



January-February 2021

ZOOM

in on america

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PRESIDENTIAL PETS



A statue of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's pet dog Fala in Washington, D.C. Photo Bozena Pilat

In this issue: Presidential Pets

Zoom in on America



In this November 5, 1924, photo President Calvin Coolidge and first lady Grace Coolidge are shown with their dog at the White House portico in Washington. (AP Photo)



President Barack Obama shows off their new dog Bo, Tuesday, April 14, 2009, a six-month-old Portuguese water dog given to his daughters Malia and Sasha Obama as a gift. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)



First lady Nancy Reagan cradles the Reagans' pet, a King Charles spaniel named Rex, as she and President Reagan stroll along the White House South lawn in this December, 1986 photo. (AP Photo/Dennis Cook)



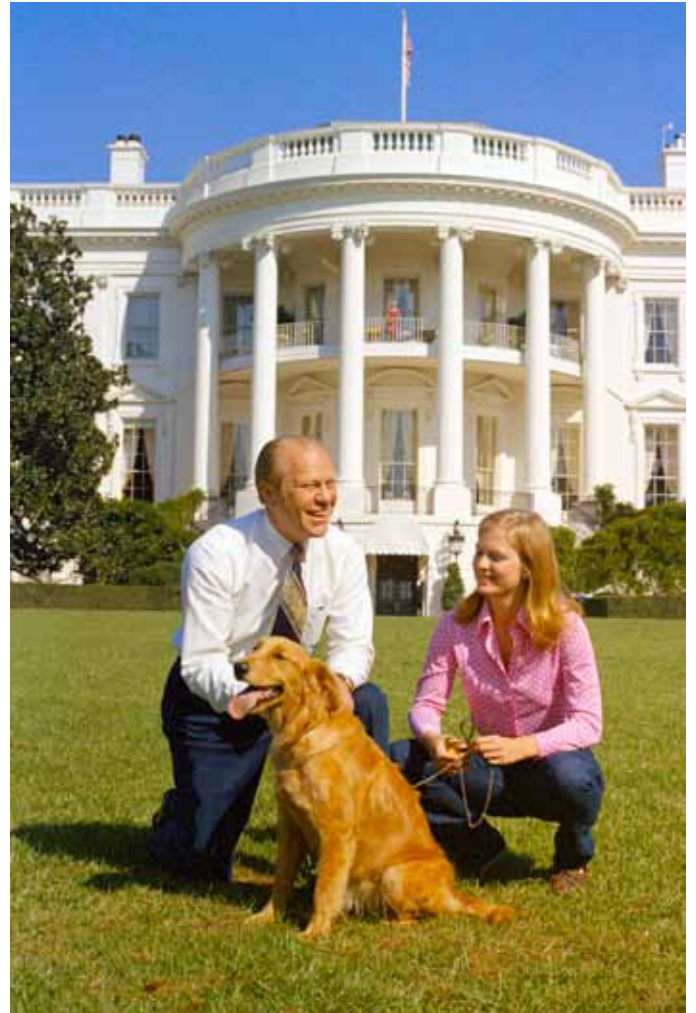
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's pet dog Fala, in an undated photo. Fala died in 1952. (AP Photo)



Laddie Boy, President Warren G. Harding's terrier is shown in this photo of August 1, 1922. (AP Photo)



Fala, President Roosevelt's pet Scotty, who accompanied the chief executive to the Quebec conference, greets some old friends among the newspaper cameramen assembled for the event, and makes some new friends in Quebec, Canada on August 20, 1943. (AP Photo)



This October 7, 1974 photo shows President Gerald Ford and his daughter, Susan, on the South Lawn of the White House with their dog, Liberty. (AP Photo)



In this March 19, 1994 photo, Bill Clinton's cat Socks peers over the podium in the White House briefing room in Washington. (AP Photo/Marcy Nighswander)



President Lyndon Johnson poses with Freckles, mother of five Beagle pups at the White House in Washington, November 4, 1966. (AP Photo/John Rous)



President Bush, along with wife Laura and dog Barney, gives thumbs-up before departing the TSTC Airfield on November 30, 2003 in Waco, Texas. (AP Photo/Duane A. Laverty)



U.S. President Nixon pats the head of his Irish Setter pet King Timahoe as he walks from his office in the Executive Office building to the White House in Washington D.C. on April 30, 1970. White House electrician Traphes Bryant holds back the other first family pets Pasha, a Yorkshire terrier, and Vickie, a miniature French Poodle. (AP Photo)



Kennedy Family with dogs during a weekend at Hyannis Port on August 14, 1963; President John F. Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, Jr., Mrs. Jacqueline B. Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy with their dogs. The dogs are Clipper (standing), Charlie (with Caroline), Wolf (reclining), Shannon (with John Jr.), two of Pushinka's puppies (with Mrs. Kennedy). Photo by Cecil Stoughten. John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, MA via Flickr



President Eisenhower, seated in his canopied jeep with his wife Mamie and granddaughter Susan, watches his other grandchildren Barbara Anne, left, and David hold the reins and pet their horses as the grandchildren visited the President on his farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on September 16, 1956. (AP Photo)



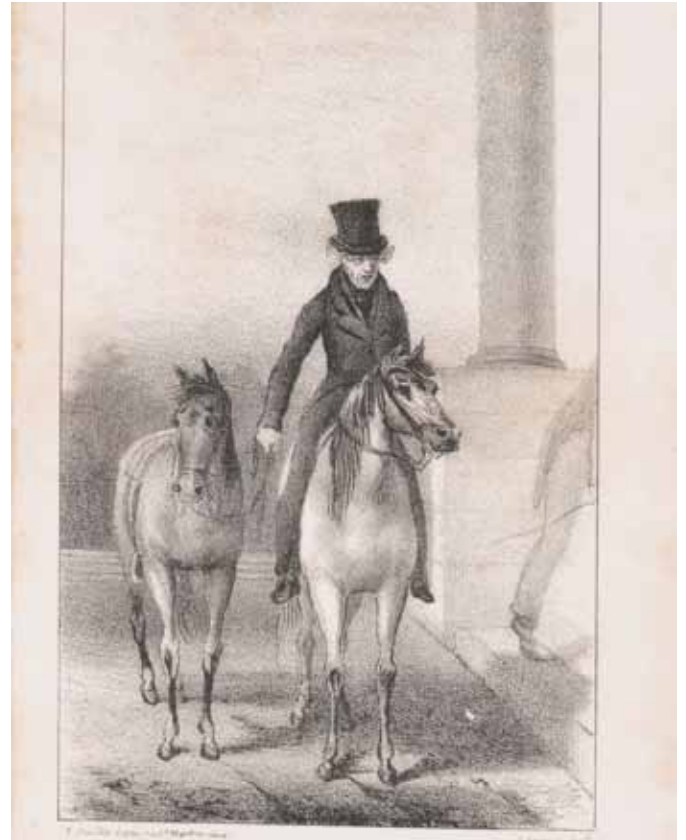
President George H.W. Bush with first lady Barbara preceding him on the steps of the Presidential helicopter; Marine One and their dog Millie as the first couple departs the South Lawn of the White House, Washington on Friday, July 27, 1990. (AP Photo/Barry Thumma)



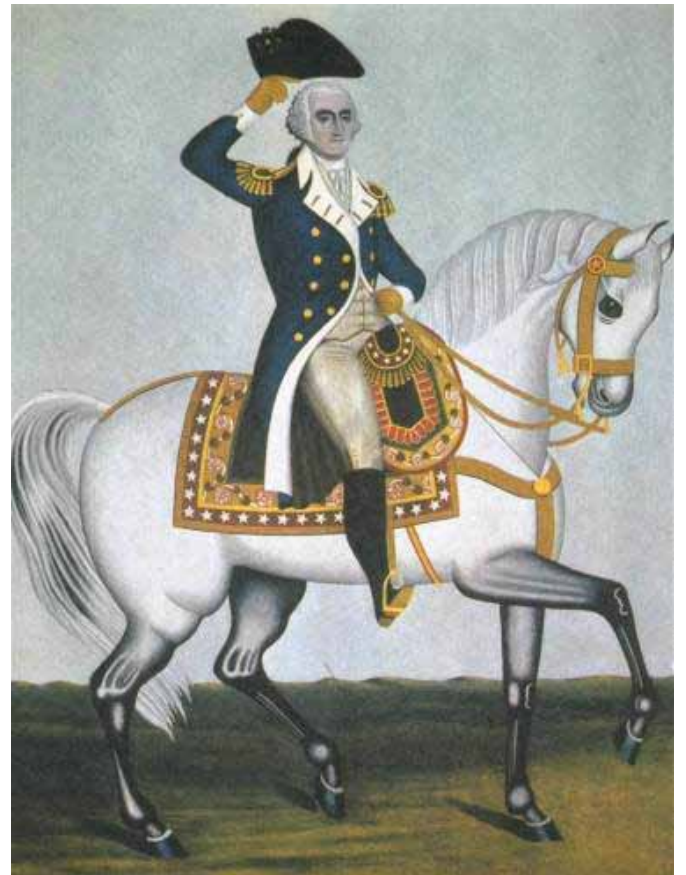
U.S. President Herbert Hoover, right, is shown with first lady Lou Henry Hoover and their dogs in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 1932. (AP Photo)



President Benjamin Harrison's son, Russell Harrison with his daughter, niece, nephew, dog, and Old Whiskers the goat. Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection, Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.



Andrew Jackson, on horseback with another horse in tow, arriving at the White House. (Library of Congress)



George Washington on his white horse, Jack, by an unknown nineteenth century folk artist. (AP Photo)



President Biden's dogs: Champ and Major currently live in the Whitehouse. January 25, 2021. Photos by WH/Adam Schultz

Pets in the White House

Nearly all American presidents had one or more pets. Currently, two German shepherd pups live in the residence of the U.S. President. They are Joe and Jill Biden's pet dogs Camp and Major. Major is also the first rescue dog in the White House. What a great message for all Americans who are looking for a new pet: Adopt rather than buy!

The first U.S. President George Washington and his wife Martha Washington liked dogs, but they also had other pets including a parrot, and some goldfish. Washington, who was referred to as "the best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback," loved horses and maintained a fine, well-kept stable. Today, in his home and museum Mount Vernon, dogs are still welcome.

Among the most notable dogs that lived in the White House is Springer spaniel named Spot Fetcher. Spot, one of the puppies of Millie, George H.W. Bush's dogs, was born in the White House, and was later adopted by President Bush's son, George W. Spotty returned to the White House twelve years later, when George W. Bush became president. She is the only dog to have lived at the White House under two different presidents.

Another famous White House four-legged inhabitant was Pushinka, a puppy whose mother, Strelka, was one of the first two dogs to orbit Earth and return safely, aboard Sputnik 2. John Kennedy received Pushinka from Soviet Premier Khrushchev. The Kennedys had a lot of animals including other dogs, hamsters, a cat, a rabbit, a pony and a horse as well as a canary and parakeets.

Some presidents kept pets for a cause or to set an example for their country. During World War I, President Woodrow

Wilson - in addition to his cat, a songbird and dogs allowed a flock of 48 sheep to live in the White House premises and graze on the lawn. The sheep's wool was sold to benefit the Red Cross. The sheep also kept the lawn trimmed, which cut down maintenance costs.

Some presidents owned fairly unusual pets. John Quincy Adams allegedly had an alligator, which was kept in the East Room. While the story of an alligator may only be a myth, President Adams' wife, Louisa, kept silkworms and spun their silk.

Benjamin Harrison is also believed to keep two alligators in the White House conservatory as well as opossums, Mr. Reciprocity and Mr. Protection. President's son, Russel kept a goat Whiskers in the White House.

President Calvin Coolidge's wife, Grace, saved a raccoon from becoming a Thanksgiving feast. Grace named the raccoon Rebecca and had a special tree house built for her pet.

Herbert Hoover, in addition to his many dogs, including Fox terriers, a Setter, a Canadian eskimo dog and others, had an opossum that lived in the same tree house as Rebecca.

Although Andrew Johnson had no pet of his own, he fed white mice he found in his bedroom.

In all, a few hundred pets have lived in the White House. This clearly shows the affection and love presidents and their families had for their animals. Some have even been immortalized in statues, which can be found throughout the U.S.

ACTIVITY PAGE

ACTIVITY 1: READING COMPREHENSION

Read the captions of the photographs and the text on the previous page. Then fill the blanks with a suitable word or words.

Fill in the blanks:

1. Spot was the only dog that lived in the White House during ... different presidential terms.
2. Pushinka's mother, Strelka, was one of the first two dogs to ... Earth and return... aboard Sputnik
3. President Calvin Coolidge's wife, Grace, saved a ... from becoming a Thanksgiving feast.
4. President Biden's dogs: ... and ... currently live in the Whitehouse.
5. Today, in George Washington's home and museum Mount ... dogs are still welcome.
6. During World War I, President ... Wilson - in addition to his cat, a songbird and dogs allowed a flock of 48 ... to live in the White House premises and graze on the lawn.
7. A life-sized bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln and his horse greet visitors to the country home in ... where the Lincoln family resided during the hot summer months in 1862, 63, and 64.
8. Freckles was President ... Johnson's pet dog.
9. Socks was President Bill Clinton's pet....
10. President Gerald Ford had a pet dog called...
11. Fala, ...'s favorite dog is commemorated in a monument to the president in Washington, D.C.
12. Portuguese water dog Bo is the pet... of President Obama's daughters ... and

ACTIVITY 2: SPEAKING

Talk with another student. If you have a pet, describe him or her. Tell the other student why you love pets and how you engage in keeping your pet happy. What makes you happy about having a pet?

Then listen to the other student's presentation of their pet.

If you don't have a pet, tell your friend if you would want to have one. Why? Why not? Should we buy a pet or adopt one from a shelter?

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TRIVIA QUESTION

What is the name of the only dog that lived in the White House during two different presidential terms?

Send the answer
(with your home address) to:
KrakowAIRC@state.gov
The 4th, the 7th and the 13th
sender of the correct answer
will be awarded with a book
prize.

Deadline: February 15

November-December Quiz Answer:

Maria Mitchell

The winners are:

Ewelina from Krakow, Kasper
from Szczecin and Wojciech
from Letownia

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The prizes will be sent to you
by mail.



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Life-sized bronze statue shows Abraham Lincoln and his horse greet visitors to the country home in Washington DC where the Lincoln family resided during the hot summer months in 1862, 63, and 64. Photo by Carol M. Highsmith.



President George W. Bush's English springer spaniel, Spot, plays on the south lawn of the White House, Tuesday, January 23, 2001. Spot is the offspring of former first dog, Millie and is the only dog that lived in the White House during two different presidential terms. (AP Photo/The White House/Paul Morse)