

The Kremlin Cat Dorofei (Colour Point Siberian)



Dorofei is a rare Colour Point Siberian, also known as Neva Masquerade cat belonging to incumbent Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his wife Svetlana Medvedeva. Dorofei took over the title of *First Pet* from Vladimir Putin's black labrador Koni, when Medvedev was inaugurated on 7 May 2008.

Dorofei was born in 2004. The Neva Masquerade breed comes from Saint Petersburg, however Dorofei was bred by the *Great Hunter* breeding company in Moscow. Svetlana Medvedeva bought Dorofei from the breeders as a kitten, and took him back to Saint Petersburg. Colour Point Siberians (Neva Masquerades) with a good pedigree can cost up to twenty thousand Russian rubles.

Noviye Izvestiya reported that Dorofei once got into a fight with a cat belonging to Mikhail Gorbachev, who was Medvedev's neighbour. Dorofei lost the fight, and was put onto antibiotics for a month to help heal the injuries he sustained in the fight, and was also castrated to prevent a repeat incident. It was reported by Reuters that in the lead up to Medvedev's inauguration, the Russian media shied away from investigating his history, so they focused on Dorofei instead.

In November 2008, when Medvedev met with Taro Aso at the APEC meeting in Peru, Medvedev gave the Japanese Prime Minister a radio-controlled flying Doraemon toy for his son. It was reported at the same time that in Tokyo the idea of a cartoon film featuring the joint adventures of Doraemon and Dorofei were being discussed, in what the Japanese called an important step of rapprochement between Japan and Russia.

On May 7, when Putin hands over to Medvedev the symbol of presidential power — a golden chain of the Order of St Andrew – Medvedev’s cat Dorofei (Dorotheus in English) will take over the title of First Pet from Connie.

Ahead of that, the Russian media, discouraged from digging too deeply into Medvedev’s personal records, are focusing on Dorofei instead.

According to Trud daily, the four-year-old Dorofei belongs to a rare Colour Point (Neva Masquerade) Siberian breed, revealing Medvedev’s love of St Petersburg – his and Putin’s home town on the Neva River.

Putin has brought many of his St Petersburg acquaintances to top government jobs in Moscow. St Petersburg friends form a considerable part of Medvedev’s entourage as well.

“One more guy from St Petersburg,” wrote Trud, referring to the cat.

In fact Medvedev’s wife Svetlana bought Dorofei in Moscow.

“When Svetlana came to pick up the kitten, she was not the first lady yet, just a simple and very nice woman,” Izvestia quoted the owner of a breeding company Great Hunter, Irina Ilminskaya, as saying. “She played a bit with the kittens and said they always kept cats in their home.”

Doforei formally belongs to Dmitry Medvedev’s wife, Svetlana. She chose the cat in a cat-breeding farm. “I remember that there was a spark between Svetlana and the cat immediately after they saw each other. Doforei started to display his affection to Svetlana and fell asleep on her lap while we were talking. She didn’t even think about other options afterwards,” cat breeder Irina Ilminskaya said. The cat’s name was given by the breeder and is popular in Russian fairy tales.

According to the Russian media, Dorofei is a rather tough character — independent and unwilling to follow protocol. He is also a great fighter, keen to protect his territory and grow it at the expense of his neighbours.

Picture Ref: <http://www.izvestia.ru/obshestvo/article3114103/>

Article Ref: www.wikipedia.org

President Obama meets Dorofei



On a trip to Gorki, outside Moscow, in July 2009 to meet Russian president Dmitry Medvedev for political discussions, President Obama and First Lady Michelle encountered Dorofei, who belongs to Medvedev's wife Svetlana. The cat looks friendly, but we don't know whether the visitors approached any

closer or said 'hello' to Dorofei. Info: www.purr-n-fur.org.uk/fragment/frag11.html