



Knittelfeld, January, 24th 2020

Cancellation of the "Landesgruppenschau" (Styrian Clubshow) for Spaniels Graz 2020

Due to the strong uncertainty of many loyal exhibitors of our "Landesgruppenschau" (Styrian Clubshow for Spaniels) and after extensive legal consultations and discussions, the members of the LG STK/OT of the ÖJSpK decided to cancel the show planned for March 1, 2020 in Graz.

At the 2019 dog show in Graz, many of our spaniel exhibitors were warned by the official veterinarians in a very rude and overwhelming manner, that the traditional way of grooming a spaniel would not comply with the Austrian Animal Welfare Act, even though a prohibition of the care for dogs and the shortening of the vibrissons for hygienic reasons are not explicitly mentioned in any paragraph of this law (see also Kleine Zeitung from January 17th and 24th, 2020 - statement of the responsible department of the city of Graz).

The dogs were exposed to high levels of stress by the official veterinarians, roughly handled on the heads and held forcefully to take photos. The owners were required to show their identity cards. Vaccination passes and ID cards were photographed and the data of the exhibitors recorded.

During the past few days several of the exhibitors, who showed in Graz last year, were requested by the Graz authority (Grazer Bau- und Anlagenbehörde - Ref. für Straf- und Vollstreckungsangelegenheiten) to give a statement, regarding accusations of violating the Animal Welfare Act by changing the phenotypical appearance of the dogs they were showing because they had groomed their dogs - and they were also asked to disclose their income and capital.

The recently published (by the organizer of the IHA Graz) notification of the responsible authority (regarding the prohibition of changing the phenotype of dogs, disclosure of personal data to the authorities, prohibition of the use of "thin" showleads without specification of the required width of these leads etc.) with regard to the IHA Graz 2020 also leads to massive irritation among the exhibitors. Despite several inquiries, unfortunately it was not possible for us to get clear information e.g. about the required width of the showleads or the desired minimum length of the vibrissons.

Under no circumstances can we expect our exhibitors to be exposed to the authoritarianism of official veterinarians and, due to the very uncertain legal situation and the arbitrary interpretation of the Animal Welfare Act, to risk being notified of non-understandable violations of this. For this reason - to protect our exhibitors and the committee members of the LG ST/K/OT des ÖJSpK - we feel compelled to cancel the LGS 2020 in Graz.

We will reimburse the entry fee for exhibitors who have already registered their spaniels for our Styrian club show.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Maria-Luise Doppelreiter
LG-Obfrau