

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

1 / 3 / 2019

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR CRUFTS especially by overseas exhibitors who have to pack their cars for a long drive and think about what documentation they will need, not only for themselves but for their dogs. This is the last Crufts we will all experience before Britain leaves the EU in some shape or form on 29 March. Although the Government remains committed to achieving a deal with the EU there is, of course, the possibility they will not reach an agreement. Like many government departments, DEFRA has had to plan for every eventuality.

Interestingly it seems there will be no change to the current requirements for dogs entering the UK from the EU after 29 March. However for anyone here wanting to travel or exhibit in the EU after 29 March, you should contact your vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest advice. As things stand at the moment the following may help.

Rules for Dog Travel The rules for taking your dog to any EU country will change if the UK leaves the EU with no deal and is treated as an unlisted country. You must get your microchipped dog vaccinated against rabies before it can travel.

However, to allow effective contingency planning in the worst-case scenario of the UK not being granted third country status, you'll need to take the following steps to make sure your pet can travel after 29 March 2019:

You must get your microchipped dog vaccinated against rabies before it can travel. Your dog must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. You'll need to talk to your vet about whether you need a rabies vaccination or booster before this test.

Your vet must send the blood sample to an EU-approved blood testing laboratory. The results of the blood test must show that the vaccination was successful – that is your dog must have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml.

You must wait 3 months from the date the successful blood sample was taken before you travel.

You must take your pet to a Official Veterinarian (OV), no more than 10 days before travel to get a health certificate. And remember, if there's no deal, pet passports issued in the UK would not be valid for travel to the EU.

A successful blood test is only required for first time travel to an EU country. This is provided that your dog's rabies vaccinations are kept up to date with boosters before the expiry date of the previous vaccination.

Your dog's health certificate would be valid for: 10 days after the date of issue for entry into the EU; 4 months of onward travel within the EU; re-entry to the UK for 4 months after the date of issue.

On arrival in the EU, dog owners travelling with their pets would be required to enter through a designated Travellers' Point of Entry (TPE). At the TPE, the dog owner may be asked to present proof of microchip, rabies vaccination and the blood test result alongside their dog's health certificate.

Repeat trips to the EU Dogs that have previously had a blood test and have an up-to-date rabies vaccination do not need to repeat the blood test. Your dog will need a health certificate for each trip to the EU. To get a new health certificate you must take your dog to an OV no more than 10 days before you travel. You must take proof of: your dog's vaccination history; a successful rabies antibody blood test result.

Return to the UK Your dog must have one of the following documents when returning to the UK: an existing EU pet passport (both for UK and EU citizens); the EU health certificate issued in the UK used to travel to the EU; a UK pet health certificate (issued outside the UK for travel into the UK only)

Check the routes before you travel. On existing approved routes your documents and microchip will be checked. If you are not travelling on an approved route talk to your vet about what preparations you need to make before travel.

Of course there are other situations that may need clarification, so for more information go to www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit.

A couple of deadlines coming up are that entries for our Club open show close on Saturday 16 March. See www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates for the schedule and entry form or phone Colin Makey for a schedule – 01469 540260. If you have a young puppy, enter the Baby Puppy walk which is bound to be good fun for everyone, not least the pups who will love socialising. Another closer deadline is on the day of Crufts, by which date proposed and seconded items for the Club's AGM agenda should reach me by post to Sharnden, Fourth Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 8HN. Last year before the AGM I posted information about how we intended to carry out the ballot for club show judges, this in view of the evolving changes taking place for the Judges Competency Framework. This year is no different so here is information on how the ballot for judges will be carried out this year:

JUDGES NOMINATIONS 2019 FOR OPEN SHOW 2021 AND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2022

Before last year's AGM the Judges Sub-Committee reviewed procedures and trialled a different method of selection of judges. In addition, in view of the uncertainties surrounding contracting of UK judges during the implementation phase of the Judges Competency Framework, a decision was made to select overseas judges for our 2021 championship show. As has always been done, a shortlist of names for the open show 2020 was produced by the Judges Sub-Committee to be voted on and results were announced at the AGM.

While this worked well, with the Judges Competency Framework still evolving the Judges Sub-Committee undertook to continue reviewing procedures. The move not to contact every A and B list judge beforehand for availability is a sound one. This cuts out one stage in the selection process where in the past judges' expectations have been raised unnecessarily when many didn't make the short-list. It also avoided the exorbitant costs of a full member postal ballot where the majority of ballot papers were not returned. The next stage has remained as it always has, where the JSC are best placed to decide who would potentially draw a better entry for the Club and pass the recommended short-list on for the ballot. Last year we vested the final decision from the short-list in the committee. To move this forward and again involve members, this year the final vote will be made by those present at the AGM.