

GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2016

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

It is the perfect assistant for the hunter with a gun in territories of moderate size. Fastest of all the Scenthound Bassets, tenacious, courageous, and a little stubborn. It must, from an early age, be accustomed to obeying; its training implies will and punishment, for which he will bear no grudge.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen is derived, like all Bassets, from Hounds of superior size, in this case the Grand Griffon. The first selections were made at the end of the 19th century by the Comte d'Elva who was looking for subjects with 'straight legs'. But it was Paul Dezamy who was especially responsible for fixing the type. He understood that in order to catch a hare, dogs of a certain size were needed. He fixed that size at about 43cm. Today used primarily when hunting with a gun, it is capable of hunting all furred game, from the rabbit to wild boar. A team of Grand Bassets won the 5th edition of the European Cup for Hare.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Slightly elongated overall, it has straight forelegs, the structure of a Basset, and must not resemble a small Briquet. It is balanced and elegant.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Behaviour: Fast, well-voiced, a passionate hunter; courageous, loves bramble and scrub.

Temperament: A little stubborn, but nevertheless well-behaved. It is up to the master to take command.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Without heaviness, convex, elongated and not too wide, well-chiselled below the eyes. Occipital bone well-developed.

Stop: Frontal indentation well-defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Prominent. Nostrils well open. Black and developed, except for white and orange coats, where a brown nose is tolerated.

Muzzle: Square at its extremity, noticeably longer than the skull, very slightly convex.

Lips: Quite pendulous, covering the lower jaw well and giving the front of the muzzle a square profile. They are well-covered with a moustache.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws strongly developed, scissor bite.

Eyes:

Of oval shape, large, dark, not showing white; friendly and intelligent expression. The conjunctiva must not be apparent.

Ears:

Leathers supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair and ending in an elongated oval, well-turned inwards. Low set, below the eye. They must be able to reach beyond the end of the nose.

NECK

Long, robust and well-muscled. Strong at set-on. Without dewlap.

BODY

Really that of a Basset, but avoiding an exaggerated length.

Back: Long, broad, and really straight, never saddle-backed, and starting to arch its junction with the loin; withers very slightly protruding.

Loin: Solid, well-muscled, slightly arched.

Chest: Quite broad and well let down to elbow level.

Ribs: Rounded, never flat nor cylindrical. Thorax slightly less broad at elbow level to facilitate the movement.

Underline and belly: Flank rather full, belly never tucked-up.

TAIL

Thick at the base, tapering progressively, set quite high, carried sabre fashion or slightly curved but never on the back or bent at the tip. Rather long.

LIMBS

Bone structure developed but lean. It should be understood that bone quality is not a question of volume but of density.

Forequarters:

General appearance: They must be straight with a thick forearm and a very slightly defined but very solid carpal joint (wrist).

Shoulder: Long, clean, and oblique.

Elbow: Should be neither too close to body nor loose.

Forearm: Thick.

Carpus (wrist): Wrists should never touch.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Solid and well-directed in the axis of the body.

Hip: Apparent.

Upper thigh: Strongly muscled but not too rounded, bone structure and articulation very solid.

Hock joint: Wide and angulated, must never be straight. Seen from the rear, it should not appear turned outwards or inwards.

FEET

Strong and tight with hard pads and solid nails; good pigmentation of pads and nails is desirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The dog, in action, must give an impression of resistance and ease; the movement must be free and harmonious.

SKIN

Quite thick, often marbled in the tricoloured subjects. No dewlap.

COAT

Hair hard, not too long and flat, never silky or woolly. The fringes should not be too abundant; the belly and inside of the thighs must not be bare; eyebrows well-pronounced but not covering the eye.

COLOUR

- Black with white spotting (white and black).
- Black with tan markings (black and tan).
- Black with light tan markings.
- Fawn with white spotting (white and orange).
- Fawn with black mantle and white spotting (tricolour).
- Fawn with black overlay.
- Pale fawn with black overlay and white spotting.
- Pale fawn with black overlay.

* Traditional names: hare colour, wolf colour, badger colour, or wild boar colour.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 40cm – 44cm (approx. 15½" – 17").

Females: 39cm – 43cm (approx. 15" – 16").

With a tolerance of 1 cm more or less.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Head: Too short; flat skull; muzzle short; depigmentation of the nose, lips or eyelids; pincer bite; light eye; leathers set high, short, insufficiently turned in or lacking hair.
- Body: too long or too short; lacking harmony; topline insufficiently firm, slanting rump.
- Tail: deviated stern.
- Limbs: insufficient bone structure: angulation too straight; hocks too straight; slack in pasterns.
- Coat: insufficiently dense, fine hair.
- Behaviour: Timid subject.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lack of type.
- Prognathism (overshot or undershot mouth).
- Wall eye. Eyes of different colours (Heterochromia).
- Lack of room in the sternal region; ribs narrow towards the lower part.
- Kinky tail.
- Crooked or half-crooked forelegs.
- Woolly coat.
- Self-coloured coat black or white.
- Important depigmentation.
- Size outside the standard.
- Noticeable invalidating fault. Anatomical malformation.

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FCI Standard No 33: GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

FCI Classification: Group 6 - Scenthounds and related breeds.

Section 1.1. Small-sized Hounds.

With Working Trial