



# White House "Tails"



# Pets of the First Families





**T**he nine papier-mâché figures representing the beloved pets of some of our nation's First Families, were first used by First Lady Laura Bush in her 2002 White House Christmas entitled All Creatures Great and Small. Florists and calligraphers, part of the regular White House staff, were called upon to create over 20 of the special ornaments that represented pets ranging from the ordinary to very extraordinary.

Most First Families owned pets when they took up residence in the Executive Mansion, and occasionally more creatures great and small were acquired during each President's administration. Many pets were gifts to the First Families from other countries. Some gifts, like the Russian dog, Pushinka, lived in the White House. Other more exotic ones were given to the National Zoo. Goats, cows, sheep, and horses that lived at the White House were working animals. Other animals just wandered onto the lawn of the White House or into the mansion itself and were either "adopted" or evicted by members of the First Families.

Regardless of how the pets arrived or how long they remained with the Presidential families, each of their stories is fun and historic.

The National First Ladies' Library is proud to share with our guests the opportunity to see nine of the pet ornaments. We are aware of the distinct honor of hosting our "White House guests" and sincerely thank President George W. Bush for this rare loan of historic White House artifacts.

# Barney Bush

**Birth:** September 30, 2000 in New Jersey

**Address:** 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

**Owners:** President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

**Breed:** Scottish Terrier

**Favorites:**

**Book** - ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book by Dr. Seuss

**Sport** - Playing catch with the president

**Treat** - Milk - flavored dog biscuits

**Place to Nap** - In my bed

**Pastime** - Sitting in the White House Library on Mrs. Bush's lap

**Duties:** Looking after my new little sister Miss Beazley



# Spot "Spotty" Fletcher Bush

**Birth:** March 17, 1989, at the White House

**Died:** February of 2004

**Owners:** President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

**Breed:** English Springer Spaniel

**Mother:** Mildred Kerr Bush, author of Millie's Book.

**Namesake:** Named after Scott Fletcher, former Texas Rangers baseball player

**Favorites:**

**Book** - "Hank the Cowboy" by John Erickson

**Sport** - Played "chase the tennis ball" with President George W. Bush

**Pastime** - Chased birds on the White House lawn

**Treat** - Bacon-flavored dog biscuits

**Activity** - Loved to fly on Air Force One



## India "Willie" Bush

**Address:** 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

**Owners:** President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

**Breed:** Short-haired black domestic (mixed breed)

**Namesake:** Named for former Texas Ranger baseball player, Ruben Sierra, who was called "El Indio"

**Favorite Treat:** Tuna flavored kitty treats

**Favorite Book:** "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies"  
By Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond

**Favorite Place to Nap:** Under the bed



## Mildred "Millie" Kerr Bush

**Owners:** President George H.W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush; Bush Administration 1989 - 1993

**Breed:** English Springer Spaniel

**Proudest Accomplishment:** Gave birth to 6 puppies in the beauty parlor of the White House

**Occupation:** Author - wrote memoirs, "Millie's Book" in 1990

**Charity Work:** Proceeds of Millie's Book donated to Mrs. Bush's charities

**Awards:** Named "ugliest dog in America" by the Washington Post

**Disliked:** Washington Post



# Rebecca Raccoon

**Owners:** President Calvin Coolidge and First Lady Grace Coolidge; Coolidge Administration 1923-1929

## **Favorites:**

**Book** - All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

**Outside Activity** - Spent quality time taking daytime walks with Mrs. Coolidge on my leash.

**Pastime** - Splashing a bar of soap in a tub of water with my paw to make bubbles

**Special Friend** - Rubin the raccoon who sneaked onto the lawn past the Secret Service to visit





# Rob Roy

**Owners:** President Calvin Coolidge and First Lady Grace Coolidge

**Breed:** White Collie

**Official Duty:** Taught the other dogs how to terrorize the White House maids

**Happiest Memory:** Posed with Mrs. Coolidge for her White House portrait

**Favorites:**

**Book** - The Call of the Wild by Jack London

**Activity** - Wearing my hat for the Easter Egg Roll with Mrs. Coolidge

**Pals** - Paul Pry, an Airedale and Prudence Prim, another White Collie like me



# Pushinka

**Owners:** Caroline and John Kennedy the children of President John F Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy; Kennedy Administration 1961 - 1963

**Birth Place:** Soviet Union (Russia)

**Lineage:** My famous mother, Strelka, flew into outer space in a Soyuz space ship in 1960

**Husband:** Charlie Kennedy

**Children:** Four puppies named Blackie, Streaker, Butterfly and White Tip

**Favorites:**

**Book** -The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

**Activity** - Sliding down Caroline and John's sliding board on all fours!



# Sheep

**Owners:** President Woodrow Wilson and First Lady Edith Wilson; Wilson Administration 1913 - 1921

**Friends:** Thirteen ewes and one ram grazed with me on the lawn of the White House

**Greatest Achievement:** Took care of the White House lawn during WWI by eating the grass

**Worst Failure:** Ate everything in sight including the flowers

**Fascinating Friend:** Ram named "Old Ike" who chewed tobacco

**Favorite Book:** Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes - especially "Little Bo Peep"

**Charitable Activity:** We donated our wool to make warm garments for the soldiers during WWI





## Exhibit Dates:

June 7, 2008 through October 24, 2008

## Special "Tails" Programs:

(for children K - 6 - call for more details)

White House Pets: August 4, 5 & 6

Reading Programs: July 7 & 29, August 12

### ***Guided Tours:***

Tour both the Education & Research Center and the Saxton McKinley House for 1 admission price. Tours begin at the Education & Research Center.

Tuesday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., plus Sundays in June, July & August at 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.

\$7 adults-\$6 seniors-\$5 children (includes both buildings)  
Reservations required for groups of 6 or more, recommended for all others.

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