

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

1 / 12/ 2017

AS WE DRIFT INTO THE LAST MONTH OF THE YEAR the club championship show already seems a long time ago. It was good to see so many positive comments about the day, especially gratifying as the committee was down by quite a few people for various reasons ranging from “just born” puppy duties, to sickness, to the secretary (me) being one of the judges.

There are 36 PBGVs entered at LKA for Brian Ballan, who is giving CCs for the first time. We are third in the ring, not ideal but at least the dreaded 3am start from home has been staved off.

Sixteen months ago I let you know that Robyn Higgs, who has a PBGV, was appealing for help as Louis needed life-saving heart surgery. Robyn had him checked regularly and one heart scan uncovered that he had a right arterial enlargement and what looked like pulmonary stenosis. He was referred to the RVC. There the cardiologist confirmed Pulmonary Stenosis. This is a birth defect that obstructs the blood flow through the pulmonary valve. The heart is working harder to pump the blood around and eventually the heart tires of working so hard and goes into failure. Surgery was needed to relieve the pressure within his heart and give him years of quality life, not months. As Robyn had disclosed the slight heart murmur when insuring him, the insurance company would not cover surgery. Robyn's circumstances meant an expensive operation was beyond reach, so she started up a fund. Many friends and BGV folk donated and I am pleased to say that, with a final further generous gesture from Louis' breeder, the goal has nearly been reached and the operation set to go ahead on 8 December. Robyn says “I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who shared and donated. Thank you all again. Words cannot explain”. I'm sure we all wish Louis well for the procedure, giving him a long and happy life with Robyn, who dotes on him.

The Winter Voice is now at the printers and will hopefully be with you before the Christmas mail gets too heavy. Of course, this time of year subscriptions are due for so many things but bear in mind the following: BGVC annual subs, Breeders Directory, Limited Odds Draw. There is also something else to think about. Next year, the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the BGVC, the club will be issuing a yearbook. The last one covered up to 2012 and this one will span the years 2013-2017. If your BGV has achieved great things during this period, or you would purely like to advertise your kennel or tell everyone about your beloved BGV, contact Claire Cooper on 07855 255287 or clairecooper81@hotmail.co.uk who will be compiling this important edition. As usual, the handbook will be A5 and price of a one-page colour advert is £25. Premium pages can be arranged, price on enquiry. Don't delay, book your space now as Claire would like ads to be in by the end of the year.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkhams@aol.com