



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Massachusetts Brittany Named People's Choice Pup In Farm Dog Of The Year Contest



MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS - Jan. 15, 2021 - Sawyer, a Massachusetts Brittany, was named the People's Choice Pup in American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF's) Farm Dog of the Year contest during the organization's annual convention this week. Sawyer was also named Northeast Runner-Up in the same contest. Sawyer is owned by Massachusetts Farm Bureau member Liz Smith.

"Congratulations to Sawyer and Liz," said MFBF President Mark Amato. "Sawyer works to guard Liz's backyard chickens and is an excellent hunting dog. We are thrilled he represented Massachusetts in this competition."

While Sawyer was honored with being the Northeast Runner-Up and People's Choice Pup in this year's contest, Bindi, a New York farm dog owned by Sonja Galley was named overall Farm Dog of the Year. All prizes for this year's contest were donated by Purina. The company has been helping dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives through scientifically based nutritional innovations for more than 90 years.

"The Farm Dog of the Year contest embodies Purina's belief that people and pets are better together, and we are proud to help recognize the Galleys, Bindi and all of the great farm dogs across the U.S.," said Jack Scott, vice president of sustainability at Purina, in a press release from American Farm Bureau Federation. "Purina has a long history of sourcing nutritious ingredients from American farms to make our high-quality pet foods. We salute farmers and the important work they do to steward their land and help feed generations of people and pets, with the help of their amazing dogs who help enrich lives on and off the farm."

"I am honored that Sawyer received these awards," said MFBF member Liz Smith. "A panel of judges with expertise in the pet care industry, veterinary medicine and communications reviewed 90 nominations to select the 2021 Farm Dog of the Year, and it is flattering they consider Sawyer among the best of the best."

Judging criteria included the dog's helpfulness to the farmer and his/her family, playfulness and their role in making life better on and off the farm. Farm Bureau members submitted written responses to questions, photos and video clips to nominate their dogs for Farm Dog of the Year.

Sawyer competed against 10 other dogs in the People's Choice Pup contest, which was conducted over Facebook. Voting was done during a set time period, during which Facebook users could "react" to the dogs' photos to vote. As People's Choice Pup, Sawyer won bragging rights, a year's supply of dog food and other Purina products.



Congratulations, Sawyer and Liz!

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About Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation is a non-profit organization representing nearly 6,000 family members across the Commonwealth. MFBF is an advocate for farmers, run by farmer members who develop policies through its grassroots process. Its mission statement is to "strengthen a diverse agricultural community by supporting and advocating for Massachusetts farm families." Its vision is to "envision a world with plentiful high-quality agricultural products, productive open land, and a robust and prosperous farming community. We are committed to working with like-minded groups to achieve these goals." For more information about the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, please visit www.mfbf.net.

About Nestle Purina PetCare Company

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world's most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Fancy Feast and Tidy Cats. Its more than 8,000 U.S. associates take pride in the company's trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 49 million dogs and 66 million cats every year. More than 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure the brand's commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition. Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness.

Purina is a sponsor of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Night In at the American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention.

About American Farm Bureau Federation

The American Farm Bureau Federation is the Voice of Agriculture. We are farm and ranch families working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and

renewable fuel for our nation and the world.

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