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!

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.
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.

**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

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
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More information related to public education can be found at 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

Saber Tails
The official newsletter of the PBGV Club of America
www.pbgv.org/PBGVCA/ST-main.html

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Photos courtesy of Bob Cohen, Helen Ingher and Skip Brown.