

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

28 / 2 / 2020

A QUIET WEEK in the lead up to Crufts. That said, I expect you are all busy grooming or have it on your “to do” list at the weekend.

Other than announcing that they will be taking enhanced measures to help protect visitors, exhibitors, clients and staff at Crufts this year, there have been no further statements issued by the KC over coronavirus since the number of Italian cases. They continue to monitor the situation closely and follow advice from the World Health Organisation and Public Health England, as well as that of local government. However the Irish Rugby Football Union has just announced that Ireland’s Six Nations rugby matches against Italy in Dublin on the same weekend as Crufts have been postponed – and possibly cancelled – because of the coronavirus outbreak in northern Italy.

In total, 42 countries will be taking part at Crufts this year, from Australia to Ukraine. Thought to be partly due to uncertainty over the outcome of Brexit, there has been a fall in entries in all but one of the top ten countries. Italy has kept its lead with the largest international number of entries, however at 366 dogs this is an 11 per cent drop from 2019. Of course with the Italian authorities now confirming 322 cases of the virus, this is the highest number of coronavirus infections outside Asia. The cases are heavily concentrated in the region of Lombardy where 212 infections have been confirmed. It remains to be seen whether caution over travelling will mean a lower entry present for this year’s show.

I hope those of you who are travelling to Crufts have a safe journey and that you all enjoy your day.

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