise, Knowledgeable, Dedicated, Helpful, Intelligent, Logical, Respected, Sharp, Confident, Quiet, Communal.

Attributes not often applied to Owls:

Lazy, Extroverted, Self-centered, Ambitious, Aggressive.

