

GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN

Origin & Purpose

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, often referred to as GBGV, is derived, like all bassetts, from hounds of superior size, in this case the Grand Griffon. The first selections were made at the end of the 19th century by Comte d'Elva, president of the long-haired Bassetts at the time, who was looking for subjects of the Bassetts Griffon Vendéen with straight legs.

In 1907, The Club du Basset Griffon Vendéen was founded and at the first general assembly of the club, Comte d'Elva was elected as President of Honour and Paul Dezamy as President. It was Paul Dezamy, who was mainly responsible for fixing the type. He understood that in order to catch a hare, dogs of a certain size were needed. In 1909, club members accepted Paul Dezamy's revision of the Club du Basset Français breed standard which contained a reference to two sizes of hound but with classification based primarily on crook of leg: *"Two types are recognised. One, from 34cm to 38cm, the most often with semi-crooked legs. The other, from 38cm to 42cm, must always have straight legs."* The smaller type with semi-crooked legs was referring to the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen and the taller type with straight legs was referring to the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen. In 1951-1952 the new separate breed standards were approved, allowing the registration of the two separate breeds, while still allowing the cross-breeding until it was officially banned as of January 1st, 1977.

The structure of the GBGV was designed to hunt rabbit and hare at a fast pace through the bramble, and over the rough terrain of the Vendée area of France. He is a courageous, passionate and broadly skilled hunter who today is used to hunt not only rabbit and hare but also boar and roe deer. He is active, possessing great stamina for a full day's hunt and uses his voice freely while on the trail. Any feature that detracts from function is a serious fault. The GBGV is the fastest of all the basset type scent hounds. He is tenacious, courageous, and a little stubborn.

General Appearance

Well-balanced, strongly built, rough-coated scent hound of friendly nature and noble character. Longer than tall, of medium size with straight legs and deep chest. The breed is longer and taller than the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen but never long and low, nor as long or heavy as a Basset Hound.

Temperament

Fast, well voiced, a passionate, and courageous hunter, willing to tackle bramble and scrub. Somewhat independent and a little stubborn in nature, he is friendly, outgoing, not easily agitated by others and should not be aggressive towards other dogs nor humans.

Size

Height at the withers:

Males – from 40 to 44 cm (15.5 to 18 inches)

Females – from 39 to 43 cm (15 to 17 inches)

With tolerance of 1cm (0.5 in) more or less

Coat

Harsh in texture and straight with undercoat, not too long, never silky or woolly. The fringes should not be too abundant; the belly and inside of the thighs must not be bare; hair from the bridge of the nose fans up and the eyebrows are well pronounced but neither should obstruct the eye. No blunt scissoring, maintaining a casual and rustic appearance. The lips are well covered with moustaches and beard. **Skin:** Quite thick, often marbled in the tricoloured subjects. No dewlap.

Colour

Tri-color: white with any other colors, Bi-color: white with any other color, or Black and Tan. Solid not allowed.

Head

Skull: Domed, it is longer than it is wide, not too wide and without heaviness. Well chiseled below the eyes. Occipital bone well developed. **Stop:** Well defined. **Nose:** Prominent. Nostrils well open. Solid black except in white & orange and white & lemon coats where a brown nose is accepted. **Muzzle:** Square at its extremity, longer than the skull, the bridge of the nose is slightly roman and in profile finishes square at its extremity. **Lips:** Well pigmented, covering well the lower jaw and giving the front of the muzzle a square profile. **Teeth:** Scissor bite with strong and well-developed underjaw. **Eyes:** Of oval shape, large, dark in colour and of the same colour, rim fully pigmented, not showing white. The haw must not be apparent. Friendly and intelligent expression. **Ears:** Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair and ending in an elongated oval, well turned inwards. Low set, below the eye. When pulled forward they reach beyond the end of the nose. Viewed from the side, ears should form a corkscrew shape when the dog is relaxed.

Neck

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

Forequarters

Legs must be straight, well-boned and slightly sloping but very solid pasterns. **Shoulder:** Long, clean and well laid back, slightly prominent. **Elbow:** Close to the body, neither in or out. **Forearm:** Well-boned, wrists (carpus) should never touch. Dewclaws on forelegs may be removed. **Feet:** Strong and tight with hard pads and solid nails, oval in shape; good pigmentation of pads and nails is desirable.

Body

Longer than tall measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks and withers to the ground, well developed, sturdy and broad with deep forechest and prominent sternum. **Back:** Long, broad, level with slight rise over well-muscled loin. **Loin:** Solid, well-muscled, slightly arched, of moderate length. **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. **Flank:** Rather full, belly never tucked up. **Hips:** Wide

Hindquarters

Thigh: Strongly muscled but not too rounded, bone structure and joints very solid. **Hock:** Wide and angulated. Seen from the rear, it should not appear turned outwards or inwards. **Feet:** Strong and tight with hard pads and solid nails, oval in shape; good pigmentation of pads and nails is desirable.

Tail

Thick at the base, straight, rather long and tapering progressively, set quite high, well furnished with hair, carried proudly in a saber fashion or slightly curved but never curled too far over the back or bent at the tip. Deviation of the stern of the tail (straightness from base to tip) or kink in the tail to be highly penalized.

Gait

Movement must be free and harmonious. Front action straight and reaching well forward. Going away, the hind legs are parallel and have great drive. Convergence of the front and rear legs towards his center of gravity is proportional to the speed of his movement.

Faults

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

Disqualification

- Solid colour