

SCREWED POOCH

A NOVEL BY JAN MILLSAPPS

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FACT SHEET

1. On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, into Earth orbit, grabbing an early and impressive lead in the international space race.
2. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev demanded that another satellite be launched within weeks, to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.
3. On November 3, 1957, Laika, a small dog, was launched into Earth orbit aboard Sputnik 2. As the first living creature to reach outer space, she survived the launch and several Earth orbits, but no life signals were received after the fourth orbit; the Soviets offered conflicting stories about her fate.
4. The Americans did not have a successful space launch until January 31, 1958, when they sent Explorer 1 into Earth orbit. The first American animal in space was Gordo the monkey, who did not survive a suborbital flight on December 13, 1958.
5. Sputnik 2 continued orbiting Earth until April 14, 1958, when it burned upon re-entering Earth's atmosphere.
6. The Soviets maintained their commanding lead in the space race, sending the first man into space, the first woman, the first two-person crew, the first three-person crew, the first spacewalker, and the first spacecraft to reach the moon.
7. The Americans finally took the lead in the space race with the Apollo program and first moon landing on July 20, 1969.
8. Laika was the only animal or human ever launched into space without a recovery plan.
9. The first dogs to return safely from space were Belka and Strelka, who orbited the Earth 16 times aboard Sputnik 5 after their launch on August 19, 1960. Strelka later had puppies; Khrushchev presented one of them to President Kennedy.
10. Laika's trainer, Dr. Oleg Gazenko, later prepared Yuri Gagarin and other cosmonauts for their historic space missions.
11. The "Werner von Braun" of the Soviet Union was Sergei Korolev, who designed all early Soviet satellites and booster rockets. Unlike his well-known American counterpart, Korolev's identity was a state secret until after his death.
12. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was named *Time Magazine's* 1957 "Man of the Year" for sponsoring his country's initial steps in space exploration.

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