

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

14 / 12/ 2018

HAVING RECOUNTED THE POSITIVE POINTS that stemmed from the Parliamentary debate on fireworks last week, I must tell you about the letter I received today from my local MP. Information from the Petitions Team, UK Government and Parliament encouraged me to contact him on the subject of the distress caused to animals by fireworks. I should have saved my time. The response was patently a generic letter as it contained advice and details which I had given in my email and totally ignored other issues I raised about my own experiences and simple suggestions to resolve the annual problem. I don't doubt MPs receive hundreds of emails but I was left with the impression that a secretary moved mine to a Fireworks folder for the standard response to be printed off for the MP's signature. MPs are charged with helping their constituents by advising on problems and representing their concerns in Parliament. When they take no heed, pay lip service and fail to recognise that outdated laws need amending in tune with the times, don't bother to contact your own MP as I expect you will get the same meaningless treatment.

But at least this was free. Sadly I received a similar outcome from a visit to the Royal Veterinary College earlier in the year. Having seen a local vet with a slight problem with one of our PBGVs, she was most enthusiastic about a positive result and referred me to the RVC. Around £100 later after a visit where all that happened was that a student made notes of what our PBGV had to eat and other inconsequential details and a vet saying there would be no benefit in doing a scan, I received a standard letter. Disappointing is an understatement. We all know that a visit to the veterinary profession is an expensive affair but a "one for all" letter insults your intelligence. Talking of extortionate consultations, especially when lifelong medication is needed, if your PBGV needs eye drops to stave off the effects of POAG, don't just pay whatever your vet asks. Get a prescription and hunt around for the best prices which are infinitely lower. The price of Latanoprost does fluctuate but, over the past year, having hunted on-line to help owners of PBGVs who need the drops, I have found that Weldricks Pharmacy sells them at a very competitive price, currently £3.49 a bottle - www.weldricks.co.uk/products/latanoprost-eye-drops-25ml.

The 2019 club calendars have all gone now. However, if Sue Marshall gets enough requests, a further small print may be possible. Contact her on 01245 265828 or sue.marshall4@btopenworld.com if you want one. BGV mugs have also gone like hot cakes. The good news though is that Kim Culyer-Dawson is in touch with the elves in Santa's workshop and might be able to get more made if asked for any. Contact her on 01255 317415, email kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk

LKA this Sunday and I hope you all have a better journey than last year. I won't be forgetting the snow for a very long time.

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