

...for the betterment of dogs ... since 1888

The Kennel Club of Jersey

Christine Marett
The Anchorage
Langley Avenue
St Saviour
Jersey
JE2 7NR

Email:- showsecretary@thekennelclubofjersey.com

Tuesday, 06 January 2026

Rosalyn Sharp
States Greffe
Scrutiny
Morier House
St Helier
JE1 1DD

Dear Ms Sharp

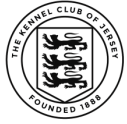
Thank you for inviting the Kennel Club of Jersey to comment on the ferry review being undertaken by scrutiny.

Does your organization currently use ferry services. If so, can you detail which ones? How often. For What purpose?

Kennel Club of Jersey members travel regularly to the UK, to both Poole and Portsmouth to show their dogs. With a choice of twenty-six general Championship shows, ten group Championship shows and a choice of seven hundred breed club Championship shows per year there is a lot for our members to choose from. The purpose of showing in the UK is to qualify throughout the year for Crufts Dog Show and to campaign your dog(s) in the hope they may gain enough Challenge Certificates to become a Champion. It is difficult to say how often as people attend shows for different reasons. I would say than 25% of our members show in the UK.

Since the service began in March 2025, how has your organization found the new ferry service (DFDS)? How has this compared to your experience with other operators?

The service could be more regular. With the old operator 'Condor' there was only one day throughout the year where there was no boat at all and that was a Sunday when the Clipper did not operate. DFDS from January to March 2026 have no boat on a Tuesday or a Sunday which is putting extra unwanted days on to our members trips. There are not enough dog cabins on the Stena Vinga for people, these get booked up really quickly.



How well do you feel the ferry service meets the needs of your organization?

I would say the Jersey to the UK is pretty much covered but could do with the Stena Vinga being run on a Tuesday all year round.

Inter-Island is a total disaster. It is having a big impact on Guernsey and Jersey competitors who cannot travel between the islands with their vehicles for shows. There are some thirty-four shows annually between the two islands. Shows take place at weekend so a weekly mid-week service is useless as competitors cannot afford timewise and financially to stay a whole week for a one/two-day show. Ideally a vehicle carrying service on a Friday and Monday between the islands would cover most sporting events not just the dog community. Dog shows are making even bigger losses now as the current situation is making it difficult to compete and eventually the smaller clubs will not be able to survive.

The Kennel Club of Jersey's next event is our Channel Island Dog of the Year being held in Jersey on February 14th which has thirty Guernsey competitors and thirty-six dogs qualified to compete. With the current situation we do not know how many will make the competition. Some people will be relying on the small charter boats as foot passengers but in Winter, I think it will be doubtful if they make it across. Competitors, especially those with multiple dogs need their vehicles to get across safely. Even the Summer weather cannot be guaranteed for these smaller boats and Islands Unlimited timetable is not Jersey friendly for Jersey competitors trying to get to Guernsey shows. Dog shows in both Islands are important as some carry Crufts qualifiers which enables some exhibitors to qualify for Crufts locally.

Have you noticed any difference in costs since DFDS began operating the ferry service in March 2025.

Costs appear to be like the previous operator but there is no 'frequent traveller' club or over 60's discount for islanders. It keeps getting promised but has not materialized yet. I believe this is offered on their other routes but not Jersey.

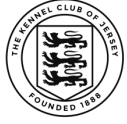
To what extent do you believe the ferry service provided by DFDS supports the continuity and reliability of your organization.

I would say to the UK they pretty much have it covered but the lack an inter-island vehicle carrier is having a big impact financially on all clubs that take part in inter-island sport not just dog shows.

Have any concerns raised by your organization to DFDS been adequately addressed? If not, what issues remain unresolved.

DFDS did address our concerns that dogs were not going to be allowed to remain in vehicles on the overnight ferry. We contacted them to express our concerns that there would not be enough dog cabins or space in the pet lounge to accommodate all dogs travelling to a popular UK show, for example Crufts. We met with Chris Parker who agreed to let us have the same travelling conditions that we had been enjoying with Condor for many years. He also asked the Kennel Club of Jersey to help them write a safe travel policy for pets.

The issue that has not been resolved is the inter-island and this is very important to Guernsey and Jersey exhibitors alike.



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The Chairman, Helen Lester also requested a face-to-face meeting with Chris Parker from DFDS in late August. His reply was he would be in touch in early September. To date we have not heard anything from him despite actively pursuing a meeting.

What improvements would make the ferry service better aligned with your organization's operational needs?

A conventional ferry service six days per week throughout the winter as we had before.

More dog cabins as I believe these book up very quickly.

A vehicle carrying inter island service for long weekends for all inter-island events/sports.

Yours sincerely

C.V. Marett. Vice Chairman and Show secretary, Kennel Club of Jersey