United States presidential pets

<u>United States</u> <u>Presidents</u> and <u>their families</u> have often had pets while serving in office.^[1]

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Socks the cat at the podium in theWhite House Press Briefing Roomin 1993

History of White House dogs

The first White House dog to receive regular newspaper coverage was Warren G. Hardings dog Laddie Boy.^[2]

Pets also featured on presidential elections. <u>Herbert Hoover</u> got a "Belgian Police Dog" (<u>Belgian Malinois</u>), [3] King Tut, during his campaign and pictures of him with his new dog were sent all across the United States.

In 1944 <u>Franklin D. Roosevelt</u> was running for his fourth term when rumors surfaced that his <u>Scottish Terrier</u>, <u>Fala</u>, had accidentally been left behind when visiting the <u>Aleutian Islands</u> After allegedly sending back ships to rescue his dog, Roosevelt was ridiculed and accused of spending thousands of taxpayers' dollars to retrieve his dog. At a



Grace Coolidge with Laddie Boy, an Airedale Terrier, and Rob Roy, a white Collie

speech following this Roosevelt said, "you can criticize me, my wife and my family, but you can't criticize my little dog. He's <u>Scotch</u> and all these allegations about spending all this money have just made his little soul furious." What was later called the "Fala Speech" reportedly helped secure re-election for Roosevel.



Miss Beazley, a Scottish Terrier given to Laura Bush by her husband

Richard Nixon was accused of hiding a secret slush fund during his candidacy for vice president under <u>Dwight D. Eisenhower</u> in 1952. He gave the televised "<u>Checkers speech</u>" named after his cocker spaniel, denying he had a slush fund but admitting, "there is one thing that I did get as a gift that I'm not going to give back." The gift was a black-and-white <u>cocker spaniel</u>, Checkers, given to his daughters. Although there had been talk of Nixon being dropped from the ticket, following his speech he received an increase in support and <u>Mamie Eisenhower</u> reportedly recommended he stay because he was "such a warm person! [7][8]

Animal lovers were upset when President <u>Lyndon B. Johnson</u> was photographed picking his two <u>Beagle</u> dogs named Him and Her up by their ears. Others did not understand the uproar; former President Harry S. Truman said, "What the hell are

List of Presidential pets

President	Pet(s)		
George Washington	 Sweetlips,^[9] Scentwell and Vulcan^[10] (among others)^[ps 1] – American Foxhounds^[nb 1][11][12] Drunkard,^[9] Taster, Tipler, and Tipsy – Black and Tan Coonhounds^[13] Royal Gift – Andalusian donkey,^[14] a gift from King Charles III of Spain^[15] Nelson (1763–1790) and Blueskin^[16] – Horses;^[ps 2][17] Washington's wartime mounts Snipe^[nb 2] – Parrot^[ps 3] – Said to have been owned by First LadyMartha Washington.^[19] Cornwallis,^[20] named for General Cornwallis^[20] – Greyhound Samson, Steady Leonidas, Traveller, Magnolia^[21] – Stallions 		
John Adams	 Juno, Mark, and Satar^[9] – Dogs^{[ps 2][13]} Cleopatra and Caesaf^[21] – Horses^[ps 2] 		
Thomas Jefferson	 Dick – Mockingbird; [ps 3] Dick was the favorite from among at least four mockingbirds the president had while in office^[22] Bergère and Grizzle – shepherd dogs from France, possibly Briards [13][23] Two grizzly bear cubs [ps 4] male & female pair gifted from Captain Zebulon Pike [24] Caractacus – Horse, named after Caratacus, a 1st-century British chieftain; offspring of Jefferson's mare Allycroker and a Godolphin Arabian named Young Fearnough [25] 		
James Madison	■ Polly – <u>Parrot</u> , outlived both James And Dolley Madison [18]		
James Monroe	 Spaniel^{[13][ps 4][ps 2]} – Belonged to youngest daughter Maria Monroe^[26] Sebastian – Siberian Husky 		
John Quincy Adams	 Silkworms^{[ps 1][27]} – First Lady Louisa Adams spun their silk^{[28][29]} An alligator^[21] – Said to have belonged to Marquis de Lafayette and housed for two months in the East Room, ^{[nb 3][30][31]} much to the consternation of visitors^[32] Possibly sent to France aboard the USS Brandywine^[nb 4] Although this story has been widely circulated, the lack of evidence from contemporary accounts or oficial records suggests an apocryphal myth^{[33][34]} 		
Andrew Jackson	 Polly (or "Poll") – grey parrot, learned to swear (later attended Jackson's funeral but had to be removed due to loud and persistent profanity ^[18] Fighting cocks ^{[ps 4][ps 1]} Bolivia, Emily, Lady Nashville, Sam Patch, and Truxton – Horses ^[ps 2] Sam Patch was named after the famous daredevil known as The Yankee Leaper" 		
Martin Van Buren	 Briefly owned twotiger cubs given to him by Said bin Sultan, Sultan of Muscat and Omarbefore Congress forced him to donate the tigers to the zo6^{9][35]} 		
William Henry Harrison	 Sukey – <u>Durham cow</u>^[36] <u>Goat</u> 		
John Tyler	 Le Beau – <u>Italian Greyhound</u>^{13]} Johnny Ty – <u>Canary</u> <u>The General – Horse</u>^[ps 2] 		
James K. Polk	■ No known pets ^[35]		
Zachary Taylor	 Old Whitey - Horse [ps 2] Taylor's wartime mount Apollo - Pony, [ps 2] formerly a "trick pony" from a circus, a present for Taylor's daughter Betty and resided in the White House stables with Old White [37] 		

Millard Fillmore	■ Mason and Dixon –Ponies ^[ps 2]		
Franklin Pierce	 At least two^[nb 5] miniature "teacup" <u>Japanese Chin dogs^[ps 4]</u>, part of a gift exchange with Japan following the <u>Perry Expedition^[38]</u> Two <u>birds</u> from Japan,^{[ps 4][ps 3]} which had just opened its trading posts to the United States. 		
James Buchanan	 Lara – Newfoundland Punch – Toy Terrier Eagle [ps 4][ps 3] 		
Abraham Lincoln	 Nanny and Nanko -goats^[17] Jack - Turkey, ^[17] intended as Christmas dinner but Tad Lincoln intervened^[39] Fido - Dog, ^{[9][13]} "assassinated^[40] by a drunk with a knife, a few months after Lincoln's assassination^[41] "Fido" became a generic name for a dog because of Lincoln's famous dog^{[42][43]} Jip - Dog^[13] Tabby and Dixie -Cats. Lincoln once remarked that Dixie "is smarter than my whole cabinet. ^[44] Horse^{[ps 4][ps 2]} Rabbit^{[ps 4][ps 2]} Old Bob - Horse 		
Andrew Johnson	■ Fed white mice he found in his bedroom ^{[ps 4][ps 1][35]}		
Ulysses S. Grant	 Butcher Boy, <u>Cincinnati</u>, Egypt, Jeff Davis (his wartime mount), Jeniie, Julia, Mary, and St. Louis – Horses. [ps 2] Cincinnati was a thoroughbred of renowned pedigree: son of Lexington, grandson of Boston. [45] Billy Button and Reb – Ponies [ps 2] Faithful – Newfoundland [13] Rosie – Dog [ps 2] 		
Rutherford B. Hayes	 Dot – Cocker Spanie [13] Hector – Newfoundland [13] Duke – English Mastif [13] Grim – Greyhound [9][13] Otis – Miniature Schnauze [13] Juno and Shep – Huntingdogs Jet – Dog [ps 2] Piccolomini – Cat [ps 2] (presumably named after the Italian general) Siam – First Siamese cat in the United States [46] Miss Pussy – Siamese cat 		
James A. Garfield	 Kit – Horse^[ps 2] Veto^[9] – Dog^[ps 2] 		
Chester A. Arthur	 Rabbit^{[ps 4][ps 2]} Three horses^{[ps 4][ps 2]} 		
Grover Cleveland	■ Hector – Japanese Poodle ^[13]		

- Mockingbirds^{[ps 4][ps 3][ps 1]} ■ Three^[47] Dachshunds^[13] Whiskers ("His Whiskers." or "Old Whiskers pulling a cart at the White House, with Russell Harrison and his children Benjamin Harrison Dash in front of his doghouse Whiskers") – Goat, [17][48] kept at the White House for the president's grandchildren; may have belonged to Russell Harrison^[49] ■ Dash – Collie^[13] Mr. Reciprocity and Mr Protection – Opossums, [50] named from the 1896 Republican party platform, [51] which includes: "Protection and reciprocity are twin measures of Republican policy and go hand in hand.'[52] • Two alligators – According to one account, Russel Harrison kept two alligators in the White House conservatorv^[53] Washington Post – Yellow-headed Mexican parrot could whistle 'Yankee Doodle' [18] William Valeriano Weyler and Enrique DeLome -Angora kittens; named after Spanish generalValeriano **McKinley** Weyler and Spanish ambassadorEnrique Dupuy de Lôme Roosters[ps 4][ps 1] Theodore Admiral Dewey, Bishop Doane, Dr Johnson, Father Roosevelt O'Grady, Fighting Bob Evans –quinea pigs[ps 2][55]; namesakes: George Dewey, William Croswell Doane (likely John O'Grady (priest)) and Robley D. Evans Algonquin – "Calico pony" Shetland), [55] favored by Roosevelt's son Archie [56] ■ Baron Spreckle – Hen, [ps 2][55] likely named after sugar baron Claus Spreckels Bill the Lizard – lizard^{[ps 3][55][57]} brought from California and described as a "horned frod [58] (cf. horned toad); likely named afterLewis Carrolls Bill the Archie riding Algonquin Lizard. ■ Blackjack – Manchester Terrier ■ Eli Yale – Hyacinth macaw^[55] Named after the British merchant (also College namesake) ■ Emily Spinach – Garter snake, [ps 3][55] so named by Roosevelt's daughter Alice because "it was as
 - Fedelity Pony^[ps 2]

green as spinach and as thin as my Aunt Emily [69]

- Gem and Susan –Dogs^[ps 2]
- Jack^[55] and Peter Terriers^{[ps 2][13]}
- Jonathan Edwards smallblack bear from West Virginia^[55] named after the religious leader, an ancestor of Mrs. Roosevelt^[60] eventually sent to the Bronx Zoo^[61]
- Jonathan Piebald rat^[ps 3]
- Josiah (or "Josh")^[58] <u>Badger</u>^{[ps 3][55]} During a railroad tour of the West, the president acquied two-week-old Josiah at a stop in <u>Sharon Springs</u>, Kansas^[62]
- Manchu Pekingese^{[13][55]}
- Maude Pig^[55]
- Peter Rabbit Rabbit; [ps 3][55] was given a "proper state" funeral [63] Cf. Peter Rabbit
- Pete <u>Bull Terrier</u>, [13][55][9] exiled to Long Island "after chomping on one too many legs^[64]
- Rollo Saint Bernard
- Skip Mongrel^{[13][55]}
- Sailor Boy Chesapeake Bay Retrieve [13][55]
- Tom Quartz and Slippers Cats [ps 2], Tom Quartz was named after a cat in a Mark Twain story. [65]
- Bill <u>Laughing hyena</u>, gift from <u>Emperor Menelik II of</u> Ethiopia^[66]
- barn owl
- One-legged rooster^[55]



Roosevelt family with Skip



Illustration of Slippers, the White House ca^[nb 6]

William Howard Taft

- Caruso Dog, [ps 2] a gift for Taft's daughter Helen from opera singer Enrico Caruso; after a White House performance, he decided that cows were not appropriate pets for a little glove.
- Mooly Wooly and Pauline Wayne Cows^[ps 2]

Woodrow Wilson

- Davie Airedale Terrier^[13]
- Old Ike Ram^[68]
- Puffins Cat^{[ps 2][68]}
- Bruce Bull Terrier^[68]
- Songbirds^{[ps 4][ps 3][ps 1]}
- Sheep,^[ps 4] numbering 48 at its peak, the flock kept the White House lawn trimmed "in the most economical way", the wool being sold to benefit the Red Cross, the Red Cross, the wool being sold to benefit the Red Cross, the Red Cross, the wool being sold to benefit the Red Cross, the Red Cross, the wool being sold to be the Red Cross, the Red Cross, the wool being sold to be the Red Cross, the Red Cross

Warren G. Harding

- <u>Laddie Boy</u> (1920–1929) Airedale Terrier^{[9][13]}
- Old Boy Bulldog^[13]
- Petev canary^[71]



Laddie Boy

- Rob Roy (1922–1928) and Prudence Prim Whitecollies^[13]
- Peter Pan Wirehair Fox Terrier, [72][13] the Coolidge's first White House dog;
- Paul Pry Airedale Terrier, [13] half-brother of Warren Harding's Laddy Boy [72]
- Calamity Jane Shetland Sheepdod [13]
- Tiny Tim and Blackberry –Chow Chows^[13]
- Ruby Rouch Collie^[13]
- Boston Beans –Boston bulldog^[13]
- King Cole Belgian Sheepdog (Groenendael) [73]
- Palo Alto ("Palo") A black and white English Setter, a bird dog that Coolidge soon gave to Colonel Starling, chief of the Secret Service detail in the White House.
- Bessie Collie
- Rebecca Raccoon, [ps 3][75][73] Rebecca was intended for a Thanksgiving feast; First LadyGrace had a tree-house built for her instead [72][76]
- Reuben A male raccoon acquired as a companion for Rebecca; soon escaped and not recovere^[76]
- Ebeneezer Donkey
- Nip and Tuck <u>Canaries</u>, both olive green in color; the Coolidge's first <u>birds⁷²</u>
- Peter Piper and Snowflake Two more canaries; Snowflake was white^[72]
- Goldy A "yellow bird*[ps 3][73][72]
- Do-Funny a trained songbird <u>(roupial)</u>^[ps 3] from South America, said to be Mrs. Coolidge's favorite bird [73]
- Enoch Goose^[ps 3]
- Smoky Bobcat
- Blacky and Tiger (or "Tige") Cats^{[ps 2][72][73]}
- Tax Reduction and Budget Bureau –Lion cubs from Johannesburg, South Africa^[73]
- Billy Pygmy hippopotamus full name: William Johnson Hippopotamus [77]
- A wallaby
- A duiker (a very small type of antelope)
- Bruno A black bear from Chihuahua, Mexicq Mrs. Coolidge promptly sent him to a zo[73]
- Pekin Ducks Thirteen ducklings were received as an Easter gift; Mrs. Coolidge attempted to raise them in a White House bathroom, but eventually sent them to a zoo3



Portrait of Rob Roy and Grace Coolidge

Herbert

Calvin

Coolidge

■ Billy Possum – A wildopossum that occupied Rebecca's vacant

Hoover tree-house and was "adopted" by the Hoovers, [76] temporarily filled in for a local high school's missing masc $d^{[8][79]}$ Caruso – A Roller canary^[3] King Tut – Belgian Shepherd^{[80][81]} (Malinois variety)^[3] ■ Pat – German Shepherd^[80] ■ Big Ben and Sonnie –Fox Terriers^{[13][82]} ■ Glen – Scotch Collie^[13] Yukonan – Eskimo dog^[13] ■ Patrick – Irish Wolfhound^[80] ■ Eaglehurst Gillette –Setter^[80] ■ Weegie – Norwegian Elkhound^[3] Herbert Hoover with King Tut ■ Fala (1940–1952) – Scottish Terrier^[17] ■ Major – German Shepherd^[80] ■ Meggie – Scottish Terrier^[80] ■ Winks – Llewellyn Setter^[80] ■ Tiny – Old English Sheepdog^[80] Franklin D. ■ President – Great Dane [9][80] Roosevelt ■ Blaze – Bullmastiff^[80] FDR and Fala (1940) ■ Feller – Cocker Spaniel^{[80][83]} because the Trumans "preferred to be a petfree family" he was Harry S. given as a puppy to Truman's personal physician^[84] Truman ■ Mike – Irish Setter^[80] Dwight D. Gabby – parakee^[85] Eisenhower Heidi – weimarane^[86] John F. Gaullie – Poodle^[87] Kennedy Charlie – Welsh Terrier^[80] ■ Tom Kitten – Cat^{[ps 2][88]} Robin – Canary^[88] ■ Bluebell and Marybelle –Parakeets^[88] Ducks – JFK's daughter, five-year-old Carolyn raised ducklings at the White House^[89] Ongoing conflicts with their terrier Charlie prompted sending them toRock Creek Park^[90] ■ Macaroni – Pony^[91] Kennedy family and dogs ■ Tex – Bay Yucatan pony^[88] Leprechaun – Connemara pony, a gift from President of Ireland, Éamon de Valera^[92] ■ Moe – Doberman Pinscher^[88]

Billie and Debbie – Hamsters [88]

	 Pushinka – dog (gift of Soviet Union Premier Nikita Khrushchev, puppy of Soviet space dog Strelka)^[9] Shannon – Irish Cocker Spanie^[80] Wolf – Dog, mix of Irish Wolfhound and Schnauzer^[93] Clipper – German Shepherd Dog^[94] Butterfly, White Tips, Blackie, and Streaker – Ofspring of Pushinka and Charlie^[80] Zsa Zsa – Rabbit Sardar – Horse^{[ps 2][95]} 		
Lyndon B. Johnson	 Him and Her -Beagles^{[80][96][97]} Edgar - Beagle^{[9][80][96][97]} Blanco - white Collie^{[80][96][97]} Freckles - Beagle^[80] Yuki - Mongrel dog^{[80][96][97]} Hamsters^[ps 2] Lovebirds^{[ps 3][98]} 	LBJ with Him	
Richard Nixon	 Vicki – Poodle^{[80][99]} Pasha – Terrier^{[80][99]} King Timahoe – Irish Setter^{[80][99][100]} Checkers^[9] (1952–1964) – Cocker Spanie [Inb 7] 	King Timahoe, Vicki and Pasha looking out the window in the White House	
Gerald Ford	 Liberty (February 8, 1974–1984) –Golden Retriever [80] Lucky – Dog* [9] Misty – Liberty's puppy born in the White House Shan – Siamese caf [101] 		



Susan Ford, daughter of Gerald Ford, and the family's siamese cat, Shan, in 1974



Ford and Liberty in the Oval Ofice

Jimmy Carter

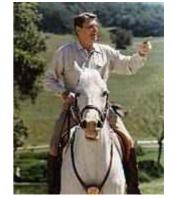
- Grits Border Collie (mix); [80][102] Given to his daughter Amy by her teacherbut quickly returned after snapping at several White House visitors
- Lewis Brown –Afghan Hound^[104]
- Misty Malarky Ying Yang, daughter Amy Carter's pet Siamese cat [75]

Ronald Reagan

- Lucky Bouvier des Flandres [105][106][107]
- Rex (December 16, 1984-August 31, 1998) -Cavalier King Charles Spaniel^{[107][108]}
- Victory Golden Retriever [106][107]
- Peggy Irish Setter^{[106][107]} m
- Taca Siberian Husky [106][107]
- Fuzzy Belgian sheepdog^{106][107]}
- Horses (El Alamein, Nancy D, Baby Little Man, and others) at Rancho del Cielo [109][110]
- Cleo and Sara Tortoiseshell cats at Rancho del Cield^[111]



Rex



Ronald Reagan on El Alamein

George H. W. Bush

Millie (January 12, 1985–May 19, 1997) –Springer Spaniel [9]

■ Ranger – one of Millie'spuppies^{[80][112]} ■ Socks (1989–February 20, 2009) – The Clintons' cat.[48] Buddy (August 7, 1997-January 2, 2002) - Bill's chocolate Labrador retrieve^[48] Bill Clinton Socks Spot "Spotty" Fetcher (March 17, 1989–February 21, 2004) – female English Springer Spanielnamed after Scott Fletcher, Puppy of Millie; [9] Euthanized after suffering a series of strokes. Barney (September 30, 2000–February 1, 2013) –Scottish Terrier.^{[9][113]} Miss Beazley (October 28, 2004–May 17, 2014) –Scottish Terrier; Nicknamed "Beazley Weazley"; 2005 birthday gift from George W. George to his wife^{[9][113]} ■ India "Willie" – cat (July 13, 1990–January 4, 2009) • Ofelia - Longhorn cow (lives at Bush's Prairie Chapel Ranch) India ■ Bo^[9] (born October 9, 2008) –Portuguese Water Dog. Sunny[114][115] (born June 11, 2012) – Portuguese Water Dog.

Barack Obama

Bush



Bo and Sunny

Donald		[4.4.0]
Trump	-	None ^[116]

- 1. Number unknown
- 2. Breed unknown
- 3. Species unknown
- 4. Name unknown

See also

- Canadian Parliamentary Cats
- Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, United Kingdom
- Hermitage cats in Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Pets of Vladimir Putin
- Tibs the Great
- Cats of the President of Taiwan
- Category: Pets of the British Royal Family

Further reading

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Notes

- 1. Washington was an avid dog breeder; he cded the breed that he was developing "Wrginia Hounds"; which eventually became American Foxhounds
- 2. Some sources reference the name "Polly[18]
- 3. The East Room was still under repair following the 1814 urning of the White House by the British, and was primarily used for storage. During the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette to the United States Lafayette acquired several tons of gifts (including the alligator) that was stored there.
- 4. See: Conveying Marquis de Lafayette to France
- 5. Number uncertain, perhaps received as many as seven. "Pierce was thought to have kept one dog, and he gave the other to his Secretary of War, <u>Jefferson Davis</u>. Davis was particularly pleased with the dog and was known to have carried it with him in his pocket. [38]
- 6. Illustration from <u>St. Nicholas</u> (1908); original caption:"With an amused bow, the President escorted the Ambassadress around 'Slippers' and kept on his way toward the East Room."^[54]
- 7. Checkers died in 1964, before Nixon became president, but had layed a major role in his electoral career

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External links

- Presidential Pets Museum

 Private museum in Glen Allen, Virginia
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