

# Royal PETS



## Breeding and Training

At Sandringham in Norfolk, there are kennels where Labradors and Spaniels are bred

and trained for use on the estate for The Queen and other members of The Royal Family.

## All The Queen's Horses

The Queen loves horses and knows a lot about them. She was taught to ride at the age of four and her first pony was called Peggy. She later had more lessons in the riding school at Buckingham Palace with her sister, Princess Margaret. The Princesses looked after their ponies themselves and learned to harness and drive them. Her Majesty continues to enjoy riding when she is at Windsor, Sandringham or Balmoral.

## The Royal Mews

Horses that are used for ceremonial purposes are kept at the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. There are currently about 30 horses in the Mews who draw the carriages and coaches on State or ceremonial occasions throughout the year. They are very well trained and looked after and you might see them pulling carriages on the streets around the Palace when you are in London.

The Queen also breeds racehorses. Her Majesty's horses have won more than 600 races over the years. Jockeys that ride The Queen's horses in races wear Her Majesty's racing colours. They are a purple body with gold braid, scarlet sleeves and black velvet cap with gold fringe.

## Strange Pets and Animals

The Royal Family has been given a number of unusual animals as gifts over the years. In 1972, The Queen was given an elephant named Jumbo as a gift for her silver wedding anniversary and, in 1961, The Duke of Edinburgh was given a hippopotamus!

In 1956, Princess Anne was given a bear called Nikki when she was only 6 years old, while a village in The Gambia gave Prince Edward a crocodile when he was only one year old. These animals were kept in the zoo as there was not room at Buckingham

Palace for elephants, crocodiles and bears

as well as dogs, horses and flamingoes!

