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The Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.*



DISCOVER THE BASSET HOUND!

A Guide To This Fascinating Breed

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Quick Tip:

This guide includes a history of the breed, personality and physical traits of the Basset Hound, tips on how to purchase a puppy, Basset Hound rescue information, Basset-proofing your home, health and grooming information and so much more. Read *The Basset Hound Owners Guide* available on the BHCA Website for more complete information on the Basset.

ORIGIN OF THE BASSET HOUND

What is a Basset Hound?



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The Basset Hound is a long, low, scenting hound of French ancestry. His many admirers consider him to be among the most beautiful and unusual of all hounds, his dignified look owing in great part to a large, majestic head adorned with long, velvety ears, a wrinkled brow and dark, soulful eyes. The Basset Hound remains one of the most easily recognizable of all dog breeds.

The Basset Hound originated in sixth-century France, a country known for its

many strains of hounds. Most strains had a tall version as well as a short-legged size under sixteen inches, which were called *basset* (*bas* in French means low-set). Both the Basset Hound and its long-legged cousin, the Bloodhound, are thought to be descendants of the famed St. Hubert hounds.

St. Hubert, a churchman, was the patron saint of the hunt, who set out to develop a new strain of hound, which looked similar to today's Bloodhound. Many authorities feel the Basset was a result of a mutation in the St. Hubert strain. This genetic deviation produced a short-legged, dwarfed hound, whose slower movement and low-set form was to prove useful for hunters on foot in search of small game.

With his long ears helping to stir up the scent, packs of Bassets were used to drive small prey, such as rabbit and hare, from dense undercover into open terrain where hunters could move in for the kill with spears, nets or clubs. The sport of pack hunting with Basset Hounds continues to this day in France and England.

Quick Tip:

To learn more about the history of the Basset Hound, visit Basset Hound University Breeders School and read ***Basset Hound, A World History*** by well-known Basset Breeder, R.W. Frederiksen.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASSET HOUND

The Basset Personality

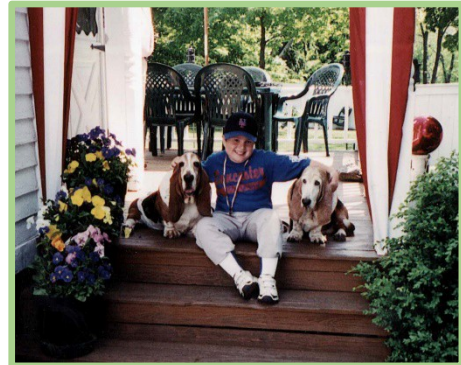
Despite a deliberate, unhurried manner and captivatingly clownish demeanor, the Basset Hound possesses great intelligence and what may often be viewed as stubbornness may more appropriately be attributed to an innate ingenuity.

In fact, the Basset excels at getting his way, from demanding a tasty morsel at the table to hurling his hefty 65 pounds into your lap! His overly long body, short legs and delightful wrinkles become a kaleidoscope of amusing expressions, all cleverly orchestrated to win us over. And win us over he does. Gentle and sociable in nature, the easygoing Basset Hound is loyal to master and family, devoted to children and mild-mannered and friendly towards other animals.



PERSONALITY & PHYSICAL TRAITS OF THE BASSET HOUND

- **Calm, good-natured and affectionate.** Gets along well with people and other dogs and pets. Good with children. Loves to be a lap dog. Not a good guard dog.
- **Sensitive and determined nature.** A Basset takes punishment and reprimands to heart. Can be conveniently hard of hearing.
- **Pack mentality.** A single Basset may not do well left alone for long periods. For working owners, the company of another dog is the next best thing to having you there.
- **A scent hound.** The Basset was bred to trail game. His keen nose can lead him into dangerous situations such as the path of a speeding car or an unfenced swimming pool. The Basset is safest in a secure, enclosed area.
- **Relatively low activity level.** Healthy, trim Bassets have good energy levels, but they are also content to snooze away the afternoon in a patch of warm sun. Although this laid-back nature makes them desirable house pets, their weight must be kept in check. A daily walk with your Basset is recommended.
- **A large, hefty dog, possessing more bone for its size than any other breed of dog.** Although Bassets are low to the ground, they are not small dogs, with most ranging from 45 to 70 pounds. The average person will have a difficult time lifting an adult Basset Hound.
- **A smooth-coated dog.** A wash-and-wear dog who may be bathed as needed. Over bathing will strip the natural oil in this hunting hound. Bathe judiciously. Bassets are either tri-colored (a combination of black, white and tan) or red-and-white (a lighter red-and-white may be called lemon-and-white). Coat colors are distributed over the body in no particular pattern.
- **Growing puppies have special needs.** Until they are a year old, Basset puppies should not go up and down stairs or be allowed to jump on and off elevated objects such as couches, beds or porches. The joints of this heavy-boned breed are still forming and excessive stress or strain may cause permanent injury. After a year of age, these activities, within reason, are usually not harmful to your Basset.
- **Short legs may mean a needed boost!** Many, but not all, sturdy, low-slung Basset Hounds may require assistance getting into a car. The unique, low-stationed Basset



does not excel at jumping.

- **Long ears and droopy eyes need cleaning. Nails need trimming.** *The long ears of a Basset do not allow good circulation of air and can become infected if not kept clean. Owners should clean their dog's ears once a week. The Basset's droopy eyes should also be kept clean of debris and nails trimmed once or twice monthly.*

Quick Tip:

To learn more about the care of the Basset Hound, visit Basset Hound University Owners School and read the ***Basset Hound Owners Guide*** available in the Owners School.



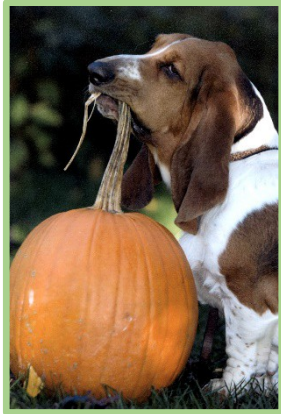
IS A BASSET HOUND THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

Before making the decision to purchase a Basset Hound, ask yourself the following questions:

- If you have been accustomed to dogs with high energy levels, will you be happy with the calm, even temperament of the Basset Hound?
- Bassets do not make good jogging companions and are not the best dog with which to have a game of catch. Will the Basset fit your lifestyle expectations?
- Because of their long ears, low-slung structure and hefty size, Bassets have special needs, including needing their ears cleaned weekly. Will you enjoy meeting these needs?
- Because they possess a hunting instinct, Bassets tend to roam and should be kept in a secure, fenced area. Are you able to provide this type of environment for your Basset?
- A single Basset may not do well when left alone for long periods. Will you have the time to give your Basset a great deal of attention and affection?
- The friendly, easy-going personality of the Basset makes him a poor guard dog. Is this acceptable to you?

If you have answered yes to the above questions then a Basset Hound may be the right dog for you.

HOW TO FIND A GOOD BASSET HOUND



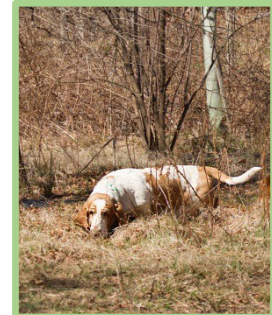
The best place to obtain a well-bred Basset Hound is from a reputable breeder. The key here is “reputable”. At all costs, avoid backyard breeders and puppy mills, who work with poor quality bloodlines which may be genetically prone to a host of health problems.

Backyard breeders and puppy mills are only interested in making money, frequently advertising in local newspapers or selling entire litters to pet stores for resale. It is recommended that you avoid shopping online.

How to distinguish reputable breeders from backyard breeders and puppy mills

Reputable breeders:

- Are members of The Basset Hound Club of America, Inc. (BHCA) or a regional Basset Hound breed club (refer to the Directory of Basset Hound Breed Clubs) and believe in working towards improving the conformation and performance of the Basset Hound. **BHCA members are guided by a Code of Ethical Conduct.**
- Ask many questions of prospective owners in order to ensure their puppy is going to a good home.
- Unless other arrangements are made, usually require that the pets they sell be spayed or neutered.
- Often compete with their Bassets in conformation, obedience, rally, agility, field trialing or tracking.
- Stand behind the health of their puppies.
- Will want to be contacted if a puppy they bred must be placed in a new home.



FINDING and CONTACTING A REPUTABLE BREEDER

1. Attend dog shows and talk to breeders, handlers and other owners who may be able to give you referrals on obtaining a healthy, happy puppy.
2. Refer to Basset Hound breed publications like the TALLY-HO, official newsletter of the Basset Hound Club of America

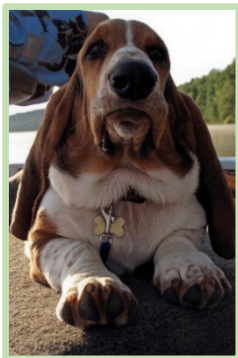
Ask your veterinarian or people in your local dog club or training center if they know of reputable AKC Basset Hound breeders in your area.

USEFUL CONTACTS IN HELPING YOU FIND A BASSET HOUND

By touring the **Basset Hound Club of America** website you will find several valuable resources which will guide you in your search for a Basset Hound.

Visit the Find A Basset section on the homepage. The dropdown menu will allow you to:

- Consult the BHCA **Breeder Directory** for a state-by-state listing of BHCA Member Breeders.
- Consult the **BHCA Member Clubs** for additional contacts in your area.
- Consult the **Litter Announcements** for puppies which may be currently available.
- Consult the **Public Education Chair**, Sue Smyth, for Breeder Referral. 609-387-3027, OldYork2002@aol.com



Refer to Basset Hound breed publications like the TALLY-HO, official newsletter of the Basset Hound Club of America

You might also attend dog shows and talk to breeders, handlers and other owners who may be able to give you referrals on obtaining a healthy, happy puppy.

Ask your veterinarian or people in your local dog club or training center if they know of reputable AKC Basset Hound breeders in your area.

You might also visit **The American Kennel Club (AKC)** - www.AKC.org for more information about finding a puppy.

When you contact a BHCA member or breeder referral volunteer via email about purchasing a Basset Hound, please include your full name, address, and telephone number. Please also include a brief description of your circumstances (number of children, house or apartment, own or rent, previous dog ownership experience, do you want a pet, show basset, and/or a performance basset, male or female, puppy or adult, etc).

Many BHCA members do not want their names listed on the web-based roster, but they do have a listing on the official breeder referral list.

Quick Tip:

To learn more about finding the right Basset Hound for you, visit **Find a Basset** on the BHCA Website.

QUESTIONS BREEDERS MAY ASK BUYERS

Familiarity with owning dogs ensures a higher success rate in placing a puppy in a new home. It is a particular “plus” if a perspective buyer has had the experience of owning a unique breed like the Basset Hound.

Why do you want a Basset Hound?

It is important to determine if the relaxed, low-slung Basset Hound will be the right choice for a buyer. This short-legged breed, for example, is not the best choice for an avid jogger or person who wants to play a game of catch with their dog.



Do you have a fenced backyard?

Being a scent hound, Bassets tend to roam and may become injured or lost. Chaining a Basset (or any breed) to an outdoor dog house or tree is considered inhumane as well as dangerous.

Where will your new puppy live?

The friendly, affectionate Basset Hound craves the companionship of other animals or people. It will be happiest in the house where it can be cared for by a loving family (continually available to address its needs).

How long will the puppy be alone during the day?

Breeders are reluctant to place a Basset puppy in a home where it will be alone for excessively long periods. The companionship of another dog or cat will go a long way in providing companionship for a new dog.

Are you willing to spay or neuter a pet Basset Hound?

Spaying or neutering is usually required by responsible breeders who wish to protect their valuable bloodlines.

Can you afford not only the purchase price of this pet but also the maintenance?

New owners need to be aware of how much it costs to keep their pet healthy and well taken care of. Keep in mind the cost of vet care, shots, monthly heartworm preventative (such as Heartgard), monthly flea/tick medication (such as Frontline) and nail trims.

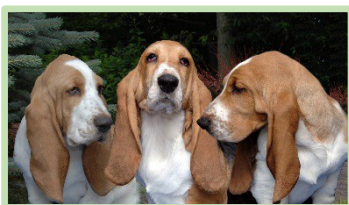
Is the decision to purchase a Basset Hound a unanimous one in your family?

Bassets that go into a family situation where not everyone wanted this unique breed may start out with a couple strikes against them.

QUESTIONS TO ASK A BREEDER

How long have you been breeding AKC Basset Hounds?

Good breeders have usually been breeding for a minimum of 5 years.



Do you belong to the Basset Hound Club of America or a BHCA Member Basset Hound Club?

Membership in these clubs involves working within a code of ethics which helps give credibility to a breeder.

What types of activities do your dogs participate in?

Most breeders show their Basset Hounds and may participate

in showing, obedience, agility, tracking, field trialing, hunt performance competition.

Do you have any puppies available, and if not, when do you plan another litter?

If they have puppies available, the majority of breeders will put your name on a waiting list. Other breeders whose lists are full are usually more than willing to refer you to reputable breeders in their area.

What kind of warranty do you offer?

Most breeders will guarantee the health of a puppy for a specific period of time and if something goes wrong will offer to replace the puppy with another one or give a full refund. Warranties differ with each breeder. (Read the Warranty carefully and ask questions before purchasing your Basset.)

What type of paperwork is provided and will it include proof of vaccinations and worming?

Breeders should provide a Bill of Sale, a contract detailing the conditions of the sale and a copy of the puppy's health record. Breeders may use a "limited registration" which will prevent any offspring from being registered with the AKC.



NEVER BUY A BASSET FROM A PET STORE!

- Pet store Basset Hounds come from backyard breeders and puppy mills. Most likely, you will not know who bred your dog or have anyone to contact if you have questions or a problem.
- The health of pet store Bassets is always at risk because they were not bred by knowledgeable breeders devoted to improving the health and appearance of the Basset Hound. Pet store puppies are separated from their mothers at too early an age and usually do not have the chance to develop healthy bodies and temperaments. In fact, pet store Bassets often become seriously ill and end up costing their owners hundreds and even thousands of dollars in veterinary expenses. Pet stores do not guarantee the long term health of a puppy.
- Most pet store Basset Hounds are smaller than those from reputable kennels and often lack the majestic wrinkled head and expression that define the Basset Hound. In fact, they may look more like Beagles than Basset Hounds.
- Despite the inferiority of the dogs they sell, pet stores usually charge as much, if not more, than reputable breeders of quality Basset Hounds.

No matter how impatient you or your children are to get a Basset Hound, it is always better to wait, even a few months, and get one from a good breeder!!

Quick Tip:

The BHCA maintains a list of Member Breeders and Clubs, available referral service and Litter Announcements. Be sure to visit the "Find A Basset" section on the home page for further information.

ADOPTING A BASSET RESCUE DOG

Basset Rescue groups are devoted to finding homes for Basset Hounds that have been abandoned or given up by their owners. Many of these Bassets end up in local humane shelters and unless suitable homes are found for these animals, they are destroyed. For this reason, Basset rescue groups have been formed in many parts of the country and local Basset breed clubs may support a Basset Rescue group which tries to find new families for these abandoned Bassets.



Advantages of Adopting a Basset Rescue Dog

1. Many people find joy and pleasure in giving a “new home” to a dog that was deserted by its former owners.
2. Most Basset rescue dogs are adults and many are already housebroken as well as spayed or neutered.
3. Rescue dogs are often an alternative for a loving family who truly wants a Basset Hound but may not be able to afford the price of a new puppy from a breeder.

Disadvantages of Adopting a Rescue Dog

In some cases rescue Bassets have been abused and severely mistreated by their former owners. The adoptive family may therefore need to be specially understanding and spend more time helping their new friend fit into its new home. Many rescue Bassets may be timid or shy until they have had a chance to adapt to their new surroundings. With love and patience, most of these Bassets blossom into endearing pets.

Quick Tip:

The BHCA maintains a list of BHCA approved Basset Hound Rescue Groups. These groups meet a standard of excellence prescribed by the BHCA. An approved rescue group will be able to assist you in finding a Rescue Basset which will fit in with your home environment. Be sure to visit the Rescue link in the “Find A Basset” section on the home page.

SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A MALE OR A FEMALE?



Unlike more aggressive breeds like Rottweilers or German Shepherds, there is relatively little difference in temperament, activity or trainability between a male and female Basset Hound. Both make excellent companion pets. Females (bitches) which are not spayed go into season (or heat) approximately every 6 months. Bitches also tend to weigh on average about 10 pounds less than males.

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

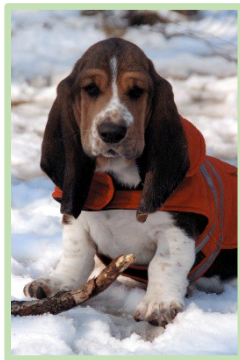
If you purchase a companion pet puppy from a reputable breeder it is usually with the requirement that females will be spayed and males neutered. This prevents adding to the huge over-population of unwanted dogs in today's society. Spaying and neutering is a win/win situation for both you and your Basset. You will eliminate the mess of twice-yearly seasons in your bitch as well as helping prevent unwanted pregnancies, tumors and other female disorders. Neutered males also become more settled and are not tempted by bitches in season. Spaying and neutering do not change the "personality" of your pet.

THE PURCHASE OF AN ADULT VERSUS A PUPPY

For some prospective new owners the selection of an adult Basset may be an appropriate choice. Reputable breeders often have adult Bassets available who have been retired from the show ring or from the breeding program. Former brood bitches who are now spayed may also be placed permanently in pet homes. This type of arrangement can work well for the person looking for a good pet Basset Hound.



PURCHASING A COMPANION PET BASSET



After you have decided that the Basset Hound is the breed for you it will be necessary for you to decide if you want a pet or show quality Basset. The majority of prospective new owners want a companion pet Basset. Breeders usually sell as pets those Bassets that do not come as close to the official breed Standard as other puppies in the litter. Pets may have cosmetic flaws which are not desirable in the show ring. In the eyes of the pet owner these features are rarely seen as flaws. It is also important to understand that pet quality does not mean that a dog is in any way less healthy than a show prospect.

DON'T GET A PUPPY FOR CHRISTMAS!!

Most good breeders do not sell puppies during or around the Christmas holidays. Many puppies purchased at this time end up being returned, resold or abandoned in shelters. Because holidays tend to be busy with people coming and going, this is not a good time to bring a new puppy into your home. A new puppy (or older adopted dog) needs time to rest as well as a consistent, uninterrupted training schedule to be properly house- broken and acclimated to its new home and environment.



Additional holiday hazards include the possibility of puppies ingesting fragile, glass ornaments, tinsel, wrapping paper and ribbons, poisonous holiday plants or chewing on electrical light cords. Any of these situations can lead to serious injury (including thousands of dollars in veterinarian bills) and even the death of your new puppy. Reputable breeders are usually more than willing to hold your basset puppy until after the Christmas holidays. *Remember that getting a new puppy should be a unanimous decision for the entire family.*

The Basset in Agility, Rally and Obedience

Although the Basset Hound has never topped the list as one of the best breeds to use for obedience and agility, there are many Bassets who have done well in these areas. The Basset Hound does not lack for intelligence but rather is characterized by a “hound” mentality which translates into an attitude of independence of thought and action.



Tracking, Field Trialing & Hunting Performance Test

In addition to obedience and agility, the talented Basset Hound also participates in tracking (following human scent) and field trialing (following rabbit scent). If you are interested in tracking, field trialing & the hunting performance test, it is helpful to seek out those who participate in these activities. Information can be obtained from the Basset Hound Club of America.



Web note:

If you have a rescue basset or unregistered Basset, it is possible to compete with them in several different events by securing an ILP number. For more information on this, see www.akc.org.

PURCHASING A SHOW PROSPECT

Good Basset Hound breeders strive to produce dogs that meet the description of the Basset Hound in the official breed Standard. When “show quality” Basset Hounds compete against other Bassets at a dog show, a judge compares each Basset against what the Standard defines as the ideal Basset. The Basset that comes closest to this ideal is the one that wins.



Show prospects are usually sold for a higher price than a pet quality dog. Details relative to the purchase of a show prospect should be clearly spelled out and written down in contract form in order to avoid problems down the line. It is important to specify expenses that the new owners will assume and those that the breeder will assume as well as how puppies may be chosen in a future litter, who will cover whelping costs, veterinary fees, etc., if these are part of the sales agreement.

A couple of points concerning your search for a show puppy:

- The availability of Basset show puppies is usually low, averaging one or two really good puppies in a litter.
- The Basset Hound is a particularly changeable breed in its physical development from puppy to adult. It is safer to purchase an animal that is older (around 6 months) or has already been started to be shown and has a number of wins and points under its belt.

Quick Tip:

When considering the purchase of a show prospect, be aware that it is helpful if you can work with a trusted mentor that has the skills, time and interest in helping you make your way down this path. Consider consulting with your breeder, the Public Education Chair or find a breeder through the member directory to seek guidance. You will find this information on ***Find A Basset***.

THE DECISION TO PURCHASE A BASSET HOUND

Once you have decided that the Basset Hound is the right breed for you and you have located a reputable breeder who has puppies available, the next step may be receiving a set of photos or an invitation to come and see the puppies. Although buyers may sometimes be able to choose between 2 or 3 puppies, it is not unusual for many breeders to select a puppy for each buyer based on what they feel is the best match for what the buyer is looking for and the unique personality of a particular puppy.

MAKING YOUR HOME SAFE FOR YOUR PUPPY

Puppies are curious and will get into anything and everything! Safeguard your new puppy as you would a toddler.

1. Block off access to all stairs, balconies and decks from which a puppy could fall. Swimming pools should be fenced. For the first year, don't let your Basset puppy climb stairs or jump off sofas, beds, etc. His joints are still forming and may become injured.



2. Keep anything toxic such as household cleaners, detergents, etc. away from your puppy. In a garage area, clean up any gasoline spills and be especially careful of spilled antifreeze, which can kill. Dogs seem to love its smell and taste.
3. Keep phone cords, electrical cords and outlets away from your puppy and block access to spaces behind TV's, refrigerators, etc. Remove sharp objects and things that could fall on your puppy.
4. Don't allow access to poisonous plants such as azaleas, poison ivy, mistletoe, holly and philodendron, among others.
5. Never leave small objects or children's toys, which a puppy could swallow, lying on the floor. A puppy will pick almost anything up in its mouth. Even a coin which falls to the floor can be potentially harmful if your puppy swallows it.
6. Eliminate the possibility of your puppy getting its head caught in any type of tight spot which could lead to strangulation. These could be things like railings, trellises or fences. Eliminate exposure to toxic fumes, lead-based paints and rat poisons.
7. Be sure all doors in your house close securely and that visitors are aware of the importance of closing doors. Many a puppy has been killed by a car when someone forgot to close a door or yard gate securely.



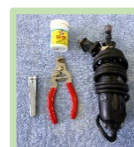
Quick Tip:

Consult the Basset Hound Owners Guide in ***Basset Hound University*** for further information.

THE BASSET HOUND SHOPPING LIST: THINGS TO BUY FOR YOUR PUPPY

1. A crate to fit an adult Basset Hound, any crate approaching the dimensions of 21H"X 24W"X 36L".
2. Bedding for the crate. This can be a blanket or a large soft towel.
3. A 2-quart stainless steel bowl for food.

4. A heavy ceramic bowl for water. 2 or 3 quart size.
5. A high quality puppy food. Your breeder may recommend a particular brand.
6. A 6 foot long web leash.
7. A 17" nylon adjustable buckle collar. Don't use a choke collar on a puppy. It can injure his throat. A choke training collar can be purchased when your dog is older.
8. Nail clippers or nail grinder (Dremel or similar rotary tool)
9. Kwik-Stop (Stops the bleeding if you cut your puppy's nails too short)
10. An ear cleaner. Many are available in your pet store.
11. Cotton balls or Q-tips for cleaning your puppy's ears every week.
12. Puppy shampoo.
13. A hound glove for brushing your puppy.
14. Nutritious puppy treats or biscuits.
15. Toys which are safe for puppies such as a Nylabone and a Budabone.



THINGS TO TAKE WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR PUPPY



When the big day arrives for you to pick up your Basset Hound puppy you will need to take the following items with you in the car:

- a collar and lead
- a crate with a towel or blanket inside
- extra towels
- a container of water and a bowl
- paper towels, a spray cleaner
- several plastic bags in case towels get soiled
- a toy

BRINGING YOUR PUPPY HOME

Following are a few tips to ensure that you give your new Basset puppy all the help it needs in learning to adjust to its new home.

1. Don't have unrealistic expectations. Don't expect your puppy to "know" what to do once you get it home. Remember, your puppy will be lonely the first few days and nights that it is separated from its litter mates and familiar routine. Like children, puppies need to be taught what is expected of them.
2. Decide ahead of time who will be responsible for caring for your puppy. If you have children it is best to divide the duties among them.
3. Crate training should begin as soon as you bring your new puppy home. It is important to understand that crating a puppy is not cruel since all dogs have a nesting instinct and the desire to find a protected spot of their own. The crate becomes your puppy's special "room" where he can feel protected and sleep or relax. Crating will help your puppy adjust to its new home, keep it safe when you are away for short periods and help in the housebreaking process, since dogs, by nature, do not like to eliminate in their dens. Teach your puppy to sleep in its crate the first night you bring him home. It may take him a couple of days to stop missing his littermates. Feeding your puppy in his crate and crating him in the car (the safest form of travel for your pet) will also help him adjust to his new quarters. By outfitting a crate with clean, soft, comfortable bedding and some special toys, all puppies soon learn to appreciate their special "room."
4. Set up a "dog area." Young puppies and even older dogs need their own space where they can get away from children and the hub-bub of a busy family. In addition to crate training your puppy, you may also designate an area such as a laundry room or other room preferably with a tiled floor which can be sectioned off with a baby gate. Puppies that are 2 to 4 months old need plenty of sleep. Your puppy may play for 30 minutes and then need to sleep for an hour or two. Don't stress a new puppy if it shows signs of needing to rest. Put him in his crate or dog area so he can sleep undisturbed.



HOUSEBREAKING: A CONSISTENT SCHEDULE IS THE KEY

- The minute you arrive home with your puppy take him outside to a spot so he can eliminate (use the same spot each time). Do this before bringing him in the house.
- Literally keep an eye on your puppy at all times indoors and outdoors when you first until he is housebroken.
- When you are not able to watch him, confine him to a crate.
- Until your puppy is housebroken, confine him to a crate at night. Do not give in to crying and whining! He will soon learn to accept being crated. At night, take him out one last time as late as you can and wake up as early as possible



to let him out in the morning. Until he is housebroken, be sure his crate is not too big or he may be tempted to eliminate in a corner of the crate. Don't provide water after 6 pm.

- Take a 2 or 3 month old puppy outside to eliminate every 3 or 4 hours. The more consistently you follow a schedule the better.
- Key times to take him out are first thing in the morning, after waking up from a nap, 15 to 20 minutes after eating and after playtime. Do not play with your puppy before he has eliminated.
- Watch for your puppy's signals that he needs to eliminate; the most common are sniffing, circling or going to the door. Take him out the same door each time and to the same elimination space outdoors.
- Allow plenty of time for elimination. Use a key phrase to signal elimination such as "Hurry!" Some puppies need 20 minutes or more. Walking your puppy on a lead can help stimulate a bowel movement.
- When your puppy eliminates reward him immediately with a treat, affection or playtime.
- Maintain a regular feeding schedule and do not leave food down for more than 20 minutes.
- Only reprimand your puppy if you catch him in the act of soiling in the house. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the soiled area to remove any odor.



Housebreaking When Owners Work

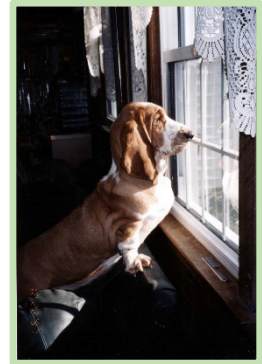
Eight to 12 week old puppies do not have the colon and bladder control to go more than 3 or 4 hours without eliminating. Following are suggestions for working owners:

- Install a doggy door which goes out to a secure fenced area.
- Arrange for someone to let your puppy out every 4 hours.
- If the above arrangement is not possible, set up an elimination area in a confined area or room in your home. Thick pads of newspaper may be used for this purpose.
- Everything must be done to encourage elimination outside.
- As your puppy progresses, teach him to eliminate while on a leash and on different types of surfaces. This will help avoid problems if you and your dog are in unfamiliar surroundings or another house.

SOME FEEDING TIPS

Follow the breeder's instructions for feeding your new puppy. Other tips include:

- Don't feed your puppy table scraps. This turns a dog into a finicky eater and can lead to obesity. Changes in food can also cause diarrhea.
- Don't feed your puppy chicken, pork or fish bones. These can lodge in the throat and puncture the stomach and intestines.
- Stick to a feeding schedule and feed in the same place. Feeding at the same time helps the housebreaking process.
- If you travel with your puppy bring water from home. Changes in water may lead to diarrhea.
- Bassets are prone to obesity. Don't over feed your Basset! Some Bassets seem to "live on air" and require very little food to maintain a proper weight. When you look down on your Basset you should not see his stomach protruding from his sides. You should also be able to feel your Basset's ribs under his skin.
- Don't be concerned if your puppy is "off" his feed during the first couple of days in his new home. Separation from his littermates, combined with adjusting to a new environment can sometimes affect your puppy's appetite for the first couple of days. Call your breeder if the problem persists.



EXERCISING YOUR BASSET HOUND

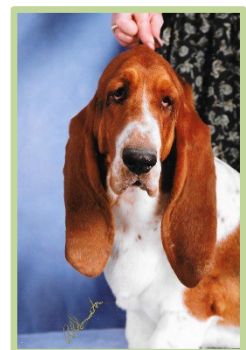
Bassets need only moderate amounts of exercise. Puppies who have daily access to a fenced yard will usually get enough physical activity. Care must be taken not to over-exercise a puppy while their muscles and bones are still forming. Until the age of 4 to 6 months, it is important that puppies be allowed to sleep after their play period or exercise and that children understand the need for their puppy to rest. Because a Basset's short legs do not allow it to easily keep up with someone who is running, a daily walk, with frequent rest stops, is one of the best forms of exercise for you and your new friend.

GROOMING THE BASSET HOUND

The unique structure and size of the Basset Hound mean a little extra care on the part of its owner.

Cleaning ears

The long ears of a Basset Hound do not allow good circulation of air and are therefore prone to infection. Owners need to clean the inside of their Basset's ears once a week with a mild astringent or one of the many ear cleaners available from your local pet store or veterinarian. After the cleaning solution is applied to the inside of the ear, use Kleenex, Q-tips or baby wipes to clean away the dirt. Start cleaning a puppy's ears as soon as you bring him home and be diligent about frequently checking them for parasites such as mites and ticks



Cleaning eyes

With its droopy haw, the Basset's eyes are prone to irritation. Eyes should be checked and gently cleaned whenever necessary.

Cleaning teeth

A Basset's teeth and gums should be kept clean and healthy. Teeth should be brushed and checked for tartar on a regular basis. For those knowledgeable with the use of a scaler, small tartar deposits can be carefully removed at home. Heavy tartar build-up should be removed by a veterinarian.



Cleaning the anal sacs

A Basset's anal sacs, which are located on either side of the anus, should to be checked. Bassets with impacted anal sacs often drag their rear ends on the floor. Sacs are cleaned by holding the dog's tail up and gently squeezing each sac. The smelly contents of impacted sacs will then squirt out. Owners who need assistance with this procedure should ask their veterinarians.

Trimming your Basset's toenails

A Basset's nails need to be kept short to prevent soreness and stress on the feet. Nails should be trimmed every 10 to 14 days (2 weeks). Various types of nail clippers and Dremel (*rotary*) tools are available for this purpose. Your veterinarian will be happy to teach you how to trim your Basset's nails. Some puppies may resist nail trimming but with patience and a gentle approach by their owners they soon learn not to resist this important part of grooming.



Grooming the Basset coat

Brush the Basset coat weekly with a grooming mitt. Shedding coats are best handled with a shedding rake or slicker brush. Gently clean the head and ears with a damp cloth.

Bathing the Basset Hound

Bassets can be bathed on occasion with a dog shampoo. Many owners regularly use a flea and tick shampoo. Thorough rinsing is necessary. To avoid getting shampoo and soapy water inside the ears, cotton balls may be placed inside the ear canals. Also, avoid getting soap in the eyes. Terry cloth towels or an electric hair dryer may be used to dry the Basset.



Quick Tip:

Consult the Basset Hound Owners Guide in ***Basset Hound University*** for further information.

HEALTH CONCERNS FOR BASSETS

Despite its unusual form, and compared with other breeds, the Basset has relatively few inherited genetic diseases.

Panosteitis (Pano, wandering lameness, puppy limp) an inflammation of the long bones often seen in Bassets from 5 months of age to two years. Because dogs outgrow pano, it is not considered a serious health problem. Lameness caused by pano may move from one leg to another and can last from a week to 6 months or more. Bassets with pano should not be exercised until symptoms disappear. Although pano itself is not serious, if a Basset is otherwise injured and the ensuing lameness is mistakenly attributed to pano, lasting harm may result. X-rays can determine the presence of pano.

Von Willebrand's Disease (VWD) A genetic disorder of the blood which may cause moderate to severe bleeding, similar in some ways to hemophilia. Up to 15% of Bassets may carry this platelet abnormality.

Thrombopathia Another blood platelet disorder, also similar to hemophilia. The clinical presence of Von Willebrand's and Thrombopathia are fairly easy for Basset owners to spot because bleeding which cannot be stopped is the symptom of these disorders.

Glaucoma (both closed angle and open angle) This eye disorder has been found in the Basset Hound breed. Symptoms include painful, bulging eyes and sensitivity to light. Consult a veterinarian immediately.

Eyelid and eyelash problems Bassets are prone to ectropion (a turning out of the eyelids), resulting in a dry cornea, and entropion (a turning in of the eyelids), and causing lashes to dig into the surface of the eye. Both conditions can be surgically corrected.

Intervertebral Disk Disease Herniated disks may result in dogs who frequently jump from extremely high heights onto their front limbs.

Allergies Some Bassets may be prone to allergies, dermatitis and seborrhea.

Ear Infections Basset's long ears do not allow sufficient circulation of air. Ear infections often develop because owners are not diligent about cleaning their Basset's ears every week.

Bloat (Gastric torsion) The stomach twists and traps gas inside, causing extreme pain. Unless treated quickly, death may result. Avoid exercise after eating. Placing a very large rock in a Basset's feeding bowl to slow down eating and swallowing air, may help prevent bloat in some cases.

Obesity Obesity is especially harmful for long-backed breeds like Bassets. Spines and joints cannot handle the stress of excess weight.

Quick Tip:

Consult the **Health & Research** portion of the BHCA Website for more information.

PREVENTATIVE HEALTH MEASURES THAT OWNERS CAN TAKE

Buy a Basset Hound from a reputable breeder who will stand behind the health of his/her dog. Pet store and puppy mill Bassets are more susceptible to numerous health problems and genetic defects.

Don't overfeed your Basset. Obesity is harmful to your Basset Hound's heart, spine and joints.

Religiously clean your Basset's ears once a week, trim toenails once every two weeks as well as check for impacted anal glands. Scale teeth every two weeks.

Give your Basset regular heartworm medication and check for fleas and ticks.

Immunize your Basset Hound for distemper, parvovirus, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parainfluenza. Consult your veterinarian for recommendations for which vaccinations are most appropriate for your area.

Do not let puppies climb long flights of stairs or jump off objects such as beds, couches or porches, especially before one year of age.

Never let your Basset wander loose in the neighborhood.

A Basset is safest in a secure, fenced area.

If there is any sign of a medical problem contact your veterinarian immediately.



TRAINING YOUR BASSET

Providing some basic training for your Basset will make it a safer and happier pet. Enrolling in a local obedience class can be a rewarding and bonding experience for you and your new puppy. Owners can check their local newspapers, request information from local pet stores or ask their veterinarians about obedience classes that may be available in your area.



Quick Tip:

For more training information, consult the ***Basset Hound Owners Guide*** and the variety of courses in the ***Activities School*** available on ***Basset Hound University***. Consider consulting with your breeder, rescue group, BHCA member clubs and BHCA members who may be able to make recommendations of classes that may be available in your area. New and exciting events are being created fairly often and you may enjoy those as well.

Quick Tip:

In keeping with the mission of preserving and protecting our beautiful breed, the Basset Hound Club of America suggests that before breeding a litter, that you carefully consider the responsibilities and ramifications of breeding the Basset Hound.

SHOULD I BREED MY BASSET HOUND?

Unless you have purchased a “show quality” basset and have a prearranged future breeding agreement with a reputable breeder at the time you purchase your Basset Hound, it is not advisable to breed your pet Basset.

Basset Hounds that are purchased from pet stores or back yard breeders should not be bred because their puppies will not improve the breed as a whole, which is the goal of a breeder.

Do not breed your Basset for any of the following reasons:

- You love your pet's personality and want to have puppies like him or her.
- You think it would be a good experience for your children.
- You plan to make a money on the litter
- It will provide a nurturing or sexual experience for your pet.

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE THE WRONG REASONS TO BREED YOUR PET BASSET!

A litter should be bred only after much thought, study and research has been done by the prospective breeder and with the help of an experienced breeder who is a mentor. If you do decide to breed your basset be prepared to make the following commitments:

- Have flexible working hours.
- Be able to function on little or almost no sleep.
- Have a least one person to stay with the puppies at all times.
- Be prepared to deal with illness or death of any puppies you place or decide to keep.
- Be prepared to keep puppies you can't place and the possibility of caring for geriatric dogs.
- Be aware that puppies are extremely noisy and require hours of cleaning up after and socializing.
- Be prepared to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars in vet bills if something “goes wrong” with the litter.

THE BASSET HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE QUESTION OF BREEDING YOUR BASSET HOUND

Because the question of whether or not to breed your pet basset hound is so important, below we have printed the Basset Hound Club of America's recommendation (reprint is from “Congratulations on your new Basset Hound!” Copyright BHCA, Inc. 2001):

TO BREED OR NOT

“New owners frequently ask, “Shall I breed my dog?” the answer is complicated, for there is much to consider. Breeding is not a casual undertaking. All breeds have generic defects which can be passed along from parent to puppy. The Basset is no exception. Responsible knowledgeable breeders know these problems and strive to avoid them when selecting mates. “Breeding is a commitment. You must have a good understanding of the breed standard and what health problems exist. You must study canine structure and movement. You must breed only the best and be prepared to spend considerable time, effort and money. Bassets may have several major health problems, some of which can be detected through testing (bleeding disorders, glaucoma) and others to which he may be predisposed including bloat and immune deficiencies. And of course, one must be very careful with temperament, for this trait is also hereditary and the dog or bitch with known generic problems should not be used for breeding.”

“The breeder who encourages the AKC Limited Registration, a spay-neuter or non-breeding agreement, is the one who understands the over-population problem and has concern for the future of the breed.”

Old wives tales regarding the benefits of breeding abound. They are just that - old wives tales. You will have a healthier, happy pet if he or she is neutered or spayed. Your dog's disposition will not change adversely with alteration. In fact, you will have a more polite house pet who will not be apt to wander or leave his mark on your couch or cabinets if neutered. And having a litter is in no way beneficial to the female; in fact, it can lead to problems, even death. It is fact that spayed bitches often live longer and have fewer health problems than unsprayed females.

Breeding dogs is a real responsibility. One must have knowledge of what makes top quality animals, understanding of pedigrees and genetics, and have proper facilities to keep and socialize puppies and to take them back, if the situation demands. Also, financial resources for shots, food and unexpected medical emergencies. The average size of a Basset litter is 6 to 8, though 10-12 also occurs. Pet population is a serious problem in all breeds today. Bassets are being produced by indiscriminate breeders in unhealthy environments and with serious health problems which are likely to cause much financial and emotional stress for the owners. Many dogs are put to death annually in animal shelters, and Bassets share in those statistics. You would not want to contribute to this problem.

“As with all American Kennel Club recognized purebred dogs, there is an approved breed standard for the Basset Hound. The standard of perfection is a word picture of how the Basset should look, move and behave. All responsible breeders strive to produce dogs that conform to this breed standard. Bassets with serious deviation in appearance, structure, movement, and temperament should never be bred. A copy of the standard may be found in several books devoted to the breed, or may be obtained from BHCA.”

The American Kennel Club (AKC) allows altered dogs to participate in obedience, tracking, and junior showmanship and in some non-regular conformation classes.

USEFUL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Books About the Basset Hound

Booth, Robert E. 1999.

The Official Book of the Basset Hound.

T.F. H. Publications, Neptune City, New Jersey.

Braun, M. 1979.

The New Complete Basset Hound. Howell, New York.

Foy, M. & Nicholas, A.K. 1985.

The Basset Hound. T.F.H. Publications, Neptune City, New Jersey.

McCarty, D. 1990.

Basset Hounds. T. F. H. Publications, Neptune City, New Jersey.

Morgan, D. 1998.

The Basset Hound: Owner's Survival Guide.,T.F. H. Publications, Neptune City, New Jersey.

Strahlkuppe, J. 1997.

Basset Hounds: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual. Barrons, Hauppauge, New York.

Walton, M. 1993.

The New Basset Hound. Howell, New York.

Wicklund, B. 1996.

The Basset Hound: An Owner's Guide To A Happy, Healthy Pet. Howell, New York.

Health Care

Carlson, D.G. & Giffin, J.M. 1992.

Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook. Howell, New York.

General Breed Information



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Additional copies of this pamphlet may be obtained by contacting the
Basset Hound Club of America Public Education Chair. **Visit the
BHCA Store to order.**