

Petroglyphs



From the Editor

Spring is in the air. Jonquils are blooming in my front yard and furry, exuberant four-leggeds are romping through the warm air at the local dog parks. The year is coming alive again. In Phoenix, Jackass Acres, a dog park, was built by a non-profit group using green construction techniques. Could this be a hopeful sign of future developments? (See p.18)

At the Westminster Dog Show in February a 10-year-old dog named Stump was named Best in Show. That is a first. It is the equivalent of a 70-year-old man winning a Mr. America title. Not bad. Is this another hopeful sign that age no longer matters as much as a dog's character and quality? Maybe Stump's win will translate to more people adopting the great older dogs waiting for forever homes in our shelters.

The Obamas have decided it's time to choose the first dog. Will it be a Portuguese water dog as Mrs. Obama suggested or will they settle on something else? Ah, the mystery. We are reminded in Casa Canine (See p.17) that there are a lot of things all parents need to consider before getting a dog "for the children."

People associate cats with bookstores but rarely think of them in terms of libraries. Cat Chat (See p.4) introduces you to library cats – some famous, like Dewey of the best selling book, and others known only in their local communities.

Get to know the joy of a purring cat at the checkout desk and meet these workers whose paycheck consists of food and love.

Fostering an animal while it waits to find a home is one of the most loving activities a person can do. Often these animals have been passed around or been strays before they get to the foster home. They need a lot of attention, socialization and hands on care before they are ready to move to their forever family. Janet Philippsen talks about the joys of fostering and how rescue groups can best support their foster parents (See p.1). Cathy Atkinson adds the story of Crystal, a breeder dog at a puppy mill, and how fostering made her an adoptable animal (See p.3).

Dogs suffer many types of eye disease that can be painful and dangerous to their sight. Dr. Nancy McLean surveys common eye problems in dogs and their treatments. (See p.1)

Spring is a time when groups gear up for events and fundraising. Check out Regional News and Events (See p.RG-15) so you don't miss anything from the Feline Fiesta Cat Show to the Puppy Pooza and the A.C.A.T. Annual Raffle.

To receive your digital copy of PETroglyphs, go to www.Petroglyphsnm.org and sign up in the box provided.

Happy, hopeful Spring to all of you.

For the love of animals,
Nancy Marano, Editor



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This Thing Called Love

By Cathy Atkinson



Crystal

Crystal is one of many successful foster stories of New Mexico Animal Friends (NMAF). Yet she stands out as one of the favorites because of how she blossomed so beautifully after arriving with tremendous psychological damage. NMAF rescued her from a puppy mill in eastern New Mexico. She was a breeder-dog and treated solely as a producing machine. Breeder females have the worst of it in the puppy mills. They are kept in squalor and confinement for more years than males, have their pups taken from them before

weaning, and often get bred again too soon not allowing for recovery to their systems. They weaken and 'age' much quicker because of their extreme and continuous stress.

When NMAF rescued Crystal, she had an extremely dry and dull coat, she barely moved, and the lack of zip in her step was heart-breaking. She was not socialized and unfamiliar with a kind human touch. She was beyond sad. Crystal was on the brink of giving it all up. She was in quick and desperate need for care and lots of attention--a complete unknown to her for her entire life. Her horrific living conditions made it impossible for her to breathe fresh outside air, stretch out her legs for a run, take a relaxing nap in sunshine, or feel the simple pleasure of grass underneath her little paws. But even worse, she was empty inside and not aware of this thing called love. "Jailed" in a wire crate, not able to stand, sit or lie down on anything but its hard-wire base, what utter despair she must have felt.

Crystal was placed with a NMAF foster family. She slowly and wondrously became an adorable and adoptable pet. If you've never met a puppy-mill dog-and only read about them-the first thing that will astound you is not the terrible physical condition of these dogs. What will bring you to tears is the psychological damage to a heart that was never allowed to "feel." They respond in extreme fear to ordinary things such as a phone ringing, a sneeze, a car passing or a couch! NMAF foster families continue to amaze us with their generous, patient and loving hearts. Thank goodness for fosters who gingerly bring out their deeply buried personalities and open up their world. Thank goodness Crystal is now experiencing this thing called love.

Please call NMAF's Foster Coordinator, Elaine Price @ 505-232-4719 if you would like to open your heart and home to a troubled, unloved dog by fostering.

Cathy Atkinson is a Board Member of New Mexico Animal Friends and a long-time volunteer of Animal Humane of New Mexico. She writes dog descriptions for PetFinder, for Animal Humane, and NMAF, and is a Mom to a senior, female Miniature Schnauzer who was also a puppy-mill mama.

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Notes of an Animal Foster Mom

(continued from page 1)

Here are some tips to help facilitate a successful foster experience for both the rescue group and new foster parent:

Rescue Groups:

- Check in with your foster parents often to get a sense of how they are doing. If they haven't been bringing their foster animals to the clinics lately, this could be a sign of someone who is emotionally drained.
- When animals are adopted, be available to listen to the foster parent's concerns, especially if they've had the animal for a while.
- Create an internal support system where foster parents support foster parents. Experienced foster parents know what it's like and can empathize with each other.
- Ask your senior foster parents if they would be willing to mentor the new foster parent. When you get a new foster parent, assign him/her a mentor to answer their questions and teach them best practices for being a foster parent.

Foster Parents:

- Does everyone in your family agree to you being a foster parent? To have a successful foster experience, everyone who lives in your home needs to agree about taking in a foster animal.
- Do you have the time? You might not think taking in one more animal would take up much of your time but it can. This is especially true if you take in a mom and her litter.
- Do you have the room? Sometimes it's necessary to keep the foster animal separate from your resident animals. Having a separate room available will allow things to go much more smoothly.
- Reach out to other foster parents. You can not only share your stories, but offer tips and best practices. I remember when I decided to foster a momma dog and puppies after only fostering cats and kittens for years. I immediately figured out that I was in way over my head. The things I used on kittens did not work on puppies. Having another foster parent to talk to would have saved me a lot of time and effort.
- Develop coping skills for the emotionally draining times. Know that everything you are feeling is normal.
- Remember it is ok to say "No" once in a while. If necessary, take breaks between your foster animals. When you're ready, there always will be another animal needing a foster home.

Janet Philippsen lives in Albuquerque and shares her home with two dogs and three cats of her own and occasionally, a foster animal or two.

CAT CHAT

LIBRARY CATS

By Nancy Marano

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
MUSE MEDALLIONS 2004-6



Ever since Dewey, the Spencer, Iowa, cat profiled in the best-selling book and upcoming movie, *Dewey*, pawed his way into our consciousness and tugged at our heartstrings, people have been curious about cats in libraries. Was Dewey just an oddity or were there more library cats?

Olivia, the library cat at the Ocean Shores Library.



Photo:

Erika Schultz/*The Seattle Times*

Murphy know her cats are quite familiar with Molena Point's library. And cats certainly played a large role in T. S. Eliot's life. Cats in libraries bring a homey feeling with them. They are a wonderful incentive to get children to use the library and many older people, who can no longer have pets in their home, like to visit with the library cat. Of course, all the attention isn't bad for the cat either. Library cats have a full, busy life with lots of pats and special treats. Some are local celebrities who appear on post-cards and promotional materials for their library.

Library cats star in the 1997 award-winning video by Gary Roma, a Massachusetts-based documentary filmmaker. "Puss in Books: Adventures of a Library Cat," follows library cats from across the United States as they roam the stacks, do rodent-patrol duty, check out patrons' book choices, help at the circulation desk and attend children's story hour. When Roma made the film, there were only 125 known library cats. But the number continues to grow because library patrons enjoy having a cat on duty in the library.

Roma also presides over a website devoted to library cats (www.ironfrog.com/catsmap.html) which includes a map showing where in the world those cats are now. He includes a few cats other than the purring variety, such as virtual library cats, stuffed lions, cheetahs and Siberian tigers as long as they perform the function of guarding the library and promoting its activities. He also includes one ghost cat for a haunting good time.

According to Roma, there are no documented library cats in Wyoming, South Dakota or Delaware. He also can't document any in the Middle East or South America. But he invites readers to help him update the map. Europe, England, Australia and New Zealand all proudly list their library cats.

Although I am a librarian, I was never lucky enough to work in a library with its own cat but other librarians fared better. A librarian at the Ocean Shores Library in Washington saw Roma's film and was intrigued by the idea. She convinced her boss to let her survey the patrons about whether they would like to have a library cat in residence. Out of 213 patrons

surveyed all but two wanted the cat. The library board agreed and a calico kitten named Trixie was employed. When Trixie died, Waldo and Olivia moved in to the library. All three cats were named for characters in children's books.

Most library cats have names belonging to the library or literary world. Dewey Readmore Books, the Dewey of bestseller fame, is named for Melville Dewey, inventor of the Dewey decimal system, used by most public libraries to classify books. Melville Dewey seems to be the paw down favorite as a namesake. Dewey and Deci lived at the Fort Worth Library, while another Melville Dewey lived in the Eastham, MA library. Gaylord, named for a book distributor, lived in the El Centro, CA library. And then there was Emily at the Mystic-Noank Library in Mystic, CT, who was named for Emily Dickinson and Emily Bronte.

Library cats even have their own organization thanks to Phyllis Lahti who began the Library Cat Society (LCS) in 1987 to advocate the establishment of cats in libraries and recognize the need to respect and to care for library cats. Reggie served as the library cat at Lahti's own library in Sauk City, MN. She gathered stories from other librarians about their cats and started *The Library Cat* newsletter to allow these librarians to chat about the questions that arose from employing a library cat. She then wrote an anthology, *Cats, Librarians, and Libraries: Essays for and About the Library Cat Society*.

Two famous library cats of the inanimate kind are Patience and Fortitude the lions who guard the front of the New York Public Library (NYPL) at 5th Ave. and 42nd St. They have watched people come and go since 1911 when the library opened. How many parades they've witnessed no one knows. At Christmas they are decked out with wreaths and are featured in the photos of many tourists. They are now the Library's official mascots and are represented in the Library logo.

Generally library cats do better finding a job in small towns where the pace is a bit slower and the library buildings are of the older, cozier variety. Nooks and crannies where a cat can hide or take a cat nap are welcome for break time.

While there are occasional complaints from patrons who are allergic to cats or who just don't like them, most library cats have earned the affection and gratitude of their town's citizens. Library cats receive Christmas cards, birthday cards, treats, toys and tributes from loving admirers. Not a bad life for a cat. After all, reading and studying always go better to the sound of purrs.

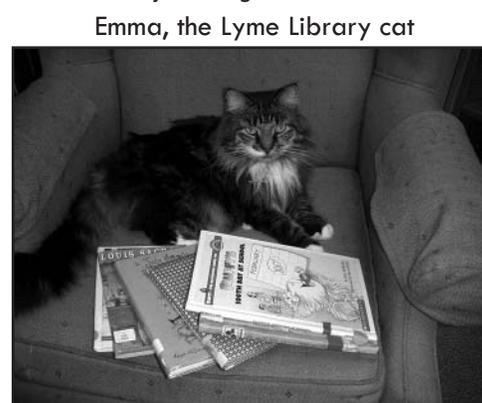


Photo: www.lymepl.org/cat.htm

Emma, the Lyme Library cat

Nancy Marano is an award-winning author who is owned by two cats, Sammy and Rocky, and a Westie named Maggie May.



A Dog for the Family, Not Just the Kids

By Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D.

On November 4, 2008, president-elect Barack Obama in his victory speech before thousands of supporters in Chicago's Grant Park offered a special message to his daughters. Said the President-elect, "I love you both more than you can imagine. You have earned the puppy that is coming with us." Since that statement, every media outlet as well as the Internet has been abuzz about the new First Dog.

It's been a long time since the acquisition of a new dog has created such a public stir. Everyone seems to have an opinion - about what is the best breed for the White House (considering 10-year old Malia is allergic to dogs); whether they should get a puppy or adult dog; and if they should buy from a breeder or adopt from a shelter or rescue.

As a dog advocate, all of this hype has certainly caught my interest. Based on President Obama's comments on November 4th, I wondered if the Obamas knew what they might be getting into, that a dog is not something you just "get for the kids." Before anyone, heads of state included, brings a dog into the home, there are some serious matters to consider.

Bringing a canine companion into your home is a commitment for the lifetime of the dog. The American Kennel Club puts the average life span of a dog at 12 years. Based on the breeds, sizes and crosses available, life spans range from 8 to 16 years. Parents, before you adopt a puppy, you need to make sure that you can make that commitment.

Bringing a dog into the home is not something a parent should do solely for the children. It's not the dog's role to teach lessons of responsibility to your children. That can be a positive aspect of having a dog in the family - but not the sole reason for getting one. Even if your children take part in the care of your dog, remember that as children turn into teenagers, they have less and less time for the dog as their school and social activities increase. Eventually, they will be out of the house. At this point, it is the parents who become totally responsible for the dog. By this time, the dog is usually older. If you as a parent are not committed to the dog, your options are unpleasant at best and dire in some cases. Uprooting an older dog to a new home is not only unfair, but often impossible. What a sad ending for your child's beloved companion - to be euthanized

because the parents do not want the responsibility of caring for the older dog.

With regard to the Obamas, 5th grader Malia is 10-years old and 2nd grader Sasha is 7-years old. Most likely, Malia will head off to college in 2016. Sasha will follow in 2019. When Malia heads to college, a puppy born in 2009 will be 7 years old. When Sasha heads off to college, the dog will be 10 years old. That means the President and Mrs. Obama will have several more years of responsibility for the dog after the girls have left home.

If, as a parent, you do not like dogs and do not whole-heartedly participate in your dog's life, it will be difficult for your children to learn how to properly love and respect your pet. Children learn best when what they are told is reinforced by what the parents do. So if you have no intention of participating in the dog's care or keeping the dog once your children are out of your home, then a dog is not the right companion for your family. Teaching your child that an animal companion is disposable is an inhumane attitude, a negative lesson that children may well carry over into other aspects of their lives.

So do the First Parents have an idea of what they are getting into? The First Lady, Michelle Obama, during a "60 Minutes" television interview on November 16, 2008, commented, "... the deal with the dog was that we would get the dog after we got settled. Because as responsible owners we - I don't think it would be good to get a dog in the midst of transition. So when we settle, get in a routine...we're going to get a dog... we cut that deal with our kids before America knew about it."

From the public comments, it seems like the Obamas gave much thought to bringing a dog into their family well before the media blitz. From Mrs. Obama's statements, the well-being of the dog has been taken into account as well as that of the family. With that type of attitude and concern, the First Dog will not only be spoiled and adored by Malia and Sasha, but will be part of a thoughtful, loving family.

So, parents, think hard before you bring a dog into your family. Think honestly of yourself, your children and the dog. If you can make that life-long commitment of affection, concern and respect to your dog, then your family will be rewarded with years of unconditional love and unbridled joy from your dog.

A word of caution!

After this article was written, Mrs. Obama, in a February 25th interview with People Magazine, indicated that the family will be looking to adopt a Portuguese water dog from a rescue organization. Portuguese water dogs are pleasant-tempered and produce less dander than most breeds. It is the dander that people like Malia are allergic to. The dogs are active and energetic, and are not a breed generally recommended for first-time dog owners. Although the dog will be the Obamas' first, they will likely have access to great trainers who can help the lively dog learn to adjust to life in the White House.

Any time a type of dog has as much publicity as the type chosen by America's First Family, the popularity of that type soars. This can be an advantage if the dog is an all-American mixed breed from a rescue. But when the dog is a breed that requires more training and attention than the average family can handle, this can be a serious problem. For example, when the movie *101 Dalmatians* made it's debut in the 1990s, people all over America rushed to buy Dalmatian puppies. Unfortunately, most people did not do their homework. Dalmatians are not for everyone, and the rescues were soon overloaded with Dalmatians. **Choosing a dog for your family because of breed popularity is wrong.** A dog is not a fashion statement. A dog is a thinking, feeling being. It's not a product to be casually returned if things don't work out. So parents, do your homework. Stick with a dog that is right for you, your family, your lifestyle and your resources.

(The Scoop on Books at www.Petroglyphsnm.org has several helpful books on this subject "Parenting with Pets: The Magic of Raising Children with Animals" and "Allergic to Pets? The Breakthrough Guide to Living with the Animals You Love.")

Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D. is an animal behaviorist and educator. She shares her home in Cerrillos with her husband, dogs and horses.





Jackass Acres K-9 Koral: America's First Green Dog Park

Going green has gone to the dogs. A sustainable dog park opened last year in the Arizona desert built entirely from recycled or reused material. How'd they do it?

On March 1, 2008 Jackass Acres K-9 Koral, the nation's first environmentally friendly dog park, celebrated their grand opening in front of a crowd of tail wagging dogs and their delighted owners. If Jackass Acres were a building and not a park, it might qualify for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental

Design) certification from the US Green Building Council.

Anthem Pets, a non-profit group dedicated to pets in a far corner of northwest Maricopa County, spent years organizing, fundraising, and planning for the unique park so dogs could exercise and owners could socialize in a safe, fun, and environmentally friendly setting.

Situated on 2 ½ acres of property known locally as Jackass Acres, Anthem Pets president Barbara Ward-Windgassen didn't want to lose the community roots. "So the name Jackass Acres stayed," she says. "Local history remains intact."



When Anthem Pets took over the property, volunteers yanked weeds by hand careful not to disturb native plants or trees. To follow the desert motif and save water, the park has no grass. It's landscaped with smooth gravel that's easy on dog's paws. Water fountains, misting systems, and lights operate by solar power, a significant accomplishment since developers are reluctant to add solar to new housing. Wooden benches, tables and chairs are carved from fallen tree limbs. An artist donated the metal animal sculptures from recycled auto parts. A flagpole supporting our stars and stripes is an old TV antenna. To comply with state and federal laws, the park is handicapped accessible for wheelchair dog owners and guests. Like most dog parks, Jackass Acres is divided into two sections, one for smaller and sedate dogs and one

for the canines that love to romp and roll. A few sections have artificial turf that comes from the NFL. Summer monsoon rains can soak the Phoenix area so the park was designed so excess water runs into the trees. Poop stations offer biodegradable bags but Windgassen hasn't found a market yet for recycled dog dodo. "We're working on it," she says with an impish grin.



Many dog parks cost over \$200,000 to build but Anthem Pets put Jackass Acres together for a mere \$50,000. "We sold commemorative bricks, solicited donations, and held fundraisers," Windgassen says. "The community wanted a dog park so they rallied around us to build one we could be proud of." Yearly membership is \$35 per dog, \$50 for two or more dogs. Fees are used for maintenance and upkeep. Park dogs must be licensed and current on vaccinations.

Besides maintaining Jackass Acres, Anthem Pets reunites lost pets with their owners. They find homes for unwanted cats and dogs in their community. And they support responsible pet ownership by hosting licensing/vaccination clinics and spay/neuter programs.

"We believe in giving back," says Windgassen. In the past year, Anthem Pets reunited 140 lost pets with their owners and found homes for 82 unwanted dogs and cats. For a determined group of volunteers, Anthem Pets found a way to help pets, people, and the environment in their community.

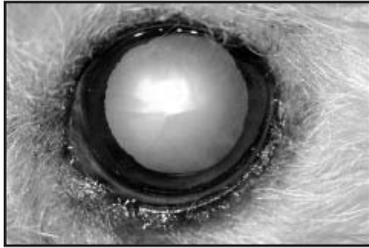
For more information about Anthem Pets, please visit their website at: www.anthempets.com or anthempets@yahoo.com

Debra J. White is a volunteer with the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition www.pacc911.org



CANINE EYE DISEASE, *continued from page 1*

young dogs to develop cataracts. Cataracts can also develop secondary to a disease that affects the rest of the body. For example, most dogs with diabetes will develop cataracts. If you think your dog has cataracts, you should have him or her evaluated by your veterinarian. If your dog does have cataracts, your veterinarian can refer you to a veterinary ophthalmologist who can remove your dog's cataracts using the same procedure that is done for human patients.



This is a poodle with a complete cataract.

Dogs, like most animals, have a membrane that can be pulled over their eye called the third eyelid. The third eyelid has a tear gland within it that can pop out of place and become inflamed; this is called a "cherry eye." Some breeds develop "cherry eye" more than others because the attachment that anchors the gland is weak. If a "cherry eye" occurs, your dog should be seen by a veterinarian. Most of the time, the gland will need to be re-positioned surgically. The gland should not be cut out because dogs need it to make enough tears- especially in New Mexico's dry environment!

Dry eye is a common disease in dogs. It usually occurs when the dog's own immune system attacks the tear gland but occasionally it is related to problems elsewhere (e.g. ear infections or low thyroid production). Dry eye is uncomfortable for dogs. They will squint or hold their eyes closed, the whites of the eyes are red, and they often have thick discharge from one or both eyes. Tears are measured as part of a routine eye exam and, luckily, new medications can help most affected dogs.

Glaucoma is a common disease in many breeds of dogs and results from an increase in the pressure inside the eye. Fluid is constantly made in the eye and drains out through a part of the eye called the filtration angle. This part of the eye develops abnormally in some dogs so the fluid builds up and increases the pressure inside the eye. This leads to discomfort and blindness. Glaucoma can develop quickly. If it is left untreated, it rapidly causes blindness. Symptoms of glaucoma include a cloudy or blue appearance to the eye, redness to the whites of the eye, a dilated pupil, an enlarged eyeball, and blindness. Glaucoma can be treated with eye drops initially but may require surgery such as the implantation of a valve that can drain fluid from the eye or laser surgery to destroy the part of the eye that makes the fluid. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for glaucoma to lead to permanent blindness and even the loss of an eye in dogs.



The red mass covering part of this dog's eye is a "cherry eye."

Although dogs do not see as well as people (a dog with "perfect" vision is similar to a person with 20/60 vision), their sight is still important for their quality of life. In addition, eye problems can be very painful. Because the symptoms of serious eye problems are typically the same as those for minor ones, it is important for your dog to see a veterinarian right away for an eye problem. If necessary, your veterinarian can refer your dog to a

veterinary ophthalmologist for additional tests or treatments. If you would like additional information about eye problems in animals, go to the website of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists at www.acvo.org.

Dr. Nancy Johnstone McLean, DVM, DACVO is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. She has two dogs (an Australian Shepherd and a mixed breed) named Maisie and Q. McLean lives in Albuquerque with her husband and baby daughter. She works at VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and Referral Center.



Popular Dog Breeds

Which breed led the list of most popular purebred dog in 2008? Once again the Labrador Retriever has that honor. The biggest surprise on the list was the Bulldog moving from the 10th spot in 2007 to the 8th spot in 2008. 2007 was the first year the Bulldog made the list in 70 years.

2008 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Labrador Retriever | 6. Boxer |
| 2. Yorkshire Terrier | 7. Dachshund |
| 3. German Shepherd Dog | 8. Bulldog |
| 4. Golden Retriever | 9. Poodle |
| 5. Beagle | 10. Shih Tzu |

2009 is the 125th anniversary of the American Kennel Club. When the AKC started in 1884, they only registered nine breeds instead of the 161 they currently list. AKC Registered Breeds in 1884: Pointer, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, English Setter, Gordon Setter, Irish Setter, Clumber Spaniel, Cocker Spaniel, Irish Water Spaniel, and Sussex Spaniel.

The original breeds are all member of the Sporting Group - dogs bred to help man find and retrieve game. They were effective hunters because they train easily and desire to please. These breeds probably aren't on the list now because of the changing role dogs have in our lives. Today's dogs work in many fields from guide dogs to bomb detecting dogs. But the main function for most dogs is to be best friends and companions to their people.

To find out more about various breeds of dog, go to the AKC website at www.akc.org.

SOCKS CLINTON DIES AT 20



AP Photo/Marcy Nighswander

It's the end of an era. Socks, the Clinton's cat, died of throat cancer. Socks started life as a stray who Chelsea found when the family lived in the Arkansas Governor's mansion. From there he went to his job as First Cat. Now that's a good career move. He performed his White House duties well, enjoyed the company of Buddy, the Clinton's dog, and along with Buddy was the subject of a book Hilary Clinton wrote called, *Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets*. Socks even made time to give a tour of the White House on the Internet.

When the Clintons left the White House, Betty Currie, President Clinton's secretary, asked him to live with her. He became quite attached to her during the White House years and spent hours sitting on a chair next to her desk outside the Oval Office. She cooked his special favorites for him including chicken. Currie plans to have Socks cremated.

The world of cat lovers will miss you, Socks. You lived a good life and served your country well.

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