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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New this Year: Pet Parade Will Lead the People Parade!

TD BANK PET PARADE TO LEAD THE PACK DURING DOVER DAYS ON MAY 7

DOVER, DE -- Fluff up your pooch, give your pony a bath or decorate a wagon for your bunny and join in the fun at the TD Bank Pet Parade set for Saturday, May 7, a highlight of the Dover Days Festival in Dover, DE. This year's pet parade will lead the regular Dover Days parade down State Street at 9:30 a.m. so that thousands of parade watchers can enjoy the pets and their owners.

This year's pets will compete for fun, ribbons, cash and bragging rights, and all are invited to march in the parade. Categories and prizes will include:

- Best in Show, \$50 and grand prize ribbon;
- Best Dover Days Theme, \$25 and grand prize ribbon;
- Best Group, \$20 and grand prize ribbon;
- Best Costume, \$15 and grand prize ribbon;
- Cutest Pet, \$10 and grand prize ribbon; and
- Up to 50 honorable mention ribbons.

"My family and I look forward to being a part of the pet parade again this year and encourage you to join us," said Michael MacFarland, SVP/Regional VP at TD Bank. "TD Bank is delighted to once again sponsor this family-fun event for the Dover Days Festival," he added. "This is a great opportunity for children and their families to show their Delaware spirit and show off their pets by being a part of Dover's largest parade and festival."

Line up and judging will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the City of Dover Wyandt Building parking lot, located at the corner of Kings Highway and Reed Street, which is directly across from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC).

Judging will be finalized and prizes awarded by 9:15 a.m., at which time pets and their owners will line up for the parade. The pet parade will lead the Dover Days parade from State Street to The Green, where the official Dover Days reviewing stand will be located. Pets will be encouraged to wear their ribbons in the parade.

Newshound, the official mascot of the *Delaware State News*, will serve as the parade Grand Marshal. The event, hosted by Kent County Tourism, is being chaired by Jo Schmeiser, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford and Kent County Tourism Board member.

Entry fee is \$2 per pet if registered prior to Friday, April 29. After April 29 and day of the event, the fee is \$5 per pet. Forms are available online at www.doverdaysfestival.com, or by calling Kent County Tourism at 302-734-4888.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The MacFarland Family invites you to register now open for the May 7 TD Bank Dover Days Pet Parade set for 9:30 a.m. with judging at 8:45 a.m. Registration forms are online at www.doverdaysfestival.com or by calling 302-734-1736.