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Pushinka on the South Lawn of the White House, 1961. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Photo by Robert Knudsen.

Alligators, Goats, Dogs, Cats...and other Presidential Pets!

New Exhibition at the Charles M. Schulz Museum

Snoopy Presents: Lucky Dogs and Presidential Pets

June 30, 2016 through February 19, 2017

(Santa Rosa, CA) Did you know that President John Quincy Adams had an alligator living in the White House in an unfinished East Room bathtub? Hundreds of pets have

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lived alongside American presidents, including dogs, cats, birds, alligators, a hyena, a raccoon, and even a one-legged rooster!

The Charles M. Schulz Museum's upcoming exhibition, ***Snoopy Presents: Lucky Dogs and Presidential Pets***, on view from June 30, 2016 to February 19, 2017, features photos and fun facts about presidential pets and includes items on special loan from Presidential libraries, such as the collar and leash of President Franklin Roosevelt's dog, Fala, and a painting of Rex, the Reagan family dog. This exhibition coincides with the Museum's main exhibition, ***Mr. Schulz Goes to Washington***, on view from April 30, 2016 to January 22, 2017, which looks at the lighter-side of politics and its intersection with the life of Charles Schulz.

Many of the first presidential pets, such as George Washington's hunting hounds and Thomas Jefferson's riding horses, reflected the agrarian lifestyle of the newly formed American democracy.



President Benjamin Harrison and family with Old Whiskers at the White House, Circa 1890. Library of Congress. Photo by Benjamin Frances Johnston. President Harrison had a goat named Old Whiskers that pulled his grandchildren around in a wagon. One day, Old Whiskers ran away, pulling the wagon with the Harrison grandchildren behind him as the President chased after them.

Today, dogs and cats typically live with their presidential families in the White House. And like Snoopy, who also visits the White House for the annual Easter Egg Roll, presidential pets enjoy a special celebrity status thanks to their charm, universal appeal, and a natural ability to make us smile.

The Kennedy family dog, Pushinka (pictured at top), was a gift from Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev, given in 1961 amid Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Pushinka's mother was Strelka, who flew aboard the *Sputnik 5* space capsule and became one of the first living creatures to fly into orbit and safely return to Earth. Pushinka had four puppies with Charlie, the family's Welsh terrier, and President Kennedy called them "pupniks."



Socks the Cat Standing on the Podium in the White House Press Room, December 5, 1993. Photo by Barbara Kinney. William J. Clinton Presidential Library, Little Rock, Arkansas.

When the Clinton family moved into the White House in 1993, they brought their black-and-white cat named Socks along with them. Socks and Buddy, the Clinton family's Labrador retriever, both became the recipients of numerous gifts from adoring fans, from paintings to embroidered sweaters.

IMAGES

If you would like the image in this release to print in a publication, contact Gina Huntsinger at gina@schulzmuseum.org or (707) 284-126

ABOUT THE CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

The Charles M. Schulz Museum opened in August 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz. The museum carries out this mission through changing exhibitions and programming that: build an understanding of cartoonists and cartoon art; illustrate the scope of Schulz's multi-faceted career; communicate the stories, inspirations and influences of Charles Schulz; and celebrate the life of Charles Schulz and the Peanuts characters.

LOCATION

The Charles M. Schulz Museum is located 50 minutes north of San Francisco by car on Highway 101. The Museum is located at 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

HOURS

Weekdays Monday thru Friday (except Tuesdays*) 11am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm

Closed Tuesdays*

*Open every day throughout the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

ADMISSION FEES

Free – Museum Members, Children 3 and under

\$10.00 – Adults (\$12 as of July 1, 2016)

\$5.00 – Seniors 62 and over with ID (\$8 as of July 1, 2016)

\$5.00 – Children 4-18, college students with valid I.D. card

For more information consult the Museum web site: schulzmuseum.org

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