

BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN (PETIT)

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Devil in the country, angel in the house, that's our Basset. It's a passionate hunter that must, from an early age, get used to obeying. Perfect assistant to the hunter with a gun on territories of medium size, specialist for rabbit, but no other game escapes from it.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 67]:

For a long time the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen had the same standard as the Grand Basset, only the size was different (from 34cm to 38cm (approx. 13" – 15")). The result in utilisation was not very brilliant, because they were semi-crooked and as heavy as the Grand Basset. That is why that M. Abel Dezamy created a separate standard for them. To define this Hound, let us remember what Paul Daubigné wrote: *"It is no longer a small Vendéen by simple reduction of the height, but a small Basset harmoniously reduced in all his proportions and in its volume, that is naturally endowed with all the moral qualities which presuppose the passion for hunting"*. A team of Petit Bassets won the first edition of France's Cup on rabbit.

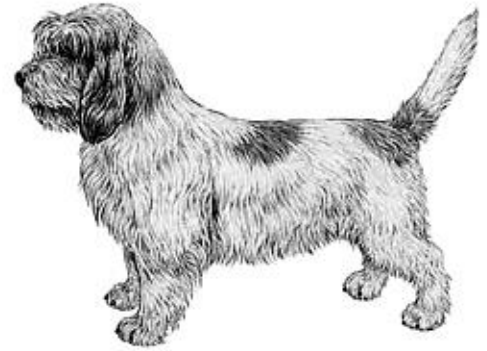


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, short-legged, rough-coated, compact Hound. Alert outlook and lively bearing.

CHARACTERISTICS

A strong, active Hound capable of a day's hunting, with a good voice purposefully used.

TEMPERAMENT

Happy, extrovert, independent, yet willing to please.

HEAD

Head carried proudly. Skull of moderate length, slightly domed, not too wide, oval when viewed from above. Well cut away under eyes. Occiput moderately well-developed. Stop clearly defined. Muzzle square, length from nose to stop slightly less than from stop to occiput. Underjaw strong and well-developed. Nose black, large and prominent, with wide nostrils. Lips covered with long hair forming beard and moustache.

Eyes:

Large, dark and oval, showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. Haw not visible. Long eyebrow hair standing forward, but not obscuring eyes.

Ears:

Supple, narrow, and fine, covered with long hair, folding inwards, ending in an oval shape. Not reaching beyond the tip of the nose. Set on low, just below the line of the eye.

Mouth:

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Long and strong, thicker at the base, well set into shoulders; without dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders clean and well laid back. Upper arm approximately equal in length to the shoulder. Elbows close to body. Forearms straight when viewed from the front and well-boned in proportion to size. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Knuckling over is highly undesirable.

BODY

Back of medium length. Length of body measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock exceeds height at withers at a ratio of approximately 7 : 5. Chest deep with prominent sternum. Ribs moderately rounded, well let down to elbow and extending well back. Level topline. Strong, short, well-muscled loins. Croup well-muscled and of good width.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular with good bend of stifle. Well-defined second thigh. Hocks well let down and turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Hard, tight-padded, not too long. Nails strong and short.

TAIL

Of medium length, reaching no further than the hock when lowered. Set-on high, thick at the base, tapering gradually, well-furnished with hair. Carried proudly, sabre-like when moving.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free at all paces, with good drive. Front action straight and reaching well forward; hocks turning neither in nor out.

COAT

Rough, not too long, and without exaggeration; harsh to the touch, with thick undercoat, never silky or woolly. For show purposes the coat may be tidied, but a natural appearance must be retained. Trimming or styling should be penalised.

COLOUR

- White with any combination of lemon, orange, sable, grizzle, or black markings. Tricolour.
- Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

34cm – 38cm (approx. 13½" – 15").

A tolerance of 1cm (approx. ½"), more or less, is permissible.

***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.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 67: PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN



FCI Classification: Group 6 – Scenthounds and related breeds.
Section 1.3 – Small-sized Hounds.
With working trial.