



Extended Breed Standard of the

GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN



Prepared by Linda Winchester Skerritt, 2010

Country of Origin: France
Kennel Club – updated October 2009

What is an Extended Breed Standard?

This Extended Breed Standard is designed to build on the concise description of the breed given in the official Kennel Club breed standard.

Giving extra information on each part of the standard is a valuable means of training judges. It augments the information already available on each part of the dog and is a helpful tool in deepening understanding of what the ideal of the breed should look like.

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen Extended Breed Standard

In this Extended Breed Standard (EBS) the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen is referred to as the GBGV, although the Kennel Club preferred name is

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Grand).

The Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen (PBGV) is also mentioned. This is because at one time the breed was simply

BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

with two sizes recognised within the breed. It was only in the late 1970s that interbreeding was banned in France, allowing complete separation of the Petit and Grand.

Important features that differentiate the GBGV from the PBGV are referred to in this EBS.

**This Extended Breed Standard has been prepared for the UK BGV Club,
for use by judges and anyone wishing to learn more about
conformation of the GBGV.**

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Breed History

French hounds evolved into their present day form to fit the needs of their particular geographic area. The dense, thorny, vegetation and rocky region of the Vendée made hunting difficult. Leading into the 19th century, a hardy dog was needed - one with physical and mental stamina, whose coat would resist the brambles and thorns. Several rough-coated hounds were developed specifically for hunting in this difficult terrain. The larger ones were:



the Grand Griffon Vendéen
(60-68cm / 23½-26½ins)



the Briquet Griffon Vendéen
(48-55cm / 19-21½ins)

Deer and boar hunting had long been the sport of kings and noblemen, who could afford to ride on horseback using these large, swift, powerful hounds. Those not as wealthy followed smaller game on foot and for this they needed a slower hound - and the most practical way to restrict speed was to shorten length of leg.

Evolution and breeding strategy produced a practical “low-to-the-ground” hound ideal for this purpose.



Basset Griffon Vendéen (BGV)

The Basset Griffon Vendéen was around 38cm, with a long skull, a long and quite heavy body and either straight or semi-crooked forelegs. By the end of the 19th century, this popular BGV existed in France within the group of *basset* (shorter-legged) breeds. With breeders' reputations hanging on their ability to produce a quality hound of correct size and proportions, length of leg became important depending on type of game hunted. In the early 20th century, after formation of the Club du Griffon Vendéen in 1907, two types were recognised in France:



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen
(39-44cm / 15½-17½ins)
“with straight legs”



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen
(34-38cm / 13½-15ins)
“most often with half-crooked legs”

Both with a height tolerance of 1cm (¾in) above or below.

In 1909, a standard for the BGV recognised these two types - with variation in height and significant difference in front leg. The Petit sometimes had a semi-crook but the Grand had straight front legs – and President Paul Dézamy’s more popular, ideal, larger BGV of around 42cms with good bone and noble, sculptured head became known as the “42 Dézamy”.

There also existed a "type classique" - slightly shorter in leg, and somewhat lighter in bone, which to a non-specialist might look like a large Petit.



Type Dézamy



Type Classique

In the 1950s a separate standard was introduced for the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen. From then on it was considered a separate breed. However, with the earlier practice of interbreeding the Petit and Grand, it was common for offspring from the same litter to be of both Petit and Grand type. In 1977, Paul’s grandson, Hubert Desamy, banned interbreeding, though for many subsequent generations the results of this practice were evident.

The GBGV arrived in England following the birth of a litter in quarantine in 1989 and subsequent imports helped establish the breed in the UK.



A puppy bitch from the first GBGV litter born in quarantine in 1989

As there remained a slight possibility of seeing *Petit* characteristics turning up in the GBGV, from this time it was important that judges could appreciate the distinct differences between the Petit Basset and Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, the latter having:

- longer muzzle
- longer ears
- longer back
- longer limbs; and
- longer tail.

Throughout this Extended Breed Standard for the GBGV comparisons are therefore made with the PBGV to help the trainee judge appreciate the very important differences between the two breeds.

The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

Pronounced **Grah** - nd.....Bah-say.....Gree-fohn.....Von-day-uhn

The descriptive French name gives an understanding of what the GBGV should look like - and its origins.

Grand The French word for “large” - used to distinguish size difference between the two shorter-legged Griffon Vendéen breeds, the Grand Basset and Petit Basset.

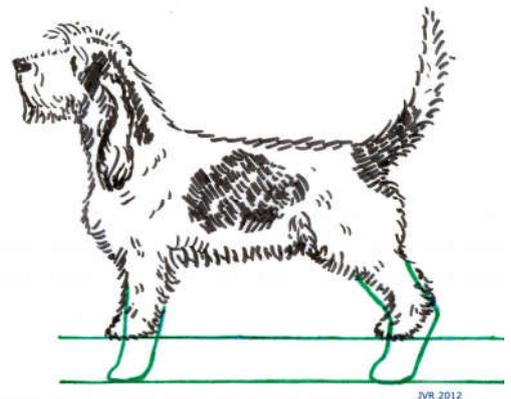
Basset “Bas” is French for “low” - this is a hound that is lower to the ground than the larger hound from which it evolved.

Griffon With a harsh, protective coat.

Vendéen From the Vendée region of France, where the breed originated.

The Basset Hound and Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen share the word ‘basset’ in their name - but they are very different.

Other than being lower to the ground, with shorter legs, the GBGV does not resemble, the Basset Hound in any other way.



GBGV and Basset



THE BREED STANDARD

The boxed words in italics are the official UK breed standard.
Each clause is followed by an extended description.

GENERAL APPEARANCE



*Well-balanced, medium height, rough coated hound.
Slightly longer than height at withers, with straight forelegs.
A friendly and intelligent looking hound with noble bearing.*

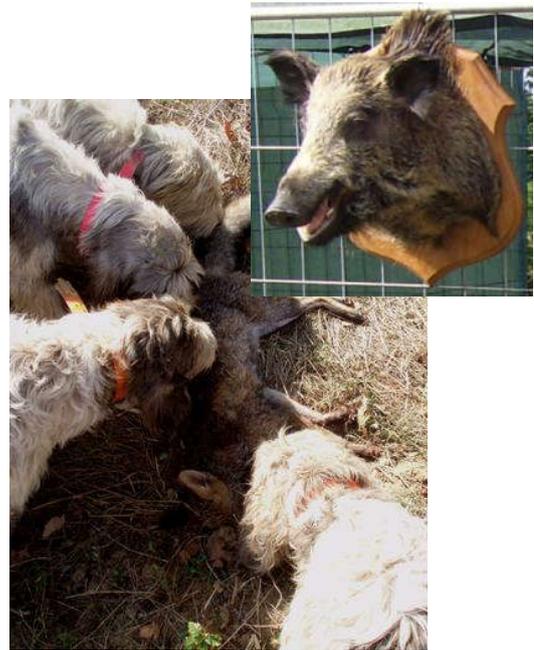
Well balanced,) medium height)	Although somewhat taller and having more substance than that of a Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, the GBGV's body is neither heavy nor cumbersome. It should display a harmonious, pleasing and balanced outline.
Rough-coated	The coat should be harsh to the touch – one that gives protection against the brambles and thorns of the undergrowth.
Slightly longer than height at withers	Being classed as a <i>basset</i> breed, the GBGV is slightly longer than tall when measured from point of shoulders to point of buttocks. Although noticeably longer overall than the more compact PBGV, he must not have an exaggerated length of body.
Forelegs straight	The forearms should be straight and suitably strong to complement the size of the body.
Friendly and intelligent	The eyes are large, with no white showing, giving an intelligent look, with no sign of aggression or timidity in them.
Noble bearing	The head should be neither heavy nor coarse but strong, giving it a noble air.

CHARACTERISTICS

A strong, active and courageous hound, possessing great stamina, with a good voice freely used.

The GBGV was bred to be an effective hunter and, even to this day, conformation remains secondary to the Frenchman's prime passion of producing a good hunter. The GBGV's size and qualities such as stamina and speed for the chase in open country make him eminently suitable for the job.

He is tenacious and will never veer from his course, no matter what obstacles or harsh conditions confront him. He is keen to follow medium size game such as hare - but courageous enough to tackle boar.



The GBGV has a good voice but does not “babble” or bark unnecessarily. The hound should be silent when not in contact with the scent. Giving voice freely is reserved for when picking up the scent of the game. This purposeful giving tongue is how scenthounds keep track of each other when on the trail of quarry and allows the huntsman to know where his hounds are working.

TEMPERAMENT

Happy and outgoing. Independent and a little stubborn, not easily agitated, yet willing to please with firm handling.



The GBGV is, by nature, a happy animal known for his easy going and relaxed character and, as a pack animal, he is eager to please. However this intelligent breed is also strong-willed and a little stubborn. From early days, the huntsman needs to ensure he is in control of his GBGV, otherwise the inbred hunting instinct will override any commands to obey.

HEAD AND SKULL

A noble head, carried proudly. Skull domed, without heaviness, elongated and not too wide. Well cut away under the eyes. Occipital bone well developed. Stop clearly defined. Muzzle square at its extremity, noticeably longer than from stop to occiput. Bridge of nose slightly roman. Nose protruding, well developed with wide open nostrils. Solid colour. Black except in white/lemon, white/orange coats where brown is tolerated. Lips well developed, just covering the lower jaw and giving the front of the muzzle a square shape. Well covered with long hair, forming good beard and moustache.

A noble head, carried proudly



The GBGV is a hound that courses game by scent. To do this, he drops his head with

ease to detect the quarry's residual odour.

At all other times, unless distracted by lingering smells, his confident and outgoing nature will be conveyed by a head held proudly aloft.



Skull domed, without heaviness, elongated and not too wide

When viewed from above, the skull is domed, or slightly convex. There is greater length than width. Too much width in the skull would make the head look coarse.



Comparison: GBGV head – domed
PBGV head – slightly domed



The visibly domed skull of the GBGV compared with the PBGV's slightly domed skull

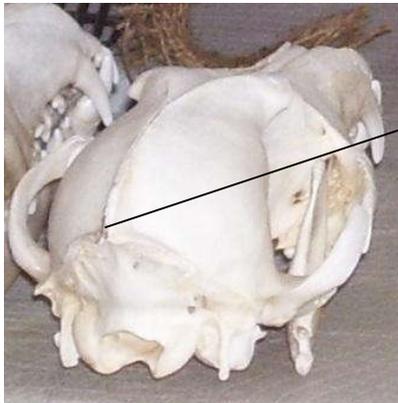
Well cut away under the eyes

The area under the eyes should be clean cut to show the bone structure of the foreface. Good, clean definition below the eyes avoids any appearance of thickness in this area.

This does not mean that the hair should be stripped away, giving a staring expression.



Occipital bone well developed



The back point of the skull should be raised prominently so as to be clearly felt.



Stop clearly defined

The frontal indentation between the eyes - where the nasal-bone and skull meet - should be clearly defined.

Muzzle square at its extremity

Lips well developed, just covering the lower jaw and giving the front of the muzzle a square shape. Well covered with long hair, forming good beard and moustache.

The lips of the GBGV are quite pendulous and cover the lower jaw well without giving an impression of heaviness. They finish off the square shape of the muzzle when viewed from the front, which also illustrates a good strong underjaw. This can be seen in profile as well and felt underneath the beard. Weakness of underjaw should not be disguised by the hair of the beard.



Length from nose to stop noticeably longer than from stop to occiput

The length of the muzzle - the distance from the point between the eyes (the stop) to the end of the nose -



should always be noticeably longer than the distance from stop to occiput.

Muzzle length is one of the main features which distinguish the GBGV from the PBGV.

If the muzzle is not clearly longer than from stop to occipital point, the head will resemble that of the PBGV.

Bridge of nose slightly roman

Length of the muzzle also plays an important part in giving greater nasal passage area for scenting ability.

The muzzle drops away slightly at the end of the nasal cartilage, giving the breed its characteristic slightly roman nose.

This feature adds to the breed's noble appearance.



Comparison: GBGV muzzle - noticeably longer than from stop to occiput
PBGV muzzle - slightly shorter (less) than from stop to occiput



GBGV - noticeably longer muzzle



PBGV - shorter muzzle

Comparison: GBGV muzzle – slightly roman
 PBGV muzzle - straight



GBGV – muzzle slightly roman



PBGV – muzzle straight

Nose protruding, well developed with wide open nostrils. Solid colour. Black except in white/lemon, white/orange coats where brown is tolerated.

The dominant feature of a scenthound is his sense of smell for hunting. Thus, in addition to length of the GBGV’s muzzle, the external architecture of the nose also plays an important part. It must be large, protruding well and with big, open nostrils.

It should be solid black. Although a brown, or lighter, nose is tolerated in white/lemon, white/orange coated GBGVs, lack of pigment is undesirable. Two-tone or butterfly, is highly undesirable.



✗ A butterfly nose is unacceptable



✓ In white/lemon and white/orange coats, a lighter coloured nose is acceptable

In all coat colours, during months lacking daylight and sunshine “winter nose” (slight streaking of lighter pigmentation down the middle of the nose) should be recognised and may be forgiven but this is not to be confused with the poor pigmentation of a butterfly nose.



Winter nose



✓ The ideal large, black nose – and lips well covered with long hair forming good beard and moustache

EYES

Large, dark and oval, showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. Haw not visible. Long eyebrows, standing forward, but not obscuring eyes.

Eyes are large, dark and oval, showing no white. There should be no sign of aggression or timidity.

Eye colour in wild canids is generally light. For example the wolf has eyes with pale irises, making its stare unnerving to humans. This may be the reason why standards invariably request a dark eye.

Light eyes are therefore undesirable. White/lemon and white/orange GBGVs may have an eye that is a little lighter but there should be sufficient brown in them to give the desirable expression.

The GBGV standard calls for this to be friendly and intelligent. A dark, oval shaped eye gives softness and complements this.



The canine eye has evolved so that it has a third eyelid - also known as the haw or nictitating membrane. This automatically moves up and down, sweeping the eye clean on a regular basis. It should not be visible.

The eyes are also surmounted by long, protective hair that stands forward – but not so profuse that the eye is not visible.

EARS

Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair, folding inwards ending in an oval shape; reaching to just beyond the tip of the nose; set on low, not above the line of the eye.

This is not a thick and heavy ear flap but narrow and fine with inward curl, ending in an oval shape.

It is covered with hair that is longer than on the rest of the body, as this serves to protect the ear flap from brambles and thorns.

The ears are set low, just below eye level. They are long but not excessively so with the flap (leather) reaching just beyond the tip of the nose. This length and inward curl of the flap allows the GBGV's ears to collect and brush up the scent from the ground and carry it to the nose, whilst giving chase.





✘ Ear set above the line of the eye is unacceptable



✔ Ear set just below eye level is correct

Some judges will pull the ear flap forwards to gauge length but, to the trained eye, it can be seen easily whether or not the ear is the correct length.

Note: the ear length is measured to the end of the leather,

not to the end of any excess hair on the tip of the flap.

Ear flaps that seem far too long may well have an excess of hair at the end. If they are too short, they will resemble those of a PBGV.



Comparison: GBGV - Ears reaching to just beyond the tip of the nose
PBGV - Ears not reaching beyond the tip of the nose



GBGV – Ears reaching just beyond tip of nose



PBGV – Ears not reaching beyond tip of nose

MOUTH

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.



The upper incisors are located in front of the lower incisors when the mouth is closed, with a smooth curve from tooth to tooth.

The jaws should be strong and upper teeth can be seen to closely overlap the lower teeth.

When the upper and lower incisor teeth meet each other edge to edge this is actually an expression of under bite. Such level (pincer) bite is unacceptable.

NECK

Long and strong, set into well-laid shoulders; thicker at the base; without dewlap.

A short neck would give the GBGV an unbalanced appearance. The neck needs to be long, well-muscled and sturdy.

A strong, upper neck flowing smoothly into the shoulders and line of the slightly elongated back not only complements body length but allows the GBGV to alter angle of head carriage with ease when giving chase or when lowering his head to follow the scent of a trail.

Unlike the Basset Hound, there should be no sign of excess loose or pendulous skin under or down the length of the throat.



FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders clean and well laid back; elbows close to the body, never turning out. Forelegs straight, thick and well boned. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Knuckling over is unacceptable.

Shoulders clean and well laid back

The forequarters should have well laid back shoulders. The forward reach of the front leg should be approximately the angle of the shoulder blade, therefore the more laid-back the shoulder, the better the reach.

Animals built for speed, such as the cheetah, have upright shoulder blades. Those built for endurance, such as wolves or hunting dogs that follow a trail, have well laid back shoulders. This increases reach and endurance. The dog with steep shoulders will lack stamina and reach of stride, giving a tendency to bounce up and down at the withers.

As a short upper arm reduces effectiveness of front support and forward movement, correct upper arm therefore plays an important role.



The shoulder blade and upper arm should be well angled; and equal length of shoulder blade and upper arm bone, combined with balanced angulation between the two, allows for good extension of the front legs. This will give a strong forward-reaching stride, with free movement.

Elbows close to body, never turning out



Good front construction gives enough room to accommodate the quite broad chest but with elbows set in close to the body. They should be neither so close as to restrict movement, nor turned out from the body and loose.

✘ Loose elbows suggest a poorly constructed front

✓ Elbows close to the body



Forelegs straight, thick and well boned

The forelegs support the heaviest part of the GBGV. These should be strong and straight, with no sign of a crook. This improvement in structure of the taller Bassets Griffons Vendéens began in France in the late 1800s and was one of the main differences between the Grand and Petit BGV, the latter sometimes having a slight crook to the front legs. (This has since been bred out of the PBGV also).

The forequarters should be substantial - not heavy but in proportion to the size of the dog. Bone that is too heavy will affect the GBGV's agility and stamina, making it unable to do the fast and efficient work for which it was bred. Conversely, the bone should be neither light nor fine.

This is a strong animal. Quality and density of bone should complement size of dog, giving a completely balanced outline.



✓ Forelegs straight and well boned in proportion to size

Pasterns strong and slightly sloping

The angle the pastern makes with the vertical should be about 20 degrees. A greater slope indicates weak pasterns, whereas straight, erect pasterns may indicate a straight shoulder, which is not desirable.



✗ Weak (down on) pasterns

Strong pasterns should be slightly sloping when viewed from the side. Strength is needed to completely support the weight of the GBGV. This is important in a dog that will be moving constantly when hunting.



✓ Pasterns strong and slightly sloping

BODY

***Back of good length, without exaggeration, with level topline.
Slight rise over solid, well-muscled loin. Prominent forechest, brisket broad and deep.
Ribs moderately rounded, well let down to elbow and extending well back.
Flanks rather deep, belly never tucked up.***

***Back of good length, without exaggeration, with level topline.
Slight rise over solid, well-muscled loin.***

A back “of good length” complements the General Appearance description that it should be slightly longer than height at withers. Although the back is somewhat elongated, length should not be exaggerated.

The span of the back takes the load of the abdomen with strength shown by the level topline. There should be a pleasing transition from the long, strong neck to the withers and into the level topline, extending to loin and croup. Here the well-muscled, strong loin should give the appearance of a very slight rise in this area, especially when on the move.



***Back of good length,
without exaggeration***



***Slight rise over solid,
well-muscled loin***

Prominent forechest, brisket broad and deep

The deepest point of the forechest is immediately between the front legs.

This is a powerful animal and good width of chest demonstrates sturdiness without undue heaviness. However the thorax should be slightly less broad at elbow level to facilitate movement.

Although unexaggerated, a prominent breastbone should be felt on examination under the coat.



Ribs moderately rounded, well let down to elbow and extending well back

The ribcage should reach the level of the elbow.

The ribs are moderate to fairly well rounded, well sprung and neither barrel-shaped nor slab-sided.

They should extend well back serving to protect the vital organs when working, especially in harsh conditions.



Flanks rather deep, belly never tucked up

A pronounced tuck-up is undesirable and uncharacteristic of this breed which has a well-muscled, strong loin.



✗ Undesirable tuck up

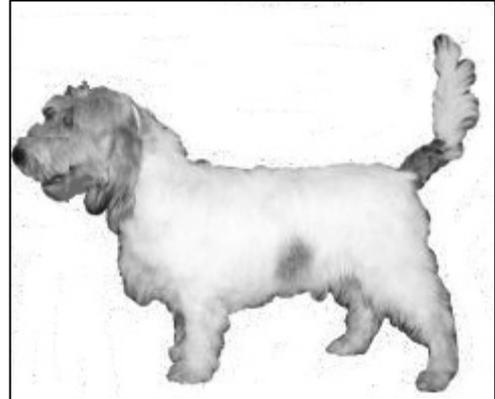


✓ Not tucked up, strong loin

BODY PROPORTIONS



✗ Too square and high on leg, lacking body



✗ Too square and heavy all through



✗ Too long in body, not enough length of leg



✓ Correct body length and balance

Comparison: GBGV - Medium height, back of good length
PBGV - Short-legged, compact body

GBGV – relatively longer leg, longer back **PBGV – shorter leg, shorter back**

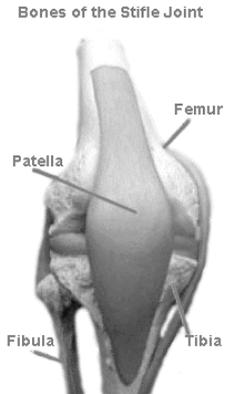
HINDQUARTERS

***Well boned, strong and muscular with moderate bend of stifle.
Heavily muscled thighs with well- defined second thigh. Hocks turning neither in nor out.***

The GBGV needs muscular thighs and hindquarters to propel itself powerfully. It is the contraction and relaxation of these muscles that gives mechanical movement to the skeletal system, allowing the GBGV to walk and run freely. Like the forelegs, the hind legs are well boned, though not too heavy to make the GBGV look unbalanced.



The stifle (or knee) joint is made up of four bones, which are connected by muscles, ligaments, and tendons.



Angulation of stifle is important. Too much or too little bend of stifle (that is, straight) and the GBGV cannot move correctly.

Adequate rear angulation allows free and true movement.



The hocks should also have good angulation to give plenty of flexibility in this area, allowing the hound to do the job for which it was bred. Seen from behind, they should turn neither in nor out.

Comparison: GBGV - Moderate bend of stifle
PBGV - Good bend of stifle



GBGV – Moderate bend of stifle



PBGV – Good bend of stifle

FEET

Large and tight padded. Pads firm and solid. Nails strong and short.



Flat, splayed feet will not withstand harsh undergrowth. With strong, short nails, the feet should be rounded and large, in proportion with and complementing the body and well-boned legs.

Where coat on the legs has been brushed to give a full appearance, feel down the legs to gauge strength of bone in comparison with rounded and good sized feet.



Pads also need to be tough and hard, to protect the hunter going through harsh undergrowth. As with other parts of the body, good pigmentation of the pads is desirable, though not called for in the standard.



✗ Feet too large

✗ Nails too long



TAIL

Rather long. Set on high, thick at the base, tapering gradually, well furnished with hair, carried proudly sabre-like or slightly curved but never too far over the back or bent at the tip.



The tail is long, visibly above the level of the head when standing.



It is set high - flowing through from the back line - thick and strong at the base, tapering progressively towards the tip without becoming too thin. It should never be ropey, thin or lacking hair but should be furnished with harsh hair.

When moving, the tail should neither be carried low nor too far over the back but held proudly like a slightly curved sword. With the head to the left, tail carriage is ideally at approximately 1 or 2 o'clock.



✗ Low tail carriage



✓ Tail carried proudly

Comparison: GBGV - Tail rather long
 PBGV - Tail reaching no further than the hock when lowered



GBGV – tail rather long



PBGV – tail not reaching past hock joint when lowered

GAIT / MOVEMENT

***Free with great drive. Front action straight and reaching well forward;
 hind action easy and elastic, hocks turning neither in nor out.***



For a GBGV to hunt all day movement must be effortless, flowing and strong. Immense reserves of power may be called upon as it covers a vast amount of ground. As when standing, true parallel hind movement will show hocks turning neither in nor out.

Lack of powerful, free hind movement will result in an up and down, choppy movement and wasted effort. The dog will not cover ground easily and

therefore be unable to perform the work for which it was developed. With front action straight and reaching well forward and strong drive from behind, desirable equal angulation front and rear is best seen in profile when moving.

To summarise, the GBGV uses its powerful hindquarters to move freely and effortlessly. Like the forelegs, the hind legs are well boned - but not unduly so. They should be in balanced harmony with the GBGV's body.

COAT

Rough, of moderate length, with a flat structure, never silky or woolly, fringing not too abundant; thick undercoat.
The coat may be tidied, but over-trimming or styling should be penalised.

The GBGV has a double coat consisting of a thick undercoat and a topcoat that is coarse to the touch. A coat with visibly flat structure is important as is correct, harsh texture, which protects this rustic and hardy breed when hunting through dense undergrowth. A coat that is silky or woolly would fail to provide the necessary protection. Bear in mind that white body coat tends to be more profuse and slightly softer than the coarse, shorter sable or brown hair shafts.



✘ A silky coat is incorrect



✔ A harsh coat will protect

A coat of about 5cms (2ins) is just long enough to give a harsh but tousled and not over-groomed appearance. The legs are completely covered in hair of similar length and quality, though the tail hair is often shorter and harsher.

Any fringing over the eyes should be pronounced but not so heavy as to completely cover them. Lack of natural coat stripping by hunting through dense undergrowth necessitates some tidying up – mostly by hand stripping - to make the GBGV look its best. Superfluous hair may be thinned away from over the eyes, excessive fringing from the ends of ear flaps tidied a little to reveal correct length of leather and some neatening up around the feet helps display tightness.

An ungroomed GBGV may be sound underneath all its coat but will be at a disadvantage to one that has been tidied up to show its good points – eg shape of skull, front, topline, rear angulation.



✘



✔

However structural faults should be weighed up against artificial failings, such as clear, inappropriate use of scissors or unnatural presentation;

These can give a contrived look and alter the essential characteristics and charm of the breed.



Legs brushed to give excessive fullness to the coat remove the rustic and tousled appearance that the breed is noted for and may disguise lack of bone. Strong bone in proportion to size should be clearly and naturally visible.

Recognise that some GBGVs come from lines where the coat is slow to come through. It should also be taken into account that a puppy or young, maturing GBGV, and even an older dog stemming from such a line, may not have much coat. Above all, be aware of what kind of grooming and presentation is acceptable – and how to treat those GBGVs that, in your view, are not presented “au naturel” in accordance with the breed standard.

COLOUR

White, with any combination of lemon, orange, sable, grizzle or black markings. Tricolour.

The colours are many and varied but, typically, traditional hound colours of white plus one or two other colours (bi- or tri-colour) is the norm. A single hair shaft may contain two or three different colours and muting of some colours often occurs as a GBGV ages.



White/lemon



White/orange



White/sable



White/grizzle



White/black



Tri-colour

The huntsman has always preferred a reasonable amount of white on the GBGV, giving easy visibility in the field. However good specimens with little white are also acceptable.

SIZE

***Height at withers: dogs 40-44 cms (15¾ -17½ ins); bitches 39-43 cms (15½ -17 ins).
A tolerance of 1cm (¾ in) more or less is permissible.***

With the 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) tolerance, the absolute minimum height is 38cm (15ins)
maximum height is 45cm ($17\frac{3}{4}$ ins).

The height of a PBGV is 34-38cms ($13\frac{1}{2}$ -15 ins). It can therefore be seen that a GBGV at the lower end of its height range may be the same height as a PBGV at the top end of the height range (38cm or 15in). Take the PBGV tolerance of 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) into account – and you could have a PBGV that is larger than a GBGV.

It is therefore vitally important to know the distinct differences between the two breeds and bear in mind those features which distinguish the GBGV.

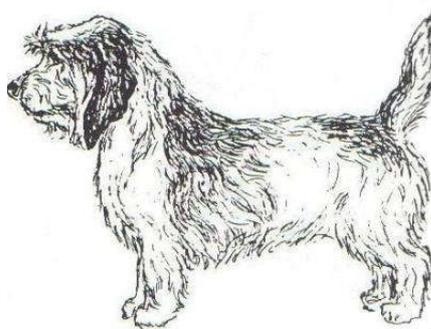
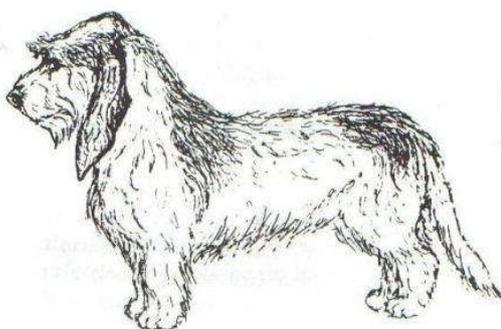
A good specimen of the breed should not be discounted merely because it is on the top or lower end of the height range. What matters most is an overall harmonious, pleasing and balanced outline.



GBGV at lower end of height range



PBGV at top end of height range



FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to fulfil its original purpose.

The following points, including any anatomical malformation, detract from the ideal as depicted in the breed standard:

Head:

- Too short
- Flat skull
- Depigmentation of nose in other than white/lemon. white/orange coated GBGVs
- Muzzle too short
- Level bite, overshot or undershot
- Light eye
- Ears set high, too short, flat or lacking hair

Body:

- Size outside the standard
- Too long or too short, lacking harmony or balanced outline
- Topline insufficiently firm
- Slanting croup

Tail

- Kinked

Limbs

- Lacking bone
- Crooked or half-crooked forelegs
- Lack of sufficient angulation
- Hocks too close
- Slack in pasterns

Coat

- Not dense enough, fine hair
- Silky or woolly
- Non-standard colour

Temperament

- Timid or aggressive

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities should be discounted.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Comparisons between the GBGV & PBGV



GBGV & PBGV sitting together. In both photos the differences are obvious. Also, standing and moving together - once again notice the differences:



Quick Reference - Comparison



GBGV



PBGV

Remember the five main differences that distinguish the two breeds.

The GBGV is –

Longer in muzzle (Noticeably longer than from stop to occiput)

Longer in ear length (Reaching just beyond the tip of the nose)

Longer in body length (Noticeably longer but not exaggerated)

Longer in leg (Generally proportionally higher on the leg)

Longer in tail length (Visibly longer, reaching above the level of the head)

~ The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen ~

