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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate use

Bruce the Cat Wins Funds for SpokAnimal; Public Urged to Vote People's Choice

Spokane, Wash., – December 6, 2021– Autumn Bogart's touching story about how the adoption of Bruce the Cat has impacted her family was selected by Petco Love as one of 51 national winners in this year's Petco Love Stories campaign. Autumn's entry earned her a \$100 Petco shopping spree, a pair of shoes from event sponsor, Bob's from Skechers, and a \$5,000 grant award for SpokAnimal.

Petco Love disclosed to Autumn and SpokAnimal that her adoption story had been chosen as a winner last month, however, the grant award remained a closely guarded secret until the check reveal, which happened on December 4 at SpokAnimal's partner Petco store on the South Hill. Petco Love has stated that between the competition's 51 winning submissions and 49 honorable mentions it is awarding \$1 million, varying in award sizes from \$1,000 to \$100,000.

"Over the years, our Petco partner store has helped us find homes for hundreds of pets, and the donations they receive at the register help fuel the funds the Petco Love pours back into communities. It meant a lot to us that our local store hosted the check reveal event and was able to celebrate with us, Autumn's family, and Bruce," stated SpokAnimal Executive Director, Dori Peck.

In addition to the Petco Love prizes, Bruce's story is now part of an on-line Petco Love People's Choice Competition, which runs through December 15, 2021. That competition offers the public the opportunity to read and vote for their favorite stories. The top five stories with the most votes will help their organizations win additional grant prizes with top honors scoring \$25,000. SpokAnimal is inviting the public to visit www.petcolove.org/lovestories to vote for Bruce.

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Photo Caption: Petco Manager Lea Hayden (center) presents winnings to SpokAnimal and the Bogart family. (Pictured left to right: SpokAnimal board president, Jessica Moody; SpokAnimal executive director, Dori Peck; Petco Store Manager, Lea Hayden, Xander Bogart, Bruce the Cat, Autumn Bogart, Chad Bogart, Karson Bogart, and Dixie (Karson's service dog).)

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