**Birmingham National Dog Show – Essential Exhibitor Information September 22nd, 2021**

**The spread of COVID-19**

This is our first ‘indoor’ all-breed Championship Dog Show for well over **TWO YEARS** and hopefully the first of many as we all strive to get back to normality. Whilst things are clearly improving we all have a major role to play to ensure the recovery is maintained.

In line with Kennel Club regulations and Government protocols you **MUST NOT** attend the Show if you, a member of your household or anyone you have been in close contact with in the last week has tested positive for COVID-19. You **MUST** isolate **AT HOME**.

Furthermore if you or any member of your household has been feeling unwell or wake up on the day of the show with cold/flu like symptoms please **DO NOT** attend the show. You owe this to yourself, your fellow exhibitors, stewards, contractors and volunteers as after all if they were all poorly there would be no show. Please self-isolate until you have had chance to have a negative PCR or Lateral Flow Test.

**COVID-19 Precautions**

The wearing of masks is now a personal choice and will therefore not be enforced at this year’s Show. That said, we are holding the first all-breed championship dog show with 20 out of our 28 rings indoors. It would be sensible to maintain a degree of social distancing just as it is in supermarkets and pubs/restaurants.

We would recommend that masks are worn when in close contact situations such as when your dog is being assessed by the judge, attending the cafeterias and attending the bath rooms.

Hand sanitiser is available throughout the venue for your use. It is also available in every ring for the use by Stewards and Judges. Stewards and Judges will hand out rosettes and prize cards and will be offered disposable gloves to wear should they so wish. Tables (and ramps) will not be disinfected between dogs.

All the main buildings will be mist disinfected every night. This is fumigates the entire floor space so covers all indoor grooming areas and rings. Cleaning staff will clean bath rooms regularly throughout the day.

Our COVID -19 Risk Assessment has been updated and can be viewed under the National Dog Show profile on the Higham Press web-site and will also displayed at the Show.

**Outdoor Rings (Pavilion A)**

For the comfort of our exhibitors we have increased the size of our outdoor clear span marquee to accommodate 8 rings. Each ring has a normal size ring under cover should the weather be inclement and a larger outdoor ring. There is plenty of room for exhibitors and their dogs under cover so gazebos and tents will not be required or indeed permitted. Gazebos and Tents are not permitted anywhere on the showground. We have invested in plastic tracking leading from the carparks to the Marquee and around each ring for the benefit of exhibitors and their dogs in case of inclement weather or heavy morning dew.

**Grooming Areas**

All trolleys, cages or dog blankets must be at least 2 metres away from each ring. The gangway around and between each of the rings is for access and to allow exhibitors/spectators to watch the judging. Each ring has a clearly marked Entrance & Exit Sign and these must be kept clear at all times.

This is the first semi-indoor show so please be considerate to fellow Exhibitors. Technically all Exhibitors should have no more grooming/ crate space than they would have if this show was benched. There is plenty of space but clearly not every exhibitor will be able to ‘camp’ as close to their rings as they might like. This does however assume that Exhibitors only use grooming space the size of your ‘normal’ bench for the dog/dogs you enter.

Please be respectful of your fellow exhibitors when considering the amount of show equipment, the size of trolleys/cages you bring to the show and where you choose to ‘make camp’. For the show to be a success without benching it is essential that exhibitors all work together. The Group Stewards have been briefed to ensure there are pathways to all exits as well as to and from the rings. Please remember it is still recommended that we follow at least 1 metre social distancing in public indoor space so this should allow exhibitors and their dogs to move freely throughout the grooming areas.

All grooming areas are covered therefore gazebos and exhibitor’s tents will not be allowed. All buildings should be treated as simply ‘wet weather’ accommodation. To ensure maximum ventilation throughout the venue all doors will remain open for the duration of the show and as such the heating will not be switched on. The Security Team have been instructed that doors can only be closed with authorisation of one of the Show Directors.

**Passes & Ring Numbers**

Exhibitors who entered on-line are responsible for printing their own ring numbers and passes which can be found by logging in to your Higham Press account. Passes and ring numbers will be posted to exhibitors who made paper entries. No passes will be checked on arrival. Remember you will need removal passes or spectator dog passes for every dog in your car when you exit.

**Car Parking**

Car Parking is free and exhibitors are asked to read our formal Car Park announcement on the Higham Press website. This announcement confirms what colour car park zone you need to directing to so that you are parked as close to your rings as possible. The reality is though that compared to many shows wherever you park at Stafford Showground it is only a short, easy walk to your rings. The entire car park is divided with tarmac roads so whether walking your dogs or pushing your trolley it is as an ‘easier’ walk to your rings than most shows. Even if you find yourself parked near to the road it is still not a huge distance to any of the exhibition halls.

**Trade Stands & Cafeterias**

Over 30 Trade Stands will be in attendance; half of which will be on the main avenue from the car park in front of Bingley Hall and the other half will be on the balcony in Bingley Hall. Royal Canin and Purina Pro-Plan are at the car park end of the main avenue and just outside our pedestrian zone. This will allow you to pick up your dog food in your car. No vehicles are allowed in the show’s pedestrian zone at any time without permission of one of the Show Directors.

The Balcony Restaurant (balcony in Bingley Hall), the Barn Café (outside Prestwood), the Barn Shop (ground floor Bingley Hall) and a Mobile Catering Unit (entrance to Pavilion A) will be open from 7.30am until approximately 4.30pm each day. The Bar (balcony in Bingley Hall) will be open from 12 noon and close at 4.30pm (it may close earlier of they have no customers).

**Photos and Live Streaming**

Alan Seymour, the official photographer for our media partner Our Dogs, will be in attendance for the duration of the Show. The Birmingham National Photo Booth will be located by the Chief Stewards office and is for Exhibitors to use freely and take photos to commemorate your dog’s wins. Our Dogs will be live streaming the Groups every night and be touring the show filming key highlights throughout each day.