

**Elementary**

**Today you are going to read about famous pets.**

*Read the text about the pets of George W. Bush.*

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

**Spot "Spotty" Fetcher** (March 17, 1989 – February 21, 2004) was one of U.S. President George W. Bush's dogs. She was an English Springer Spaniel, named after Scott Fletcher, a former baseball player with the Texas Rangers that George W. Bush owned before becoming Governor of Texas in 1994.

Born in the White House, she was the daughter of Mildred Kerr Bush, better known as Millie, who had belonged to President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush.

She was euthanized after suffering a series of strokes. She was 14 years old. She was the only pet to live in the White House twice.

**Barney** (born September 30, 2000 in New Jersey, U.S.A.), often referred to as the "First Dog," is a Scottish Terrier owned by U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

Barney is said to enjoy playing with volley and golf balls, and has recently become a fan of playing horseshoes. There are various web sites across the Internet devoted to Barney. Most notably, he has been the main star of the White House's annual Christmas videos since the start of the Bush administration.

Barney was evoked in famous Bush quote coming from Bob Woodward about the Iraq War in *State of Denial: Bush at War, Part III* and repeated during a 60 Minutes interview:

Late last year he had key Republicans up to the White House to talk about the war. And said, 'I will not withdraw even if Laura and Barney are the only ones supporting me.' Barney is his dog," Woodward says. "My work on this leads to lots of people who spend hours, days with the president."

Barney has been featured in several "films" that go by the name of Barneycam and are made by the White House Staff, and star both Barney himself and Miss Beazley, his sister. These movies can be found on the White House web site. The titles of the films to date are: Barney Cam I (2002), Barney and Spot's Winter Wonderland (2003), Barney Cam II (2003), Where in the White House is Miss Beazley? (Barney Cam III, 2004), Barney has found Miss Beazley (2005), Barney and Miss Beazley's Spring Garden Tour (2005), A Very Beazley Christmas (Barney Cam IV, 2005), Barney's Holiday Extravaganza (Barney Cam V, 2006) and My Barney Valentine (2007).

**India** "Willie" Bush is US President's George W. Bush and Laura Bush's black cat. He has lived with the Bush family for more than ten years. He was named after Texas baseball player, Ruben Sierra, also known as El Indio. There was some controversy reported in India as several people were upset with the cat's name. In the southern state of Kerala in India, 101 dogs were renamed Bush in protest to President Bush's cat being called India.

*Answer the questions.*

1. What is the connection between the Texas Rangers and Bush?
2. How did Spotty die?
3. What was special about Spotty?
4. What does Barney do in his free time?
5. Who is Barney's sister?
6. What was the problem with the name of the cat of the Bush couple?
7. How did some people in India take revenge?

**Intermediate**

***Today you are going to read about famous pets.***

*Read the text about the pets of Bill Clinton.*

**Socks** (born c. 1991) was the pet cat of Bill Clinton and the Clinton family. After the Clintons left the White House, Socks was given to Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie.

Socks was adopted by the Clintons in 1991 after he jumped into the arms of Chelsea Clinton while she was leaving the house of her piano teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he was playing with his sibling, 'Midnight'. Midnight was later adopted by someone else. After Bill Clinton became President, Socks moved with the family from the governor's mansion to the White House and became the principal pet of the First Family in Clinton's first term, though he was known to share his food and water with a stray tabby, dubbed "Slippers." He was often taken to schools, hospitals, and nursing homes to take part in goodwill visits. During the Clinton administration, children visiting the White House website would be guided by a cartoon version of Socks.

He eventually lost the position of principal Clinton pet in 1997 when the Clintons acquired Buddy, a Labrador Retriever. At this point some fans of Socks joked that Socks had been "voted out of office" of White House pet in favour of the more traditional dog. Socks found Buddy's intrusion intolerable; according to Hillary Rodham Clinton, Socks "despised Buddy from first sight, instantly and forever" and Bill Clinton said that "I did better with the Palestinians and the Israelis... than I've done with Socks and Buddy." When the Clintons left the White House in 2001 they took Buddy to their new home, but left Socks under the care of Bill Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie. Socks was only the fourth cat to occupy the White House since Franklin Roosevelt's presidency.

In mid-2006 Socks was in good health and still living with Currie and her husband in Hollywood, Maryland, about 130 km from Washington. In October 2005 he made a now-rare public appearance when Currie was guest speaker at an Officers' Spouses Club luncheon at Andrews Air Force Base. Socks accompanied her and took part in a photo op.

**Buddy** (1997 – January 2, 2002), a male chocolate-coloured Labrador Retriever, was one of two pets owned by Bill Clinton while he was President of the United States. (The Clintons' other pet was a cat named Socks.) Clinton acquired Buddy as a puppy in 1997 from Caroline County, Maryland, and named him after his late uncle.

Clinton once explained "If you want a friend in Washington you have to get a dog."

Socks didn't get along with the frisky Buddy, so the White House had to keep the two in separate quarters. Since this arrangement would be no longer possible in the Clintons' smaller home in New York, Socks was left under the care of Bill Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie. Buddy, however, suffered the same fate as Clinton's previous dog, a cocker spaniel named Zeke, when he was killed by a car while running loose near the Clinton home in Chappaqua, New York, on January 2, 2002.

Clinton later acquired a second labrador, Seamus.

*Now write true sentences using these words and expressions.*

1. jumped
2. goodwill visits
3. website
4. despise
5. secretary
6. fourth
7. separate
8. car



## Advanced

***Today you are going to read about famous pets.***

*Read and complete an old article about one of the royal pets who does not behave like a royal dog should do.*

Source: [www.people.com](http://www.people.com)

### **Princess Anne's Pet Dog in New Attack**

Fresh 1. \_\_\_\_\_ brutally attacking one of the queen's beloved corgis (who was then put to sleep), Anne's pet dog Florence now bites a maid on the leg.

Florence, one of Princess Anne's three pet bull terriers, has attacked a royal servant only days after savaging one of Queen Elizabeth's dogs (which subsequently had to be put to 2. \_\_\_\_\_), Buckingham Palace told Reuters on New Year's Eve.

Anne, 53, the queen's only daughter, seems to have little control 3. \_\_\_\_\_ her animals.

The princess was the first British royal to be convicted of a criminal 4. \_\_\_\_\_ in 350 years when she pleaded guilty in November after she failed to stop another of her dogs, Dottie, from biting two children in a London park. (Anne was 5. \_\_\_\_\_ \$880 and ordered to pay the same amount in damages but could also have faced six months 6. \_\_\_\_\_ bars.)

Florence's latest infraction reportedly occurred at the queen's Sandringham estate in rural Norfolk on Saturday, when the dog bit a maid on the leg. The 7. \_\_\_\_\_ was treated by a doctor, said Reuters, noting that English bull terriers are a stocky breed of dog with powerful jaws. The pit bull is an American cousin to the English bull terrier, according to some dog-breeding Web sites.

This is an unfortunate turn of events for Florence, who now has a 8. \_\_\_\_\_ of aggressive behaviour. On Tuesday it was announced by a royal spokesman that she – and not Anne's other dog, Dottie, who previously had been blamed – was the culprit who had brutally attacked one of Queen Elizabeth's beloved corgis, Pharos, who had to then be put to sleep last week as the royal family gathered to celebrate Christmas at Sandringham.

Already there have been 9. \_\_\_\_\_ to have Florence put to death, say British press reports, but the palace would not 10. \_\_\_\_\_ on the matter to Reuters.