

*Congratulations on your new*

# Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen

*The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America welcomes you to the world of owning a purebred Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen.*



Usually called a PBGV or Petit for short, this is a rugged, active, bold and exuberant small hound. 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!

## History of the breed

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, one of many small varieties of French hounds, is of ancient descent. His origin can be traced back to the sixteenth century to the Grand Griffon Vendéen, his larger, more powerful ancestor. His name reveals much about him:

- **Petit:** small
- **Basset:** low to the ground
- **Griffon:** wire coated
- **Vendéen:** the area of France where he originated

This small hunting dog has an intriguing appearance and charming personality. But it is important to remember that the PBGV is, first and foremost, a hound developed to hunt game by scent. Furthermore, his physical evolution is directly related to the environment and terrain of the western coast of France, the Vendée region, which is characterized by thick underbrush, rocks, thorns and brambles. This difficult terrain demands a hardy, alert, bold, determined, intelligent hunter with both mental and physical stamina.

The PBGV is independent, curious, intelligent, and inventive. They should be trained with positive reinforcement. PBGVs are very independent and determined, traits that were useful when hunting rabbits in thick brush and brambles. A PBGV is not a guard dog and will greet everyone with a wag of the tail and complete confidence.



While "Basset" is part of the PBGV's name, the PBGV is not related to the more familiar Basset Hound. He is instead descended from the larger, more powerful Grand Griffon Vendéen. Compared to the Basset, a PBGV is a lighter, smaller-boned dog and is much more active and agile. He should never be mistaken for a hairy Basset Hound. The breed standard calls for a PBGV to stand between 13 to 15 inches at the shoulder at one year of age. As adults they should weigh between 25 and 40 pounds. PBGVs are white with any combination of lemon, orange, black, sable, or grizzle markings, which provide easy visibility when hunting in the field.

The American Kennel Club recognized the PBGV breed in 1991. Currently, PBGVs are successfully participating in obedience, agility, tracking, flyball, hunt trials and freestyle obedience competitions, as well as working as therapy and search-and-rescue dogs. Their success in the show ring and performance events complement recognition of the PBGV as a versatile dog that is an engaging pet for more active families.

The complete AKC breed standard is available on the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America Web site, [www.pbgv.org](http://www.pbgv.org), under Breed Info.

## Fitting into the family

Most PBGVs are not couch potatoes and require activity to keep them occupied. Otherwise, the "good voice, freely used" that is described 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. A PBGV will follow his nose into trouble if permitted. PBGVs are best suited to active, experienced dog owners 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, providing 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. Altered dogs can participate in performance events including obedience, rally obedience, agility and tracking.



Training and participation in such events with your dog is good for both the dog and for you.

A correct harsh coat requires a thorough weekly comb out to stay in condition, and prevent matting (more often if the coat is soft). Hair may need to be neatened up in front of the eyes. Ears require regular cleaning and the hair removed from the ear canals to prevent ear infections. A close relationship with your breeder can help you manage the health of your PBGV. With proper veterinary care, regular exercise, and a balanced diet, the life expectancy of a PBGV is 12 to 14 years.

If a day should come when you can no longer keep your PBGV (for whatever reason: divorce, moving, personal health crisis, death in the family, etc.), the PBGV Club of America urges you to avoid taking your dog to an animal shelter. First contact the breeder of your dog. If that is not successful or you cannot locate the breeder, contact PBGVCA Breed Rescue. See the PBGVCA web site, [www.pbgv.org](http://www.pbgv.org).

### 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

### Resources . . .

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America  
[www.pbgv.org](http://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](http://www.pbgv.org) or by mail from  
Susan Smyth, PBGVCA Public Education Coordinator  
1101 Old York Road, Burlington, NJ 08016  
(609) 387-3027 oldyork2002@aol.com

More information related to Public Education can be found at the PBGVCA web site. Public Education is listed under Breed Info or enter "Public Education" in the search box found on every page.

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.

The PBGV is generally a healthy and carefree breed. Hypothyroidism, glaucoma, retinal folds, persistent pupillary membranes, hip dysplasia, epilepsy, and patellar luxation have been reported but are not common. Be sure to talk to your dog's breeder about all possible health risks and maintain a close relationship throughout the dog's life so the breeder can share his or her wealth of experience as your PBGV matures. PBGVs are a CHIC breed. See [www.caninehealthinfo.org](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org). Each CHIC breed has recommendations for specific health evaluations. While the conditions are rarely a cause for concern, for PBGVs the recommended evaluations are: OFA evaluation for hip dysplasia and CERF evaluation for eyes.

### The PBGV Health and Rescue Foundation

The PBGV Health and Rescue Foundation is a non-profit charitable corporation formed to promote the welfare of the breed. It promotes and funds research into the health, care, and breeding of PBGVs as well as promoting through educational means the proper care of the breed and providing funding for the rescue of PBGVs if they should be neglected or abandoned. Information about this worthy organization can be found at [www.pbgvfoundation.org](http://www.pbgvfoundation.org).



*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 Skerit, 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](mailto:ksteidel@aol.com)

*Saber Tails*, The official quarterly magazine of the PBGV Club of America. For information see the PBGVCA web site under Club Info.

American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10010, [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)