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# Animal shelters have friendly wager on BCS game

Published: Monday, January 10, 2011, 6:30 AM



By Yvonne T. Betowt, The Huntsville Times

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Auburn's mascot Auby may have a namesake if Auburn beat Oregon.

HUNTSVILLE, AL -- The felines at the Cat Adoption Team (CAT) shelter in Oregon correctly predicted a Super Bowl victory the last two seasons, with the Steelers winning in 2009 and the Saints in 2010.

This year, the CAT felines have determined the Oregon Ducks will defeat the Auburn Tigers in tonight's BCS Championship game.

If The Ducks win, a kitten which comes to The Ark this spring will be named Oregon because of a friendly wager between Auburn fan and Ark volunteer Randy Wallace and Kathy Covey, public relations manager for CAT near Portland.

But if Auburn prevails, an orange striped kitten at the CAT shelter in Oregon will be named Aubie, after the Auburn mascot.

"I saw a blurb about their cats predicting the Super Bowl, so I figured the people (at CAT) had a good sense of humor," said Wallace, an

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Auburn graduate and local aerospace engineer who owns two cats, Maggie and Gracie. "They do a lot of good work there, so I thought I would contact them."

He got in touch with Covey who agreed to go along with the bet.

"We set down the same amount of Friskies in green and orange plates," said Covey. "There was no favoritism. One cat went for Auburn (orange plate), another went for the Ducks (green plate) and the orange cat just said 'phooey' and left. The white cat was very tentative at first, but she finally tipped it by going with the green plate."

You can watch the prediction event on the CAT website, [www.catadoptionteam.org](http://www.catadoptionteam.org).

Although Covey is actually an Oregon State fan, she hopes the Oregon Ducks win so CAT will keep its feline Super Bowl prediction record intact.

Ark founder Nina Beal said if Auburn loses and an Ark kitten is chosen to become "Oregon," it will be available for adoption at half price or if the adoptive home wants two kittens, it will be adopt one for the regular fee and get the second kitten free. A bag of food, litter pan and litter will be included in the adoption package.

"And they can change the name of the cat if they want to," said Beal with a laugh.

Covey has one requirement if the adoptive family keeps the name Oregon: "Please pronounce it Ory-gun. A pet peeve or Oregonians is that the rest of the country can't correctly pronounce the state's name."

Wallace said it's "just for fun" and if they raise awareness or find a home for a kitten "so much the better."

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