

Cat-ographies

Ragdolls

Alien Cats



by Judith Bauer Stamper

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by Judith Bauer Stamper

Consultant: Melissa B. Keefer
Breeder, Pretty Kitty Ragdolls

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Hotel Cat

When guests arrive at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City, a very special employee named Matilda greets them. Matilda is different from the other staff members. She is a fluffy Ragdoll cat.



Many people stay at the Algonquin because they love seeing Matilda. Each week, she receives many e-mails from fans.

Matilda has been living at the hotel since 1998. She spends her mornings strolling around the hotel's beautiful lobby. When it's time for a catnap, Matilda snoozes on her own little sofa. In the afternoon, Matilda gets to work. She sits by the front desk and greets the guests as they check in, making them feel right at home. Like all Ragdolls, Matilda is a very special kind of cat.



Matilda, shown here on her sofa, is the ninth cat to call the Algonquin home. A cat has been on duty at the hotel since the 1930s.

Matilda has a big birthday party every year. Lots of her two-legged and four-legged friends come to the hotel to help her celebrate. At one of her parties, Matilda surprised everyone by jumping right onto the top of the birthday cake. Then she tracked icing all across the hotel lobby.



Matilda celebrating her birthday in 2009

Alien Cats

Unlike other cat **breeds** that got their start hundreds of years ago, Ragdolls were first **bred** in the 1960s. A cat named Josephine, from California, is credited with helping to start the breed.

Where Ragdolls Came From



Josephine lived with her family in Riverside, California.

Some people think that the adult cat in this photo is Josephine. However, most people feel that another cat was used to pose as Josephine.



Josephine's owners noticed that a **litter** of her kittens was different from her earlier ones. Rather than being playful, the kittens were very calm. Their bodies also went **limp**, or flopped, when they were picked up. Ann Baker, a cat breeder, thought they were special. So she bred them, creating the Ragdoll breed. Some people thought Josephine's kittens were different because she had once survived a car accident. They thought the accident had changed Josephine. Baker claimed that the kittens were different because the government had done a **genetic experiment** on Josephine.



Ann holding one of the litters she raised in 1966

Ann Baker also claimed that her Ragdolls represented a **link** between humans and space **aliens**. This is the reason that Ragdolls are often called "alien cats."



Ann Baker bred her Ragdolls to have beautiful, bright blue eyes.

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About the Author

Judith Bauer Stamper has written both fiction and nonfiction books about animals. She lives with her cat in New Jersey, near New York City.

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Look inside to find out more about Matilda and other outstanding Ragdolls—as well as surprising facts about the cat's history, its physical appearance, and its personality. It won't be long before you discover what every Ragdoll owner knows—that these cats make the purr-fect pet.

Abyssinians
Egyptian Royalty?

Persians
Long-Haired Friends

American Shorthairs
Pioneers

Ragdolls
Alien Cats

Maine Coons
Super Big

Siamese
Talk to Me!

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