

DISCOVER DOGS EARLS COURT 2013

From: Joan Martyn – Discover Dogs Organiser:

Another year has flown by. It's obviously true that as you get older time moves on faster.

Dear Ian, our Exhibition and Liaison Office, set up the booth on the Friday evening, with the help of Pearl. Luckily we had a corner booth, which allows for more open space around the pen for the public. Ian had made a special commemorative plaque in memory of Tessa Gaines, who was the organiser at the very start of DD in London and was so instrumental in the running for many years.

On the Saturday, Ian, Carol and I manned the stand all day. Ian had his girls, Imelda (who has been a key ambassador for many years) and his youngster, Isabel. I took three Griffons, Ron, his son Trevor and Lupin. We were joined later in the day by Pearl, her sister, Beverley and their three Griffons, Cleo, Marcel and Eli.

On the Sunday, Michelle manned the booth during the morning with two of her Griffons, Daisy and Jason, I arrived mid-morning with Bert and also Carol came along. We were joined in the afternoon by Janet and her boy, Alfie. Again I took all my three plus my other two girls, Daisy and Olga. Unfortunately, on both days we only had red roughs and smooths. We must make a real effort next year to at least have representatives of all three colours.

As usual, we had a tremendous amount of interest in the breed and it was absolutely packed around our booth on both days. All the dogs got on well and spent of the time actually outside the pen being petted by the public.

Most of the questions asked were about any health problems the breed might suffer from, how much exercise they needed, maintenance of the coat, how they would fit in with a busy household with children. I always answered as I could but, of course, we all have slightly differing views on the above. I tried to discourage any prospective owner if it was likely that

the dog would be left on its own for many hours at a time. Griffons are very much a "people" breed and would love constant companionship.

One young man came up to me and asked if I was holding "Ron". He had remembered him from last year and even had a photo from Discover Dogs 2012 on his mobile of Ron.

One young couple were really keen on getting a puppy and had only come to Discover Dogs to see Griffons. I happened to mention that a dog I had bred 6 years ago had been sold to a Football Manager. They knew straight away who I meant as they said that earlier in the



Ron & Lupin

week he had been speaking on the radio and mentioned his Griffon “Percy”. I was so pleased that Percy had obviously gone to a home where he was such an important part to warrant a mention on the radio.

Another lady told me that the Late Sir Henry Cecil, the well-known racehorse trainer, had Griffons. We must try to delve into this a little deeper. If anyone has any more information on his Griffons, Carol would love to hear from you.

Icing on the cake this year, was to receive the Award for Best Runner-up Breed Booth for the second year running. In 2011, when the breeds were arranged in groups, instead of alphabetically as in 2012 and 2013, we were best Toy Group booth. This means that we have been best Toy Group booth, three years running. A huge achievement due so much to our Ian for all his hard work in the planning and set up of the booth.

Well, another Discover Dogs has come and gone. A very successful one with interest growing year on year.

2014 will be held at Earls Court for the last time. No decision has been reached yet on the new venue.

Thank you, once again, all the Griffon booth helpers for making this year run smoothly and all your hard work and effort, without which we would not achieve the success we have enjoyed.



Joan Martyn and Carol Ritchie receiving the award

From Ian Willsmer:
EXHIBITION AND LIAISON OFFICER HERE (again)

Part of my responsibility is the setting up of the Discover Dogs stand at Earls Court for our breed. Once again I set –up the booth on the Friday with help from Pearl, she does have a good eye (well at least one) for displaying the graphics. We had a technical hitch as booth panels had a greasiness to them and the velcro would not stick fully, so carpet tape was found and it worked.



The breed booth before the crowds descended

Both days were extremely busy on our stand (as was the whole show) **AND YES WE DID IT AGAIN** with a best booth runners up award at DD 2013, the winner being the border collie which means we were also the top toy group booth again - 3RD YEAR RUNNING YIPPEE... YIPPEE... YIPPEE

A big thank you to all who manned the booth, a lot of dedicated personal time is given up and so much appreciated, in fact all booth helpers at DD deserve a big pat on the back.

Discover Dogs at Earls Court is probably on for 2014 but after that who knows as the venue might be no more.