**Birmingham National Dog Show - The Show Will Go On !!**

The Birmingham National Dog Show will be held as scheduled at the Staffordshire County Showground from 23rd – 26th September and we have included some information below, which we hope will give you peace of mind when making your entries.

Like all major event organisers’ we take the Health & Safety of our exhibitors, trade stand owners and staff, judges, group and ring stewards and of course our essential team of contractors, as our top priority. We have been working closely with the very positive team at the Staffordshire County Showground and an optimistic Stafford Borough Council to ensure we host the safest possible event for you all.

The Government provide us with a daily update on the COVID-19 infection rates and as of last night they confirmed the infection rate in the UK had dropped for the 6th consecutive day. We are also provided with data showing the number of the fully vaccinated UK population which increases daily and is world-class in magnitude.

Our very detailed Event Plans and our COVID-19 Specific Risk Assessment have been adjusted and amended regularly throughout the last 6 months. When the Government made their ‘relaxation’ announcement on July 19th we made a few minor amendments and confidently submitted them to the local authority. Our latest COVID-19 Risk Assessment will be appearing on Higham Press over the next few days.

Our COVID-19 Safe Plans include but are not limited to the following:-

In the hope that our entry remains at the same level as pre-pandemic at circa 9,500 dogs we have invested over £30,000 in a large clear span marquee to house 8 in-out rings and a fully covered grooming area more than large enough for exhibitors to adopt 2m social distancing if necessary or indeed if they so wish.

A further 20 Rings are spread throughout the buildings on the main showground site. Whilst indoors there is ample room for both grooming and the larger than average rings in each hall. This is based on the Council’s approved capacity statistics provided by the Showground. Our Ring Plans (and size of individual rings) have been designed to ensure that social distancing can be achieved on a breed specific basis. All rings will have separate entrance and exits to limit close contact and prevent congestion.

As the first semi-indoor dog show we are keen to maximise ventilation and as such the marquee is likely to have some or part of the sides removed. The doors and fire exits will remain open in all buildings for the duration of the show each day. There will be no heating switched on in the halls but rest assured we have ‘booked’ warm weather with no wind and we guarantee you will be dry and won’t have the stress of carrying and erecting your tents/gazebos.

All the indoor facilities will be ‘Mist Disinfected’ every night and as such there will be no carpeted areas at this particular show. There will be hand sanitisers available around the show ground and in the rings. There will be disposable gloves available for those volunteers handling prize cards and rosettes.

As a final precaution, and for everyone’s peace of mind, we are still asking exhibitors to wear masks when in close contact or in more confined situations ie. when the judge is assessing your dog, when visiting our administration office, visiting the toilets, visiting the trade stands and when visiting the cafeterias.

We will continue to monitor the situation and take all necessary advice and guidance from the Local Authority, The Kennel Club and of course the Government and update you all accordingly.

In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please contact our Secretary Jennie Griffiths on Telephone 01694 751258/07900 568756 (mobile)  or e-mail secretary@thenationaldogshow.org.uk

Nick Gourley

Chairman

Birmingham Dog Show Society Ltd - Home of ‘The National Dog Show’