

PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDEÉN CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

Presents

TOP TWENTY EVENT

PURPOSE

To showcase excellence in the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, the PBGVCA has developed the Top-20 Competition to be held in conjunction with the annual National Specialty. This event is intended to educate and entertain judges, exhibitors, breeders and fanciers. It provides special recognition to those PBGVs with the most outstanding records in the show ring during the previous year, together with their breeders, handlers, and owners. This event provides a continuing incentive to strive for PBGVs that excel in structure, movement, temperament and conformation according to our written standard.

The Top-20 Competition offers all who attend a chance to view the very best PBGVs in the country based on their competitive standings in breed points from the previous year. Using a point system, each dog is evaluated by three judges according to how closely it conforms to the breed standard. The audience is able to "judge along" using the same score sheet as each judge uses. Although audience judging does not count toward the competition, this can encourage an exchange of ideas during discussions of the breed standard. To be clearer, this entails 2 separate competitions: one judged by the 3 invited judges (group, breeder, handler) and 1 involving the audience.

The Top-20 Competition would be best held on Thursday or Friday night before the National Specialty Best of Breed judging which is assumed to be Saturday.

Formal or business dress is the preferred attire during this event. The hospitality includes the enjoyment of refreshments: hors d'oeuvres, dinner or similar fare. Admission will include a catalog, food and beverage and a ballot to select the People's Choice Award. Admission charge to be determined by the Event Committee.

TOP TWENTY COMMITTEE

The Top-20 Committee is composed of a Chairman, Assistant Chairman, and any other sub committee chairmen designated as the Executive Committee. The Committee must consist of members of the PBGVCA who are in good standing with the PBGVCA and the American Kennel Club. The Chairman will be appointed by the PBGVCA Board. Committee members will be appointed by the Committee Chairman.

ELIGIBILITY

The selection for Top-20 Competition will be based on the breed points earned by PBGVs in conformation competition during the previous calendar year. (For discussion purposes, the word "dog" will be used hereafter to refer either to dogs or bitches with no preference given to either sex.) The standings are based on breed-point wins as determined by the AKC beginning for the period January 1 and ending December 31 of the year prior to the Top-20 event. Points awarded are equal to the number of dogs defeated (including Best of Breed class) by winning Best of Breed at an AKC All-Breed or Specialty show. That is, dogs will be awarded one point for each dog defeated in "breed competition" only.

Owners and co-owners must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, but need not be a member of the PBGVCA. Owners and co-owners must agree to abide by all of the Top-20 rules. These rules apply to the finalists' participation in this event and failure to follow these rules may result in revocation of the privilege of future participation, regardless of eligibility.

Spayed bitches and neutered dogs that have been named among the Top-20 may compete in this event. Any deceased finalist will be invited and will be granted the same honor as the rest of the Top-20 participants, i.e. catalog pages, biography and rosette.

Finalists will be allowed to compete only if their owner or agent attends the mandatory briefing that is held at least one hour prior to the start of judging.

When the final statistics for the previous year have been compiled by **AKC**, the **Top-20 PBGVs** are invited to participate in the competition subject to the **PBGVCA Top-20** event Rules and Regulations.

The invitations will be sent by the Top-20 Chairperson and will be addressed to the dog, in care of the dog's owner. A response card will be included with the invitation and the owner must RSVP no later than six weeks prior to the date of the event. The number of dogs eligible and invited to the Top 20 is based on the dogs actually ranked in the Top 20 by breed points by AKC. Based on numeric "ties", the AKC might actually list more than 20 dogs in the Top 20. All of the dogs in the AKC Top 20 by breed points will qualify for this event.

An entry fee, the amount of which shall have been determined by the Top-20 Executive Committee and approved by the **PBGVCA Board**, is to be returned with the RSVP card. In addition, the dog's biography, photograph, and a 3-generation pedigree to be used for the Top-20 Catalog must be returned to the Top-20 Chairperson no later than six weeks prior to the date of the competition.

Dogs that are owned, co-owned or bred by a Top-20 Committee Member are permitted to participate in the Top-20 competition. However, dogs owned, co-owned, bred or handled by the Committee Chairman are not allowed to compete. Any PBGV owned, co-owned, bred or handled by one of the Top-20 judges is not eligible to compete in this event.

All dogs deemed ineligible to compete due to a conflict of interest may be presented For Exhibition Only and will receive all honors.

JUDGES SELECTION

Judges for Top-20 Competition are selected by the Top-20 Executive Committee (the "Committee") as follows:

1. Each member of the Executive Committee may nominate up to three judges in each category listed below and forward the names to the Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairman will then review those judges nominated for eligibility and will prepare and mail a ballot to each participating Committee member. The PBGVCA Board of Directors will authorize the Top-20 Committee Chairman to select and secure judges for this event.
2. The Executive Committee members will vote by secret ballot, return their ballot to the Committee Chairman or designee who will solely tabulate and keep the results secret until the Event. In the event two people from the same household serve on the Top-20 Executive Committee, the Top-20 Chairman or designee will count their vote as only one in the selection of judges.
3. The Top-20 Chairman or designee will confirm the acceptance of the winning nominee judges based on their availability. If the top judge is not available, the Chairman or designee will try to secure the 2nd ranked judge and so on.
4. The Chairman or designee will inform each judge that is contracted that he/she is **NOT** to disclose their selection to anyone, including the Top-20 Committee. The Catalog Chairman, who will be responsible for the printing of the Top-20 Catalog, will be advised of the judges' selection. The names of the selected judges must be kept **CONFIDENTIAL** until one hour before the start of the Top-20 Competition judging.
5. At the end of the Top 20 competition copies of the 3 judges signed contracts must be furnished to the PBGV Club treasurer.

Exclusions From Judging:

- Any person actively serving on the Top-20 Committee.
- Any breeder, co-owner, stud dog owner, handler/agent who has an association or conflict of interest or has exhibited a qualifying PBGV within twelve months of this event.

Any person who has a vested interest in a Top-20 qualifier will be considered ineligible to judge at the Top-20.

Judge Selection Process:

The committee will select an individual from each of the following judging categories:

1. (Judge #1) Breeder: A PBGV breeder who has been breeding for at least five years, having produced at least five AKC Champions of Record from at least three different litters.
2. (Judge #2) Handler (Past or present): A professional handler who meets the requirements for membership in any professional handler's organization, though not necessarily a member. The person must have at least five year's professional handling experience and must be in good standing with the **AKC**, **CKC**, etc. It is preferred that the handler have at least three years' experience handling two or more PBGVs.
3. (Judge #3) An AKC judge approved for PBGVs and preferred to have judged a major entry at least five times, may be considered when selecting a multi-breed judge.
4. Each Judge will receive one night's lodging, meal and a gift.

CATALOG

Each Top-20 event will have an independent catalog from that of the PBGVCA National Specialty and shall contain only information pertaining to the Top-20 competition. The catalog will be compiled by the Top-20 Committee Catalog Chairman. The Committee will select an individual or printing company, either of which must sign a confidentiality statement, to create the catalog.

The previous year's winner's picture will be printed on a separate page before the section of the current participants (both Top-20 and People's Choice winners). The size of the catalog will be at least 5 ½" x 8 ½". The Top-20 Catalog should be considered a memorable keepsake. Preferred page advertising shall be accepted on a first come basis. No ads concerning dogs that are not a Top-20 qualifier will be accepted. Advertising monies shall be used to offset the costs of hosting the event. The cost for a full page ad will be determined by the Executive Committee.

The catalog's cover will have a logo specially designed for the Top-20 Competition along with the words "Top-20—" include the year of the event, and the date and location of the event. One page will be included that lists the Top 20 previous year's winner along with the AKC registered and call name, followed by a list of all previous Top 20 winners, names of owners, breeders and handler/agent and the year that they won.

Another page will list the previous year's People's Choice Award winner along with the AKC registered and call name, followed by a list of all previous People's Choice winners, names of owners, breeders and handler/agent and the year that they won. There will be no charge to the owner(s) of these dogs for these pages.

An index page will be printed with the final Top 20 participants listed. In addition, the rules regarding the judging procedure must be included in the catalog as well as a copy of the actual score sheet that will be used by the judges.

Each judge will have a photograph and biography printed in the catalog giving a summary of their qualifications and experience in the dog fancy.

Each Top 20 competitor, who paid the required entry fee by the closing date, will be given a 2-page catalog layout. There will be no charge for these pages to the owner(s) of the dog. Included in the two page layout will be the AKC registered name and number of the dog plus the owner(s) and breeder(s) names, and a brief biography about the dog (supplied by the owner). The biography shall include at a minimum, the dog's date of birth and call name. The two page layout will also include a full body photo of the dog, cropped to show only the dog, and a 3-generation pedigree.

As it is possible some qualifiers might decline the invitation, it is possible that less than 20 dogs will be competing. In no event will the invitation be extended to dogs that ranked below the twentieth placement to bring the number participating in the event to 20 dogs.

An optional index with the names and addresses of the dog's owners may be printed at the end of the catalog, but is not required.

STEWARDS

The Top-20 Committee Chairman will select at least two non-related people to be ring stewards. The stewards need not be a member of the Top-20 Committee but, if possible, should be a member of PBGVCA who is in Good Standing. The stewards will NOT be told the names of the judges prior to the start of judging.

During judging, the only communication between the steward and a judge will be confined to questions of procedure.

When a judge has completed his/her scoring of a dog, he/she shall sign their Judge's sheet, hand completed sheets to the in-ring steward who will place them on a work table face down. At the conclusion of the event the in-ring steward will give all score sheets to the Top 20 Chair who will deliver them to the audit committee.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

One hour prior to the start of the judging, the Top-20 Committee Chairman will convene a mandatory handler's meeting and distribute arm bands to all participants. Arm band numbers shall match the catalog page number of the entered dog's ad.

The rosette table will be set up inside the ring for presentation at the conclusion of the event. There will be a public address system and a Master of Ceremonies. Each judge will be formally introduced to the ringside spectators by the Master of Ceremonies. The ring stewards will be introduced in the same manner.

After introductions, the Master of Ceremonies will call dogs into the ring and direct them to circle two times and exit.

1. The panel of judges, as a group, will observe the gait of the dogs, who will circle the ring, twice, as a group and exit the ring.
2. Upon completion of the opening gaiting, Dog #1 will enter the ring, circle one time and will be placed on the table for a hands on examination by the judges, one at a time. The first judge will examine the dog then move away to complete his/her score sheet while judge #2 examines the dog. Judge #2 will step away complete his/her score sheet while judge #3 examines the dog and completes his/her score sheet. When all 3 judges have completed the hands on examination, the dog will be asked to move down and back on the diagonal and circle the ring one last time. The same procedure will be followed by each entrant.
3. When a judge has completed his/her scoring of a dog, he/she shall sign their Judge's sheet, and hand the score sheet to the in-ring steward.
4. After all dogs have been presented and scored by all three Judges, all signed score sheets will be immediately placed in the designated, secure storage container and taken, by the event chair, to the Audit Committee. This Committee will consist of up to three pre-selected members for tallying. The results will be kept secret until the evening of the Annual Banquet Dinner. (Any Judges who remain at the specialty will present the winner with their prizes. Dogs are not brought to the banquet.)
5. When the judging is completed and all dogs have been evaluated and scored by all three Judges, the Master of Ceremonies will make a last call for People's Choice ballots to be placed in a voting box. Upon closing voting (no more than five minutes after 'last call'), the entries will enter the ring, starting with the first dog in the catalog circle two times and line up in the center of the ring. The Master of Ceremonies will announce each dog's registered name, call name, owner(s) of record, and breeder(s) of record as the group of 3 judges presents the individual participation rosettes to each entrant. At the conclusion of the presentation of participation rosettes the group of entries will circle the ring two times and exit.
7. All Judges must remain after the culmination of the event for photos.

SCORING

The Top-20 Executive Committee will select up to three people who must not have any ties to any of the competitors to count the ballots. Each score sheet for each dog from the three judges will be tabulated. The scores will then be added together and each dog's overall score will be determined. The dog with the highest overall score will be declared the Top 20 winner. Each score sheet for each dog for the People's Choice Award winner will also be tabulated. The scores will then be added together and each dog's overall score will be determined. The dog with the highest overall score will be declared the People's Choice Award winner.

Announcement of winners will be presented at the Annual Club Banquet.

TOP 20 SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

Score	Basis for score
9-10 points	Excellent quality dog, Rarely seen, very few minor faults
8-9	Outstanding dog, well above average seen in the ring
7-8	Average show quality dog
5-6	Below average quality, some major faults present
3-4	Poor overall type but still looking like breed
1-2	Totally lacking in merit. 0 if dog has disqualifying fault

Sections covered

1. General appearance
2. Size, proportion, substance
3. Head
4. Neck, topline, body
5. Forequarters, angulation, legs, feet
6. Hindquarters, overall balance in angulation
7. Coat quality and presentation
8. Color
9. Gait, overall movement
10. Temperament

Descriptions of sections according to breed standard

1. Compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance. Overall balance of dog
2. Profile, somewhat longer than tall, correct length of leg,
3. Head carried proudly, muzzle from nose to stop slightly shorter than distance from stop to occiput, ears reach no further than nose
4. Neck long and strong. Back visibly level. Overall appearance compact
5. Front legs appear straight, slight crook permitted but not preferred, correct length
6. Strong, muscular, good bend of stifle, angulation in balance with front
7. Harsh to the touch, thick shorter undercoat, long eyebrows, beard and moustache, hair on ears
8. White with any other listed color
9. Gait free at all speeds. Legs tend to converge toward center of gravity as speed increases. Strong rear with hocks facing neither in nor out
10. Happy, extroverted, independent, not shy or lacking in confidence

PRIZES

Each dog entered and participating in the Top-20 Competition will receive a rosette, the

size and color to be determined by the Top-20 Executive Committee. The rosette will have Petit Basset Griffon Vendeén Club of America Inc, date, location, and Top-20 Competition printed on the streamers.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

The Chairperson of the Top-20 Committee shall have in his/her possession the name of the winner of the Top-20 competition and the People's Choice Award winner in sealed envelopes. At the Annual Banquet Dinner, the Chairperson or designee will announce the People's Choice Award winner, the owner(s), the breeder(s) and the handler/agent, and next the Top-20 Winner, the owner(s), the breeder(s) and the handler/agent will be announced. A rosette will be presented to the owners of the winning dogs by any judges of the event that are available to make the presentation, or if none are available, by the Chair(s) of the committee. No dogs will attend the banquet.