



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

Judges Education

What's in a Name?

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

Grand Large (originally 15"-17"; today 15.5"-18")

Basset Low to ground

Griffon Coarse hair- strong coated

Vendéen A region in western France

Pronounced

Grawn....Bah-SAY...Gree-FOHN...VON-day-uhn

The Grand Basset...

A medium sized scent hound, developed to hunt hare over difficult terrain of the western coast of France—the Vendee. The terrain was replete with brush, bramble and rock. A strong determined animal was needed.

The Grand may be hunted solo or in a pack.



General Appearance

- Medium Sized Scent hound
- Well Balanced
- Longer than Tall
- Strongly Built
- Rough Coated
- Noble Expression



The most distinguishing characteristics of this eager hunter are:

- His rough, unrefined outline
- His proudly carried head, long eyebrows, beard, and moustache
- His strong, tapered tail carried like a sabre, alert and ready
- His alert outlook, lively bearing and good voice, freely and purposefully used

Size, Proportion & Substance

- Desired Height 15.5” to 18”
- Longer than tall. Measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks.
- *Never* square nor long and low
- Well balanced; strongly built and well boned without exaggeration
- Built for endurance
- Never clumsy



Adjectives to Remember

- all from Breed Standard

- Compact
- Casual
- Tousled
- Rough
- Unrefined
- Vivacious
- Robust
- Alert
- Lively



Head

- **Expression** -noble with a proud head carriage.
- **Eyes** -large, dark and oval, of the same color, showing no white; haw not visible. Rims fully pigmented.
- **Ears** -supple, narrow and fine, ending in an oval shape. Leathers are covered with long hair. Ears reach at least to the end of the nose. Set on low, below the line of the eye. *Viewed from the side, ears should form a corkscrew shape when the dog is relaxed.*
- **Skull** -domed, not heavy and not too wide; longer than it is wide. Occipital bone well developed.



Head

- **Muzzle** -slightly longer from tip of nose to stop than from stop to occiput. The bridge of the nose is slightly Roman and finishes square. Lips well pigmented, covered with long hair forming beard and mustache.
- **Bite** -scissors bite, level bite tolerated.
- **Stop** -clearly defined; well chiseled under the eyes.
- **Nose** -large, protruding with open nostrils. Solid black except in white/orange and white/lemon coats where brown is accepted.
- **Underjaw** -strong and well developed.



Neck, Topline & Body

- **Neck** -strong and far reaching, thicker at the base, without excessive throatiness.
- **Topline** -from behind withers to rump is level with slight rise over well muscled loin.
- **Body** -well developed, sturdy and broad, with deep fore chest and prominent sternum. Chest reaches to elbows, ribs well sprung extending well back. Loin well muscled and of moderate length. Belly never tucked up.
- **Tail** -reaching to the hock. Set on high, thick at the base, tapering gradually, well furnished with hair, carried proudly *like a saber* or slightly curved but never kinked, carried too far over the back, gay or bent at the tip. Tail is never docked.
- **Feet** -large, oval and tight. Pads firm and solid. Nails strong and short.



Structure

- **Shoulders** -clean and sloping. Well laid back. Shoulder blades approximately equal in length to the upper arm. Withers very slightly prominent.
- **Elbows** -close to the body, turning neither in nor out.
- **Forelegs** -from front, straight and well boned. In profile, set well under body. Dewclaws on forelegs and hind legs may be removed.
- **Pasterns** -strong and slightly sloping.
- **Hindquarters** - well boned, strong and muscular, with moderate bend of stifle and a well defined second thigh. Hips wide. Hocks turning neither in nor out.



Coat

- Harsh and straight with undercoat
- Not too long, fringing not too abundant.
- Never silky or wooly
- Hair from bridge of nose fans up between the eyes to form a single eyebrow that does not obscure the eyes
- No blunt scissoring, maintaining a casual appearance. Hounds should be shown clean.



Color

- Tri-color: white with any other colors, Bi-color: white with any other color, or Black and Tan.
- **Solid color is a disqualification.**



Gait

- Clean, balanced and efficient.
- Free and easy at all speeds.
- 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.



Temperament

- Pack hound
- Friendly
- Not easily agitated by others
- Temperament is happy, outgoing, independent
- A little stubborn, yet willing to please.



Grands Being Grand



Agility



Obedience & Rally



Hunting



Life is Grand...



Griffon Vendèen Hounds

Due to their common roots, to understand GBGV you must know the history of the other Griffon Vendèen breeds. The Briquet Griffon, Grand Basset and PetitBasset were all bred down from the Grand Griffon. Originally GBGV and PBGV were whelped in the same litters and determined to be either one breed or the other based on length of leg and amount of crook in forearm. This is not the case today.



**Petit
Basset**

**Grand
Basset**

**Briquet
Griffon**

**Grand
Griffon**

The Four Griffons Vendéens Breeds



Overall Balance Differences Petit and Grand Basset



Grand
Longer body, longer tail,
longer muzzle, longer
ears, longer legs.



Petit
Compact, only slightly longer
than tall. shorter tail, shorter
ears, shorter muzzle, shorter legs

Petit

Grand





Thank You!
Questions?

