



# **Meet the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen**

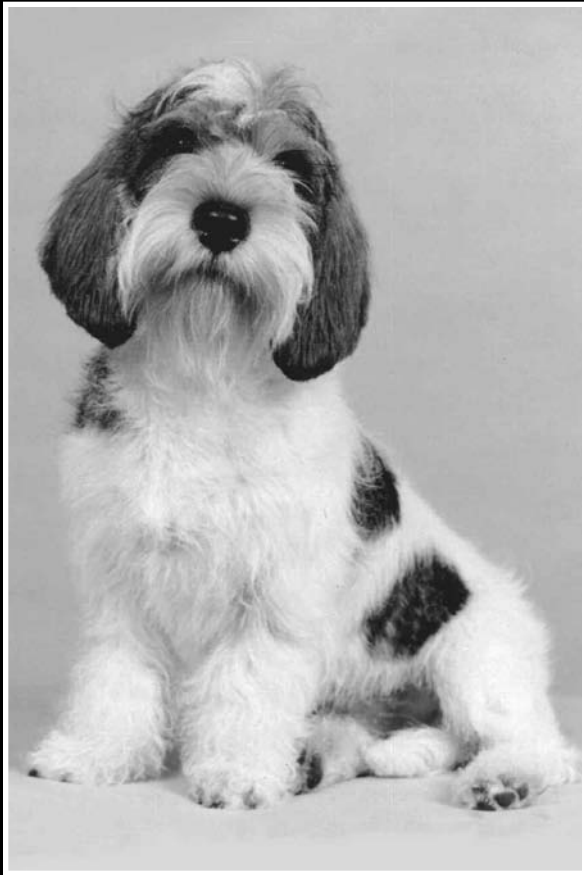
**About the Rough-Coated French Hound**



# Welcome!

The membership of the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America is pleased to acquaint you with the joys of owning a purebred Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen.

Usually called a PBGV or Petit for short, these rugged, active, bold and exuberant small hounds are steadily gaining popularity in the United States. Long known in Europe for their qualities as hunting dogs, the PBGV's "devil-may-care" personality makes him an engaging family companion as well. He is quite willing to please his owners, as long as it doesn't interfere with other more interesting activities!



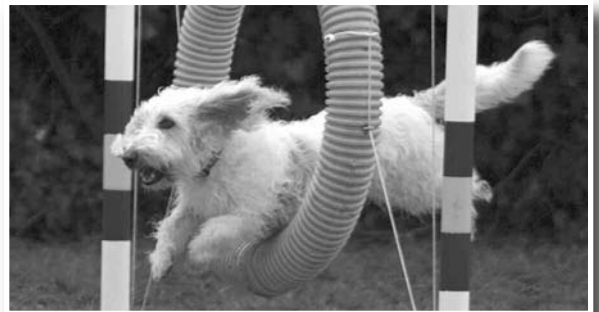
*A PBGV puppy*

# Breeding and health

Breeding is a serious responsibility which should not be undertaken without a great deal of planning and forethought. Responsible PBGV breeders carefully research each mating and strive to avoid genetic defects in order to produce healthy, sound puppies. It is an expensive and time-consuming process and should be undertaken only by an experienced breeder. In addition, veterinary studies have shown that your dog will be happier, healthier and easier to live with if he or she has been neutered or spayed. Many breeders sell pet puppies with AKC limited registration papers or spay/neuter contracts. This demonstrates their concern with pet population issues and the future of the breed.



Much is still being learned about potential health problems in the breed. Hypothyroidism, retinal folds, persistent pupillary membranes, hip dysplasia, epilepsy and patellar luxation have been reported. Be sure to talk to your breeder about all possible health risks and maintain a close relationship after acquiring your puppy so the breeder can share his or her wealth of experience as your puppy matures.



# A history of the breed

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, one of many small varieties of the French hounds, is of ancient descent. His origin can be traced back 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
- **Vendéen:** the area of France where he originated

In the United States, the breed is referred to as a “Petit” or “PBGV.” In England, he is known as “Roughie.” And in Denmark, he is the “Griffon” or “Petit.”

This small hunting dog has an intriguing and charming appearance and personality. But it is important to remember that the PBGV 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 Vendéen, which is characterized by thick underbrush, rocks, thorns and brambles. This difficult terrain demands a hardy, alert, bold, determined, intelligent hunter with both mental and physical stamina.

While “Basset” is part of the PBGV’s name, the PBGV is not related to the more familiar Basset Hound. He is instead descended from the larger, more powerful Grand Griffon Vendéen. Compared to the Grand, a PBGV is lighter, smaller-boned dog and is much more active and agile. He should never be mistaken for a hairy Basset Hound. AKC’s standard calls for a PBGV to stand between 13 to 15 inches at the shoulder. They should weigh between 25 and 40 pounds. PBGVs are white with any combination of lemon, orange, black, sable, tricolor or grizzle markings, which provide easy visibility when hunting in the field.

In 1991, the American Kennel Club recognized the PBGV breed, and since then their popularity has grown. Currently, PBGVs are successfully participating in obedience, agility, tracking, flyball, hunt trials and

freestyle obedience competitions as well as working as therapy and search-and-rescue dogs. Their success in the show ring and performance events complements recognition of the PBGV as a versatile dog that is a wonderful family pet.

The complete AKC breed standard is available on the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America Web site at [www.pbgv.org/BreedInfo/AKC.html](http://www.pbgv.org/BreedInfo/AKC.html).

## Fitting into the family

Most PBGVs are not couch potatoes and require some sort of activity to keep them occupied. Otherwise, the “good voice, freely used” that is called for in the breed standard may be demonstrated.

Bred for centuries for hunting, PBGVs have a strong hunting instinct and should be introduced to cats and other small animals early on. They are best suited to the active, experienced dog owner with a fenced yard and a sense of humor!

Housebreaking and obedience training should begin early with the PBGV. Obedience training will help you teach your dog to be a good companion and canine citizen and will provide excellent opportunities for socialization with other dogs and people. In addition, the time spent together will help you create a special bond with your dog. Local kennel clubs or trainers offer a range of classes that include basic obedience, show handling, agility, tracking and rally obedience.

A correct harsh coat requires a thorough weekly brush out to stay in condition, more if the coat is overly soft or long. Hair may need to be neatened up in front of the eyes, and ears require regular cleaning and the hair removed from the ear canals to prevent ear infections. With proper veterinary care, regular exercise and a balanced diet, the life expectancy of a PBGV is 12 to 14 years. A close relationship with your breeder can help you manage the health of your pup.

# Resources

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

[www.pbgv.org](http://www.pbgv.org)

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

This free eight-page pamphlet is produced by the PBGV Club of America's Public Education Committee. It is available online at [www.pbgv.org](http://www.pbgv.org) or by mail from

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(609) 387-3027 [oldyork2002@aol.com](mailto:oldyork2002@aol.com)

More information related to public education can be found at

[www.pbgv.org/BreedInfo/PEC.html](http://www.pbgv.org/BreedInfo/PEC.html).

*Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen: A Comprehensive Owner's Guide*

by Jeffrey Pepper

Kennel Club Books

308 Main St.

Allenhurst, NJ 07711

*Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen: A Definitive Study*

by Valerie Link and Linda Skerrit

Doral Publishing

10451 Palmeras Drive, Suite 225

Sun City, AZ 85373

*Understanding the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, Rustic French Hound*

by Kitty Steidel

[ksteidel@aol.com](mailto:ksteidel@aol.com)

*Saber Tails*

The official newsletter of the PBGV Club of America

[www.pbgv.org/PBGVCA/ST-main.html](http://www.pbgv.org/PBGVCA/ST-main.html)

American Kennel Club

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