

PRESIDENTIAL POOGIES



Sweet Lips and Madame Moose

George Washington (President 1789–1797)

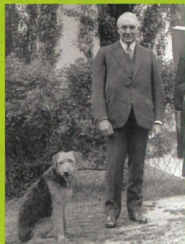
George Washington was a dog lover. At his home in Virginia, called Mount Vernon, he kept a variety of dogs, including hunting hounds, spaniels, terriers, greyhounds, Dalmatians, and at least one Newfoundland. Many had silly names, including Sweet Lips, Mopsey, Topsy and Madame Moose.



Pete

Theodore Roosevelt (President 1901–1909)

Theodore Roosevelt had many pet dogs during his time as president. One of his dogs, a bull terrier named Pete, menaced the White House for several years. Pete's job was to patrol the grounds of the White House and chase away intruders. Pete often took the job too far. In 1905, Pete chased the French ambassador up a tree, possibly even tearing the backside of his pants. He was banished to a nearby farm for an extended doggie time-out. There are no photos of Pete, but he probably looked like the bull terrier at the right.



Laddie Boy

Warren G. Harding (President 1921–1923)

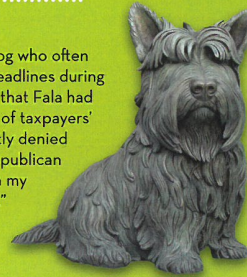
During his presidency, Warren G. Harding was plagued with problems. Many in his inner circle was accused of corruption. But at least one member of his administration enjoyed great popularity with the American people: his dog, Laddie Boy. The Airedale terrier delivered the newspaper to the president every morning, and frequently sat in on meetings.

After Harding died in office from an illness, an artist designed a Laddie Boy sculpture made from 19,000 pennies, in honor of the president and his loyal dog. The pennies were donated by newspaper delivery boys around the country. It's still part of the collection of the Smithsonian Museum today.

Fala

Franklin D. Roosevelt (President 1933–1945)

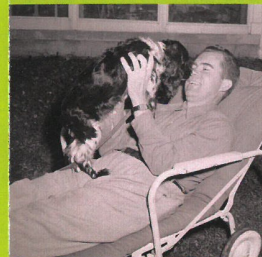
Franklin D. Roosevelt's Scottish terrier, Fala, was a fun-loving little dog who often entertained White House visitors with adorable tricks. Fala made headlines during FDR's 1944 re-election campaign, when Republicans falsely claimed that Fala had been left behind on an island and that Roosevelt had spent millions of taxpayers' dollars sending a naval destroyer ship to retrieve him. Roosevelt hotly denied the story in a now-famous speech, where he complained: "These Republican leaders have not been content with attacks on me, or my wife, or on my sons. No, not content with that, they now include my little dog, Fala."



Pushinka

John F. Kennedy (President 1961–1963)

Eight months after the Russians successfully sent two dogs into space (see page 87), one of the two astronaut-dogs, Strelka, gave birth to a litter of puppies. The leader of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, gave one of Strelka's puppies to Caroline Kennedy, the young daughter of President John F. Kennedy. The white, mixed-breed puppy's name was Pushinka, which is Russian for "fluffy."



Checkers

Richard M. Nixon (President 1969–1974)

In 1952, when Richard Nixon was running for vice president (alongside Dwight Eisenhower for president), he was accused of accepting gifts improperly. He gave a speech on television—a relatively new-fangled appliance in most homes—and denied the accusations. He did admit that his family had kept one gift: a dog. "And our little girl, Tricia, the six-year-old, named it Checkers." The awkward, stiff-seeming Nixon showed his human side, and the speech helped save his political career. It became known as the "Checkers speech."

Bo and Sunny

Barack Obama (President 2009–2017)

When Barack Obama was running for president, he publicly promised his two young daughters that if he was elected, he would get them a puppy. In April 2009, after Obama did win the election, Senator Ted Kennedy presented the Obama girls with Bo, a Portuguese water dog. A second Portuguese water dog named Sunny joined the family in 2013, when she was a year old. Both dogs got to shake paws with many famous folks, including the Pope.

