

Pawlitical Dogs American Presidents and Their Dogs

A total of 25 of America's 42 Presidents have owned dogs as their pets. The details of the Presidents dogs, their breeds, some anecdotes and their names follow in chronological order:

1789 - 1797 George Washington

The first US President George Washington owned 10 Hounds called Mopsey, Taster, Cloe, Tipler, Forester, Captain, Lady Rover, Vulcan, Sweetlips and Searcher

1801 - 1809 Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson owned a sheep dog and is the President who instituted the first dog license. He actually had a dog hanged once for attacking his sheep.

1817 - 1825 James Monroe

James Monroe owned a Spaniel

1861 - 1865 Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln owned at least 2 dogs called Fido and Jip. Fido, suffered a violent death much like his master. Fido was knifed to death in the street by a drunk who became angry when the dog jumped on him with muddy paws.

1869 - 1877 Ulysses S Grant

Ulysses S. Grant brought a Newfoundland dog named Faithful to the White House. Faithful belonged to Jesse Grant, the son of President Grant.

1877 - 1881 Rutherford Hayes

Rutherford Hayes owned an English Mastiff called Duke, two German Shepherd dogs named Hector and Nellie and a Greyhound called Grim.

1885 - 1889 Grover Cleveland

Grover Cleveland was believed to have owned a Poodle.

1889 - 1893 Benjamin Harrison

Benjamin Harrison owned a dog called Dash

1901 - 1909 Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt owned a Pit bull Terrier (Pete), a Chesapeake Retriever (Sailor Boy), a Terrier (Jack), a mongrel (Skip) and a Spaniel called Manchu. Teddy Roosevelt's bull terrier, Pete, almost caused an international scandal when he ripped off the French ambassador's pants during a White House function.

1913 - 1921 - Woodrow Wilson

Woodrow Wilson did not own a dog while he was President, but he was the first to shake hands with a dog which was a war hero. The dog was Stubby, a bull terrier, who captured a German spy in World War I. Woodrow Wilson said, "If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience."

1921 - 1923 Warren Harding

Warren Harding owned an Airedale called Laddie Boy, who had his own chair to sit on at cabinet meetings, and a Bulldog called Oh Boy.

1923 - 1929 Calvin Coolidge

Calvin Coolidge owned at least 12 dogs:

Terrier (Peter Pan), Airedale (Laddie Buck/Paul Pry), 2 White Collies (Oshkosh/Rob Roy and Prudence Primm), Shetland Sheepdog (Calamity Jane), 2 Chows (Tiny Tim and Blackberry), Brown Collie (Ruby Rough), Yellow Collie (Bessie), Bulldog (Boston Beans), Police Dog (King Kole). and a Bird Dog (Palo Alto).

1929 - 1933 Herbert Hoover

Herbert Hoover owned at least 9 dogs:

2 Police Dogs (King Tut and Pat), 2 Fox Terriers (Big Ben and Sonnie), Scotch Collie (Glen), Eskimo Dog (Yukon), Wolfhound (Patrick), Setter (Eaglehurst Gillette), and an Elk hound (Weeje).

1933 - 1945 Franklin D Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt owned at least 7 dogs:

German Shepherd (Major), 2 Scotch Terriers (Meggie and Fala), Llewellyn Setter (Winks), English Sheepdog (Tiny), Great Dane (President), and a Mastiff (Blaze), Fala was given to the President by his cousin, Margaret Suckley and Fala was the star of an MGM Hollywood movie about the typical day of a dog in the White House. Fala also became an honorary army private. He received this honor by contributing one dollar to the war effort setting a trend for the rest of the US. Fala is depicted in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Meggie, the other Terrier, was infamous as she once bit a senator! Manchu was owned by Alice Roosevelt and was a small black Pekingese which she received as a gift from the last Empress of China.

1945 - 1953 Harry S Truman

Harry S. Truman owned a mongrel called Feller and an Irish Setter named Mike. President Harry S. Truman is attributed with the following quotes: "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." and "Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and the railroads."

1953 - 1961 Dwight D Eisenhower

Dwight D. Eisenhower owned a Weimaraner named Heidi.

1961 - 1963 John F Kennedy

President John F. Kennedy owned the following dogs:

Welsh Terrier - Charlie and Pushinka, German Shepherd – Clipper, Irish Cocker Spaniel – Shannon, Irish Wolfhound – Wolf, Terrier - White Tips, Blackie and Streaker. John F. Kennedy was the first president to request that his dogs meet the presidential helicopter when the president arrived at the White House.

Soviet Premier Khrushchev gave him a dog named Pushinka who was the offspring of the Russian space dog Strelka. Pushinka had 4 puppies who JFK called "pupniks"! Pushinka often made the President laugh by climbing up the ladder to Caroline's tree house. The Prime Minister of Ireland gave JFK the Irish cocker spaniel, Shannon.

1963 - 1969 Lyndon B Johnson

Lyndon B. Johnson owned 7 dogs:

Mongrel - (Yuki), 5 Beagles - Beagle, Little Beagle, Him and Her and J. Edgar. As president he received as a gift a white collie, Blanco. He always shook hands with the dog whenever he left or returned to the White House.

His favorite dog, the beagle called Him, was run over and killed on the White House grounds. J. Edgar Hoover gave him a dog to replace Him, and that dog was named J. Edgar. His mongrel dog, Yuki, was famous for disgracing everyone present in the oval office including the Shah of Iran. His next escapade occurred when he bit a White House police officer in the groin. Despite these indiscretions Yuki was honored by his picture appearing on the front page of the Wall Street Journal.

1969 - 1974 Richard Nixon

Richard Nixon owned 4 dogs

Spaniel (Checkers), Irish Setter (King Timahoe), Terrier (Pasha), and a Poodle (Vicky). When he entered

the White House a member of his staff gave him the Irish setter, King Timahoe, which he named for the little village in Ireland where his mother's ancestors came from.

1974 - 1977 Gerald Ford

Gerald Ford owned a Golden Retriever called Liberty who gave birth to nine puppies at the White House.

1977 - 1981 Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter gave a mongrel dog named "Grits" as a gift to his daughter Amy.

1981 - 1989 Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan owned two dogs, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel called Rex and a Bouvier des Flandres called Lucky. The President was photographed being dragged across the White House lawn by Lucky in the presence of Margaret Thatcher. An undignified image for the President of the USA. Lucky was sent to live in California leaving just Rex, the little Cavalier King Charles Spaniel at the White House.

1989 - 1993 George H. W. Bush

George H. W. Bush owned a Springer Spaniel called Millie and her puppy named Ranger. "Millie", the Springer Spaniel, has been the subject of a book which has sold more copies than the autobiography of George Bush himself.

1993 - 2001 President Bill Clinton

Bill Clinton owned a chocolate Labrador called Buddy. The TV cameras caught him relieving himself on the carpet! Buddy was barely in the White House a month before Newsweek proclaimed, "At last, a friend who can't testify against him."

2000 President George W. Bush

President George W Bush's dogs include a Scottish terrier named Barney and an English Springer Spaniel named Spot. Spot was named after Scott Fletcher, a former Texas Rangers baseball player. President Bush's dog Spot is the only dog to live in the White House during two administrations. Spot was born to Millie, George H.W. Bush's dog, when George H.W. Bush was President. Spot was given to his son George W. Bush who returned the Terrier to the White House for his term of office.

(See www.dog-names.org.uk/famous-dogs-owners.htm for more information)