

Famous Cat Lovers

Over the years, John Lennon had cats named Salt & Pepper, Major & Minor, Mimi, Sally, Elvis, and Jesus.

Abraham Lincoln was a lover of cats; he kept 4 pet cats in the White House.

The French poet Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) placed cats well above people in his social hierarchy. He even praised his cat as the source of his talent in the poem *Le Chat*:

A fine strong gentle cat is prowling
As in his bedroom, in my brain;
So soft his voice, so smooth its strain,
That you can scarcely hear him miowling.

But should he venture to complain
Or scold, the voice is rich and deep:
And thus he manages to keep
The charm of his untroubled reign.

This voice, which seems to pearl and filter
Through my soul's inmost shady nook,
Fills me with poems, like a book,
And fortifies me, like a philtre.

His voice can cure the direst pain
And it contains the rarest raptures.
The deepest meanings, which it captures,

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It needs no language to explain.

There is no bow that can so sweep

That perfect instrument, my heart:

Or make more sumptuous music start

From its most vibrant cord and deep,

Than can the voice of this strange elf,

This cat, bewitching and seraphic,

Subtly harmonious in his traffic

With all things else, and with himself.

Pablo Picasso, loved cats throughout his lifetime. He painted a picture that depicts a small black kitten perched on the shoulder of one of his lovers - *Dora Maar au Cat* - a very expensive picture.

Catherine the Great of Russia (1744-1796) loved her Russian Blues. She gave them as a present to ambassadors and even the British royal family.

Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France owned six white Angora cats.

Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), the 30th President of the United States, was often seen with 'Tiger' on his shoulders walking around the White House. Tiger was a tabby cat.

Swiss artist Paul Klee (1879-1940) adored his cats and even listed them as his assistants!
