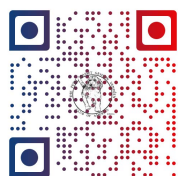


The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



www.pbgv.org

*The
Rough Coated French Hound ...
Happy and Rustic.*



Scan to Learn more...

History

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, one of many small varieties of the French hounds, is of ancient descent.

His origin can be traced to the sixteenth century, to the Griffon Vendéen, his larger, more powerful ancestor. His name reveals much about him: Petit – small; Basset – low to the ground; Griffon – wire coated; and Vendéen – the area of France in which he originated.

In the United States, the breed is referred to as “PBGV”, or “Petit”.

This small hunting dog has an intriguing and charming appearance and personality. However, it is important to remember that the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is, first and foremost, a hound developed to hunt game by scent. Furthermore, his physical evolution is directly related to the environment and terrain of the western coast of France, the Vendee, characterized by thick underbrush, rocks, thorns and brambles. This difficult terrain demanded a hardy, alert, bold, determined, agile, and intelligent hunter with both mental and physical stamina.

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is a proud member of some twenty-eight hound breeds which are bred in France even today to serve their original purpose. They are used to hunt small game, especially hare and rabbit, in France, other European countries, the United States and Canada.

Most French hound breeds came in large and small versions and were used for different prey. The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen was used for such large game as roedeer and wolf, while the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen was used to trail and drive smaller quarry, such as rabbit, hare and sometimes even feathered game.

The attempt to standardize breed type was not undertaken seriously until the latter half of the nineteenth century. Until 1898, when the first official standard for the Basset Griffon Français was adopted, judges at the French Exposition made their placements without benefit of any official standard.

The Dezamy family, headed by Paul Dezamy, the first president of the newly founded Club du Basset Griffon Vendéen (1907),



is known for having devised the first standard. The same standard described the Petit and Grand, both of which came from the same litters at that time. In 1909, a standard for the Basset Griffon Vendéen recognized two types of basset, one standing 34 to 38 centimeters, or approximately 13 to 15 inches, and the other 38 to 42 centimeters, 15 to 17 inches at the shoulder. The Petit Basset was distinguished by his smaller size only, with sometimes semi-crooked legs. The taller, or Grand Basset, always had straight legs.

It was not until the 1950s that the Societe de Venerie published a new book of standards in which the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen was given an official standard of its own and considered a separate breed. With the practice of interbreeding the Petit and the Grand Basset, it was common at that time for offspring from the same litter to be entered, some as Petits, and some as Grands, at the French Exhibition. Paul Dezamy himself did not breed Petits, but became famous for his 42 centimeter Grands Bassets, referred to as “42 Dezamys”.

Finally, in 1975, through the efforts of Hubert Desamy, third president of the club, interbreeding of the Grand Basset and the Petit Basset was disallowed. However, as a result of the longtime practice of interbreeding, wherever Petits are bred today both Grand and Petit characteristics will manifest themselves for generations to come. For this reason, heavy emphasis is placed on type and size in those countries where breeders are striving for the ideal. Breeders and judges are obligated to learn the features unique to a Petit so those characteristics are encouraged in breeding, and are rewarded in the show ring.



Difference Between Petits & Grands Bassets

The first standard's separation of the two breeds mainly by height might understandably lead one to assume that size is the only trait distinguishing the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen from the Grand Basset. In the early years of their division, perhaps it was size which seemingly accounted for the greatest difference, but eventually authorities recognized that the increase in size (or in length of leg) often meant a change in many other features.

It continues to be a common misconception that height is the most significant feature which



Comparison pictures of Petit and Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

sets the Grand Basset apart from the Petit. It is more the combination of several features which would classify an individual dog as one breed or the other. In fact, the modern Grand Basset bears a strong resemblance to his larger ancestor, the Grand Griffon Vendéen, while the Petit is in many ways a smaller version of the more compact Briquet Griffon Vendéen.

The Petit is no taller but may be slightly longer than a 15-inch Beagle, weighing 25 to 38 pounds at maturity. A Grand Basset stands 15 1/2 inches to 18 inches at the withers. The Grand Basset, compared to the Petit, is considered to have more length to everything: his body is longer, his muzzle is longer, his ears are longer, his tail is longer, his coat is longer and rougher, and his legs often are longer. He is much more "overdone" than the Petit, although he should not be exaggerated. The Grand Basset is also a heavier animal, weighing between 38 and 60 pounds.

Petits that are not compact but are too long in body should be faulted, as should those with ears that extend beyond the end of the muzzle, heads that are too large, with too much length of foreface, tails overly long and set too low, coats soft rather than harsh.

Personality and Character of the Petit

As aptly described in the standard, the PBGV is friendly, outgoing and alert. He is willing to please, but is not servile. He has been described as the perfect dog for hunting rabbit. He is small in size and busy by nature, a real beater of bushes. He is independent, and reportedly is more successful hunting in small packs than large.

The PBGV should not be compared to the Basset Hound, his smooth-coated cousin, for he is completely different, not only in appearance but in temperament. The Basset Hound is calm, placid, doleful and generally low key, unless there is work to do. The Petit, in contrast, is always working, a bit terrier-like, always looking for something with which to busy himself. He notices every little movement, any slight change. He is intelligent and curious. Generally he greets everything and everyone with a wag of the tail and complete confidence. "Now we've met, what shall we do?"

Personality and Character of the Petit cont.

The PBGV is definitely not a breed for everyone. He is not a lap dog and he is not a shaggy Basset Hound, as some would have him be. His resemblance to the Basset Hound is in the set and fold of his ear, his noble hound expression, and in his hunting prowess; beyond that the analogy breaks down. His abundance of energy requires that he have plenty of room to wander, explore and exercise. There is also a need for great security, for the Petit is a digger and a jumper. He is extremely agile and quick.

In France, the Petit rarely, if ever, was a pet or companion except in the field. Since his hunting instincts are strong, he is constantly alert to anything that moves or emits a scent. He does learn quickly and is willing to please; however, his appearance and demeanor are of happy confidence, innocent devilment and benign revelry. There is no denying that this breed is a happy one!

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is active and friendly and gets on well with other breeds in the home or kennel. Though it is not unusual for an argument to take place among Petits – as among any dogs – over food or human affection. He does love attention...at his convenience!

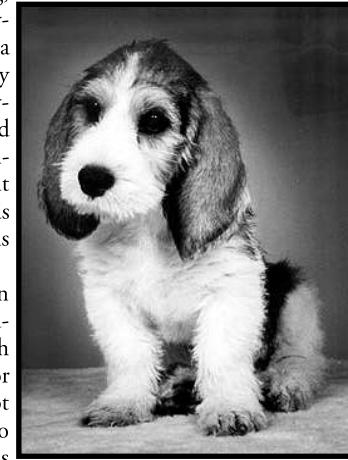
Introducing the United States to the PBGV

As previously mentioned, the PBGV has been very popular as a hunter in France for nearly a century. His popularity in the show ring has increased over the last 30 years, attaining recognition by the kennel clubs of Canada, Great Britain and the United States. Petits are shown in almost every European country. Besides the field and the conformation ring, versatile PBGVs have made their marks in obedience, tracking, agility, flyball, freestyle obedience, therapy work, rally and search, scent work and rescue.

Interest in the United States was sparked at the "Super Match" in 1983, when a 12 week-old Canadian-born puppy, Belray Alexander

Gebeba, entered in the rare breed class, won Best in Match, defeating over 3,000 other dogs.

Ten years earlier, Mrs. Elizabeth Streeter of Pennsylvania imported some Petit puppies from France and England for the purpose of creating a working pack. Her Skycastle Pack created interest at the Bryn Mawr (Pennsylvania) Hound Show, but it did not spread. It was that puppy in the ring at the Super Match who started it all. Publicity began...word of mouth... Dog World...Canine Chronicle...and others. Importations began. Puppies were brought back from London and Copenhagen. As interest grew, adults and puppies were imported from



Alexander

Canada, Denmark, England, France, Sweden, Holland, and Germany. Mrs. Streeter, who died in 1987, was the first to whelp litters in the U.S., breeding only when it was necessary to add to her pack.

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

As word of the Petit and the Super Match spread from coast to coast, there seemed to be sufficient interest – not on the part of the general public but on the part of fanciers, especially hound enthusiasts – for some sort of organization in this country. To protect and promote the breed, and to educate and inform those interested so that sensible importations would follow,

the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America was formed at the AKC Centennial Show in Philadelphia in November 1984. Eleen individuals, representing several states and a variety of breeds, but all with years of experience in dogs, constituted the foundation of the national club. A bimonthly newsletter was started, which has now grown to the quarterly Saber Tails magazine.

Much was accomplished in the first years of the club's existence. By the end of 1985, the PBGVCA had grown from 11 to 50 members. A breed standard had been accepted, the constitution and by-laws adopted and a stud book and registry set up. The club also notified the AKC of its intent to work toward eventual AKC recognition.

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America cont.

The first national club event was held in Kentucky on March 16, 1986, during the tenth anniversary celebration of the Louisville Kennel Club. Fifteen Petits came from all over the United States to compete.

In 1987, the second annual meeting of the club and the first National Specialty were held in Louisville. Twenty-four Petits were entered, and 22 shown. Best of Breed was Axmos Don Ranudo de la Garonne.

On July 1, 1989, the PBGV became eligible to compete in AKC Miscellaneous classes. Belray Sirhan Braconnier was the first PBGV to gain an AKC title, earning his Companion Dog obedience degree nine days later.

Axmos Fagin de la Garonne went down in the record books as the first PBGV to earn an AKC championship. In 1992, 24 champion Petits represented their breed at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club show for the first time, with Jomil Ultra bearing away the laurels for the first Best of Breed there.

In 2000, a Hunting Instinct Test was approved by the Board of the PBGVCA, the title Hunting Instinct Certified is granted by the PBGVCA and is designated by the suffix title HC in all PBGVCA records. In March of 2001, PBGV owners from across the country and their hounds gathered in Concord, NC for the first Hunting Instinct Test. Then, in 2006, the PBGVCA approved a Junior Hunter Test designated by the suffix title JH in all PBGVCA records. The PBGVCA and its Hunt Committee continues its endeavor to reward those who strive to retain this breed's natural hunting instinct.

Since AKC recognition, the numbers of fanciers and Petits have grown steadily. Depending upon the part of the country, 80 to 150 PBGVs may be seen at the National Specialty held each spring.

Health and Grooming

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is generally a healthy and carefree breed. Hereditary eye



abnormalities include persistent papillary membranes and retinal folds, neither of which commonly affect vision.

It is highly recommended that all PBGVs be screened for POAG (Primary Open Angle Glaucoma) as there have been cases reported. This is a condition that, if untreated, results in blindness. Fortunately, an inexpensive swab cheek test is available through the Animal Health Trust in England. This test allows breeders to plan breedings and reduce the incidence of glaucoma within the breed.

Some juvenile animals may suffer from an aseptic meningitis characterized by lethargy, fever and neck or back pain.

This syndrome, known as PBGV neck pain syndrome, varies in severity among affected animals and in rare instances can be fatal. Seizure disorders and epilepsy are infrequently reported within the breed, as are hip dysplasia, patellar luxation and elbow dysplasia. Hypothyroidism, food allergies and skin allergies have occasionally been reported.



Entry at first AKC Show

Health & Grooming cont.

The coat should be mentioned, as it can be a source of frustration. It should be harsh and rather thick, the texture similar to that of a goat. Judicious thinning is usually necessary to maintain the coat as the dog matures. To prevent matting, dogs should be combed once weekly. Small mats will be easily removed in the process of combing. Only neglected coats will mat severely. Bathing may be performed as needed, but some temporary softening of coat will occur following the bath. Trimming is rarely necessary in the properly maintained coat. One shake following brushing and combing should return the dog to his tousled state!

It must be remembered that this is a rustic hound. He has a natural, rather unkempt, devil-may-care appearance. His casual, unaffected demeanor and appearance is part of the character and breed type. He should not be chiseled, shaped or primped in the least. All who know

and love the PBGV in Europe have implored us to keep him as he was meant to be: "au naturel".

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Standard (AKC)

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is a French scent hound developed first and foremost to hunt small game over the rough and difficult terrain of the Vendéen region. To function efficiently, he must be equipped with certain characteristics. He is bold and vivacious in character; compact, tough and robust in construction. He has an alert outlook, lively bearing and a good voice freely and purposefully used.

The most distinguishing characteristics of this bold hunter are: his rough, unrefined outlines; his proudly carried head displaying definitive long eyebrows, beard, and moustache; his strong, tapered tail carried like a saber, alert and in readiness. Important to breed type is the compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance.

Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the PBGV as in any other breed, regardless of whether they are specifically mentioned.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE:

Size—PBGVs measure between 13 and 15 inches at the withers. Height over 15 inches is a disqualification. Height under 13 inches is a disqualification at one year of age or older. **Proportion**—When viewed in profile, the body is somewhat longer than tall when measured from point of shoulder to buttocks, as compared to the height from withers to ground. **Substance**—Strong bone with substance in proportion to overall dog. **Head**—The head is carried proudly and, in size, must be in balance with the overall dog. It is longer than its width in a ratio of approximately two to one. A coarse or overly large head is to be penalized. **Expression** alert, friendly and intelligent. **Eyes** large and dark with good pigmentation, somewhat oval in shape, showing no white. The red of the lower eyelid should not show. The eyes are surmounted by long eyebrows, standing forward, but not obscuring the eyes.



PBGVCA Standard (AKC) – SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE cont.:

Ears supple, narrow and fine, covered with longhair, folding inward and ending in an oval shape. The leathers reach almost to the end of the nose. They are set on low, below the line of the eyes. An overly long or high-set ear should be penalized. **Skull** domed, oval in shape when viewed from the front. It is well cut away under the eyes and has a well-developed occipital protuberance. Stop clearly defined. **Muzzle** – The length of the muzzle from nose to stop is slightly shorter than the length from the stop to occiput. The underjaw is strong and well-developed. **Nose** black and large, with wide nostrils. A somewhat lighter shading is acceptable in lighter colored dogs. A butterfly nose is a fault. **Lips** - The lips are covered by long hair forming a beard and moustache. **Bite** - It is preferable that the teeth meet in a scissors bite, but a level bite is acceptable.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY:

Neck –The neck is long and strong, without throatiness, and flows smoothly into the shoulders. **Topline** – The back is visibly level from withers to croup. There is a barely perceptible rise over a strong loin. Viewed in profile, the withers and the croup should be equidistant from the ground. **Body** muscular, somewhat longer than tall. Compact, casual in appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance. Chest rather deep, with prominent sternum. Ribs moderately rounded, extending well back. Loin short, strong, and muscular. There is but little tuck-up. **Tail** of medium length, set on high, it is strong at the base and tapers regularly. It is well furnished with hair, has but a slight curve and is carried proudly like the blade of a saber; normally pointing at about two o'clock. In a curved downward position the tip of the tail bone should reach no further than the hock joint.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders clean and well laid back. Upper arm approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade. Elbows close to the body. **Legs** – The length of leg from elbow to ground should be slightly more than half the height from withers to ground. Viewed from the front, it is desirable that the forelegs be straight, but a slight crook is acceptable. In either case, the leg appears straight, is strong and well boned, but never coarse nor weedy. Improperly constructed front assemblies, including poor shoulder placement, short upper arms, out at elbows, lack of angulation and fiddle fronts, are all serious faults. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Any tendency to knuckle over is a serious fault. Dewclaws may, or may not, be removed. **Feet** not too long, between hare and cat foot, with hard, tight pads. The nails are strong and short.

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong and muscular with good bend of stifle. A well-defined second thigh. Hips wide, thighs well-muscled. Hocks are short and well angulated, perpendicular from hock to ground. Feet are as in front. Except that they must point straight ahead.

COAT:

The coat is rough, long without exaggeration and harsh to the touch, with a thick shorter undercoat. It is never silky or woolly. The eyes are surmounted by long eyebrows, standing forward but not obscuring the eyes. The ears are covered by long hair. The lips are covered by long hair forming a beard and moustache. The tail is well furnished with hair. The overall appearance is casual and tousled.

The rough, unrefined outline and tousled appearance of this rustic hunting hound is essential. Any sculpting, clipping, scissoring or shaping of the coat is contrary to PBGV breed type. The PBGV coat should be clean, neatened as necessary, but always remain casually disarrayed. Any deviation from the ideal described here and in the General Appearance Section of the official standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

COLOR:

White with any combination of lemon, orange, black, sable, tricolor or grizzle markings, providing easy visibility in the field.

GAIT:

The movement should be free at all speeds. Front action is straight and reaching well forward. Going away, the hind legs are parallel and have great drive. Convergence of the front and rear legs towards his center of gravity is proportional to the speed of his movement. Gives the appearance of an active hound, capable of a full day's hunting.

TEMPERAMENT:

Confident, happy, extroverted, independent yet willing to please, never timid nor aggressive.

DISQUALIFICATION:

Height over 15 inches is a disqualification. Height under 13 inches is a disqualification at one year of age or older.

Approved April 22, 2014; Effective July 1, 2014

References:

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen by Jeffrey G. Pepper, Kennel Club Books, 2005, available through Amazon
Meet the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, the Happy Breed, edited and produced by O.S. Dunbar for the PBGV Club of Great Britain.
Hounds of France: Disciples of Diana, by George Johnston and Maria Erickson, Saiga Publishing Company, LTD., 1979
Letters from and conversations with breeders in England, France, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Canada, and the United States.
How the Breed Evolved, by Evan Roberts.
Nos Bassets Français, by Alain Bourbon, A Groupil, Laval, 1911.
Hounds in Old Days, by Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart., revised by C.M.F. Scott, Saiga Publishing Company, Ltd., 1979.
The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen: A Definitive Study, by Valerie Link and Linda Skerritt, Doral, 1999.
Sketches are by Vicki Kwasny, inspired by sketches and photographs found in *Nos Basset Français* and in old standards for Basset Griffon
Understanding the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, by Kitty Steidel, JoAnn Reddit, editor, Orient Publications, 1987. (Available through Amazon and by contacting Kitty Steidel)

Prepared by Kitty Steidel, Jeffrey Pepper, Betty Barth, Sue Smyth and Maggie Lutz, 2007. Portions of this booklet may be reproduced with appropriate credit to the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America. Updated 2020: Sue Smyth, Laura Liscum, Kitty Steidel

**Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America
Associate Membership Application**

I (we) agree that any statements submitted in regard to this application become the property of the PBGVCA and I (we) voluntarily relinquish any right to them. The following information will help the PBGVCA in its efforts to keep better records concerning PBGVs and their owners. Thank you for completing the form accurately and carefully

NAME(S): (please print) _____

STREET: _____

CITY : _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

OCCUPATION: _____

OCCUPATION OF SPOUSE (if applicable): _____

HOME PH. _____ OFFICE PH.: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL (Required): _____

2nd Email: _____

PBGVCA is a 100% volunteer organization. Please indicate any skills or expertise (including professional) which you are willing to make available to the club:

- Rescue Membership Education Merchandise Saber Tails
- Technology Show Activities Hunt Admin/Finance Other _____

Primary interest in PBGVs (please check one or more):

- Companion/Pet Showing Breeding Obedience Hunting Agility Rally Scent Work

Number of PBGVs you and your immediate family presently owns: _____

From whom did you obtain your PBGV(s)?: _____

Please indicate your primary reasons for joining PBGVCA and for owning PBGVs: _____

By signing this application, I agree to abide by the following as set forth by the PBGVCA:

- To abide by and uphold the principles of the PBGVCA Constitution and Bylaws and the American Kennel Club regulations including the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.
- To encourage and maintain the best accepted, reasonable and responsible standards of canine health, hygiene, feeding, care and training.
- Encourage and support participation in the Health & Pedigree Database maintained by the PBGVCA for all PBGVs.
- Be mentors for the breed willingly sharing your knowledge and experience related to PBGVs and information relating to participation in dog sports and activities with others.
- Not sell, place or consign any PBGVs to a commercial facility, business or agent thereof.
- Not to relinquish any PBGV to an animal shelter.

Date _____ Applicant(s) Signature(s) _____

Associate Membership Dues – US = \$40.00

Associate Membership Dues – Canada/Mexico =\$50.00 (Includes additional postage for Saber Tails)

Associate Membership Dues – Other Countries =\$60.00 (Includes additional postage for Saber Tails)

Make checks payable (in US dollars) to PBGVCA and forward the application and payment to: PBGVCA Treasurer PBGV Club of America (see website for address: www.pbgv.org/MemberInfo) PLEASE NOTE: Incomplete applications will be returned to sender! Optional: I have enclosed an additional contribution to the Health and Rescue Foundation of PBGVCA in the amount of _____. Contributions to H & R Foundation are tax deductible.