**Dog Show Etiquette - How to help keep your dog relaxed and having fun in quite a busy environment.**

Please keep your dog under control and on a shortened lead at all times. Dogs are naturally inquisitive but other dogs may not be tolerant of a visit from an unfamiliar dog. Even though a dog may be friendly normally, being confined in a smaller area with lots of other people, dogs and unfamiliar smells may cause them to act in an abnormal way.

Please do not allow your dog to approach an unfamiliar dog without asking the other owner first and try to keep playing for another time. Dogs playing in the show tent can be stressful to other dogs and if they are barking and playing roughly, it can be disruptive. We would not want any accidents to happen.

Please give your dog the opportunity to go to the toilet outside before entering the show. If they do have a wee or poo in the mill area, do not worry or tell them off, coming to a dog show can be an exciting time and the mill is full of interesting smells. Pick up any solid poo with an appropriate poo bag and dispose of it, and then let a member of staff know and we will sort out any further cleaning that is required.

Even if your dog loves to say hello to other people, remember that not everybody is comfortable with all animals. If your dog is still in training and is prone to jumping up on people, please do your best to keep them under control and keep a distance from other people.

Please speak up if you do not want your pet approached by another dog or by another person. You could say that your pet is nervous or a bit worried and that they cope best while sitting quietly.

We know that parents are sometimes trying to juggle excited children and a dog entered into one of the show classes. We want to have all ages at our dog show but it is important to explain to your children that it is best not to interact with the other animals in the show area, unless another owner says that is ok. A normally friendly pet may not be if a little worried by all the comings and goings and some animals do not have children at home so may be more anxious in their presence.

Please do not bring dogs to the show that are in season or who have finished their season very recently. This can cause other dogs to show undue interest in your dog and may be overwhelming for her.

If you know your dog to be nervous or worried by crowds and other dogs, or is prone to dog to dog aggression, this may not be the occasion for them as we would not wish to worsen their fear and add to their anxiety.

If your dog is unwell on the day of the show, please do not bring them.

We want you and your pet’s visit to Cromford Mills dog show to be a positive one. By taking the above information into consideration, we hope that we can all work together to make that happen.

Have fun everyone!

Many thanks.

The team at Cromford Mills and Derwent Valley Vets