

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Petit)

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WE HAVE SLIPPED FROM HOT SUMMER DAYS TO AUTUMN with wet grass underfoot at outdoor shows and skill needed to exhibit a PBGV who doesn't soon have bedraggled coat clinging to its legs. I will always remember that day at Windsor when torrential rain had left the entire showground deep in mud and water with people slipping everywhere. Some dogs not lucky enough to be transported on trolleys were being carried onto the showground, even slung round exhibitors' necks. However not all were kept in pristine condition. I was judging that day and many that appeared in the ring were a sad sight indeed. One person, however, breezed in with an absolutely spotless dog. As she knelt in front of me, standing her dog, she gazed up and whispered "Well, you have to make an effort, don't you?"

And so you should. You pay a lot to enter and get to a show so don't throw it away this time of year by not presenting a clean and dry dog to the judge. Although shown against an ideal breed standard, cleanliness is part of this equation and one that looks immaculate is bound to impress the judge over a bedraggled one. Keeping a show dog's legs clean and dry can be a challenge. The simplest way is to avoid extremely dirty situations in the first place. Steer clear of mudholes and puddles, and clean your dog's legs off as soon as possible if they do get grubby. If the coat is light-coloured or white, watch for stubborn green grass stains too. Have a towel with you and any product put in the coat to help clean and prepare should be removed before entering the ring.

Magic Mike went the full way at Darlington, awarded BOB by Rebecca Peek, then HG1 under Anne Macdonald, who judged the breed recently at WKC and BIS under Paul Harding. The PBGV entry was disappointingly low with only 3 dogs actually present. RDCC and BV went to Paul Osbourne's Ch Nykarth's Kicking Off With Braego ShCM. BP went to the remaining dog, Sara & Oliver Robertson's Soletrader Buddy Holly. Of the 11 bitches present, from LB, BCC went to Ray & Gail Foote's Erylan Aphrodite La Belle, a first for her, with RBCC to Paul Osbourne's Ch Debucher Jezebel at Braego ShCM.

There have also been some good PBGV wins in other parts of the world. In Iceland, Karen Ösp Guðbjartsdóttir went BIS at Reykjavik with Icelandic Ch Red Hot Chili Van Tum-Tum's Vriendjes. Breed and group judge was Rune Fagerström and BIS judge Torbjörn Skaar. This puts him in first place for Top Dog Iceland 2017. At Carlow & DCS all breed ch show, Ireland, Ivor & Michelle Keelan's 4yr old PBGV Ir Ch Tejas Heartbreaker (Afterglow Chunkey Monkey ex Tejas Betty Boop) won Group 6 under Con Hackett then went BIS 4. And, in the States, Annie Mac (Ch Soletrader Dunc 'n Disorderly ex Ch Soletrader Peek a Boo) continues to win well with handler, Janice Hayes. Group wins are the norm and, following closely on from a recent RBIS, it was BIS under judge Judy Webb, who also judged the Hound Group at West Central Oklahoma KC. Also in the States, although Juli Lacey now has GBGV Henley to show (Sidekicks Life In The Fast Lane), she is still winning well with Gr Am Ch Lacey's Deck Plate Leader (Ch Monkams Jack Sparrow ex Am Ch Lacey's Hare Across Your Path) who went BIS at Central Main MC early this month. Juli says this ties for the BIS record for owner handled PBGVs so now needs one more win to break it. Chief currently holds the record for BISs for breeder/owner/handled PBGVs also the record for life time Grand Champion points.

One time PBGV owner Gabriela Garcia is recovering from the fright of being in Mexico City when the latest earthquake struck. Having escaped from the building she was in at the time, where she said everyone bounced from side to side, it took her four hours to drive home. Thankfully she, her daughter and dogs are safe. She has lost a wall and some valuable items but, put into perspective, says these are only material things, nothing to compare with the magnitude of what has happened to others.

Back in the mid 2000s there were few PBGVs in Mexico and Gabriela found it was best to show Soletrader Copycat (Ch Soletrader Dunc 'n Disorderly ex Monkams Daphne Moon) under international judges, who were more familiar with the breed. Handled by Martín Egozcue, Tilly, born on 31 October 2004, soon became a Mexican champion. However, Gabriela never had any luck with breeding from her so her allegiance, which coincidentally is her kennel name, has remained with her Irish Setters.

We are now approaching the busy month of October, leaving September with an excellent entry of 44 at Drifffield for Geraldine Dodd, giving CCs for the first time. Everyone is invited to join the Bassets at their annual Aquadrome walk in Rickmansworth, Herts, 8 October, meeting at 10.30am for 11am. For further details contact me. 21 and 22 October sees the GBGV and PBGV breed booths busy at the annual Discover Dogs Exhibition at London's ExCeL. On 22 October the breed seminars/assessments take place at Corley, near Coventry. Although places are now full for undertaking assessment, anyone wishing to come to the seminars is more than welcome. Contact me, or the booking form is on <http://www.bgvclub.co.uk/diary-dates>.

LINDA SKERRITT, 01375 673922, monkams@aol.com