

Famous cat lovers in History

By Caitlin Rassenti



Let's face it: some of us are cat people and some of us aren't. It's been this way since cats first found their way into our homes. Historically, the list of famous cat lovers contains many notable and unexpected people. The list is a long one containing many politicians, monarchs, writers, doctors and actors. Here are five examples of historical ailurophiles:

1) Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

The legendary British politician and prime minister during World War II owned several cats. Churchill's marmalade cat, Jock, slept with him, shared his dining table, and attended numerous wartime Cabinet meetings. If Jock was late for a meal, Churchill would send staff to find him, waiting to eat until the cat was present. Jock was said to be present when his master died.



2) Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

Hemingway, whose classic works of literature include *For Whom the bell tolls*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*, shared his Key West home with more than 30 cats. One cat, Feather Kcat was adopted by him and his wife Hadley, when they lived in Canada, and this cat kept Hadley company during a pregnancy. Hemingway once said, "A cat

has absolute emotional honesty; human beings, for one reason or another, may hide their feelings, but a cat does not."

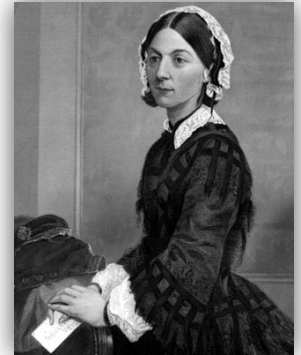
3) Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)



The German theologian, musician, philosopher, and physician prized his cats. He rescued a kitten after he heard her plaintive “meow” beneath the floor of a building under construction. Named Sizi, she sat on his desk as he wrote, often falling asleep on his left arm. At such times Dr. Schweitzer, who was left-handed, wrote prescriptions with his right hand. This went on for 23 years. Schweitzer once said, “There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.”

4) Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

This famed nurse and humanitarian had a large Persian named Bismarck. She owned more than 60 cats over the course of her lifetime, and named each one after a famous person. Cats, according to Nightingale, possess much more sympathy and feeling than human beings. She came to this conclusion during a period of illness. Confined indoors, working on public health reform and often seeing only one person a day for fear of strain or excitement, her cats provided important solace and companionship.



5) Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962)



The often lonely star had at least one friend in Hollywood, a Persian cat named Mitsou. Monroe found that it wasn't easy being a famous cat-mom. She confesses, referring to the time she had to call a vet, “They think I'm kidding when I say, ‘This is Marilyn Monroe. My cat's having kittens.’ They think I'm some kind of nut and hang up.”