

FAMOUS PETS OF HISTORY



History is full of legendary leaders, great thinkers – and famous fur balls. People have kept pets for thousands of years, and many have gained stardom for everything from saving lives to simply being super-cute. Check out this timeline of important pets...

HOW COME I DON'T GET A HAT?!



I'M A MARVELLOUS MOGGY!

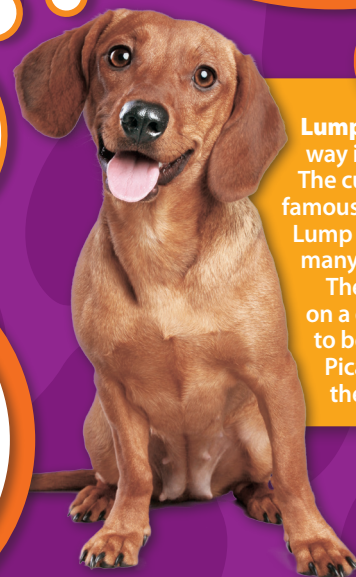
1300 B.C.

The star status of **Ta-mit the cat** is literally written in stone. Ta-mit's owner, **Prince Thutmose** (the son of Egyptian pharaoh **Amenhotep III**), adored his pet so much that he ordered pictures of her to be carved into her limestone sarcophagus (coffin), along with **hieroglyphics** demonstrating the prince's affection towards her. Most felines during this time were mummified and buried as part of rituals to celebrate gods. But Ta-mit, or 'she-cat' in ancient Egyptian, was such a precious pet that she was given her own special sarcophagus.

Ta-mit's sarcophagus



DID HE PAINT DOG BOWLS, TOO?!

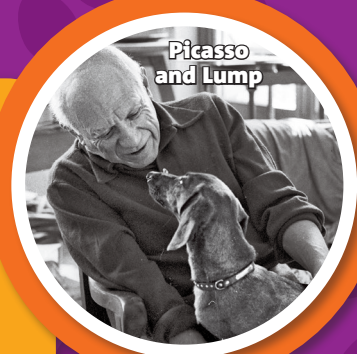


1900s

Lump the dachshund cuddled his way into his owner's heart – and art. The cuddly canine lived in **France** with famous artist **Pablo Picasso**, who adored Lump so much he featured the dog in many of his paintings.

The artist also drew a picture of Lump on a **dinner plate**, which is now thought to be worth up to **£65,000!** But while Picasso's paintings of Lump are expensive, the real dog was clearly priceless to him.

Picasso and Lump



DID YOU KNOW...?

John Quincy Adams (US president from 1825-1829) had a pet alligator that would hang out in one of the White House's bathtubs!

1800s

Queen Victoria, whose reign in the **UK** lasted 63 years, owned **two birds** that were real rock stars. The queen loved her **parrot Lory** so much that she had an artist create a portrait of the bird (left), which today is part of the **Royal Collection**. Meanwhile her **African grey parrot Coco** was taught how to sing the **British national anthem!** Coco became famous for supposedly belting out the patriotic tune most mornings.

Portrait of Lory



1700s

Russian ruler **Peter the Great** might not have been quite so great without his horse **Lisette**. In fact, the horse may have saved her owner's life during the **Great Northern War**, an 18th-century conflict between **Russia** and **Sweden**.

The leader was seated on Lisette on the battlefield when a bullet was fired in his direction. Hearing the shot, Lisette quickly moved and the bullet hit her **saddle** rather than her owner. They were both unharmed, and the horse's act won her a place in history – plus plenty of treats from her grateful owner.



PETER THE GREAT? PAH! I'M LISETTE THE GREAT!

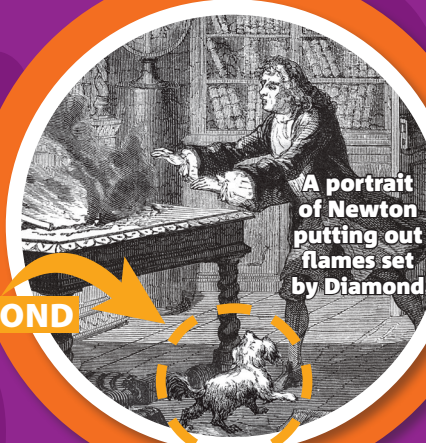
Lisette's stuffed body is still on display at a museum in **St. Petersburg** today!

1600s

English physicist **Isaac Newton** set the world on fire with his revolutionary discoveries, including the **force of gravity**. But the scientist's dog, **Diamond**, became famous for starting **real** fires. Legend has it that when Newton left Diamond home alone one night, the mischievous pooch jumped onto a desk and knocked over a candle, igniting and destroying stacks of Newton's research. Eek! The notes may have been destroyed, but the dog's reputation lived on – Diamond's story has appeared in several books and magazines since.

A portrait of Newton putting out flames set by Diamond

DIAMOND



PET-CRAZY ROYALS!

Queen **Elizabeth II** is famous for having **pet corgis** – but one British monarch had **much quirkier** pets...



England's King **Henry III**, who ruled from 1216 to 1272, was renowned for the marvellous menagerie he kept at the Tower of London. Among the pets housed there were an African elephant and a polar bear, which was allowed to fish in the River Thames tied to a very long leash. Henry also owned three lions, given to him as gifts to match the three lions on the English coat of arms. Sadly, it's not believed Henry's animals were particularly well looked after. The elephant, shown here in a drawing from the time, is said to have died after drinking too much wine. **Whoah!**

