

**INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312****IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL  
information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH  
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## **First Lady beloved, Seamus a problem for Romney?**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – There is no doubt Michelle Obama is an asset to her husband on the campaign trail. 54% of American voters see her favorably and only 34% unfavorably, numbers that outshine the president’s own by more than 20 points. And the First Lady’s image is also at a higher plane than those of her potential replacements on the Republican side. Only 31% see Ann Romney positively, to 22% negatively. Karen Santorum falls at a similar 31-27. But Callista Gingrich has seen her numbers plummet like her husband’s, to 18-44.

There is growing talk about Mitt Romney’s “dog problem.” Before the issue was specified in the poll, only 20% of voters said they had a favorable opinion of Romney’s treatment of dogs; 29% said unfavorable. That compares to the president’s 44-14 spread on the issue. Even Republicans only think their nomination frontrunner is kind to man’s best friend by a 26-14 margin, while Democrats give the president’s puppy friendliness a 66-7 nod. 37% say Obama would be a better president for dogs, while 21% choose Romney. 16% of Republicans cross over for Obama on this issue, versus only 11% of Democrats for Romney. Independents go 38-14 for the president.

The generic description of what Romney did to Seamus, his Irish Setter, is seen as humane by only 14% of Americans and as inhumane by 68%. There is tripartisan agreement on that front—74% of Democrats, 66% of independents, and 63% of the GOP.

When informed that Romney had strapped his dog’s kennel to the roof of his car for a long car trip, 35% of Americans said it makes them less likely to vote for the potential GOP nominee, with only 7% saying it makes them more likely to do so. Independents fall at 59-3, and even Republicans side against Romney, 24-10.

The issue is most potent to women. 74% say what Romney did is inhumane, versus 62% of men, and 42% of women say his actions make them less likely to vote for him, versus 28% of men.

PPP surveyed 900 American voters from March 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.3%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



## National Survey Results

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Q1</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michelle Obama?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 54%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 34%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 12%</p>                   | <p><b>Q7</b> Who do you think would be a better President for dogs: Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?</p> <p><i>Barack Obama</i>..... 37%</p> <p><i>Mitt Romney</i>..... 21%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i>..... 42%</p>  |
| <p><b>Q2</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ann Romney?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 31%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 22%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 47%</p>                       | <p><b>Q8</b> In general, do you think it is humane to put your family dog in a kennel on the roof of your car for a long car trip, or do you think that is inhumane?</p> <p><i>Humane</i> ..... 14%</p> <p><i>Inhumane</i>..... 68%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 18%</p>   |
| <p><b>Q3</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Callista Gingrich?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 18%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 44%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 38%</p>                | <p><b>Q9</b> Mitt Romney once strapped his dog's kennel to the roof of his car for a long car trip. Does this make you more or less likely to vote for him, or does it not make a difference?</p> <p><i>More likely</i>..... 7%</p> <p><i>Less likely</i> ..... 35%</p> <p><i>Doesn't make a difference</i> ..... 55%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i>..... 2%</p> |
| <p><b>Q4</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Karen Santorum?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 31%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 27%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 42%</p>                   | <p><b>Q10</b> Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?</p> <p><i>Very liberal</i>..... 12%</p> <p><i>Somewhat liberal</i> ..... 21%</p> <p><i>Moderate</i>..... 25%</p> <p><i>Somewhat conservative</i>..... 26%</p> <p><i>Very conservative</i> ..... 16%</p>              |
| <p><b>Q5</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Barack Obama's treatment of dogs?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 44%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 14%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 42%</p> | <p><b>Q11</b> If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.</p> <p><i>Woman</i> ..... 51%</p> <p><i>Man</i>..... 49%</p>   |
| <p><b>Q6</b> Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney's treatment of dogs?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 20%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> ..... 29%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> ..... 51%</p>  |  |





**Q12** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i> .....	41%
<i>Republican</i> .....	37%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	22%

**Q13** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i> .....	10%
<i>White</i> .....	75%
<i>African-American</i> .....	10%
<i>Other</i> .....	5%

**Q14** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	15%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	24%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	37%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>M. Obama Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>54%</b>	81%	87%	59%	31%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>34%</b>	17%	8%	26%	49%	67%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	2%	5%	14%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>A. Romney Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	23%	18%	28%	42%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	43%	30%	20%	12%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>47%</b>	34%	52%	52%	46%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>C. Gingrich Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	15%	7%	11%	27%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	64%	65%	50%	22%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>38%</b>	20%	27%	39%	51%	39%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>K. Santorum Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	17%	9%	25%	45%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	52%	49%	22%	13%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>42%</b>	31%	42%	53%	42%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>						
Favorable	44%	75%	68%	50%	23%	16%
Unfavorable	14%	2%	4%	10%	21%	31%
Not sure	42%	23%	28%	40%	56%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Romney's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>						
Favorable	20%	18%	10%	19%	29%	21%
Unfavorable	29%	59%	42%	30%	13%	18%
Not sure	51%	23%	48%	51%	58%	61%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Who'd Be Better Pres. for Dogs?</b>						
Barack Obama	37%	68%	58%	41%	16%	19%
Mitt Romney	21%	13%	8%	18%	28%	33%
Not sure	42%	18%	34%	41%	56%	48%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Humane/Inhumane to Strap Dog to Car Roof?</b>						
Humane	14%	23%	5%	10%	19%	17%
Inhumane	68%	64%	84%	68%	64%	59%
Not sure	18%	13%	12%	22%	17%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Seamus: More/Less Likely to Vote Romney?</b>						
More likely	7%	15%	2%	4%	5%	16%
Less likely	35%	50%	46%	38%	29%	17%
Doesn't make a difference	55%	30%	49%	56%	64%	66%
Not sure	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>M. Obama Favorability</b>			
Favorable	54%	61%	47%
Unfavorable	34%	30%	38%
Not sure	12%	10%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>A. Romney Favorability</b>			
Favorable	31%	32%	30%
Unfavorable	22%	24%	21%
Not sure	47%	44%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>C. Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	18%	16%	21%
Unfavorable	44%	52%	35%
Not sure	38%	32%	44%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>K. Santorum Favorability</b>			
Favorable	31%	29%	34%
Unfavorable	27%	32%	22%
Not sure	42%	39%	44%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>			
Favorable	44%	49%	38%
Unfavorable	14%	13%	16%
Not sure	42%	38%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>			
Favorable	20%	20%	20%
Unfavorable	29%	31%	27%
Not sure	51%	49%	53%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Who'd Be Better Pres. for Dogs?</b>			
Barack Obama	37%	41%	32%
Mitt Romney	21%	22%	20%
Not sure	42%	37%	47%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Humane/Inhumane to Strap Dog to Car Roof?</b>			
<b>Humane</b>	14%	10%	18%
<b>Inhumane</b>	68%	74%	62%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	16%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Seamus: More/Less Likely to Vote Romney?</b>			
<b>More likely</b>	7%	5%	10%
<b>Less likely</b>	35%	42%	28%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	55%	51%	60%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>M. Obama Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	78%	27%	55%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	34%	13%	59%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	9%	15%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>A. Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	19%	47%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	30%	14%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	47%	51%	40%	50%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>C. Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	9%	32%	13%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	59%	26%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	38%	33%	42%	40%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>K. Santorum Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	16%	52%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	43%	12%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	42%	42%	35%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	66%	19%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	7%	25%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	42%	28%	56%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	18%	26%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	42%	14%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	40%	60%	55%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Who'd Be Better Pres. for Dogs?</b>				
Barack Obama	37%	56%	16%	38%
Mitt Romney	21%	11%	35%	14%
Not sure	42%	32%	49%	48%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Humane/Inhumane to Strap Dog to Car Roof?</b>				
Humane	14%	11%	18%	12%
Inhumane	68%	74%	63%	66%
Not sure	18%	15%	19%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Seamus: More/Less Likely to Vote Romney?</b>				
More likely	7%	7%	10%	3%
Less likely	35%	45%	24%	36%
Doesn't make a difference	55%	46%	64%	59%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	3%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>M. Obama Favorability</b>					
Favorable	54%	64%	47%	88%	64%
Unfavorable	34%	25%	39%	3%	32%
Not sure	12%	11%	14%	9%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>A. Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	32%	33%	20%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	25%	21%	30%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>47%</b>	42%	46%	50%	50%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>C. Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	29%	19%	6%	17%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	43%	42%	56%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>38%</b>	28%	39%	38%	38%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>K. Santorum Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	39%	34%	8%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	33%	25%	36%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>42%</b>	28%	41%	56%	46%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	66%	36%	73%	58%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>14%</b>	19%	16%	1%	5%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>42%</b>	15%	48%	26%	37%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>20%</b>	31%	21%	10%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>29%</b>	40%	25%	44%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>51%</b>	29%	54%	47%	54%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Who'd Be Better Pres. for Dogs?</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>37%</b>	46%	32%	59%	52%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>21%</b>	16%	24%	11%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>42%</b>	38%	45%	30%	36%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Humane/Inhumane to Strap Dog to Car Roof?</b>					
<b>Humane</b>	<b>14%</b>	32%	13%	4%	5%
<b>Inhumane</b>	<b>68%</b>	64%	68%	75%	68%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	4%	19%	21%	27%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Seamus: More/Less Likely to Vote Romney?</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	<b>7%</b>	17%	6%	7%	-
<b>Less likely</b>	<b>35%</b>	36%	32%	45%	59%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	<b>55%</b>	43%	59%	45%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>2%</b>	4%	2%	2%	-





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>M. Obama Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	67%	50%	52%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	34%	23%	38%	36%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	9%	12%	12%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>A. Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	20%	26%	33%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	39%	17%	20%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	47%	41%	57%	47%	39%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>C. Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	18%	19%	18%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	48%	33%	46%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	38%	35%	48%	36%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>K. Santorum Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	28%	32%	31%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	40%	20%	25%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	42%	33%	48%	44%	38%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	44%	54%	42%	41%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	14%	13%	15%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	42%	31%	45%	43%	44%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney's Treatment of Dogs Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	35%	19%	17%	17%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	29%	41%	30%	26%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	51%	24%	51%	57%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Who'd Be Better Pres. for Dogs?</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	37%	52%	38%	33%	33%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	21%	15%	18%	23%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	42%	33%	44%	44%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Humane/Inhumane to Strap Dog to Car Roof?</b>					
<b>Humane</b>	14%	22%	13%	13%	12%
<b>Inhumane</b>	68%	66%	70%	69%	66%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	13%	17%	18%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Seamus: More/Less Likely to Vote Romney?</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	7%	16%	5%	5%	7%
<b>Less likely</b>	35%	48%	32%	34%	31%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	55%	32%	62%	58%	59%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%

