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SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION  
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**HOUSTON AREA DOGS & CAT TO APPEAR ON TEXAS LOTTERY SCRATCH TICKETS!**

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

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(AUSTIN) – Two Houston area dogs and one cat are among the winning six dogs and six cats to be featured on the Texas Lottery’s upcoming scratch ticket game, Cats vs. Dogs. Noel, a rescued Dachshund and Chihuahua mix owned by Tammy Taylor of Sugar Land, Finny, a rescued cocker spaniel owned by Stephanie Collins of Sugar Land and Teddy, a rescued black cat owned by Cindy Jones of Houston, and the nine 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.

“We were very excited to find out that Noel won the Cats vs. Dogs contest!” said Taylor. “It is amazing to think that just one year ago Noel was on death row at a high-kill animal control facility and now she will be featured on scratch tickets that everyone in the state will see and enjoy. We hope her story will create awareness that there are many wonderful pets out there in need of homes.”

“When I received the notification email stating that Finny was one of the 12 finalists, I couldn’t believe it. There were so many cute pets entered in the contest, and I felt so fortunate that voters chose Finny to be featured on one of the Texas Lottery’s Cats vs. Dogs scratch tickets,” said Collins, Finny’s owner and president and founder of [Gulf Coast Cocker Spaniel Rescue](#) based in Houston. “Finny is the epitome of a rescue animal. Grateful to be loved and to never have to worry about being comfortable or fed again, he brings so much happiness to our hearts and our home.”

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.

When asked why she entered Teddy into the contest Jones said, “Black cats have a history of not getting adopted as often as other cats. I wanted to show what a beautiful kitten Teddy is as well as being full of personality.”

Jones said upon receiving notification that Teddy had won the contest, “I was so excited, I couldn’t believe it!” She adds that among the best things about owning a cat is that “they give unconditional love.”

(more)

Jones and her husband rescued Teddy's mom and her litter of five kittens after they began appearing at her back door. "I feel so proud to see Teddy, knowing how he came into our lives. And now, [he will be] on a scratch ticket that will be seen all over Texas."

### 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

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).

"Winning 125 scratch tickets is huge to an organization that depends on donations to provide vet care for dogs that have been neglected," Taylor said of the organization that rescued Noel. "The [Dachshund Lovers of Texas](#) family is very proud of Noel! We are ecstatic to say the least!"

#### 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<sup>®</sup>, Mega Millions<sup>®</sup>, Lotto Texas<sup>®</sup>, All or Nothing<sup>™</sup>, Texas Two Step<sup>®</sup>, Pick 3<sup>™</sup>, Daily 4<sup>™</sup>, Cash Five<sup>®</sup>, Texas Triple Chance<sup>™</sup> and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org).

**Editors/News Directors, note:** Images of Noel, Finny and Teddy and the nine other dogs and cats to be featured on the game are attached in JPEG format.

**To schedule an interview** with Finny or Teddy's owners, please contact the Texas Lottery's Media Relations Division at 512-344-5131 or at [mediarelations@lottery.state.tx.us](mailto:mediarelations@lottery.state.tx.us)

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