

"Rescuing Dopey"

Imagine a cold October afternoon in southeastern Pennsylvania where the temperature is roughly 40 degrees. Three members of an area animal rescue group called "Justice Rescue" hurry to an old, un-insulated shed where they have gotten a tip, along with New Jersey animal control officers, that some puppies have been abandoned inside. There is no noise inside the shed as rescuers fear the worst and break open the locked doors. Inside there are six American Pit Bull Terrier puppies, huddled into one big ball, shivering in silence. As the sunlight seeps into the shed, the puppies are visibly bothered by its brightness and immediately squeeze their eyes shut. Their skin is bright pink and inflamed. Patches of their dry, scaly skin have cracked open and are now bleeding. The puppies appear thin and starving as rescue workers gently lift and carry them to a nearby vehicle, waiting to rush them to a local animal hospital.

The puppies are named for the seven dwarfs. The smallest of the six, Dopey, is named for her sweet and playful nature and is the sickest of them all. Like her siblings, she is diagnosed with malnutrition, or poor nutrition resulting from an insufficient or poorly balanced diet. She is also diagnosed with a skin disease called "mange." A skin disease of mammals caused by parasitic mites, mange can become so severe that the itching associated with it can cause loss of hair and skin boils. In Dopey's case, the mange is quite advanced. Unlike the other puppies, Dopey is suffering from pneumonia, or an infection in the lungs, for which she will need additional antibiotics. Requiring immediate IV's and various medications, her condition is critical.

Over the next six weeks, Dopey receives 24 hour care by veterinarians and members of Justice Rescue. Having such a depleted immune system, she has not only had to battle her illnesses, but also the adverse reactions caused by the medications she now needs to survive.

Animal abuse is still an ever present problem within our communities. According to the Humane Society of the United States, the shocking number of animal abuse cases reported daily in the media, are only the tip of the iceberg. Most cases are never even reported and often go unrecognized and unresolved. That's why animal rescue groups, such as Justice Rescue, continue to play such an important role in the welfare of these animals. Working with animal control officers, law enforcement, and local animal shelters, this organization uses all its resources to save abused animals and then assist them in finding a special new home. Having found hundreds of homes for abused animals since its start in 2011, Justice Rescue's mission continues to be, "Fighting for those who can't fight for themselves."

When wondering what we, the readers of this article, can do to help, Russell Harper, co-founder of Justice Rescue and animal rights activist urges us to "just get involved." Harper states that animal law control has little influence and that it is actually the civilians that have more impact to the outcome of an animal abuse case. He emphasizes that it is the witnesses reporting and stopping abuse that have the greatest effect. If you or someone you know suspect animal abuse of any kind please contact one of the following organizations.

Pennsylvania SPCA- For information about adopting, donating, volunteering, or to report suspected animal abuse call (215)-426-6300 or visit www.pspca.org

Justice Rescue- To confidentially report abuse, donate, foster, or volunteer visit www.justice-rescue.com

Or report it to your local or state police department.

Dopey is completely healed and doing well today. The January after her rescue she was placed in Justice Rescue's "foster to adopt" program where she was soon adopted into a loving new family. Now this pleasantly social pup, who fought to stay alive, is happy and content in her new life. Remembering Dopey's story reminds us that compassion towards animals begins with each one of us. Whether you are an adult or a child we all have the ability to help those in need and bring some sunshine into the dark world of animal abuse. You can make a difference.

Side bar info: The Humane Society of the United States estimates that shelters care for 6-8 million dogs and cats every year in the United States. A lot of these animals have been relinquished by their owners- or rescued from the streets by animal control officers and private citizens-and brought to animal shelters.

Side bar info: Justice Rescue originates in Havertown, PA. Originally starting with three members this animal rescue group has now grown with over fifty volunteers.

The Long Road from Bunker Hill to the White House
John Quincy Adams

Word Count: 798 Words

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Thousands of British soldiers arrived by sea. During April of 1775, they took control of nearby Boston. Sometimes Johnny saw the British war ships in Boston Harbor. The biggest ships had as many as fifty cannons to a ship. Johnny and his mother, Abigail, had trouble sleeping for months, because of the thundering BOOMS from the ships' cannons.

Their Braintree, Massachusetts, farm and home were near a road and dreadfully close to Boston Harbor. Terrified families were fleeing the area. Hungry soldiers and families knocked on the door. Johnny's mom always fed them. She allowed weary travelers to sleep on the floors. As well, soldiers melted her pewter spoons in the fireplace to make bullets.

Now it was June, and Abigail gripped the hand of seven-year-old Johnny. Their hearts raced as they ran to the top of Penn's Hill and watched the smoke rise. Just ten miles away from Braintree, British soldiers burned Charlestown to the ground during the American Revolution's first major battle, the Battle of Breed's Hill (also known as the Battle of Bunker Hill). Johnny's dad, John Adams, was four hundred miles away in Philadelphia, serving in the Continental Congress.

Born in 1767, Johnny's early years were spent at home, where his mom educated him. But beginning in 1777, Johnny lived with his dad in Europe for eight years, attending schools in Paris, France, and other cities.

Johnny crossed the Atlantic Ocean many times with his dad, who was an American ambassador. A British ship attacked their ship on one voyage to Europe. Another time, their ship landed in Spain rather than France. There were no ships going to France. So, Johnny and his dad journeyed on foot, crossing the dangerous Pyrenees Mountains into France. By age fourteen, Johnny had traveled through Spain, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Prussia (Germany), Sweden, Russia and Finland, living in many cities with his dad.

Johnny, whose given name was John Quincy Adams, knew French as well as he knew English. Francis Dana went to Russia, to take care of our nation's business there. Most European leaders spoke French. But Mr. Dana only spoke and understood English. So, at age fourteen, John Quincy became Mr. Dana's secretary and translator for two years.

Because he worked hard and took advantage of opportunities, John Quincy Adams had an interesting life. He traveled the world, fluently spoke seven languages, and became a lawyer. He served as a state senator and as a U.S. senator. He was our ambassador to Prussia, the Netherlands, and Great Britain. President Madison appointed him as our nation's first official ambassador to Russia.

President Monroe chose him to be secretary of state. During that time, John Quincy Adams worked to make Spanish Florida a part of the U.S. He also created part of the current border between the U.S. and Canada.

In 1824, John Quincy Adams became our nation's sixth president. Anne Royall wanted to interview the president, but he refused. Anne was America's first professional female journalist. She knew the president swam in the Potomoc River every morning at 5:00 a.m. So she went to the river one morning, sat on his clothes, and waited for him to finish swimming. She got her interview!

Sometimes people didn't like our sixth president because he was a man of great principles. For example, he helped Native Americans when the government treated them badly. Thus, he lost the race for president in 1828.

Instead of leaving politics, John Quincy Adams served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1831 to 1848.

John Quincy Adams was against slavery and he did something about it. In 1839, Spanish slave traders kidnapped fifty-three Africans from their homeland and brought them across the Atlantic Ocean on the Spanish ship *Amistad*. But the Africans killed most of the Spanish crew members and escaped. The ship ended up in New York waters two months later. U.S. officials took the Africans into custody. In 1841, former President John Quincy Adams was the lawyer who represented the Africans, and his efforts paid off. The Africans were freed.

John Quincy Adams was our first ambassador to Russia. His father, John Adams, was our first vice president, and our second president. That made John Quincy Adams the first president's son who became president. As well, his wife

was our only first lady who was not born in the U.S. And, he was the first president who was interviewed by a female journalist.

After the Revolution, Braintree was renamed Quincy (pronounced "Quin-zee") in honor of Colonel John Quincy, the great-great-grandfather of John Quincy Adams.

Like his father, John Quincy Adams was born in Braintree, now Quincy, Massachusetts. Both father and son survived the American Revolution, witnessed our nation's beginnings, and went on to become president. Their story is amazing.

SWEDEN

Hulda stood on the dock in the Stockholm Harbor. She held her father's hand tightly as they watched several small boats enter the area. It was noon. The sun had just set. In this land of winter darkness, Hulda could only see the outline of one small fir tree on top of each ship.

An old Swedish custom was to attach one tree to the top of each ship's mast during the Christmas season.

On December 13th, Sweden celebrates Saint Lucia's Day. Early in the morning, the oldest girl in the family will dress in her white robe. On her hair she will wear a green wreath surrounded by lighted candles. She will then greet each family member, by singing "Santa Lucia," and serve them breakfast in bed. Usually she serves Lucia buns, coffee, and gingersnaps. The legend tells that St. Lucia was a young Christian girl from the Fourth Century, who found her way into the dark caves and catacombs wearing a wreath of lighted candles. She went to feed the poor and give them light.

Considered a martyr for her faith, the church still refused to recognize her as a saint. Her name means light, and young Swedish girls and their families still celebrate her story.

Since Hulda is the oldest girl in her family, this year she will be the privileged one to wear the lighted wreath and serve the Lucia buns.

On Christmas Eve, Hulda's papa will also light the candles on their Christmas tree, then they will wait for Jultomten (Santa Claus). "I love every part of Julafton (Christmas Eve)," Hulda says. "Mama will even let me help decorate cookies this year. I like to lick the spoon."

"I enjoy every part of Christmas in Sweden," she says, "but no dinner is complete without risgrynsgrot (rice pudding)."

Swedish children celebrate from December 13th to January 13th. Hulda can hardly wait for Christmas morning to open her gifts and eat all the goodies.

In Sweden, Santa is not a fat, jolly elf. Rather, he is a skinny little man with a bit of a temper, but he still brings goodies and toys for good girls and boys.

In this land of winter darkness, Swedish families treasure these Christmas customs and say: "God Jul!"

BANANA LEAVES FOR PLATES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Natives in Papua New Guinea, an island north of Australia, have chocolate brown skin and big brown eyes. Most of the people there live in the jungles, where they have never heard about Christ or Christmas.

Natives in the cities along the coast have copied European customs from tourists who visit their island. "I have heard the story," said Kapakio proudly. "I celebrate the time when Jesus was born. See my beautiful birds. I bring them to celebrate, too."

Kapakio shows us his special cockatiel named Kuka. This bird has beautiful red and yellow stripes, and a green head. "In Papua New Guinea we have all kinds of red and green and yellow and blue birds," he said proudly.

"My village celebrates Christmas with a big outdoor church service. We have no family parties, no gifts, and no Santa Claus. We remember the birthday of Jesus. Our church program lasts four or five days, then we often

go outside and have a soccer game. Later we eat a feast of pork or chicken wings that have been cooked long and slowly in a mumu.”

Kapakio explained that a mumu is a steam oven made by placing hot rocks in the ground. “My mother steams the meat with coconut milk and grease,” he said. “She also adds greens and cooking bananas. I wrap the rice and fish in a banana leaf and use that for my plate.” He smiles. “Fingers were made before spoons in our country.”

“Hepi Krismas,” Kapakio says. That is Merry Christmas in Pidgin English, the New Guinea trade language. In Papua New Guinea each tribe speaks a different language, but Pidgin English used in Australia gives the natives a base language to use when they travel from one tribe to another.

“The missionary told me about God’s love,” Kapakio said with a big smile. “Now I love God and I want to tell others about Him too.”

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MAGI DAY IN ARGENTINA

From the deep winter cold in Alaska to the hot Zonda Winds of Argentina, the weather varies from country to country. Argentina is that large wedge-shaped area in South America that points toward the south.

On December 25th Marguerita will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with a quiet dinner at her home. But on January 6th, Los Reyes Magos (Magi Day), she will join her parents to remember the time when the Three Kings brought gifts to the Christ Child. This is a festive day in Argentina for much celebration.

“I will put my shoes beside my bed,” Marguerita said. “On the Eve of Los Reyes Magos, the Three Kings will come and put gifts in my shoes. I always get a special treat.”

Maybe the horses and camels will eat the hay and water I have left out for them, she thought, as she lay in bed trying to go to sleep. I hope they will come and eat. It is a long trip to Jerusalem.

How do the Magi know what to bring Marguerita? “I write a letter and put it into my shoes,” she said. “The Magi will know exactly what I want, but they don’t give me everything I ask for.”

Marguerita loves to help her mother bake for this holiday. “My favorite food to eat is ‘Pie of the Magi.’ We make it in the form of a ring, something like a donut, only bigger,” Marguerita said with a smile. “Mama covers it with sugar and jam, then she fills the center with little gifts. I help decorate the table with jasmine and rose buds. We eat roast pig out on the veranda. It’s too hot to eat inside during Christmas Season in Argentina.”

Marguerita’s family celebrates this day as a festive holiday. After dinner, they exchange gifts and play games together.

“Felices Pasquas Y Felices ano Nuevo.” (Merry Christmas and a happy new year.) This is Marguerita’s wish for you.

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CHRISTMAS IN DENMARK

Jon and his family prepare for Christmas, the greatest festival of the year in Denmark. At five o'clock on Christmas Eve, church bells ring all over the land, calling the Danish People to come and worship Christ Jesus the Lord.

Candlelight and greens set the mood as Jon and his family join in singing Christmas hymns. After church, his family will sit down to a delicious dinner, starting with Risengrod (rice pudding), topped with one white almond. The child who gets the almond wins a fruit of marzipan, shaped like a pink pig or a brown pony.

The next course is roast goose stuffed with apples and prunes, served with red cabbage. The goose is decorated with tiny Danish flags. Dessert may be Danish pastries, or Danish cookies of a wide variety.

Anyone who receives a Danish cookie recipe may need good math skills. Most cookie dough makes up three or four hundred cookies in Denmark!

Jon's family places one lit candle in their window. This announces to

travelers that they may find food and shelter there, in the spirit of the Christ Child. The Danish people believe no visitor should leave their home without being fed, or they may carry off the Yule Spirit.

After dinner, father traditionally reads the Christmas story from the Bible, then everyone joins to sing Christmas carols.

Later that night, children believe Jule-nissen will come and bring them gifts. Jule-nissen is a gnome dressed in a grey suit, and he always brings gifts. However, every Danish child reminds its mother to leave a dish of Risengrod for him too. Danes believe that this gnome looks after all their animals. If this barn elf brings them good luck, they want him to continue to do so. To neglect him will mean bad luck to the family for the coming year.

All the homes in Denmark are well lighted with thousands of candles. The Danes want to celebrate the light of Christ with joy, and dispel the long winter gloom of darkness. Denmark consumes more candles than any other country.

Jon wants to wish Glaedelig Jul (Merry Christmas) to every boy and girl who reads his story.

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496 words

I Am a Journalist
By Pat Corcoran

In Cape Cod one summer, my daughter and I watched a shore bird. It was a tiny sandpiper. On little feet, it ran from the tip of the water back to the sand. Then it ran to the tip of the water and back again. Over and over. It never seemed to tire.

I told my daughter I would like to write about the sandpiper. In the article, I would describe who the bird is and what it eats; where it lives; and why it goes back and forth on the beach.

A journalist always tries to answer those four questions: who, what, where, why, and sometimes how. A journalist writes about people, places, events, and happenings in the news.

I am a freelance journalist in Connecticut. I write features, which are stories about people and newsworthy happenings. Since I am a freelance writer, I work from home.

My editor gives me suggestions for articles. Or I come up with topics that I think are interesting. Together, we decide which article I will work on. Then she gives me a deadline, or date, in which to finish the article.

Before the interview, I write down a list of questions. If I am doing a story on a young swimmer, I might ask about his training? Or if it's a musician, had someone in her family encouraged her to play?

I write down what they say on a big white pad. Sometimes, I will use nearly fifteen pages! Then I transfer my notes at home to my computer.

I try and come up with a good title for the article—something that will attract the readers' attention. A good "hook," or opening sentence, is important, too. I usually rewrite my article several times before I am satisfied with it.

My editor may edit, or cut, some of my writing in order to fit the story on the page. If she has any questions about the article, she will contact me.

Some of my articles have featured a young ballerina who is studying dance in New York City. A lady who makes one-of-a-kind porcelain dolls as a hobby. Or a group of nurses who fixed up a bedroom in a homeless shelter.

I also occasionally write a column about authors for the newspaper. When I am interviewing an author, I might ask where they grew up, what books they read as a child, and how they get their ideas for stories.

It is an exciting feeling to see my finished article in print. When I see my byline---or name---under the title, it makes me proud.

I always feel it is so true that everyone has a story to tell---that everyone's life is interesting, given the chance to talk about it. That is why I never run out of ideas for articles.

Look around at your family, your friends, your neighbors, even your teachers---there are lots of stories waiting to be written!

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800 Words

KEEPING BEES ALL YEAR LONG
by
Lori Heald

What would you do if one sunny summer day you saw a black ball of bees clinging to a tree branch? Most people would run away, but not Jim. He runs straight to it! That ball of bees is called a swarm, and people from all over the county call Jim when they see one. Jim is a beekeeper, and he will be happy to come right to your house and collect the bees if you are lucky enough to have a swarm in your yard.

When too many bees live in one hive, they split up. One queen bee; and about half of the other bees fly away together to look for a new home. They make a dark speckled cloud in the sky, and buzz noisily. When they land, they clump together in a ball.

A Call to the Beekeeper

When Jim gets a call that someone has seen a swarm, he jumps in his pickup truck and heads there with a small hive called a catch box. He tries to go right away, because although the swarm could be there for several weeks, it might leave the same day!

Jim walks right up to the swarm without using any special equipment. He's not worried about being stung since the bees fill their bellies up with honey before they leave their hive. Have you ever eaten so much that it's hard to bend over and touch your toes? That's what happens to the bees. Their bellies are so full that they can't curve their bodies to sting.

Jim tells about a time when the bees were swarmed on a fence post in a caller's yard. He says, "Her eyes got wide and she was shocked when I put my bare hand in the swarm and scooped some bees out. I put them in front of the catch box and they flew right in."

Capturing the Bees

If the swarm is on a small tree branch, Jim cuts the limb and shakes the bees off in front of the catch box. The bees are looking for a new home, and the queen bee is their leader, so once the queen goes in, the rest of the bees will follow her. The box is a safe place for them to stay until Jim gets them to a larger hive that looks like a large white shoebox standing on end. The bees' new hive is located in the perfect spot in Jim's yard, since there are many flowers there for them to get nectar from.

Marking the Queen

Once the bees get to their new home, Jim's work is not done. He checks the hive once a week. He wears protective clothing since the bees are no longer full of honey and can uncurl

their bodies to sting. Jim opens the hive and looks in at the bees. It is important to check on the queen bee since she is the only bee that lays eggs. She is just a little bigger than the worker bees, and she can be hard to spot. That's why Jim draws a small dot with a marker on her back. Then he can see her quickly among the 10,000 – 15,000 worker bees that live with her in the hive.

Honey Time

Jim puts a shallow box called a super on top of the hive. When the worker bees run out of room to store honey in the hive, they crawl into the box. This is where the bees store the extra honey that they do not need. The honey inside the super is what Jim takes in the summer to eat and sell.

In the fall, the super will be full again. After Jim extracts, or takes out, the honey, he puts the super back on the hive. The bees eat the leftover bits of honey and wax to clean it up!

In the winter, bees cluster together and eat the honey they made during the other seasons. When the bees are no longer leaving the hive to get nectar, Jim wraps the hive in Styrofoam to help the bees stay warm during the winter. Air holes are left in the Styrofoam. If it snows, Jim goes out and clears the air holes so the bees can still get air.

When the days get warmer and the flowers start to bloom in the spring, it is time for the hive to be unwrapped. Keeping bees is a job for every season. Watching the bees dash in and out of their hive on a sunny day is one of Jim's favorite parts of beekeeping. And, of course, eating sweet, sticky honey on toast is something he enjoys all year long!

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A Dog Family

My first pet was Maggie, a beautiful, gentle, golden retriever. Somehow Maggie knew we rescued her from the pound, and spent the next 14 years paying us back with cuddles, licks, and protection. At home, she greeted us with a pillow or a sock in her mouth, no matter how much my father scolded. We put ornaments high on our Christmas tree for protection from Maggie's massive tail, so strong it would knock over my younger brother. She was our family's protector and we loved her.

After Maggie, we gave smaller dogs a try. My brother picked a beagle-collie mix he named WiCiT which stands for Wish Come True. I rescued a golden cocker spaniel I wanted to name Sampson, a horribly masculine name for such a tiny, cuddly dog. We settled on the nickname Sammy. WiCiT and Sammy were around for many years, bringing joy and happiness into our lives with a whip of their hyper tails.

Now I have a black Labrador retriever with big brown eyes and a splash of white fur on his chest. We named him Indy, after my favorite movie character. My brother and I used to lie on the floor, Maggie as our pillow, and watch *Indiana Jones* repeatedly. Indy is an active dog who loves sports almost as much as we do. Tennis balls are his favorite. Whether we are on the tennis court or smacking balls down the driveway with a hockey stick, Indy is always there, his

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paws down, his tail up, ready to give chase. He likes football, too, but we put him in time out because sometimes he gets too rough. Plus the ball always gets too slobbery to throw!

Dogs are an important part of my life. They are a lot of responsibility and I spend a lot of time bathing, brushing, feeding, and cleaning up after them. But they are always a lot of fun. They are a good friend when you need a hug and they keep your toes warm at night if your parents let them cuddle with you in bed. The warm feeling of coming home to someone so happy to see you is worth a few stray dog hairs on your clothes now and then. Some people don't understand the joy of pets, but my family is a dog family and I wouldn't have it any other way.

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ANIMALS OF THE MOJAVE DESERT

The western part of the United States includes many deserts. The large state of California contains the Mojave Desert. The Mojave Desert endures blazing, hot summers. The summer air is as dry as dust. In the winters, a small amount of rain refreshes the thirsty land. How do animals survive the desert's heat? The animals survive because of their natural traits. God created them that way.

Rats scurry across the Mojave Desert. They are known as "kangaroo rats". They scratch out holes called "burrows". In the worst heat, the rats scramble down into their burrows. Deep in those burrows, the sand is not so hot. That's how kangaroo rats survive the scorching desert.

Turtles also dwell in the Mojave Desert. These land turtles are called "tortoises". Tortoises hate the heat of the desert. Most of the year, they rest in their own burrows. They stay underground until springtime. Then, they come to the surface to find food. Tortoises find wild-flowers blooming on desert plants. They gobble those fresh wild-flowers to survive.

Rabbits live in California's Mojave Desert, too. They are special rabbits called "Jackrabbits". Jackrabbits have very long legs for leaping. They leap and bound across

the desert sand. Jackrabbits also have extra large ears. The big ears help the rabbits to cool off in the heat. The shade from a bush or a shrub also gives the rabbits some relief.

The Mojave Desert also has flying creatures. Dark bats flap and screech. The bats catch juicy insects to survive. There are Barn owls, too. Barn owls have a unique, white face. They swoop down and snatch prey in the night. There also are Golden eagles. Golden eagles drift high above the desert sand. They dive from the sky to nab rabbits for dinner. And black ravens live in the Mojave, too. Ravens look similar to crows. With powerful wings, the ravens soar above the burning sand. They scan for baby tortoises to eat.

Many lizards live in the Mojave Desert, too. On strong legs, the lizards dash across the sand. They scuttle up and down the hilly dunes. On the hottest days, lizards doze under bushes. They creep under rocks to avoid the searing sun. With their thick and scaly skin, the lizards can survive. Some of these lizards are Gila monsters. Gila monsters are the largest lizard species in the USA. They inflict poison if they bite.

Perhaps the Mojave's most beautiful animals are the Bighorn sheep. With heavy hooves, the Bighorn sheep climb over rocks and dunes. They travel in search of water. Sometimes, these sheep find pools from the winter's rain. They also drink at desert springs. Fresh water gushes from underground at desert springs.

A variety of animal species exist in the Mojave Desert. These animals are able to cope in the harsh surroundings. They can endure or retreat from the heat. They have strong instincts for survival.



What do Alice, Theodore, Kermit, Ethel, Archibald and Quentin have in common? The image of their dad, Theodore Roosevelt, is chiseled into Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota.

A man of constant activity, President Theodore Roosevelt moved his active family into the Executive Mansion in 1901. He enjoyed hiking, hunting and sports. Roosevelt was just as loud and rowdy as his children, challenging them to pillow fights, and chasing them through the mansion halls. Speaking of mansion, Roosevelt officially changed the mansion's name to the White House.

It is no surprise that his kids were always seen and heard in the White House. They slid down the banister into a fancy party. They walked on stilts down the stairs. And when their dad had important meetings in the president's office, the Oval Office, the kids would burst into the room without warning.

The Roosevelts had more pets than any of our country's first families. Among their many dogs were a Manchester terrier named Jack, Sailor Boy the Chesapeake retriever, and a mutt named Skip. A Chinese empress gave Alice a black Pekingese, Manchu. But their bull terrier Pete was a problem. Pete bit so many people (including a French ambassador) that the Roosevelts sent Pete back home to New York.

Archibald, also known as Archie, had an Icelandic calico Shetland pony named Algonquin. Algonquin weighed three hundred fifty pounds.

Archie was about nine years old in 1903. He had the measles and was too sick to go outside. So, Algonquin rode the White House elevator to visit Archie in his upstairs sick room.

One of the noisiest pets was a huge bird, Eli Yale. A Hyacinth macaw parrot, he belonged to ten-year-old Theodore also known as Ted. Eli had brightly colored feathers and he spent a lot of time crawling all over Ted. Eli's large, curved beak was very strong, and he probably made loud noises all the time. He would have mimicked words and sounds he heard. Eli probably didn't keep White House secrets very well.

Badgers have sharp claws and are not always the nicest pets. But a child in Kansas gave President Roosevelt a badger. The president loved Josiah the badger so much that he fed him with a baby bottle.

Would you like to be named Emily Spinach? That is what seventeen-year-old Alice named the live garter snake she often carried in her purse.

The youngest child Quentin was about four years old when the family moved into the White House. Called Quinikins by his dad, he bought four snakes and took them into the Oval Office. There were a lot of prominent people meeting with President Roosevelt that day. The snakes ended up wiggling and slithering on the president's desk and that caused a not-so-pleasant commotion.

The children also had a rabbit named Peter, a black bear cub named Jonathan Edwards, and Bill the lizard. They kept a hyena, a barn owl, a one-legged rooster, squirrels, raccoons, and a rat. Their guinea pigs included Admiral Dewey, Bishop Doane, Dr. Johnson, Father O'Grady, and Fighting Bob Evans. Baron Spreckle the hen, Maude the pig, and Nibble the mouse also lived at the White House.

How does a president end up with so many pets living with him in the White House?

Born in New York City in 1858, the future president was always sick. Called Teedie as a child, he spent most of his time in bed. Teedie did all of his school work at home, with the help of tutors.

But when he was twelve, Theodore decided to change his life. He exercised, spent a lot of time outside, and became healthy. So, he read a lot about the animal world and collected hundreds of bugs and critters. He traveled to Europe and Egypt, and saw all kinds of unusual wildlife. When he went to college, he kept animals in his room.

As an adult, Theodore enjoyed many different activities. He was a cowboy, cattle rancher, historian, and explorer. He also served in the military. He held many political positions including governor of New York and vice president of the United States. When President

McKinley died, Vice President Roosevelt became president at age forty-two. Americans loved him, and they often called him TR.

In 1902, TR refused to shoot and kill an injured bear cub that hunters tied to a tree. Reporters ran stories about the incident. A New York toy maker saw the newspapers, created stuffed toy bears, and gave them the president's name. As a result, the still-popular toy bears are called "Teddy Bears," named after the youngest man who entered the presidency.

It is no surprise that the noisy, active and mischievous Roosevelt kids owned so many pets when they lived in the White House. They were just like their dad, TR.

From the Ohio Frontier to the White House President James A. Garfield

Word Count: 782 Words

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Can you write with both hands at the same time? Here's an even crazier question. Can you write Latin with one hand while writing Greek with the other hand?

Of our nation's presidents, James Garfield was the first of seven who were left handed. However, if he wanted to do so, Garfield could write with either hand. Even more interesting is that he could write in Latin with one hand and at the same time write in Greek with the other hand.

Born in 1831, nothing about James Garfield's early life hinted of a future president. His parents were poor farmers on the Ohio frontier. His father died before James was two years old. The loss of his father left James and his siblings living in horrible poverty with their mother. As James grew older, he helped his mother by working the family farm.

At sixteen, James left the farm to work on canal boats. Boats were pulled through canals, often by mules. James was in charge of the mules that pulled the boats. He was pursuing his goal to become a sailor.

However, James fell into the canal water sixteen times. As a result, he became ill. So, he gave up his dream of life on the sea.

James decided to get an education and do something special with his life. He worked many odd jobs in order to pay for his education. He was a teacher, a carpenter, and a janitor during the years he attended college.

In 1858, James married and started a family. Lucretia, or "Crete," as James called her, was an early supporter of women's

rights. She was also a good wife and mother. Together they raised seven children. That was a big family! So, in 1876, James purchased an Ohio farmhouse that was in terrible condition. He and Crete added rooms and a huge porch to the house, and worked hard to make it a wonderful home for their children and James's mother. Their thirty-room mansion became known as Lawnfield.

James had many careers. He was a teacher and also a minister. But later he studied law on his own, never attending law school. In 1861, he passed the exam and became a lawyer. He was against slavery, and thus became involved in politics. In 1859, James entered the Ohio State Senate as the youngest member of the Ohio State Legislature, serving until 1861.

As well, James served in the military during the Civil War, rising to the rank of major general in the Union Army. He became a Civil War hero during 1862, and again at Chickamauga in 1863.

As U.S. Representative James Garfield, he served in Congress from 1863 to 1880. In 1880, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

James decided he wanted to be president of our nation. In 1880, people traveled from all over the country to meet him. Over 17,000 Americans went by train to greet James Garfield and to hear him give speeches on the front porch of his Mentor, Ohio, home. Garfield campaigned in both the English and German languages.

Garfield won the presidential election. But another odd fact about him is that on November 2, 1880, he was a U.S. Representative, and he was a U.S. Senator-elect, and he was U.S. President-elect.

On April 4, 1881, James Abram Garfield was sworn in as our nation's twentieth president. His mother was the first president's mother to ever attend her son's inauguration. But only one hundred days later, an assassin shot President Garfield. Using a new medical tool, Alexander Graham Bell tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet in the president's body. President Garfield lived for almost three months, but sadly he died on September 19, 1881.

Lucretia Garfield wanted her husband to be remembered. So, four years after his death Lucretia created his memorial library at Lawnfield. She placed President Garfield's massive book collection, letters and other important items in the library. That was the first

time in our nation's history that anyone created a library to honor a president. Since then, memorial libraries have been built in honor of many of our presidents.

Today you may visit the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. You can tour his Lawnfield mansion, and also his presidential library, created to honor a Civil War hero, a politician and a president. As our nation's last president born in a log cabin, Garfield was possibly the poorest man to become president. But he did not allow poverty to slow him down. Garfield worked his way through college, and even taught himself law. President Garfield's life stands as an example of hard work, determination, and great accomplishments, despite hard times and huge challenges.