

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

9 / 11/ 2018

THERE ARE 55 PBGVs entered for judge Alan Curry at the Club championship show on 24 November. This includes 5 NFC. Richard Bott has an excellent entry of 20 in PBGV Stakes, doubtless with many exhibitors being attracted by the high money on offer. Thanks are due to Gavin Robertson and Phil Freer for contributing towards the prize money. Judging takes place in two rings and will start at 10am, with GBGVs having 32 for Linda Mackenzie (including 3 NFC) and, later, 14 in Stakes. There are 3 Junior Handlers for BIS judge Val Jackson to judge during the lunch break.

The Breed Appreciation Day planned for this Saturday, 10 November is not now taking place and, at time of writing, a new date has yet to be announced.

I do believe the PBGVs and I have survived the annual onslaught of night after night of fireworks but not without extremely distressed dogs and blood all over the kitchen walls and floor. One of them scratched so much with anxiety that her nails bled. Meanwhile others quaked and panted for hours and, one evening, when rockets like bombs went off immediately overhead that was almost the end. Fortunately I had resorted to putting the dogs in covered crates all evening though this wasn't entirely successful and didn't stop one of them from shrieking so loud, I shot up thinking he had probably got a claw caught. Not so, he was just letting me know he was far from happy. Next the de-stressing spray that I bought at Crufts came out, sprayed on bandanas and tied round their necks and I do believe it helped. After over four hours of this performance every evening since the middle of October until 5 November, I was completely stressed out myself by the time bed came, every night thankful that this was another 24hrs towards the end of the annual misery. Mercifully the religious celebrations that followed on 7 November were rather more circumspect with a few fireworks in the distance fairly late in the evening.

I think many of us would live with it if fireworks were restricted to two evenings a year, 5 November and New Year's Eve, plus circumspect religious celebrations, though favourite option for many is fireworks without the noise element, as is already commonplace in one Italian town. Believe it or not there is a Fireworks Act that states any fireworks that detonate at a higher level than 120 decibels are prohibited. However, over the years, in their efforts to make money, companies have felt the need to produce something bigger and better than their rivals and goodness knows what the noise level is when one explodes immediately above you.

There is a UK Government and Parliament petition "Ban the sale of fireworks to the public. Displays for licenced venues only". Government responds to all petitions that get more than 10,000 signatures. At the time of writing, well over 251,000 people have signed. For countless years, every November people complain about the distress caused to their dogs but nothing ever happens. Help to swell the numbers of petitioners, by signing at https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/231147?fbclid=IwAR0b61fOJI06RNzZ1Vlh7tKZCX_XoWaDqc1flslzeAuA2_DaRaz9aLyKxBc.

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