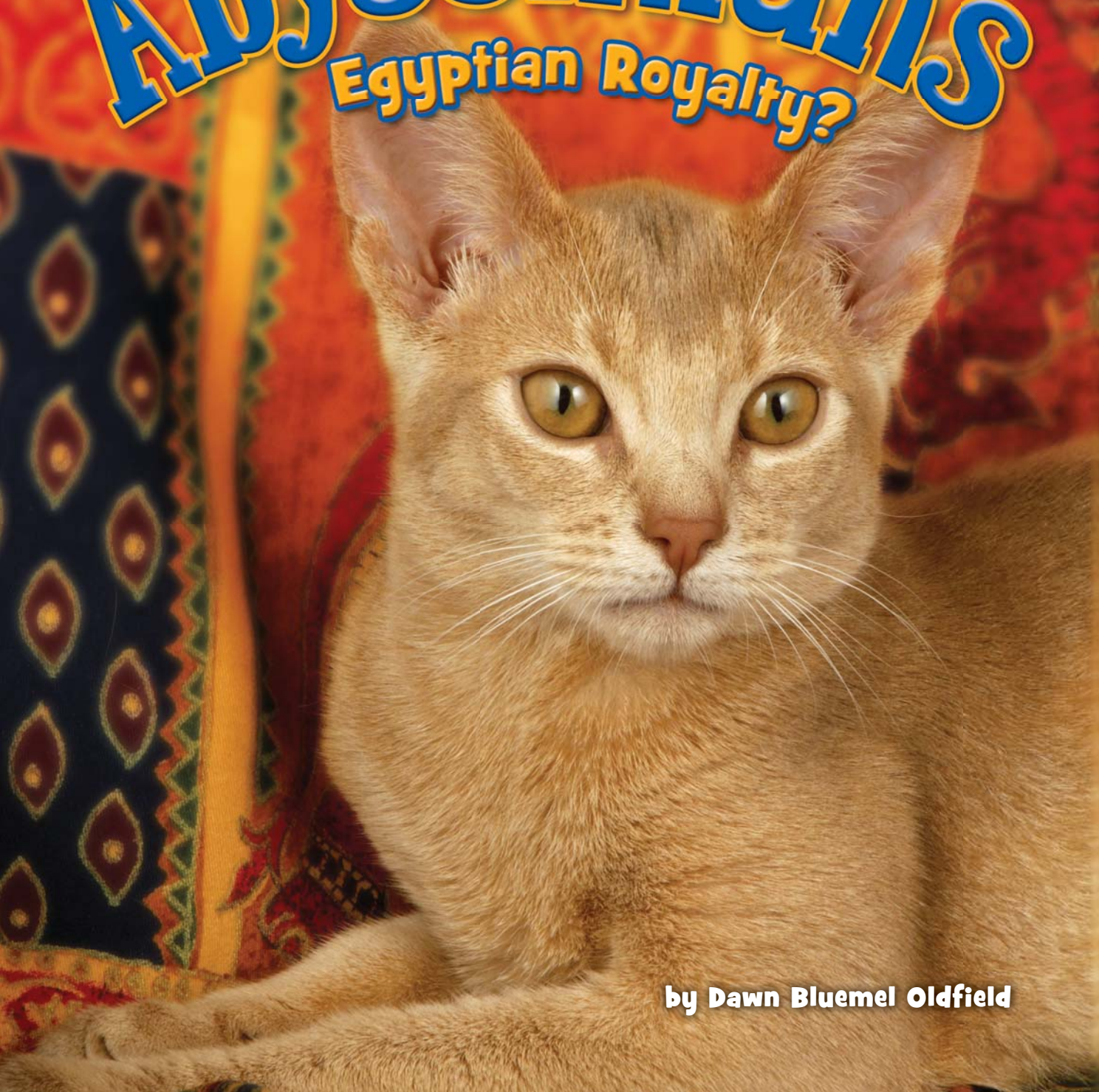


Cat-ographies

Abyssinians

Egyptian Royalty?



by Dawn Bluemel Oldfield

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Egyptian Royalty?



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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Alan Robinson/Animal Photography; TOC, © Utekhina Anna/Shutterstock; 4T, © Sally Anne Thompson/Animal Photography; 4B, © Chris Hill/Scenic Ireland; 5, © Peter Hasselbom; 6T, © Roger Wood/Corbis; 6B, © Glow Images/SuperStock; 7L, © Statuette of the goddess Bastet, Third Intermediate Period (bronze) by Egyptian 25th Dynasty (780-656 BC) Louvre, Paris, France/Giraudon/The Bridgeman Art Library; 7R, © Karen McGougan/BCIUSA/Photoshot; 9, © Mary Evans Picture Library; 10, © Helmi Flick/Animal Photography; 11, © Tomasz Wojtasik/EPA/Landov; 12, © Helmi Flick/Animal Photography; 13L, © Helmi Flick/Animal Photography; 13TR, © Helmi Flick/Animal Photography; 13MR, © R. Richter/Tierfotoagentur/Alamy; 13BR, © Tetsu Yamazaki/Animal Photography; 14, © Peter Hasselbom; 15T, © Oleg Alexeev/AbySphere Cattery/www.abysincat.ru; 15B, © Peter Hasselbom; 16T, © Tetsu Yamazaki/Animal Photography; 16B, © Sally Anne Thompson/Animal Photography; 17, © Peter Hasselbom; 18, © AP Images/L.G. Patterson; 19, © Corbis/SuperStock; 20L, © Anobis/Shutterstock; 20R, © Christina Gandolfo/Flickr/Getty Images; 21, © Corbis/SuperStock; 22, © Richard Katris/Chanan Photography; 23, © Aivolie/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

Photo Researcher: Omni-Photo Communications, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bluemel Oldfield, Dawn.

Abyssinians : Egyptian royalty? / by Dawn Bluemel Oldfield.

p. cm. — (Cat-ographies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-145-8 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-61772-145-X (library binding)

1. Abyssinian cat—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

SF449.A28B58 2011

636.8'26—dc22

2010038751

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America in North Mankato, Minnesota.

122010

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Cats of the Castle

It is early morning at Springfield Castle in Ireland. Tanzania, an Abyssinian (*ab-uh-SIN-ee-uhn*) cat, creeps quietly across the ground. She is teaching her kittens, FatCat and Sphinx (SFINKS), how to hunt. It is their job to stop mice and other **rodents** from eating vegetables in the gardens and fields around the castle.



An Abyssinian's muscular body is designed for hunting.



Springfield Castle
in Drumcollogher, Ireland

People first brought cats to England from other parts of Europe about 2,000 years ago. The cats were used to keep mice and rats out of buildings where grain was stored. It wasn't long before the cats made their home in nearby Ireland as well.

Sphinx, tail and whiskers twitching, sees something move in a row of corn. The tiny Abyssinian leaps into the air and pounces on a gray mouse. Sphinx picks up the animal with his sharp teeth, purring with pride. He has learned his lesson well.

Abyssinians can run up to 30 miles per hour (48 kph) and can jump more than six feet (1.8 m) into the air.

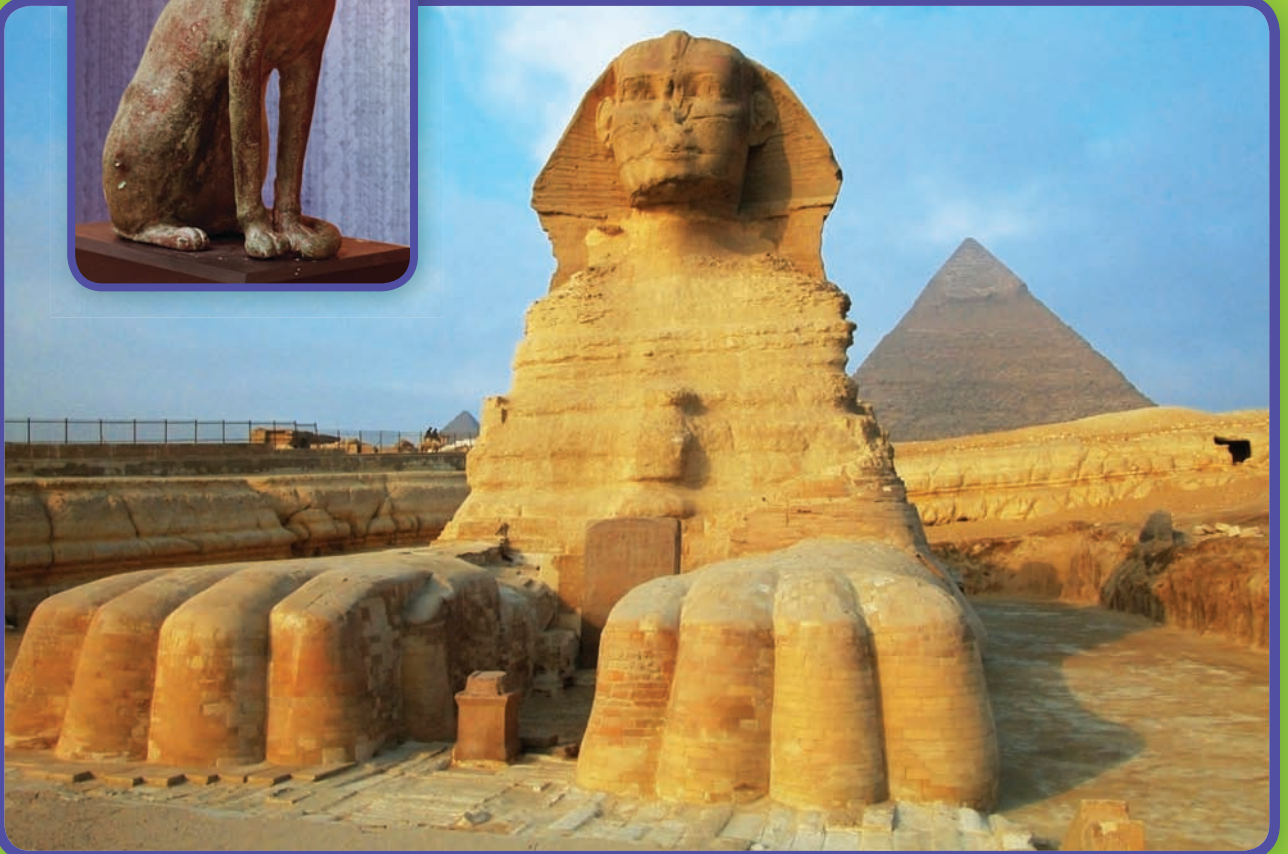


An Egyptian Cat?

Sphinx lives in Ireland, but he was named after a statue that was built in ancient Egypt. Why? Some people think Abyssinian cats were first raised in Egypt thousands of years ago. They believe this because Abyssinians look like the cats in ancient Egyptian art and **hieroglyphics**.



This sculpture of a cat was made more than 2,000 years ago in Egypt.



The Sphinx is a famous statue that was built about 4,500 years ago in Egypt. It has the head of a man and the body of a lion.

Honored for their hunting skills, the cats of ancient Egypt protected the country's grain from mice. The people of Egypt didn't just admire the cats because they were good hunters, however. They believed the cats were **sacred**. They thought the furry animals were closely connected to one of their gods—Bastet. As a result, people **worshipped** the cats—and the punishment for killing one was death.



Egyptians believed Bastet had glowing eyes that could magically see in the dark. Since cats' eyes appear to glow at night, people thought the animals had great powers.



Bastet was often shown as having the body of a woman and the head of a cat.

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Read More

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Learn More Online

To learn more about Abyssinian cats, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/Cat-ographies

About the Author

Dawn Bluemel Oldfield is a freelance writer. Crazy about cats, she lives in Prosper, Texas, with her husband and their two fabulous felines, a Siamese mix named Victoria and a tabby named Stella.

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Cat-ographies

Abyssinians

Egyptian Royalty?

No one knows for sure whether Abyssinian cats first lived in ancient Egypt or roamed the jungles of eastern Africa thousands of years ago. One thing is certain, however. These striking animals with their unusual fur, almond-shaped eyes, and excellent hunting skills have become popular pets all over the world.

Look inside to find out more about Abyssinians—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 Abyssinian 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!

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-145-8



9 781617 721458