



PBGV Breed Preservation

PBGV Club of America



PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

"Puh-TEE Bah-SAY Gree-
FOHN VON-day-uhn"

Breed Preservation Committee

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By Robert J. Sweeney

"The puppies are coming. NOW!" At approximately 5:45 on the morning of July 4, 2010, I was awakened by those screams coming from downstairs. The vet suggested we could expect a litter between July 4th and July 10th so Michael and I decided to take turns sleeping downstairs with Ruby and Stanley. Michael took the first shift and it looked like we were about to deliver a litter. Two minutes later I walked into the dogs' room to find Ruby in the whelping box looking like something was about to happen.

By noon, she had delivered five healthy puppies. This was our second time breeding. Our Old English Sheepdog, Victoria, had delivered 12 puppies to us in the late 80s. This was our first PBGV litter. By luck, Jen, a woman who worked at our vet's office volunteered to serve as mid-wife for Ruby if we wanted. We had 12 puppies under our belt and about to deliver our 13th but we decided to give her a call anyway. She didn't answer so we left a message. Jen arrived just as the fourth puppy arrived. Ruby went about cleaning her baby and severing the umbilical cord. In this case, she bit a little too close to the skin and we were trying to stop the bleeding. Jen asked for some floss and instructed me on how to tie off the cord.

About 90 minutes later, our fifth puppy arrived. He was not breathing. Ruby could seem to stimulate his lungs so Jen took the puppy, cleared his airway and we had a fifth healthy pup.

This experience taught us so many lessons, three of which I would like to share with you. First, we were lucky with our sheepdogs. We did that birthing alone and encountered no problems. And we were lucky with our first three PBGV deliveries. When it came to the last two, we were woefully unprepared for what happened. This was our second lesson: get a mentor. We were lucky to have a mentor who was able to coach us through one solution and to take over for the second. Third, we developed an even deeper respect and





admiration for those members of our club who take on the awesome responsibility of breeding. Breeders embrace the time, the expense, the stress and they continue to serve our club in a very important way and, if we are hoping to preserve the breed, our club needs to find ways to support the breeders.

This support can take many forms and Breed Preservation Committee is looking for an experienced PBGV breeder to form a subcommittee to tackle these important issues and identify opportunities to increase slightly our number of active breeders. For example,

- Should the club pay for new litter registrations?
- Should the Health and Rescue Foundation financially support the transportation of donor sperm? Should they support puppy testing?
- Are we being too quick to spay or neuter young animals?
- Should we support breeding for pet quality in a similar manner to our support for show quality breeding?
- How do we cultivate the next generation of breeders?
- What does a mentoring program for breeders look like? How do we navigate the geographical difference between mentors and mentees given the small number of each currently?
- Should the club maintain a current roster of litters about to be born?
- Should the club maintain a list of people looking to acquire a puppy?
- How do we best get the buying public to understand IF a PBGV is right for them?

Contact Us

PBGV Club of America

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This represents an abbreviated list of questions the Breed Preservation Committee hopes will be investigated. If this committee is one you would be interested in chairing or serving on, please let us know. Feel free to email me at cromwellgardens@aol.com with your ideas or to volunteer. I will make sure the Committee sees them right away. Thank you for being a member of the PBGV Club of America. Together we will build a stronger tomorrow for our breed.

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