

Fred Willard to Host Worldwide Fido Awards

Finalists include a blues-singing Beagle and a Jack Russell Terrier who jumps rope.

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Emmy award-winning comedian Fred Willard of “Best in Show” and “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy” will host the Worldwide Fido Awards on Nick at Nite Sunday, Oct. 5.

The one-hour special showcases Fido video finalists in categories including “Cutest Dog,” “Best Dressed,” “Most Outrageous,” “Best Trick,” “Dog/Owner Look-Alike,” and “Best Voice.” Finalists include a blues-singing Beagle, a Bulldog who can skateboard and flush a toilet on command, a Jack Russell Terrier who jumps rope and walks up steps backward, and an opera-singing Pomeranian-Chihuahua mix. The winners from each category vie for the night’s top prize, Worldwide Fido 2008.

“The Worldwide Fido Awards is a truly first-of-its-kind event,” said Albie Hecht, Worldwide Fido creator and the show’s executive producer, in a statement. “By combining one of the Internet’s most popular viewing categories in dog videos with our expertise in creating compelling awards ceremonies for television, I believe the Worldwide Fido Awards will become a much anticipated, annual event.”

Celebrity dog trainer Tamar Geller will serve as one of the event’s judges.