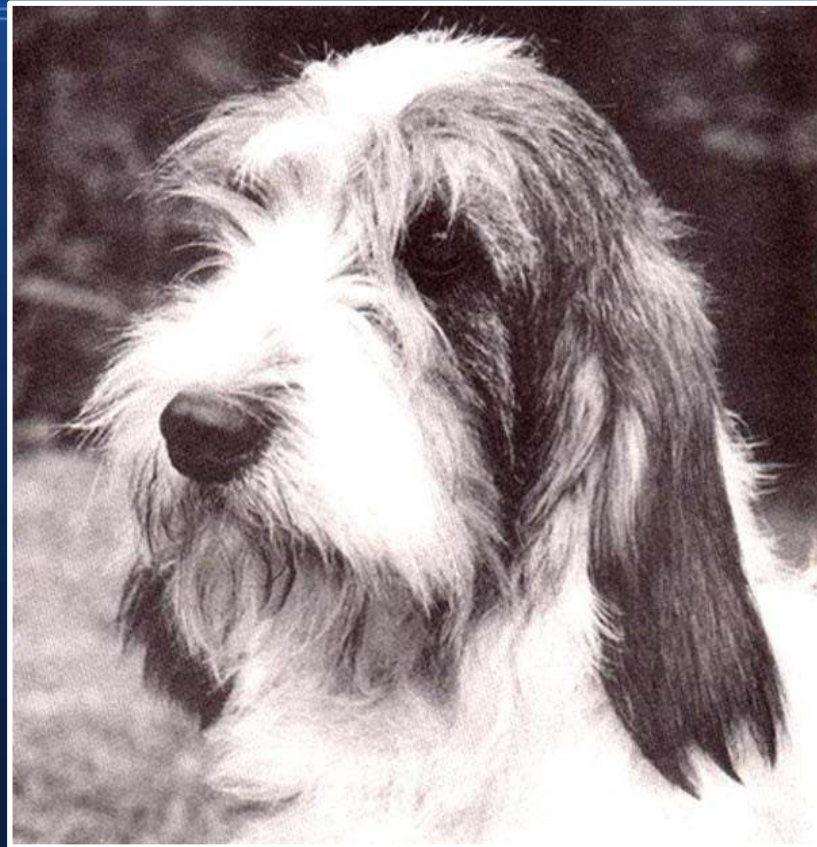




Meet the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



**A Presentation of the Judges Education Committee
of the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America**

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



History • Purpose • Structure • Character

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen





The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen is a scent hound developed to hunt small game over rough and difficult terrain of the Vendéen region of France

What's in a name?

“Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen”

Petit:

Small

Basset:

Low to ground

Griffon:

Coarse hair;
strong coated

Vendéen:

A region in western
France (breed's origin)



Pronounced:

“Puh-TEE Bah-SAY Gree-FOHN VON-day-uhn”

The Basset Hound and PBGV have little similarity



The word **'basset'** means **'low to ground'** in French and therein lies the **only** similarity!

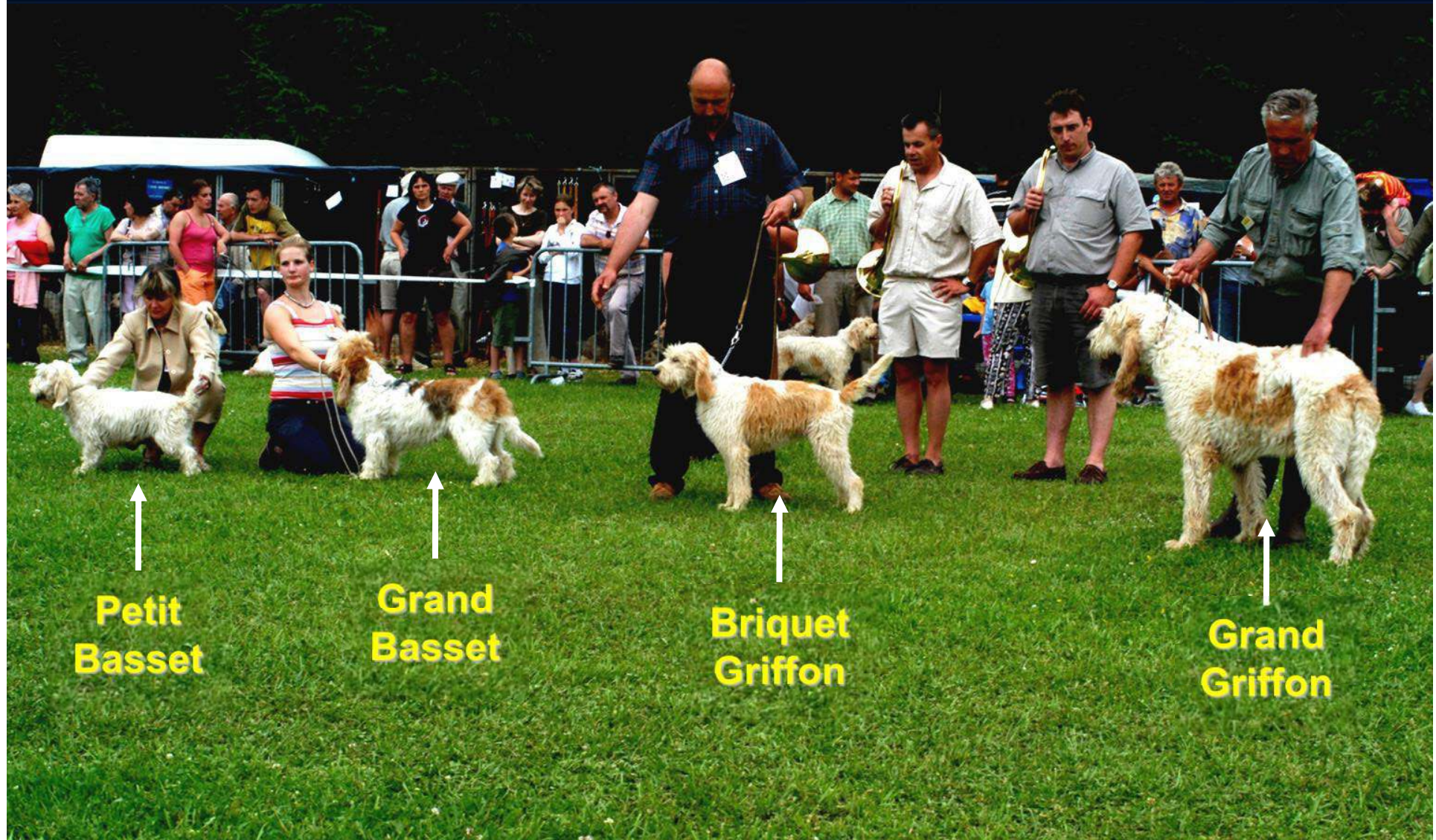
The Vendéen hounds are unique!

Most **French** hounds developed in **three sizes**

The **Vendéen** hound evolved in **four sizes**



The four Griffon Vendéen breeds



↑
**Petit
Basset**

↑
**Grand
Basset**

↑
**Briquet
Griffon**

↑
**Grand
Griffon**

The Briquet and PBGV



Briquet:
Shorter foreface, the
compact body similar
to PBGV but with
much longer legs



A little history ...

Two 'Basset' breeds emerged
from the Vendéen hound ...

At approximately 16 to 17-1/2 inches:
Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



At 13 to 15 inches:
Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Until **1975**, the **GBGV** and **PBGV** were whelped in the **same litter** and determined to be a GBGV or PBGV based on **length of leg** and **amount of crook** in forearm



This is **not** the case today

*Here are the differences that make the **PBGV**
and the **GBGV** separate breeds ...*

GBGV vs. PBGV: Understand the Differences

Over time it was determined that the PBGV was no longer a small Vendéen hound based simply on reduction of leg length, but rather it was a small basset harmoniously reduced in ALL its proportions.



Having been reduced in all its features,
the PBGV is **not** considered achondroplastic

GBGV vs. PBGV: Difference in Overall Balance



PETIT: Compact, slightly longer than tall. **Shorter** tail, **shorter** ears, **shorter** muzzle, **shorter** legs



GRAND: **Longer** body, **longer** tail, **longer** muzzle, **longer** ears, **longer** legs

GBGV vs. PBGV:

Head Differences - Skull and Muzzle



GRAND: Very domed head.
Long ears extend beyond end of
the **longer** muzzle



PETIT: Less dome.
Shorter ears DO NOT
extend beyond the **shorter**
muzzle

GBGV vs. PBGV: Character Differences



**Petits are
ever busy!**



**Grands are
more laid back**



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GBGV vs. PBGV:

Differences in Leg, Body and Tail Lengths



The **Grand**, behind, has a **longer**, straighter leg. The **Petit**, front, has a **shorter** leg that may have a slight crook



Compare the differences in **body** and **tail** lengths of the **Petit**, left, and **Grand**, right

Have you learned?



Which **dog** is the **PBGV**?

Which **dog** is the **PBGV** and
which **dog** is the **GBGV**... and **why**?



Tell me about the two breeds!



Today you may still occasionally find GBGV characteristics in the PBGV.

A Brief History in the United States



Elizabeth Streeter and the Skycastle Pack

The PBGV Standard

The PBGV is a **scent hound** developed to hunt **small game** over **rough and difficult** terrain

Bold and vivacious
in character

Compact, tough and robust
in construction

Alert outlook and a **lively**
bearing



The most distinguishing characteristics of this bold hunter include ... its **rough, unrefined outline.**



The perception of **natural, casual, tousled** will probably always be a matter of educated opinion.

Take a **common sense approach** as you assess the whole dog.



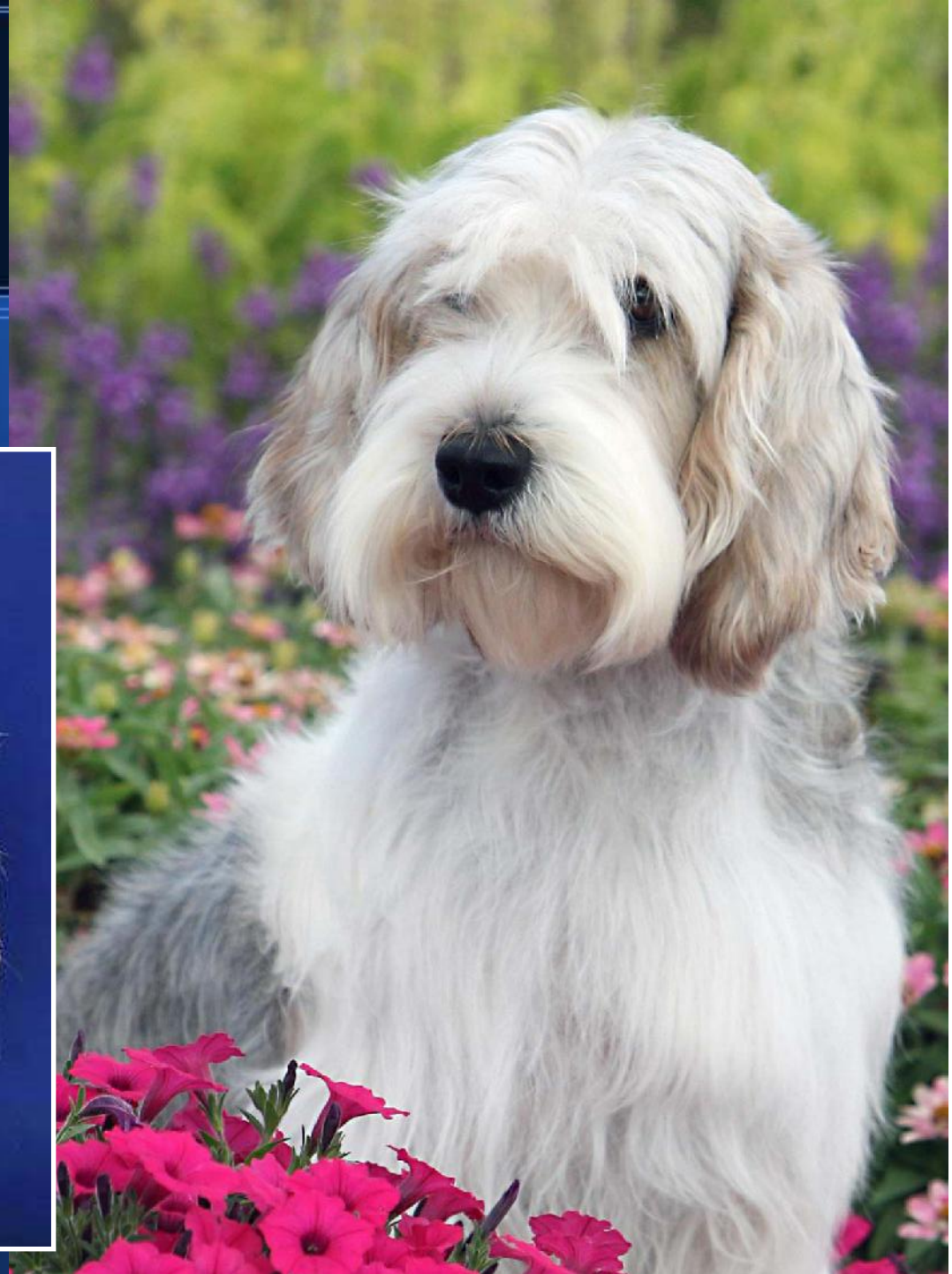
Compact and Casual



Compact and Casual



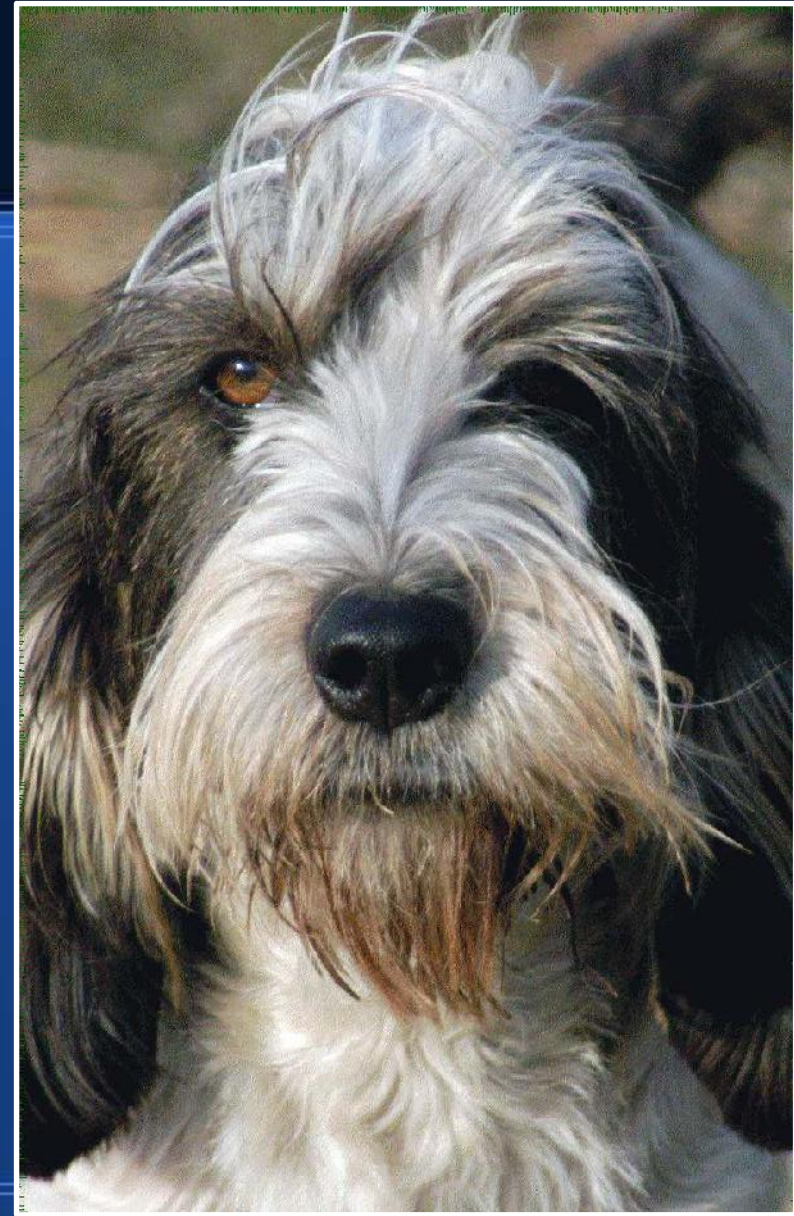
The most **distinguishing characteristics** of this bold hunter also include ... its proudly carried **head**, displaying definitive **long eyebrows, beard and moustache**.



The most distinguishing characteristics
also include ...
its strong, tapered tail
carried like a saber,
alert and in readiness.



The **natural, casual, tousled** appearance of the breed is vitally important ... **as if trimmed by the rough terrain.**



Important to breed type is the compact, casual, rather tousled appearance, **with no feature exaggerated** and **all parts in balance.**



Casual Appearance



Adjectives to Remember from the PBGV Breed Standard

- Compact
- Tousled
- Rough
- Alert
- Robust
- Unrefined



Any **deviation** from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the **extent of the deviation**.

Structural **faults** common to all breeds are as undesirable in the PBGV **as in any other breed**, regardless of whether they are specifically mentioned.



Both sexes should **measure between 13 and 15 inches** at the withers. The body is **somewhat longer than tall**. **Strong bone with substance** in proportion to overall dog.





**Overly- long in
body for ideal
PBGV type**



More compact



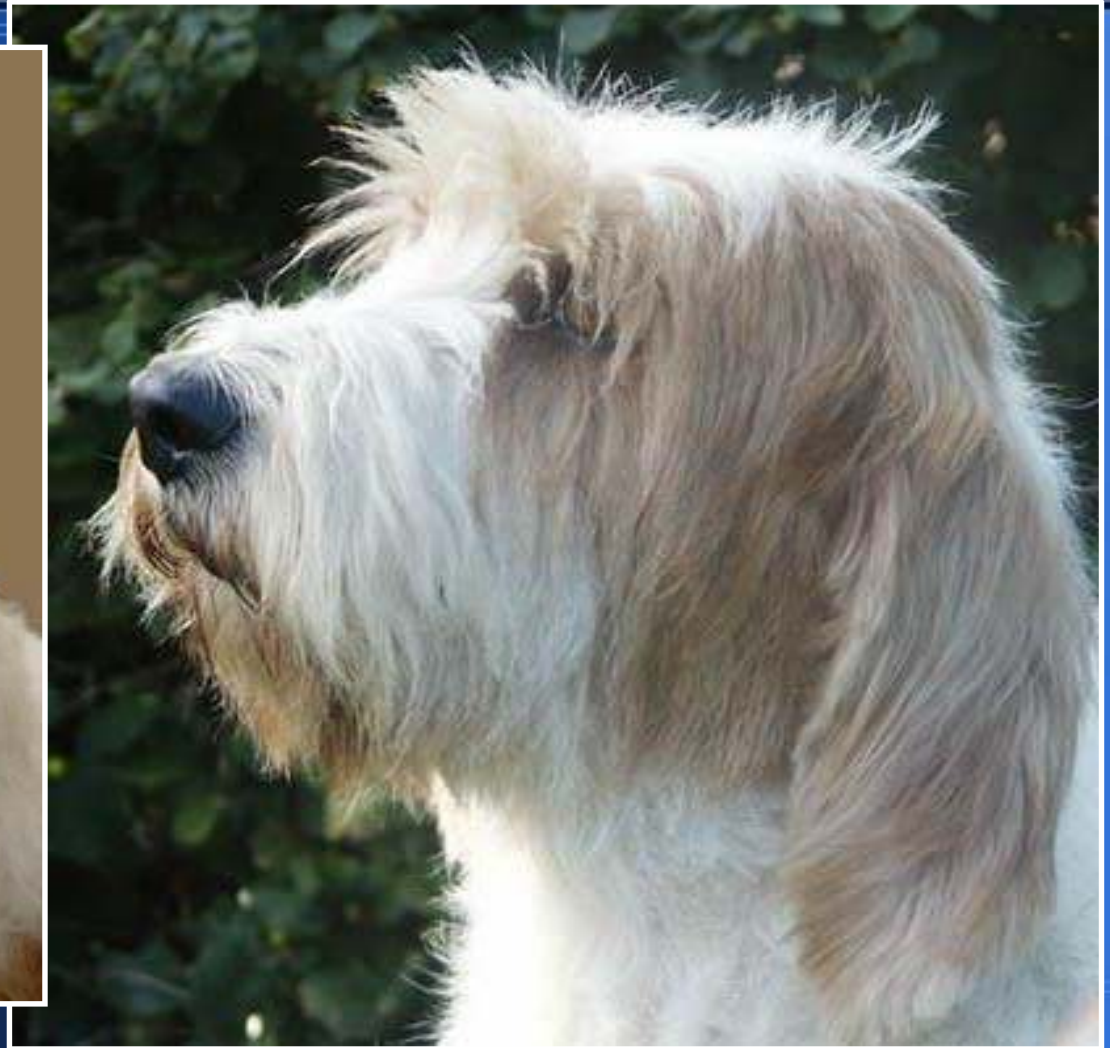
Expression **alert, friendly** and **intelligent**. Eyes **large** and **dark**, somewhat **oval**, showing no white. Eyes surmounted by **long eyebrows**, standing forward but not obscuring the eyes.



Ears supple, narrow and fine,
covered with long hair, folding inward, oval.
Leathers **do not reach the end of the nose.**
Ears **set on low,** below the line of the eyes.
Skull is oval in shape when viewed from the front.



Muzzle from nose to stop **shorter** than from stop to occiput.
Nose is **black** and **large**. Lighter nose acceptable in lighter-colored dogs. Butterfly nose is a fault. **Lips** are covered by long hair forming a **beard** and **moustache**.



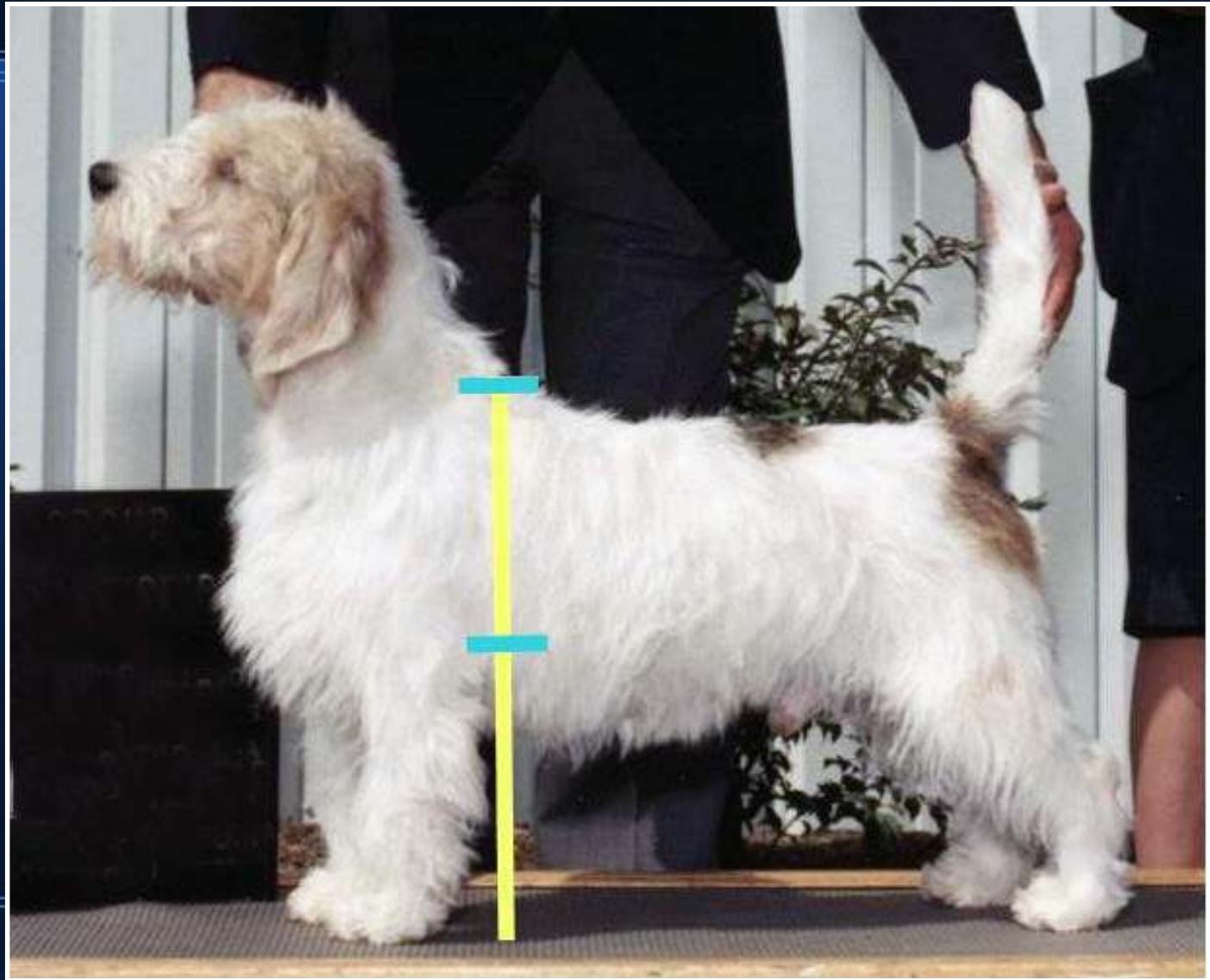
Neck is long, strong, without throatiness, and **flows** into shoulders. **Back** is **level** from withers to croup. **Withers** and **croup** should be **equidistant** from the ground.



Body muscular, somewhat **longer** than **tall**. **Chest deep** with **prominent sternum**. **Ribs** moderately **rounded**. **Loin short**, strong, muscular. **There is little tuck-up**.



The **length of leg** from **elbow** to **ground** should be slightly more than **one half the height** from withers to ground.



It is desirable that the **forelegs** be **straight**, but a **slight crook** is **acceptable**. The leg is **strong** and **well-boned**, never coarse nor weedy.



A small, scruffy dog with white and brown fur is standing on a white towel. The dog has long, shaggy fur and is looking towards the right. The background is dark and indistinct.

Hind Feet must point
straight ahead.

Feet between **hare** and **cat foot**, with hard, **tight pads**.
Nails strong, short. **Pasterns**
strong, **slightly sloping**.

Shoulders clean and **well laid back**.
Upper arm approximately **equal in length** to the **shoulder**
blade. **Elbows close** to the body.



Hindquarters strong, **muscular** with **good bend** of **stifle**. A well-defined second thigh. **Hocks short**, well-angulated, **perpendicular** to ground.



Hips wide, Thighs well-muscled.
Tip of Tail should reach **no further** than the **hock joint**.



Coat is **rough**, long without exaggeration and **harsh** to the touch, with a thick shorter undercoat. It is **never silky** or **woolly**.



The **rough**, unrefined **outline** and **tousled** appearance is **essential**. Any **sculpting**, clipping, scissoring or shaping **is contrary** to breed type. The **coat** should be **clean, neatened** as necessary, but **always** remain **casually disarrayed**.



Casually Disarrayed

Cite the virtues:



Casually Disarrayed



Casually Disarrayed



Color - white with any combination of **lemon, orange, black, sable, tricolor** or **grizzle** markings, providing **easy visibility** in the field.



MOVEMENT

should be **free** at all speeds.
Front action is **straight** and
reaching **well forward**.



Convergence of front and rear legs towards center of gravity is **proportional** to **speed**.



Converges toward a center line but **does NOT single track**.



Movement is **free** at all paces, with **great drive**.
Front action **straight** and reaching **well forward**.
Hocks neither turning **in** nor **out**.



Active hound ... capable of a full day's hunting.



Front action **straight** and reaching **well forward**.
This dog is capable of **hunting all day**.



Coming Back and Going Away



Reach and **drive** should be appropriate to the **individual** dog.



The **PBGV** is a **pack hound**.

Temperament is vitally important.



Remember:

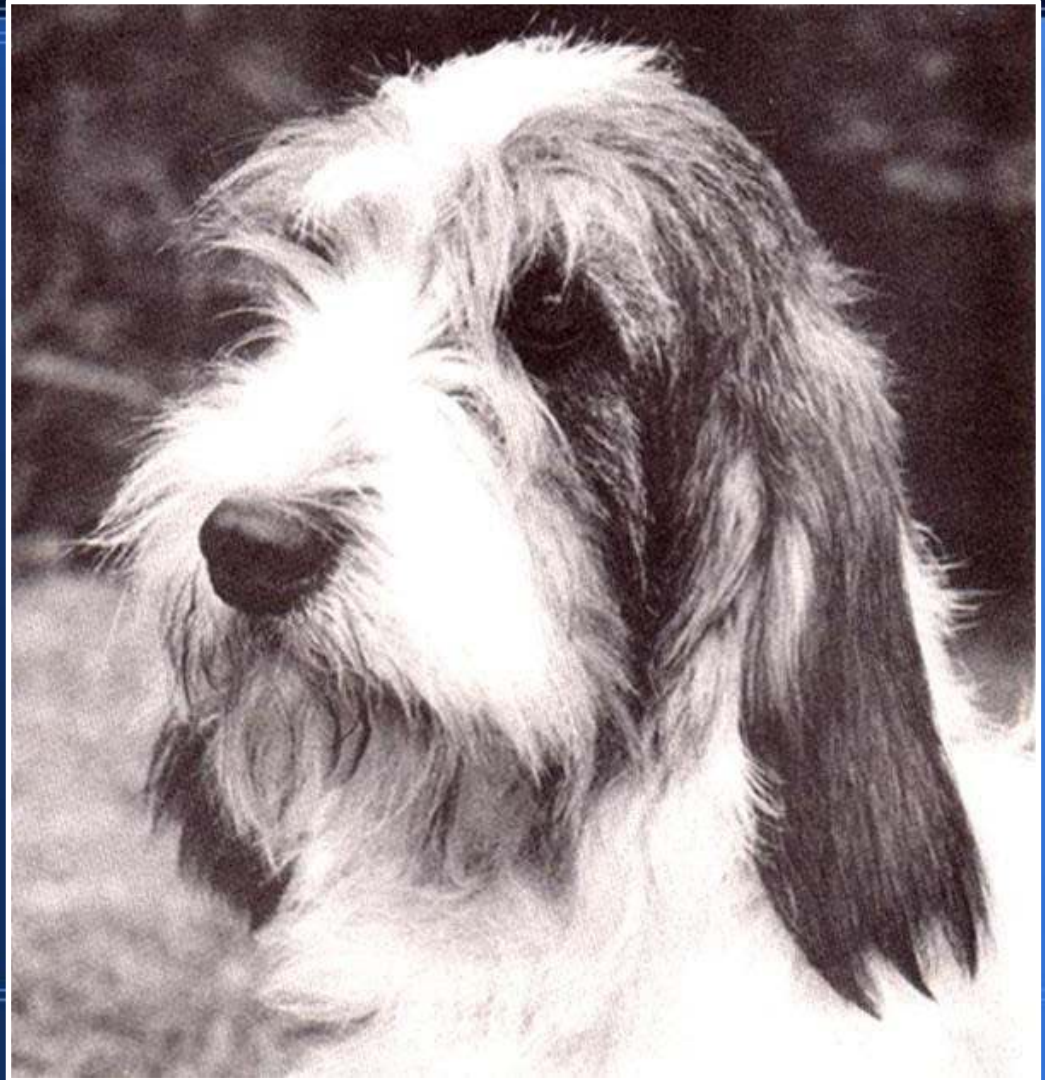
The word
“**cute**” does
not appear
anywhere in
the **breed**
standard.



Let's Review

The head.

- Lovely expression.
- Oval eye; dark, no white showing
- Lovely fan between eyes
- Ear leather just short of end of nose
- Length to width is 2:1





Lovely expression created by:


- **Dark, oval eye**
- **Oval skull**
- **Low-set ear**
- **Eyebrows, moustache, beard**
- **Black nose**



**Nose to stop is shorter than
from stop to occiput.**

**Notice the little fan going
up the muzzle to eyes.**



A fluffy white and tan dog is walking on a green lawn. The dog's head is held up and slightly forward, and its tail is held up and forward. The dog has long, shaggy fur. In the background, a person wearing a red shirt and blue pants is partially visible.

When moving, **head** is
up, not too high but
also **forward**.
Carried proudly

Tail medium length
carried at about **two o'clock**.

Be aware: An **alert** dog may **appear**
to have high-set ears.



Let's Review ...



Neck. Long, strong. Able to carry head proudly or lower to scent.

Forequarters. Shoulders clean and well laid back. Forelegs straight (slight crook acceptable). Well-boned.

Body. Chest deep, prominent sternum. Moderately rounded ribs extend well back. Medium length to backline. Level topline. Strong loin can be felt, but is not always visible.

Hindquarters. Strong, muscular, good bend of stifle. Good second thigh, hocks short.



Tail. Medium length, set on high. Strong at base, tapering regularly, well furnished. Carried proudly like a saber.

Height. Between 13 and 15 inches at the withers.

Feet. Hard, tight pads. Not too long. Nails strong and short.



Coat - Rough, long without exaggeration.

Harsh outer coat with thick undercoat.

Although shown untrimmed (never bluntly scissored or shaped).

Tidied up but not dandified, always casual.



DEVELOPMENT

A balanced PBGV needs leg length at early age to develop proper proportions in adulthood.



8 weeks



4 months



7 months



10 months



2 years old



Correct proportion is important, no matter the age of the dog

The puppy on the right is likely to always be long and low.
It needs more leg.





Balance when stacked.

Overall impression is compact, dog is slightly longer than tall when measured from point of shoulder to buttocks compared to measurement from withers to ground.

Quality dogs have faults and virtues.

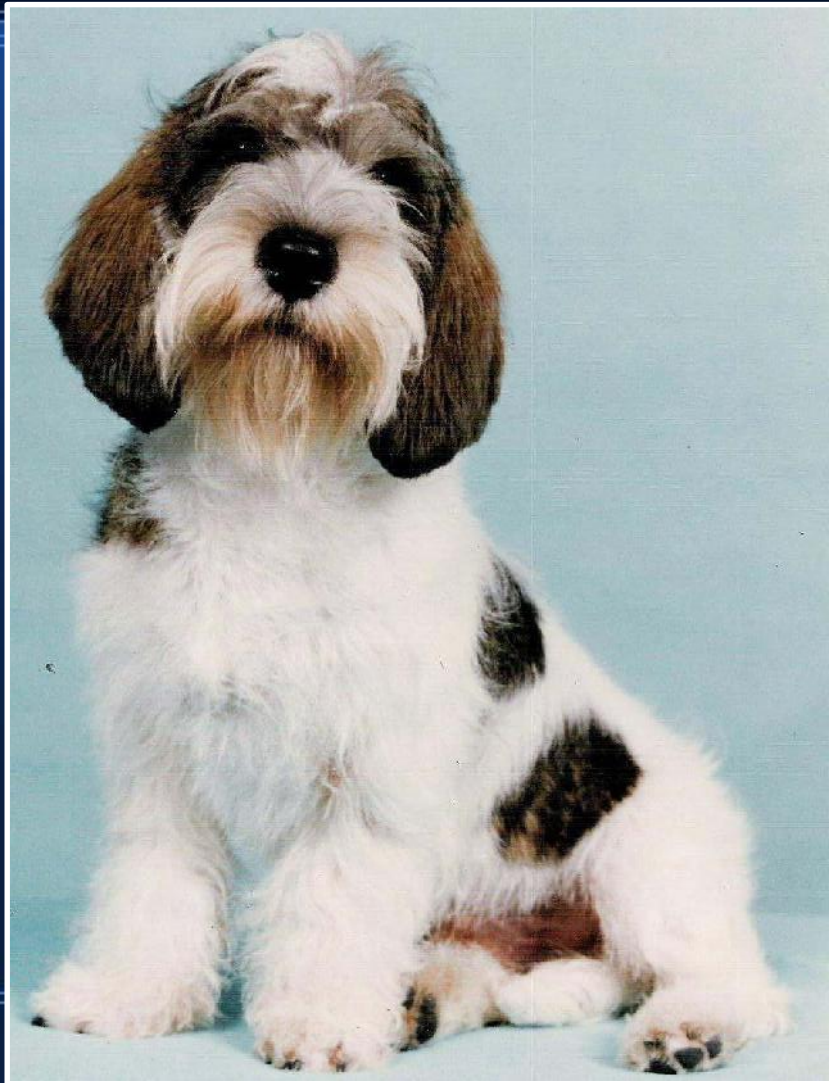
What do YOU think?

- The overall angles?
- The stack?
- The grooming?



Be aware of misperceptions: Feel!

Front legs are visually straight, although a slight crook is acceptable.



Width of body and amount of **chest** development **relative to leg length** will determine how much crook is needed to get the front legs under and **in support of the body**. Slight crook allowed

The PBGV is **not a heavy breed** and has **moderately rounded ribbing**. A 13-in. PBGV may have more crook than a 15-in. PBGV.

Puppies after teething may have more crook and slightly turned out feet **until the chest develops**.



Left: Deep chest, a prominent sternum and straight front legs.

Below: A bit too much crook. With maturity and more weight, he may turn his feet a little too much.

See how this dog moves before making a decision since handling skills vary.



**A lovely
head and
expression,
straight legs
with good
depth of chest.**



Presentation of the PBGV

- “The rough, unrefined outline and tousled appearance of this rustic hunting hound is essential.”
- “Any sculpting, clipping, scissoring or shaping of the coat is contrary to PBGV breed type.”
- “The PBGV coat should be clean, neatened as necessary, but always remain casually disarrayed.”
- “Any deviation from the ideal described here and in the General Appearance Section of the official standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.”

The perception of **natural, casual, tousled** will probably always be a matter of educated opinion.

Take a **common sense approach** as you assess the whole dog.

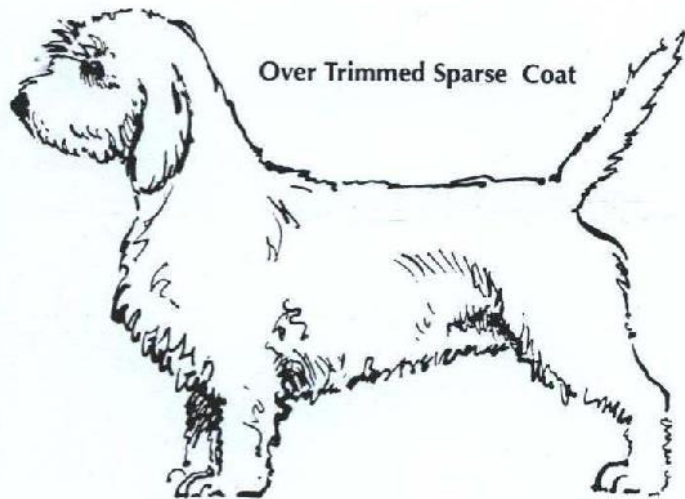


Coat Problems



Too heavy & profuse

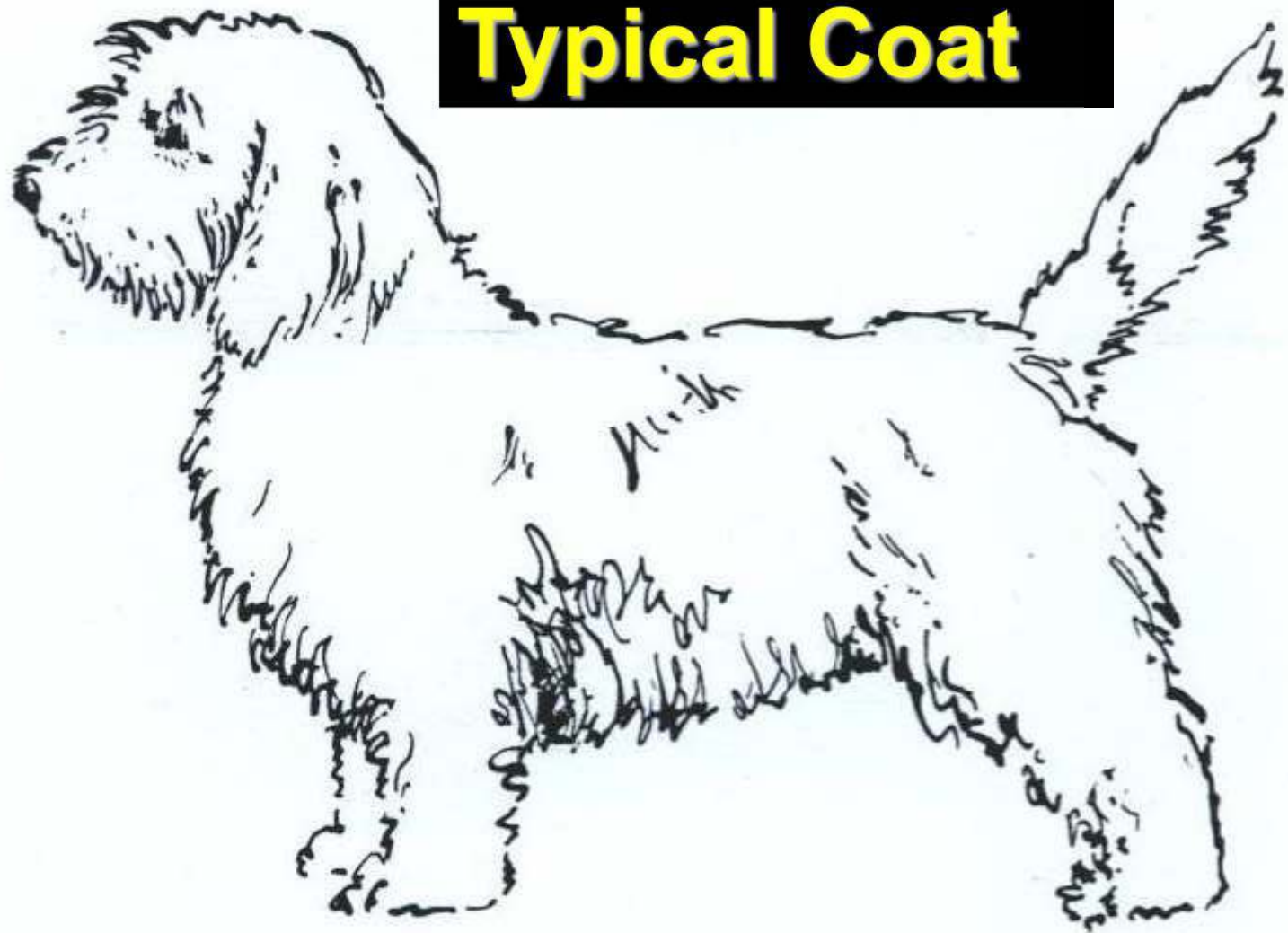
Too much coat is a hindrance in the field and hides conformation in the show ring.



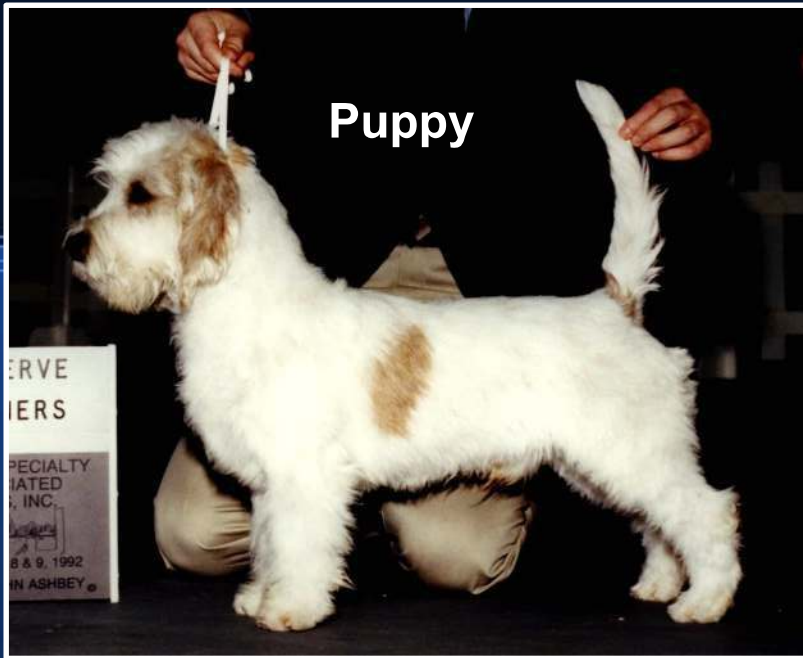
**Over trimmed
and sparse**

Too little coat isn't protective.

Typical Coat



More About Coats



Colored patches do not grow hair as profusely as white areas.



Puppies with good quality coat will have less coat length and perceptibly longer legs, but the compact body is still apparent.

Puppy vs. Adult

Be aware of the **differences** between **puppy** and **adult** coats

Some **adults** will naturally grow **less coat** in warm climates

Don't assume they've been trimmed to extreme; the coat above all should appear **casual** and **rustic**



DISQUALIFICATION

- “Height **over 15 inches** is a disqualification.”
- “Height **under 13 inches** is a disqualification at **one year of age or older.**”

Develop a Breed Template



Compact, Casual



**This young dog has less coat. Is it the result of grooming or simply due to age?
Over stretched, yet one can see its overall virtue.**



Note compact outline; moderate angles; eyebrows, mustache and beard; level topline; tail set high.

**This dog looks high in rear,
but is it real or a handler error?
Move the dog to see if levels out.**



The PBGV does have some common problems.

Cosmetic fault:

- Over or under groomed

Genetic faults:

- Mismatched, loose fronts
- Straight shoulders
- High in rear
- Too short on leg
- Long bodies



PBGV Virtues!

- Fabulous hunting skills and enthusiasm for agility
- Happy and outgoing demeanor
- Overall soundness
- Overall handsome appearance
- Great voice freely used
- Uniquely one of four Vendéen hounds still in existence today

Remember these final words:
Compact. Casual.
Tough. Robust. Touseled.



At 13 to 15 inches, this is a
rough-and-ready hound.



Compact



- Acknowledgements -

Sincere appreciation to the following for our first Program 2006-2010:

Nick Frost, Jolanda Huisman, Jeffrey Pepper, Vivien Phillips, Linda Skerritt, Chuck Steidel, Robyn Wallis, and PBGV and GBGV breeders world wide for photos.

Bob Cohen- photos of PBGVCA Hunt Tests and past National Specialties; the many club members who supplied photos of PBGV's in performance activities

Graphics by Jeffrey Pepper, Kitty Steidel and Robyn Wallis; finishing work by Claudia Orlandi.

This program was prepared by the Judges Education Committee of The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America in 2006, and revised in 2010: Kitty Steidel, Chairman and committee members, Helen Ingher and Jeffrey Pepper.

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Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen
Club of America**

• Acknowledgements •

- Sincere appreciation to members of the **Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America** and PBGV and GBGV breeders world wide who contributed photos.
- This program was prepared by the **Judges Education Committee** of the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America in 2014: Chair, Kitty Steidel; members - Susannah Cooper, Helen Ingher, and Susan Smyth; Board Liaison – Sandra Bustin

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