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SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION
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DFW AREA DOGS & CATS TO APPEAR ON TEXAS LOTTERY SCRATCH TICKETS!

Facebook contest winners will be featured on the Cats vs. Dogs game next year

(AUSTIN) – Three cats and one dog from the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex are among the winning six dogs and six cats to be featured on the Texas Lottery’s upcoming scratch ticket game, Cats vs. Dogs. Stella, a special needs English bulldog owned by Paige Sills of Ovilla, Markus, a cat owned by Peggy Wyrostek of Arlington, Fangsy a cat owned by Jennifer Frye of Dallas and Allie a rescued Maine Coon cat owned by Jeff Henderson of Dallas, along with eight other winners, were the top vote getters in the Texas Lottery’s Facebook photo contest. More than 1,700 dogs and cats were entered in the contest.

“I was very excited to receive the email announcing Stella as a winner,” said Sills. “I entered Stella in hopes that she could win and possibly help others like her have a chance at life by sharing her story. Stella beat the odds by overcoming Swimmer Puppy Syndrome. A lot of puppies with this condition aren’t given a chance. Because of Stella’s story she has helped make others aware of special needs and they in turn have adopted special needs dogs that were in need of homes.”

From Nov. 2 to Nov. 16, the Texas Lottery asked Texans, age 18 and older, to upload a photo of their dog or cat to the Texas Lottery’s official Facebook page for a chance to win a spot on the scratch ticket. From Nov. 19 to Nov. 25, visitors to the Texas Lottery Facebook page voted for their favorite dog or cat and the six cat photos and six dog photos receiving the most Facebook likes won the opportunity to have their photo featured on the game.

Upon learning that her cat was a winner, Peggy Wyrostek said, “I must have screamed out loud I was that excited!” Wysrotek adds, “Markus brings so much joy to our everyday life. He is unlike any kitty that I have seen. I just knew that he was meant to be a star!”

Cats vs. Dogs Scratch Ticket Contest Winners

Dog Winners	Cat Winners
Stella from Ovilla, owner Paige Sills	Markus from Arlington, owner Peggy Wyrostek
Noel from Sugar Land, owner Tammy Taylor	Fangsy from Dallas, owner Jennifer Frye
Della from College Station, owner Madison Wenske	Allie from Dallas, owner Jeff Henderson
Murray from Victoria, owner Cindy Saunders	Teddy from Houston, owner Cindy Jones
Finny from Sugar Land, owner Stephanie Collins	Bubba from Pharr, owner Ariana Hinojosa
Booker Tee from San Angelo, owner Walker Woolman	Vladimir from Odessa, owner Amaris Sherman

(more)

“To hear that she won was just an amazingly emotional experience,” said Henderson of 18 ½ year old Allie. “I think she is super cute, so I’m happy to know that others think so too. And nothing says Texas, than Allie in a cowboy hat!”

Allie, who is wearing a cowboy hat and bandana in her photo, was adopted by Henderson, a hobbyist photographer, at the age of two. Henderson said that Allie is one of his favorite subjects to photograph and that seeing her for the first time on the scratch ticket will bring “the biggest smile of my life.”

Sills adds about Stella, “She has made us realize that even though not everybody or everything is ‘perfect’ that all have feelings and deserve a chance at life. It will be very exciting to see Stella on a scratch ticket!”

In addition to seeing their dog or cat immortalized on the \$2 Texas Lottery scratch ticket, winners will receive one large novelty version of the Cats vs. Dogs scratch ticket that features their dog’s or cat’s image and 125 Cats vs. Dogs scratch tickets (a \$250 value).

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated \$24 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$47 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$18 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans’ Assistance. Since the first veterans’ themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$52 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball[®], Mega Millions[®], Lotto Texas[®], All or Nothing[™], Texas Two Step[®], Pick 3[™], Daily 4[™], Cash Five[®], Texas Triple Chance[™] and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at www.txlottery.org.

Editors/News Directors, note: Images of Stella, Markus, Fangsy and Allie are attached in JPEG format.

To schedule an interview with Stella, Markus, Fangsy or Allie’s owners, please contact the Texas Lottery’s Media Relations Division at 512-344-5131 or at mediarelations@lottery.state.tx.us

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