

Congratulations on adding a Basset Hound to your family!



The Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) has over 700 members who also love this breed. We are available to help you enjoy your new Basset Hound to the fullest!

Where did Basset Hounds come from?

The word “basset” is based on the French “bas,” meaning low. Bassetts were developed to work with hunters, trailing small game, and originated in France. With scenting powers second only to those of Bloodhounds, they can find and follow an old, nearly cold scent to the game.

What does this mean for my Basset Hound?

Bred to follow prey, and living and hunting in packs, the Basset’s basic hunting instincts remain today. Bassetts will follow an interesting scent, and once their nose is down, they are not very aware of their surroundings.

- Exercise your Basset on a leash.
- Provide a fenced yard for safety.
- Spend time with your Basset—you are your pup’s “pack”!



How can I make sure my Basset is happy and healthy?

- Regular veterinary care
- Vaccinations on a schedule suggested by your vet
- Proper diet
- Regular exercise
- Grooming: baths as needed, regular ear care, and keeping nails short.

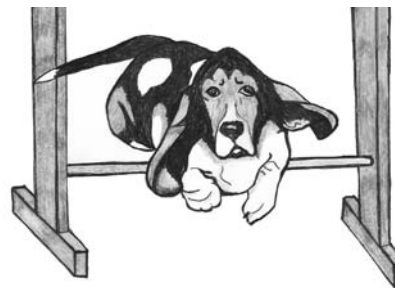
With good care, you can expect your Basset to live 10 to 13 years, some even longer.

Set your pup up for success!

Basic obedience training is a must. The most frequent reasons for dogs to be dropped at shelters are behavioral problems like barking, soiling in the house, and destructiveness. Basic training and building a bond with your dog can help you avoid this sad outcome. Your

Basset wants to please you more than anything. Once your puppy is fully vaccinated, find an obedience class to enjoy with your dog. Kennel clubs often run these classes as a public service—and you’ll meet experienced dog people who can be great resources there!

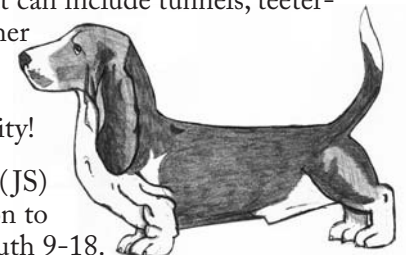
Activities you and your dog will love



If your dog is not spayed or neutered, it can compete in AKC sanctioned Conformation Events (find more information on the AKC website: www.akc.org).

Whether spayed/neutered or not, there are many activities you and your Basset can enjoy together.

- In *Tracking*, dogs follow a scent-line laid down hours or a day or more ahead of time. Dogs are judged on following the trail accurately in this test of scenting ability. The handler moves with the dog, and learns to trust their instincts!
- *Field trials* are tests of Basset Hounds’ ability to follow game scent. Bassetts compete in Brace (2), Trio (3) or Small Pack (4-7) in an elimination process to determine the best hound at following the scent of the rabbit or hare.
- In *obedience* and *rally*, dog and handler follow the judges’ instructions to walk together, sit, stay, retrieve objects, and complete patterns. In *rally*, handlers talk with and encourage their dogs, building teamwork.
- *Agility* is a fast paced sport in which dogs race through a course that can include tunnels, teeter-toters, jumps and other obstacles. Yes, those short Basset legs **CAN** run fast in agility!
- *Junior Showmanship (JS)* is a great introduction to showing dogs for youth 9-18. A very family-friendly activity, JS builds the bond between your child and your dog.



Finally, there are activities that are not part of AKC competitions, but that many dogs and people enjoy:

- *Nosework*, inspired by working detection dogs, is a fun search and scenting activity that is easy to learn, builds confidence and focus, and uses your dog's mind.

- *Therapy dog work* takes well trained dogs into hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes, schools, hospices and disaster areas to provide comfort to



people in need. Now, your dog can earn an AKC Therapy Dog Certificate.

- *Reading with Rover* and similar programs lets children read to dogs in libraries and youth programs, building their confidence as readers.

Helpful Contacts

To find out more about any of these activities, contact the Basset Hound Club of America member listed below for your region. He or she can help you find a regional Basset Hound Club and activities, and be a resource as you get to know Basset Hounds! You can also talk about joining the BHCA, with access to the monthly *Tally-Ho* magazine and other BHCA members.

BHCA Regional Contact

Sue Smyth, Public Education Coordinator
 phone (h) 609-387-3027, cell 609-477-0609
 Basset Hound Club of America
 Email: OldYork2002@aol.com

To Breed or Not

New owners frequently ask, "Shall I breed my dog?" If you need to ask, the answer is probably no. Breeding requires thought, study and effort. One needs to know what health issues may be genetic and can be passed along from parent to puppy. Working with your pup's breeder would be advisable to help you decide.

Responsible, knowledgeable breeders know these problems, select mates to try to avoid them, and conduct genetic tests on the parents when those are available. They have a good understanding of the breed and its health issues, canine structure, movement, temperament and puppy development. Breeding is best approached through instruction by a mentor or experienced breeder.

If you bought your puppy on an AKC Limited Registration, or with a spay-neuter or nonbreeding agreement, talk with the breeder of your puppy about why that decision was made. This will help you understand the complexities of breeding. It will also help you consider if you want to pursue owning a dog that would be a good show and breeding prospect.

The best guide to the Basset Hound: BHCA

The BHCA is your resource for learning more about Basset Hounds!

On our website (www.basset-bhca.org) you'll find:

- The approved breed standard - a word picture of how Bassets should look, move and behave, with illustrations of key features.
- Health information, including genetic disorders.
- Links to activities and contacts.
- Information about Basset rescue and the BHCA Foundation which supports health research and rescues.
- A bibliography of books on Basset Hounds.
- Information on the benefits of joining BHCA and how to apply for membership.



The BHCA also publishes the *Basset Hound Owner's Guide*, all about this fascinating and unique breed's personality, traits, grooming and health care needs, and activities you can participate in.

Complete the review with questions based on the *Owner's Guide*, and you can receive a *Certificate of Completion*.

The *Basset Hound Coloring and Activities Book* for kids helps teach children how to care for a Basset Hound. Copies of both of these can be ordered, or downloaded at:



www.bassethounduniversity.com



Thank you, Kim Trumbull, for Basset illustrations and Terri Ralenkotter for the BHCA logo.

ORDER FORM

Please send me...

- Basset Hound Owner's Guide (\$18.00)
- Basset Hound Coloring and Activities Book (\$10.00)
- Official Illustrated Standard of the Basset Hound (\$10.00)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send order form to: Mrs. Susan Smyth, 1101 Old York Road, Burlington, NJ 08016-3831, or Email: OldYork2002@aol.com
 Make check payable to BHCA-BHU.