NEW MONOPOLY PIECE

Cat token replaces iron, Parker Bros. announces

By Rodrique Ngowi Associated Press

PAWTUCKET, R.I. >> The Scottie dog has a new nemesis in Monopoly after fans voted in an online contest to add a cat token to the property trading game, replacing the iron, toy maker Hasbro Inc. announced Wednesday.

The results were announced after the shoe, wheelbarrow and iron were neck and neck for elimination in the final hours of voting that sparked passionate efforts by fans to save their favorite tokens, and by businesses eager to capitalize on the publicity.

The USS Missouri Memorial Association Inc. was invited to participate in the "Save Your Token" promotion, given the popular game's battleship token.

The battleship token had landed "in jail" along with other tokens facing removal from the game when the campaign was launched Jan. 9, according to Hasbro's public relations materials.

"All of us at the Battleship Missouri are so relieved that the battleship, aka inmate 20967, has been released from jail and can now get back to dominating the seas and Monopoly games," said Michael Carr, president and chief operating officer of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The Facebook vote closed

just before midnight Tuesday, marking the first time that fans have had a say on which of the eight tokens to add and which one to toss. The pieces identify the players and have changed quite a bit since Parker Bros. bought the game from its original designer in 1935.

Rhode Island-based Hasbro announced the new piece Wednesday morning.

The cat beat out the robot, diamond ring, helicopter and guitar, getting 31 percent of votes for new tokens.

"I think there were a lot of cat lovers in the world that:reached

out rtgage and voted." said Jonathan

Berkowitz, vice president for Hasbro gaming marketing.

The Scottie dog was the most popular of the classic tokens, and received 29 percent of the vote, the company said. The iron got the fewest votes and was kicked to the curb.

Versions of Monopoly with the new token will come out later this year.

ON THE NET:

>> www.hasbro.com/monopoly