

## Friends of Tooting Common – Virtual Fun Dog Show May 17, 2020

How do you run a fun dog show during lockdown, you may ask...? The quick thinking, ingenuity and frankly impressive IT skills of Simon Hemsley, committee member of the **Friends of Tooting Common** (FOTC), meant that this year the FOTC held Tooting Common's first ever **Virtual Fun Dog Show**.

With nearly 120 entrants across seven classes, the judges anguished behind the scenes over which entrants were to be crowned winners of their round. How do you pick the best puppy, when all of the entrants are so cute? Which trick should triumph when all the dogs showed such skill and ability?

Every photo and video we received was deliberated over, and ALL of the dogs were winners in our eyes, even if they didn't receive their own e-rosette. After some difficult decision making, however, our judges made their announcements...

Our very own Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Jane Cooper, had the task of choosing **Best Puppy**. Around 20 beautiful puppies entered, making it a tough round to judge, but there had to be a winner...

...meet **BASIL**, who came top of this class. Who could resist that face?



**Best Rescue** round brought out some real stunners. Mark Callis from the Animal Welfare Service at Wandsworth noted how hard it was to pick between them, but eventually chose **BUNGLE**, a worthy winner owned by Kate and Les.

A special thank you to EVERYONE who gives a forever home and a second chance to rescue dogs.

Jacqueline Said, who runs the Dogs of Tooting Common, had the incredibly tough task of picking our **Best Looking Hound**.

As one of our most popular rounds for entrants, this was not an easy decision at all, with Jacqueline choosing the very handsome Staffie **BAILEY** as her winner, seen looking very regal here!



**Best Bitch** was judged by Tim Jones from Downtown Woof in Balham.

With a gorgeous group of girls to choose from, Tim gave top prize to **MAPLE**, a beautiful lurcher described as a "graceful companion" by her owner. Well done Maple!

Our **Best Veteran** (over 8 years old) was another popular category, with the Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee's Mathew Billson being given the task of choosing between the lovely golden oldie (and sprightly!) entrants.

12 ½ year old **LILAH** was the crowned winner of the category, described as a “dignified old lady” by her owner



The long awaited **Best Trick or Action** round showcased some FANTASTIC local doggy talent.

Alongside some excellent commentary and judging by Nick Heath (a local broadcaster and sports commentator), the first place e-rosette went to **YANA**, the miniature poodle, for showing her magnificent maneuvers. Well worth watching!

And last but by no means least, a classic round of **Dog That Looks Most Like its Owner**. Selina Hills from Wandsworth Parks and Events Police had the enviable task of deciding who was the most looky-likey of all the dog/owner combinations.

Lots of effort was put in by both owners and dogs, but we're sure you'll agree that **MICHAEL** and **TESSA** are worthy winners... uncanny!



With the brilliantly innovative 2020 Virtual Fun Dog Show having come to a close with winners announced, all that is left is for us to do, is to say a big THANK YOU to all of our entrants, and all of the judges who crowned our winners; without you we couldn't make this happen.

Huge thanks also to Leonie (our excellent host), Peter (for his support and committee chairing), Tove (for her artwork) and Simon (without whom this would not have taken place...)

We're hoping, depending on social restrictions in place later in the summer, to run a real live Fun Dog Show on the Tooting Common in September – we'll keep you updated!

The Virtual Dog Show was held on Sunday May 17 in aid of the wonderful work being done by St George's Hospital, Tooting. All donations are gratefully accepted towards St George's Hospital Charity Coronavirus Appeal, by following this link: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fotcdogshow2020virtual](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fotcdogshow2020virtual).