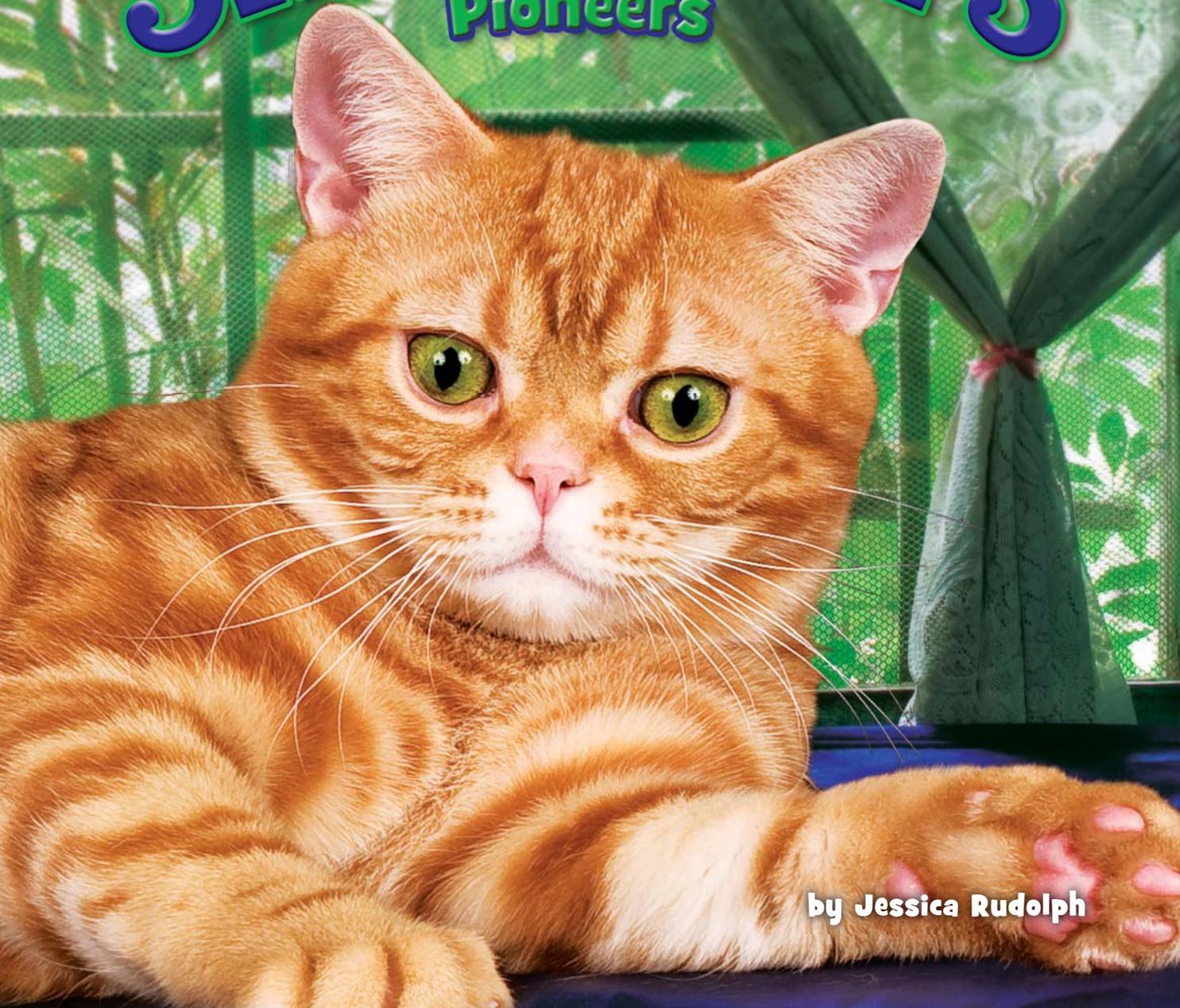


Cat-ographies

# American Shorthairs

Pioneers



by Jessica Rudolph

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**

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Pioneers



**by Jessica Rudolph**

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[www.ashclub.org](http://www.ashclub.org)

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# First Cat

From 2001 to 2009, a very special four-legged furball lived in the White House with President George W. Bush and his family. India, a black American shorthair, was a very important member of the **First Family**.



India in the  
White House

Living in the White House was a great place for doing what India liked to do best—play hide-and-seek. The 132 rooms provided her with lots of great places to hide. It also made it very hard for her owners to find her. When she was done playing, the little black cat would curl up under a bed in one of the 16 White House bedrooms. Like all American shorthairs, India was a very special kind of cat.



**India, shown here with President Bush's wife, Laura, moved into the White House in 2001. Sadly, India passed away in January 2009 at the age of 18.**



**President Bush's daughters, Barbara (left) and Jenna (right), pose with India at Jenna's wedding.**

Barbara Bush named India after Rubén Sierra, a Texas Ranger baseball player who was nicknamed "El Indio." India's family also called her "Willie" and "Kitty."

# Master Mousers

While India was a **pampered** pet, her **ancestors** were used to working very hard. The American shorthairs of today are related to cats brought to North America on ships by **pioneers** from Europe hundreds of years ago. Records show that one group from England, the Pilgrims, brought some shorthaired cats with them on their ship called the *Mayflower*.

## Where American Shorthairs Came From



The Pilgrims left England on the *Mayflower* (shown here) in 1620, and landed in what is today Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were just one group of pioneers who brought cats with them when they came to North America hundreds of years ago.

While aboard the pioneers' ships, the shorthaired cats had a tough job—killing **rodents**! Before leaving for America, the ships were packed with lots of food. Rats and mice would sneak on for a meal, and the ships would leave with them still aboard. The cats protected the food during the trip by eating these sneaky rodents.



Cats that hunt rodents are called **mousers**. American shorthair cats are among the best mousers in the world.

The cats that came from Europe to North America on ships may have looked like this one.

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## Learn More Online

To learn more about American shorthair cats, visit  
[www.bearportpublishing.com/Cat-ographies](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/Cat-ographies)

## About the Author

Jessica Rudolph has edited many books about animals. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona, where she volunteers at a shelter for cats and dogs.

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# American Shorthairs

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From 2001 to 2009,  
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House was a great place for doing what India liked to do best—play  
hide-and-seek. After all, the 132 rooms inside the White House provided  
her with lots of great places to stay out of sight!

Look inside to find out more about India and other outstanding  
American shorthairs—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 American  
shorthair 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**

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