

Congratulations on your new

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen!

*The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America
welcomes you to the world of owning a purebred
Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen.*



Usually called a PBGV or Petit for short, this is a rugged, active, bold and exuberant small hound. 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!

History of the breed

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, one of many small varieties of French hounds, is of ancient descent. His origin can be traced back to the sixteenth century to the Grand 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

This small hunting dog has an intriguing appearance and charming 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 Vendée region, 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.

The PBGV is independent, curious, intelligent, and inventive. They should be trained with positive reinforcement. PBGVs are very independent and determined, traits that were useful when hunting rabbits in thick brush and brambles. A PBGV is not a guard dog and will greet everyone with a wag of the tail and complete confidence.

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 Basset, a PBGV is a lighter, smaller-boned dog and is much more active and agile. He should never be mistaken for a hairy Basset Hound. The breed standard calls for a PBGV to stand between 13 to 15 inches at the shoulder at one year of age. As adults they should weigh between 25 and 40 pounds. PBGVs are white with any combination of lemon, orange, black, sable, or grizzle markings, which provide easy visibility when hunting in the field.

In 1991, the American Kennel Club recognized the PBGV breed. PBGVs are canine athletes successfully participating in obedience, rally, agility, tracking and hunt tests, and other dog sports mentioned on www.akc.org. They serve as therapy and search-and-rescue dogs. Their success in the show ring and performance events complement recognition of the PBGV as a versatile dog that is an engaging family pet.

The complete AKC breed standard is available on the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America website, www.pbgv.org, under Breed Info.

Fitting into the family

Most PBGVs are not couch potatoes and require activity to keep them occupied. Otherwise, the "good voice, freely used" that is described 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. A PBGV will follow his nose into trouble if permitted. PBGVs 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. Altered dogs can participate in performance events including obedience, rally obedience, agility and tracking. Training and participation in such events with your dog is good for both the dog and for you.



A correct harsh coat requires a thorough weekly comb out to stay in condition, and prevent matting (more often if the coat is too soft). 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. A close relationship with your breeder can help you manage the health of your PBGV. With proper veterinary care, regular exercise, and a balanced diet, the life expectancy of a PBGV is 12 to 14 years.

If a day should come when you can no longer keep your PBGV (for whatever reason: divorce, moving, personal health crisis, death in the family, etc.), the PBGV Club of America urges you to avoid taking your dog to an animal shelter. First contact the breeder of your dog. If that is not successful or you cannot locate the breeder, contact PBGVCA Breed Rescue. See the PBGVCA website:

www.pbgv.org

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

Resources

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America
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

or by mail from

Susan Smyth, PBGVCA Public Education Coordinator
1101 Old York Road, Burlington, NJ 08016
(609) 387-3027 oldyork2002@aol.com

More information related to Public Education can be found at the PBGVCA website. Public Education is listed under Breed Info (Breed Info > Education > Public Education) or enter "Public Education" in the search box found on every page.

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.

The PBGV is generally a healthy and carefree breed. Be sure to talk to your dog's breeder about all possible health risks and maintain a close relationship with the breeder throughout the dog's life so the breeder can share his or her wealth of experience as your PBGV matures.

The PBGV Health & Rescue Foundation

The PBGV Health and Rescue Foundation is a non-profit charitable corporation formed to promote the welfare of the breed. It promotes and funds research into the health, care, and breeding of PBGVs as well as promoting through educational means the proper care of the breed and providing funding for the rescue of PBGVs if they should be neglected or abandoned. Information about this worthy organization can be found at:

www.pbgvhrf.org



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

Saber Tails, The official newsletter of the PBGV Club of America. For information see the PBGVCA website under Club Info.

American Kennel Club, 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178, www.akc.org