

**PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDEÉN**  
**Club OF AMERICA, INC.**  
Presents

**TOP TWENTY EVENT**  
**PURPOSE**

To showcase excellence in the Petit Basset Griffon Vendeén, the PBGVCA has developed the Top-20 Competition to be held in conjunction with the annual National Specialty. This event is intended to educate and entertain judges, exhibitors, breeders and fanciers. It provides special recognition to those PBGV's with the most outstanding records in the show ring during the previous year, together with their breeders, handlers, and owners. This event provides a continuing incentive to strive for PBGV's that excel in structure, movement, temperament and conformation according to our written standard.

The Top-20 Competition offers all who attend a chance to view the very best PBGV's in the country based on their competitive standings in breed points from the previous year. Using a point system, each dog is evaluated by three judges according to how closely it conforms to the breed standard. The audience is able to "judge along" using the same score sheet as each judge uses. Although audience judging does not count toward the competition, this can encourage an exchange of ideas during discussions of the breed standard.

The Top-20 Competition would be best if held two or more days prior to, but no later than Thursday before the National Specialty Best of Breed judging. In addition, the Top-20 Competition should not be held on the day of the Health Clinics supported by PBGVCA.

Formal or business dress is the preferred attire during this event. The hospitality includes the enjoyment of refreshments: hors d'oeuvres, dinner or similar fare. Admission will include food and beverage and a ballot to select the People's Choice Award. Admission charge to be determined by the Event Committee.

**TOP-20 COMMITTEE**

The Top-20 Committee is composed of a Chairman, Assistant Chairman, and any other sub committee chairmen designated as the Executive Committee. The Committee must consist of members of the PBGVCA who are in good standing with the PBGVCA and the American Kennel Club. The Chairman will be appointed by the PBGVCA Board. Committee members will be appointed by the Committee Chairman and with approval of the Board.

## ELIGIBILITY

The selection for Top-20 Competition will be based on the breed points earned by PBGV's in conformation competition during the previous calendar year. (For discussion purposes, the word "dog" will be used hereafter to refer either to dogs or bitches with no preference given to either sex.) The standings are based on breed-point wins as determined by the AKC beginning for the period January 1 and ending December 31 of the year prior to the Top-20 event. Points awarded are equal to the number of dogs defeated (including Best of Breed class) by winning Best of Breed at an AKC All-Breed or Specialty show. That is, dogs will be awarded one point for each dog defeated in "breed competition" only.

Owners and co-owners must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, but need not be a member of the PBGVCA. Owners and co-owners must agree to abide by all of the Top-20 rules. These rules apply to the finalists' participation in this event and failure to follow these rules may result in revocation of the privilege of future participation, regardless of eligibility.

Spayed bitches and neutered dogs that have been named among the Top-20 may compete in this event. Any deceased finalist will be invited and will be granted the same honor as the rest of the Top-20 participants, i.e. catalog pages, biography and rosette.

Finalists will be allowed to compete only if their owner or agent attends the mandatory briefing that is held at least one hour prior to the start of judging.

When the final statistics for the previous year have been compiled by **AKC**, the **Top-20 PBGV's** are invited to participate in the competition subject to the **PBGVCA Top-20** event Rules and Regulations.

The invitations will be sent by the Top-20 Chairperson and will be addressed to the dog, in care of the dog's owner. A response card will be included with the invitation and the owner must RSVP no later than six weeks prior to the date of the event. The number of dogs eligible and invited to the Top 20 is based on the dogs actually ranked in the Top 20 by breed points by AKC. Based on numeric "ties", the AKC might actually list more than 20 dogs in the Top 20. All of the dogs in the AKC Top 20 by breed points will qualify for this event.

An entry fee, the amount of which shall have been determined by the Top-20 Executive Committee and approved by the **PBGVCA Board**, is to be returned with the RSVP card. In addition, the dog's biography, photograph, and a 3-generation pedigree to be used for the Top-20 Catalog must be returned to the Top-20 Chairperson no later than six weeks prior to the date of the competition.

Dogs that are owned, co-owned or bred by a Top-20 Committee Member are permitted to participate in the Top-20 competition. However, dogs owned, co-owned, bred or handled or by the Committee Chairman are not allowed to compete. Any PBGV owned, co-owned bred or handled by one of the Top-20 judges is not eligible to

compete in this event.

All dogs deemed ineligible to compete due to a conflict of interest may be presented For Exhibition Only and will receive all honors.

## JUDGES SELECTION

Judges for Top-20 Competition are selected by the Top-20 Executive Committee (the "Committee") as follows:

1. Each member of the Executive Committee may nominate up to three judges in each category listed below and forward the names to the Committee Chairman. The Committee Chairman will then review those judges nominated for eligibility and will prepare and mail a ballot to each participating Committee member. The PBGVCA Board of Directors will authorize the Top-20 Committee Chairman to select and secure judges for this event.
2. The Executive Committee members will vote by secret ballot, return their ballot to the Committee Chairman or designee who will solely tabulate and keep the results secret until the Event. In the event two people from the same household serve on the Top-20 Executive Committee, the Top-20 Chairman or designee will count their vote as only one in the selection of judges.
3. The Top-20 Chairman or designee will confirm the acceptance of the winning nominee judges based on their availability. If the top judge is not available, the Chairman or designee will try to secure the 2nd ranked judge and so on.
4. The Chairman or designee will inform each judge that is contracted that he/she is **NOT** to disclose their selection to anyone, including the Top-20 Committee. The Catalog Chairman, who will be responsible for the printing of the Top-20 Catalog, will be advised of the judges' selection. The names of the selected judges must be kept **CONFIDENTIAL** until one hour before the start of the Top-20 Competition judging.

Exclusions From Judging:

- Any person actively serving on the Top-20 Committee.
- Any person actively serving as an Officer or Board member of the PBGVCA.
- Any breeder, co-owner, stud dog owner, handler/agent who has an association or conflict of interest or has exhibited a qualifying PBGV within twelve months of this event.

Any person who has a vested interest in a Top-20 qualifier will be considered ineligible to judge at the Top-20.

### Judge Selection Process:

The committee will select an individual from each of the following judging categories:

1. (Judge #1) Breeder: A PBGV breeder who has been breeding for at least five

years, having produced at least five AKC Champions of Record from at least three different litters.

2. (Judge #2) Handler (Past or present): A professional handler who meets the requirements for membership in any professional handler's organization, though not necessarily a member. The person must have at least five year's professional handling experience and must be in good standing with the **AKC**, **CKC**, etc. It is preferred that the handler have at least three years' experience handling two or more PBGVs.
3. (Judge #3) AKC Approved Group Judge: An AKC judge approved for PBGVs and the Hound Group and preferred to have judged a major entry at least five times, may be considered when selecting a multi-breed judge. *(For the inaugural 2014 year only, because Invitations to judge are being made at such a late date, it might be difficult to acquire a judge meeting all these criteria; therefore, limited concessions in qualifications might be required.)*
4. Each Judge will receive one night's lodging, meals and a gift.

## CATALOG

Each Top-20 event will have an independent catalog from that of the PBGVCA National Specialty and shall contain only information pertaining to the Top-20 competition. The catalog will be compiled by the Top-20 Committee Catalog Chairman. The Committee will select an individual or printing company, either of which must sign a confidentiality statement, to create the catalog.

The catalog will be sold through the web site registration form, Top Twenty Event section. The catalog will not be distributed until one hour prior to the start of Top 20 judging. A limited number of Top 20 Catalogs will be available for sale an hour before the judging of the event. Pre-ordering of the catalog through the Club Store is **STRONGLY** recommended.

The previous year's winner's picture will be printed on a separate page before the section of the current participants (both Top-20 and People's Choice winners). The size of the catalog will be at least 5 ½" x 8 ½". The Top-20 Catalog should be considered a memorable keepsake. Preferred page advertising shall be accepted on a first come basis. No ads concerning dogs that are not a Top-20 qualifier will be accepted. Advertising monies shall be used to offset the costs of hosting the event. The cost for a full page ad will be determined by the Executive Committee.

The catalog's cover will have a logo specially designed for the Top-20 Competition along with the words "Top-20—" include the year of the event, and the date and location of the event. One page will be included that lists the Top-20 previous year's winner along with the AKC registered and call name, followed by a list of all previous Top-20 winners, names of owners, breeders and handler/agent and the year that they won. Another page will list the previous year's People's Choice Award winner along with the AKC registered and call name, followed by a list of all previous People's Choice winners, names of owners, breeders and handler/agent and the year that they won. There will be no charge to the owner(s) of these dogs for these pages.

An index page will be printed with the final Top-20 participants listed alphabetically by the dogs AKC registered name and the page number that corresponds with the armband to be assigned to the dog. In addition, the rules regarding the judging procedure must be included in the catalog as well as a copy of the actual score sheet that will be used by the judges.

Each judge will have a photograph and biography printed in the catalog giving a summary of their qualifications and experience in the dog fancy.

Each Top-20 competitor, who paid the required entry fee by the closing date, will be given a 2-page catalog layout. There will be no charge for these pages to the owner(s) of the dog. On the left-hand side of the page will be the AKC registered name and number of the dog plus the owner(s) and breeder(s) names, and a brief biography about the dog (supplied by the owner). The biography shall include, at a minimum, the dog's date of birth and call name. On the right-hand side of the page, a full body photo of the dog, cropped to show only the dog, and underneath, a 3-generation pedigree will be printed. The catalog page number of the dog shall also be the armband number of the

dog.

Any finalist that does not accept or fails to pay the required entry fee for the Competition and therefore does not participate in the event, will be noted as "not attending" in the listing in the catalog. As it is possible some qualifiers might decline the invitation, it is possible that less than 20 dogs will be competing. In no event will the invitation be extended to dogs that ranked below the twentieth placement to bring the number participating in the event to 20 dogs.

An optional index with the names and addresses of the dog's owners may be printed at the end of the catalog, but is not required.

## **STEWARDS**

The Top-20 Committee Chairman will select three non-related people to be ring stewards, one for each judge. The stewards need not be a member of the Top-20 Committee but must be a Member in good standing of the PBGVCA. The stewards will NOT be told the names of the judges prior to the start of judging.

During judging, the only communication between the steward and a judge will be confined to questions of procedure.

When a judge has completed his/her scoring of a dog, he/she shall sign their Judge's sheet, place it in an envelope and seal it; and thereafter give the envelope to the ring steward for further handling. The steward will not open the envelope nor tabulate the scores. As soon as all the judging is completed, each steward must place all envelopes in the designated secure storage container.

## **JUDGING PROCEDURE (3 Dogs in Ring)**

One hour prior to the start of the judging, the Top-20 Committee Chairman will convene a mandatory handler's meeting and distribute arm bands to all participants (arm band numbers shall match the catalog page number of the entered dog's ad). At this time, one drawing will be conducted to determine the order of judging for each entrant. Each group coming into the ring to be judged is made up of no more than three entrants.

A rosette table may be set up alongside the ring, if space allows.

There will be a public address system and a Master of Ceremonies. Each judge will be formally introduced to the ringside spectators by the Master of Ceremonies. The ring stewards will be introduced in the same manner.

After introductions, the Master of Ceremonies will call in the first group of three dogs (as determined by the "Draw" before the event). Each dog will be brought into the ring one at a time, at a gait for one circle, and adhere to the following procedure once all three dogs are in the ring:

1. The panel of judges, as a group, will observe the gait of the dogs, who will circle the ring, twice, as a group.

Each judge will begin by scoring the dog on over-all presentation, or Average Placement, before formally judging the dog. By using an Average Placement Scale of 1 through 10, the judge must look at the dog as a whole and place the dog on the scale with a score of 10 being the highest meaning that dog most closely matches the judge's picture of the ideal Petit Basset Griffon Vendeén.

2. Upon completion of the opening gaiting, Dog #1 will be presented for a hands-on exam to Judge #1, then Judge #2, and then Judge #3. Dog #2 initially presents to Judge #2 and then #3 and then #1, and Dog #3 initially presents to Judge #3 and then #1 and then #2.
3. After all three dogs have had a hands-on exam by all three Judges, each dog shall be gaited individually and each judge will score the dog on movement. The dog will then circle the ring and exit.
4. When a judge has completed his/her scoring of a dog, he/she shall sign their Judge's sheet, place it in an envelope and seal it, and thereafter give the envelope to the ring steward for further handling.
5. After the first group of three dogs has exited the ring, the next group of three dogs enters the ring as described above, and the process repeats itself until all dogs have been judged.

After all dogs have been presented and scored by all three Judges, all signed score sheets will be immediately placed in the designated secure storage container and taken to the Counting Committee. The Counting Committee will consist of three preselected members chosen from the current PBGVCA Board of Directors and Top-20 Executive Committee Members, for tallying. The results will be kept secret until the evening of the Annual Banquet Dinner. (Any Judges who remain at the specialty will present the winner with their prizes. Dogs are not brought to the banquet.)

6. When the judging is completed and all dogs have been evaluated and scored by all three Judges, the Master of Ceremonies will make a last call for People's Choice ballots to be placed in the voting box. Upon closing voting (no more than five minutes after 'last call'), the entries will enter the ring, one at a time, starting with the first dog in the catalog. The Master of Ceremonies will announce the dog's registered name, call name, owner(s) of record, and breeder(s) of record, and the dog shall gait once around the ring and exit, and then the next dog in the catalog will be called into the ring and announcements made, and so on until all entries have been individually presented by the Master of Ceremonies.
7. All Judges must remain after the culmination of the event for photos.

## SCORING

The Top-20 Executive Committee will select three people who must not have any ties to any of the competitors as the Counting Committee to count the ballots. Each score sheet for each dog from the three judges will be tabulated. The scores will then be added together and each dog's overall score will be determined. The dog with the highest overall score will be declared the Top 20 winner. Each score sheet for each dog for the People's Choice Award winner will be tabulated. The scores will then be added together and each dog's overall score will be determined. The dog with the highest overall score will be declared the People's Choice Award winner. Announcement of winners will be presented at the Annual Club Banquet.

### TOP 20 SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

<b>Score</b>	<b>Basis for score</b>
9-10 points	Excellent quality dog, Rarely seen, very few minor faults
8-9	Outstanding dog, well above average seen in the ring
7-8	Average show quality dog
5-6	Below average quality, some major faults present
3-4	Poor overall type but still looking like breed
0-2	Totally lacking in merit. 0 if dog has disqualifying fault

#### Sections covered

1. General appearance
2. Size, proportion, substance
3. Head
4. Neck, topline, body
5. Forequarters, angulation, legs, feet
6. Hindquarters, overall balance in angulation
7. Coat quality and presentation
8. Color
9. Gait, overall movement
10. Temperament

#### Descriptions of sections according to breed standard

1. Compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, with no feature exaggerated and his parts in balance. Overall balance of dog
2. Profile, somewhat longer than tall, correct length of leg,

3. Head carried proudly, muzzle from nose to stop slightly shorter than distance from stop to occiput, ears reach no further than nose
4. Neck long and strong. Back visibly level. Overall appearance compact
5. Front legs appear straight, slight crook permitted but not preferred, correct length
6. Strong, muscular, good bend of stifle, angulation in balance with front
7. Harsh to the touch, thick shorter undercoat, long eyebrows, beard and moustache, hair on ears
8. White with any other listed color
9. Gait free at all speeds. Legs tend to converge toward center of gravity as speed increases. Strong rear with hocks facing neither in nor out
10. Happy, extroverted, independent, not shy or lacking in confidence

## **PRIZES**

Each dog entered and participating in the Top-20 Competition will receive a rosette, the size and color to be determined by the Top-20 Executive Committee. The rosette will have Petit Basset Griffon Vendeén Club of America Inc, date, location, and Top-20 Competition printed on the streamers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS**

The Chairperson of the Top-20 Committee shall have possession of the name of the winner of the Top-20 competition and the People's Choice Award winner in sealed envelopes. At the Annual Banquet Dinner, the Chairperson or designee will announce the People's Choice Award winner, the owner(s), the breeder(s) and the handler/agent, and next the Top-20 Winner, the owner(s), the breeder(s) and the handler/agent will be announced. A rosette will be presented to the owners of the winning dogs by any judges of the event that are available to make the presentation, or if none are available, by the Chair(s) of the committee. No dogs will attend the banquet.