



# Past Times

FREE

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The Hayes Presidential Center is affiliated with the Ohio Historical Society.

## 1600 *PETS*-Ivania Avenue

He is the world's most powerful leader, yet the President of the United States of America is just like you and me. He has a family, goes shopping, visits friends, takes vacations, enjoys hobbies, listens to music, watches TV - all the things any American citizen might do.

However, because he IS the President he does not have the freedom to do things when and where he might want to. He must move to Washington, D.C., and live in a house that is not his and is occupied by lots of other people. He and his family always have security officers at their sides. They cannot even walk into their backyard alone. Plus, everything a President or his family does seems to be of interest to the rest of the world. As a result someone always is following the First Family around trying to take photographs or capture video of them to sell to magazines, newspapers, and news shows.

It makes it very hard to live a "normal" life.

One method presidential families use to try to "feel at home" in the White House is to bring along pets.

Since the day John and Abigail Adams became the first presidential family to reside in the White House, animals also have called 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue home. More than 400 pets have lived at the White House, including dogs, cats, horses, goats, snakes, mockingbirds,

goldfish, and even an alligator and a pygmy hippopotamus.

Pets help First Families maintain a sense of living an *ordinary* life while residing in the White House. Animals are trusting, loyal companions. They want little more than to be loved, and in return provide affection and relief from some of the pressures of daily life. Presidential families, like all American families with pets, must feed, bathe, and exercise their pets. Such simple chores help the President and his family stay grounded. They also provide a vivid example to the rest of the world that the President is, after all, just a regular person like you and me.

Presidential pets have no official duties or powers, but they have shaped the image of presidents, swayed voters, and influenced the outcome of elections, all while adding a very human side to the office of the U.S. presidency.



**Teddy Roosevelt's family kept a one-legged rooster as a pet in the White House**



**George W. Bush with Scottish terrier *Barney* (above), Calvin and Grace Coolidge with their son John and two white collies (right), Lucy and Rutherford Hayes with Sardis Birchard and spaniel *Dot* and terrier *Jet* in Spiegel Grove.**



## Hide & Seek pets

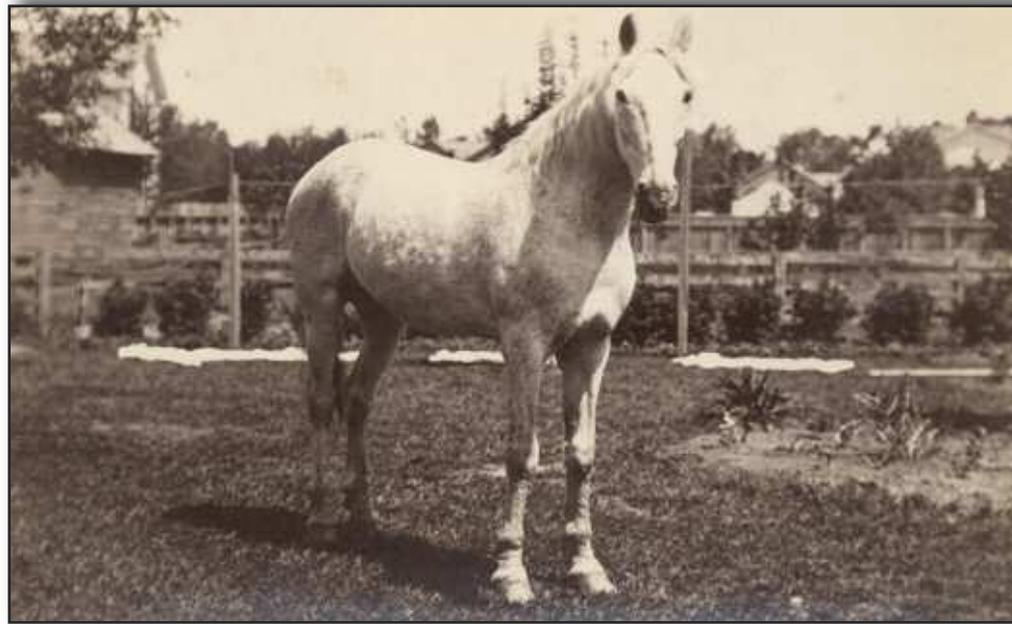
These animals lived at the White House. Find them in the puzzle.

Goat  
Alligator  
Rooster  
Pony

Sheep  
Turkey  
Cow  
Magpie

Hippo  
Goldfish  
Hamster

R M A G P I E A F E Y E R E T S O O R P  
U O N U M A K W K N R D M K I C G D E M  
W G H W Y T P F P O S G D F E L W E G K  
Y P F L Y N H U P A F S S G G H H S H K  
D U Y P T E H P F S O G K T W S O F U W  
U D S K Y G I A R W P H E O T G O C U H  
W W E L E H T H O S R C C I E N G L G O  
L L E S M F A C O T D O T H W N A O N A  
G E O T C T N I W E E I D P W P L M T C  
S O R E T S M A H K M I E W C D A N N Y  
U K A W F A L L I G A T O R F G C S N K  
G K W T C W Y E S U N A C I A T P Y W T  
N L H S R N T A W G R R S S S S K U K S  
K M G T O Y M M C W O H G K F S R N U Y  
S F O P T T U P P F E I T R N F L H G W  
U I E H R M U T R K P Y I E C R H O N N  
S H I M K Y L R W F I P U T U R G D R W  
D W M I E T Y W K F G K K G U S E I H T  
O D D M U F K A U E P O K E E U N M E Y  
D C T A P Y A W R L Y R O K C L F D T L



In retirement *Old Whitey* became as well known in Fremont, Ohio, as his owner, President Hayes.

## War horse earns retirement at president's estate

On March 20, 1879, a White House telegraph operator handed President Hayes a dispatch containing all of four words: "*Old Whitey* is dying." Before the evening was out, a second telegram arrived from Fremont, notifying the President that his beloved war horse had breathed his last. The news cast a gloom over the White House and left little Fanny in tears. In a lengthy obituary, the Fremont Journal reported that despite treatment with quinine and whiskey, the celebrated war horse had died at age 29.

If *Old Whitey*'s final days were well noted, his beginnings were not. He was merely one of thousands of horses issued by the government to Union troops during the Civil War. Too spirited to pull supply wagons, *Old Whitey* found his place as the personal mount of Hayes' friend and aide, Major Russell Hastings. In 19 battles, the big white horse proved fearless under fire. His speed and stamina were legendary among soldiers of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Only his color prevented *Old Whitey*

from becoming the perfect war horse. Time and again, the big, white horse became the target of enemy sharp shooters. Somehow horse and rider always managed to escape unharmed. But their luck ran out at the Battle of Opequan, when a Confederate bullet tore through Major Hastings' leg. Unharmed, *Old Whitey* carried the wounded Hastings to the rear.



*Old Whitey* is buried in Spiegel Grove, a short walk from the President's tomb.

From then on, *Old Whitey* resided at Hayes' headquarters, receiving special treatment from the soldiers. At war's end, surrendering Confederate soldiers asked about the "big white horse." When Hayes proudly led the animal from his stall, *Old Whitey* immediately became the "hero of the moment." The admiring Confederates swore they had shot at the horse "ten thousand times"!

Days later, Hayes assigned one of his men to take *Old Whitey* back to Fremont to be cared for by the President's uncle Sardis Birchard in Spiegel Grove. There the big horse lived in retirement until Birchard's death. *Old Whitey* then became the pampered pet of neighbor Sarah Jane Grant.

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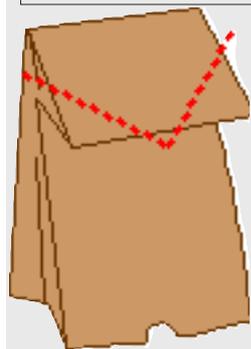
## Make a 'Siam' the cat puppet

### Supplies:

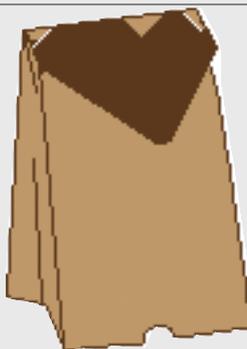
Brown paper bag      Scissors  
Construction paper      Spaghetti Noodles  
Glue



3. Cut out ears, eyes, paws, nose, and mouth from construction paper. Glue them to the face. Thread noodles through slits in nose area to make Siam's whiskers.



1. Fold two edges of the bag bottom under (at the dotted lines) to create Siam's pointy nose.



2. Cut construction paper to the above shape and glue. (White lines mark where to attach ears.)

# The tale of America's first Siamese cat

Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife Lucy were animal lovers. Their estate in Fremont could have been mistaken for a farm with all the dogs, cats, chickens, cows, horses and pigeons living there.

When Rutherford became 19th U.S. President, the White House became a second home to many of the Hayes family pets. Newspaper stories mentioned the animals and President Hayes referred to the two dogs, goat, mockingbird, and canaries as adding “a Robinson Crusoe touch to our mode of life.”

After reading that Lucy liked cats, U.S. Consul David B. Sickels decided to send her a gift from Bangkok, Siam (now Thailand). In a Nov. 1, 1878 letter, Sickels explained, “I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you one of the finest specimens of Siamese cats that I have been able to procure in this country ... I am informed that this is the first attempt ever made to send a Siamese cat to America.”

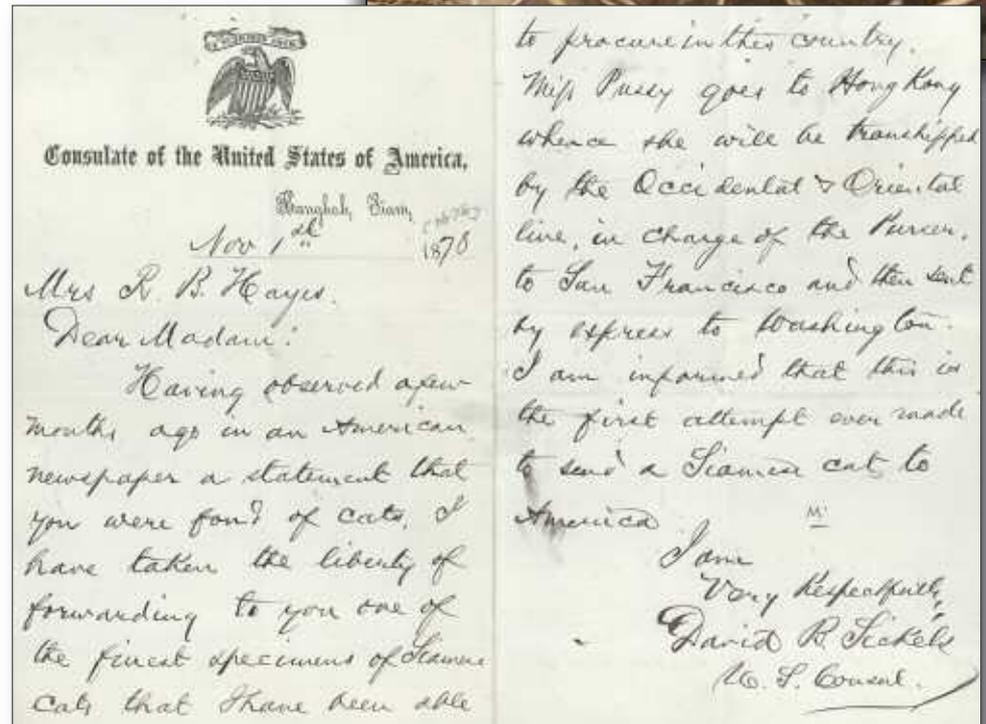
Siamese cats were said to be owned only by members of the King of Siam's family. The cats lived in the royal palace and served as guardians of Buddhist temples.

Lucy's “gift” arrived at the White House two months later. The President's 12-year-old daughter Fanny was delighted with the new addition. The Hayes family named the “mahogany colored” cat *Siam*. Her friendliness and curiosity soon made *Siam* the most popular Hayes pet. The cat could wander wherever she pleased and seemed to take special delight in greeting guests visiting with Mrs. Hayes.

*Siam* became very ill while the Hayes family was in Ohio. The President's White House doctor took the cat home with him in hopes of making her better. However, five days later - Oct. 1, 1879 - *Siam* died.

President Hayes' personal assistant William Crump wrote to tell the family the sad news. Because *Siam* was the first Siamese cat in America, Crump took her body to the U.S. Department of Agriculture where it was to be preserved.

In spite of searches of the Department of Agriculture and Smithsonian museums, *Siam* has never been found.



The Hayes Presidential Center owns the original letter (above) sent by David Sickels to Lucy Hayes announcing his gift of a new pet for the family. *Siam* most likely looked like the Traditional Siamese cat pictured at top. No photographs of *Siam* are known to exist.

## What made these White House pets famous?

Can you match the description with the pet's name.

1. Hosted the 1923 Egg Roll when President and Mrs. Harding were out of town.
2. Was a gift to Lucy Hayes and was the first of her kind in the United States.
3. Led the funeral procession for President Kennedy and was the last Army horse to be branded with the Army's "US" brand.
4. With the help of Teddy Roosevelt's sons, he rode in the White House elevator.
5. Co-wrote a book about life in the White House with First Lady Barbara Bush.
6. An “only pet” when he moved into the Clinton White House.
7. The current “First Dog.”
8. Donated his toys to President Roosevelt's scrap rubber drive during World War II.

Socks

Black Jack

Laddie Boy

Algonquin

Bo

Fala

Millie

Siam



Socks



Black Jack



Fala

Answers: 1. Laddie Boy, 2. Siam, 3. Siam, 4. Black Jack, 5. Algonquin, 6. Millie, 7. Bo, 8. Fala

# Hayes family's beloved greyhound meets 'Grim' end

Perhaps no First Family loved their dogs more than the Hayeses. Their collection of dogs included every size and shape. But the hands-down favorite was a greyhound named *Grim*. According to the president, when the "good-natured greyhound" arrived at Spiegel Grove, he "took all our hearts at once."

It was *Grim's* personality that made the family love him. One day, as Lucy sang the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Grim* "lifted up his head and howled in a most pitiful manner." And ever after, when Lucy sang the national anthem, *Grim* began to howl.

Had it not been for its many trees, the grounds of Spiegel Grove would have perfectly suited *Grim's* love of running. The greyhound reached such speeds that if a tree "chanced to be in his way," he would run headlong into it.

The President believed *Grim's* size and appearance commanded respect from everyone. Wagons and carriages turned aside for him. But *Grim's* special treatment was his undoing. One day, while running on the railroad tracks, *Grim* met an oncoming train. Instead of moving, he "stopped still." The engineer blew his whistle repeatedly, but *Grim* "did not stir." Death was instant. The President said he

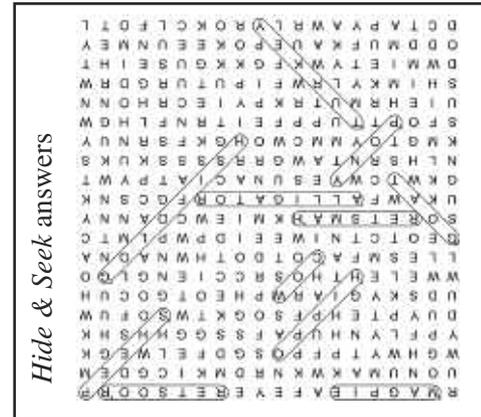
felt *Grim* expected "the train to turn out for him."

Hayes and Lucy were affected deeply by the loss. As soon as the frost was out of the ground, Hayes carried the remains of *Grim* to "cemetery point." He buried him there, beside his war horse *Old Whitey*. *Grim* lies there still – only a few feet from the final resting place of the President and Lucy.



**No photograph of *Grim* is known to exist. However, the "ghost image" seen on the kitchen carpet in the photograph (above right) may be *Grim*. This "ghost image" was created when the sleeping dog awoke and walked away during the picture-taking process. When any object being photographed is removed in mid-exposure, the object appears faded, with the background showing through the object.**

**The Hayes family, including the President (above, second from left), relax on the Hayes Home verandah with two of their many dogs.**



# The days when horses represented presidential power

Today, it is hard to imagine a time before cars - a time when horses were a part of every American president's life. White House horses pulled carriages, sleighs, and delivery wagons. They hauled everything from people and groceries to ice and furniture. Presidents also rode their horses in parades and ceremonies, and to and from the Capitol building. Horses were a symbol of leadership and strength.

Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt all were great horsemen. No president appreciated fine horses more than the father of our country. George Washington's six large, sleek horses pulled his cream-colored carriage. His coachmen and footmen were dressed in white uniforms trimmed in orange.

When Thomas Jefferson's coach did not arrive in time to take him to his inauguration, he saddled his own horse and rode to the Capitol. John Quincy Adams rode 12 miles each morning before breakfast. Except for his family and friends, Ulysses S. Grant



**President William Taft (left) rides 'Surette' at the White House.**

loved horses more than anything else. He visited the White House stables every day to check on his horses. *Egypt*, *Jeff Davis*, and his favorite, *Cincinnati*, had carried him through many Civil War battles. Grant especially loved fast horses. One day he got a fine for racing his horses down the streets of Washington, D.C.

Because President William McKinley walked most of the time, few people knew he was an excellent horseman. One winter day, he surprised everyone in Washington, D.C., by hitching two fast horses to a sleigh and "spun along" Connecticut Avenue.

In 1909, the White House stables became the White House garages. Cars took the place of horses ever after. Even though horses were no longer needed, many First Families still rode for pleasure. Theodore Roosevelt's son Quentin owned a pony named *Algonquin*. President William Taft's sons also had ponies while living in the White House. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy was an excellent horsewoman. When Vice President Lyndon Johnson gave Caroline Kennedy a pony, Jackie taught Caroline to ride. Named *Macaroni*, the pony freely roamed the White House grounds.

Ronald Reagan was the most recent president to truly love horses. Before he was elected our 40th president, he lived in California where he rode the trails through the state's hills and canyons. His favorite horse was named *El Alamein*. The big white horse was a gift from the president of Mexico. With the White House stables long gone, Reagan had to keep him at his ranch. Whenever the president returned to California, he would saddle *El Alamein* and go riding with the first lady.