

# Bassetcare

## Grooming and Health Tips



Rosie before diet



Rosie after diet



Grass seeds



Different types of nail cutters and a grinder

**EYES** should be clear with no discharge or redness, as this could be a sign of infection.

**EARS** The inside of your Basset's ears should be clean, with no odour. Wipe them out regularly with cotton wool soaked in a proprietary ear cleaner (don't probe too deep), also clean the inside of the ear flaps. If there is a problem, go to your vet.

**TEETH AND GUMS** Gently lift your Basset's lips. The gums should be pink. Teeth should be clean and white with no yellow plaque or tartar - and there should be no bad smell. You can buy a special brush and toothpaste for cleaning your Basset's teeth, also a scraper for removing plaque. See your vet if gums are a different colour or bleeding, or if you are concerned about the teeth, especially in the older Basset.

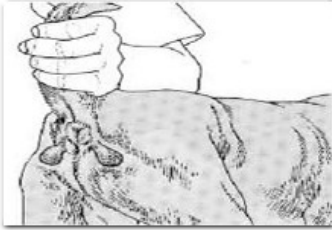
**WEIGHT** Know the correct weight for your Basset and monitor it regularly. Weight depends on the size of frame. If you can just feel the ribcage, then you probably have it right.

As a very rough guide weight should be : 40-70lbs (18kgs-32kgs), with dogs weighing more than bitches.

**PAWS** Check the pads for open cuts, splinters and grass seeds. These must be removed as soon as possible. If they get into your Basset's skin, they can travel in the body, which will need a visit to your vet.

Nails should be kept short by regular trimming. Don't forget the dew claw. Little and often is the secret - this way you should avoid cutting into the red vein or quick.

If you are nervous of using clippers, consider getting a grinder. Just in case you make a nail bleed have some flour, corn starch, baking powder or even a tea bag ready to press on the end. Or there are products available to help stop bleeding, such as styptic pencil containing silver nitrate.



***UNDER THE TAIL*** Hold up your Basset's tail and check for any signs of discharge or soreness. Watch for these signs:

- Your Basset begins scooting or dragging his rear across the floor
- Your Basset keeps licking or chewing near his rear end
- Your Basset's stools have become soft
- A foul or "fishy" odour comes from your Basset's rear end.

***The anal glands may need emptying - a job for your vet.***