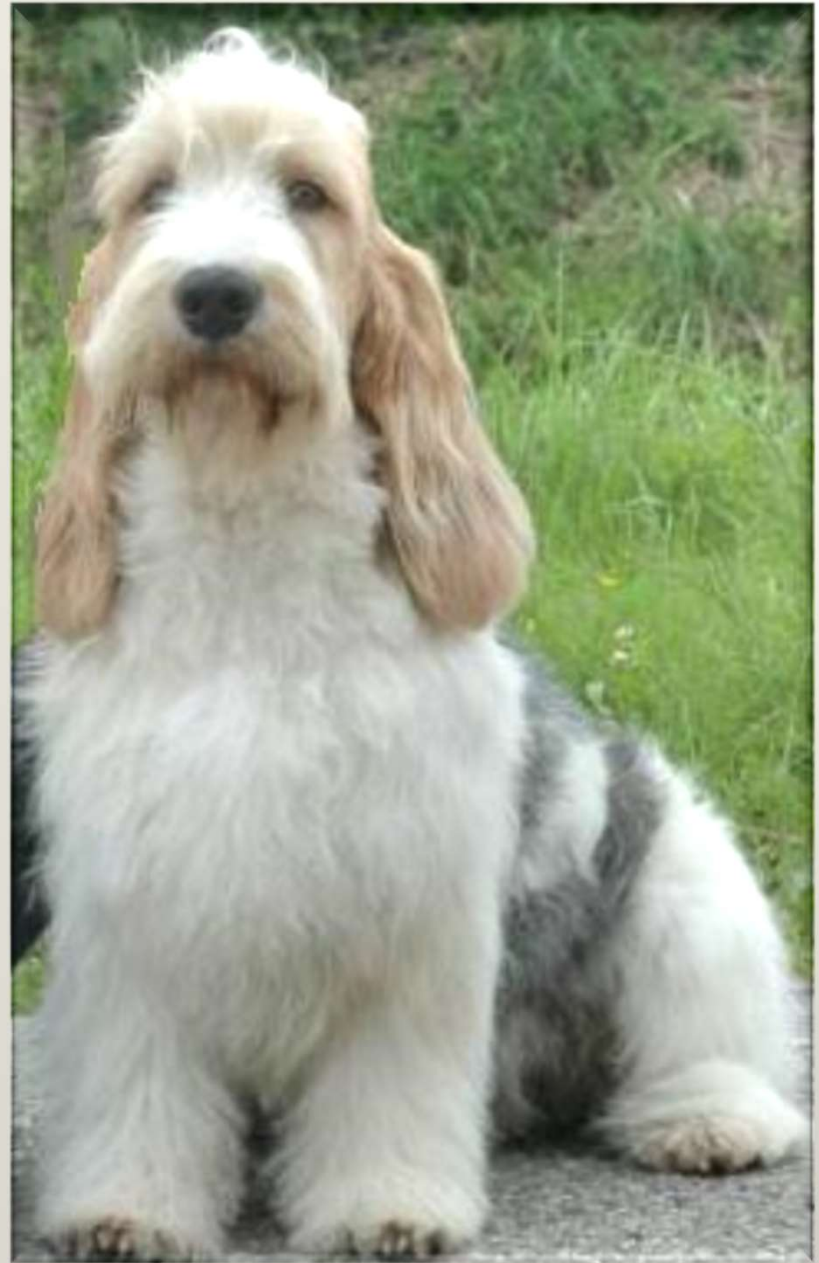


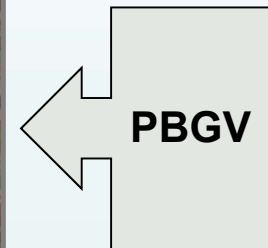
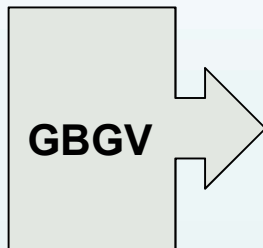
GBGV BREED SEMINAR

**Kennel Club
- updated October 2009 -**

**By
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for the
*Basset Griffon
Vendéen Club***



THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN



To understand either of the BGV breeds in greater depth, it is important to know the differences between the larger (Grand) size of BGV and smaller (Petit) BGV. These are made clear in the Kennel Club breed standards under which both breeds are bred and judged in the UK.

~ What's in a Name ? ~

The Kennel Club name

Basset Griffon Vendéen (Grand)

is familiarly known as

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

~ GBGV ~

- Grand** - The *larger* of the two *basset* breeds
- Basset** - Low to ground
- Griffon** - Rough/harsh coat
- Vendéen** - From the Vendée region in France

Pronounced –

“**G**rah-nd....**B**ah-SAY...**G**ree-FOHN...**V**ON-day-uhn”

Is the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen a type of 'Basset'?



Basset Hound



GBGV

They share the word '**bas**set' in their name but, as you can see, the Basset Hound and GBGV are very different

Remember - '**bas-set**' is French for '**low to ground**'

- the GBGV is the larger of the two **Basset** Griffon Vendéen breeds -
and that is the extent of the similarity.

~ A Brief History ~

The breed

- can be traced back to a combination of rough-coated Roman hounds and a rough-coated Gallic breed, which produced a big, powerful scent-hound.
- This hound migrated to the Vendée, where the 16th century

Griffon Vendéen

evolved, possessing a coat resistant to brambles and thorns, also great physical and mental stamina to cope with rugged local terrain.



Four types of Griffon Vendéen then emerged –

Grand Griffon Vendéen ⇒

- 60-68cm / 23½- 27in
- Stag, roe deer, boar, fox, wolf



⇐ Briquet Griffon Vendéen

- 50-55cm / 19½- 21½in
- Roe deer, boar, fox, hare

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

- 39-44cm / 15½-17½in
- Boar, hare, rabbit and fox



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen

- 34-38cm / 13½-15in
- Hare and rabbit



The four Griffon Vendéen breeds

Petit Basset Grand Basset Briquet Grand



~ KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE ~

To recap, to appreciate the Grand, it helps to understand the difference between the GBGV and PBGV because, at one stage of their development, they were both bred from the same litter.



With several distinguishing features, the main difference of height divided them.

One of the first Danish Champion PBGVs turned out to be quite a nice Grand Basset!

In 1977 the two breeds became separate when interbreeding in France ceased.

The GBGV and the PBGV are now individual breeds with specific and marked differences.

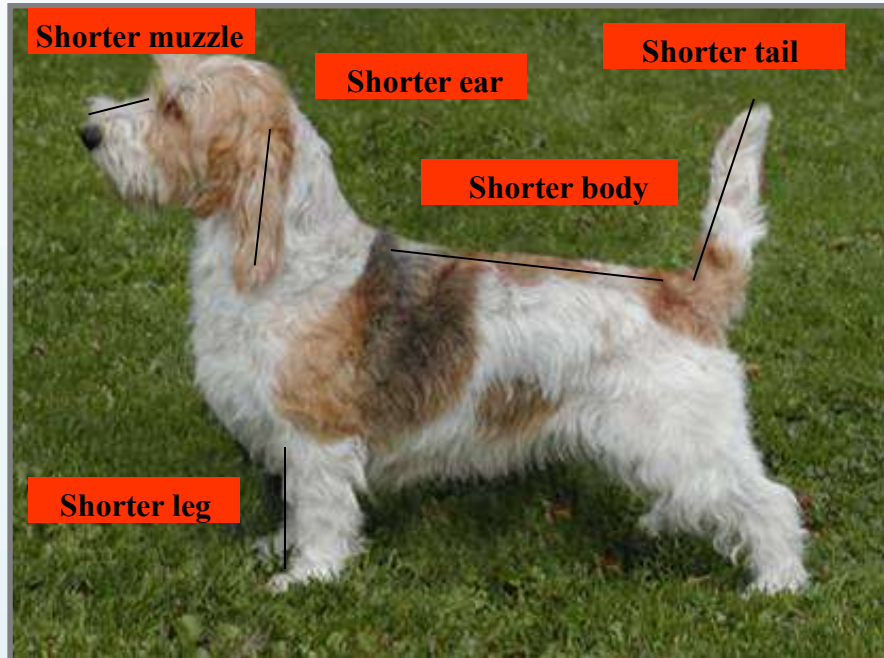
Being aware of these differences will help you when judging as a whole your chosen breed.

~ COMPARISON ~

The marked difference between the two breeds



Main differences between the Petit and the Grand

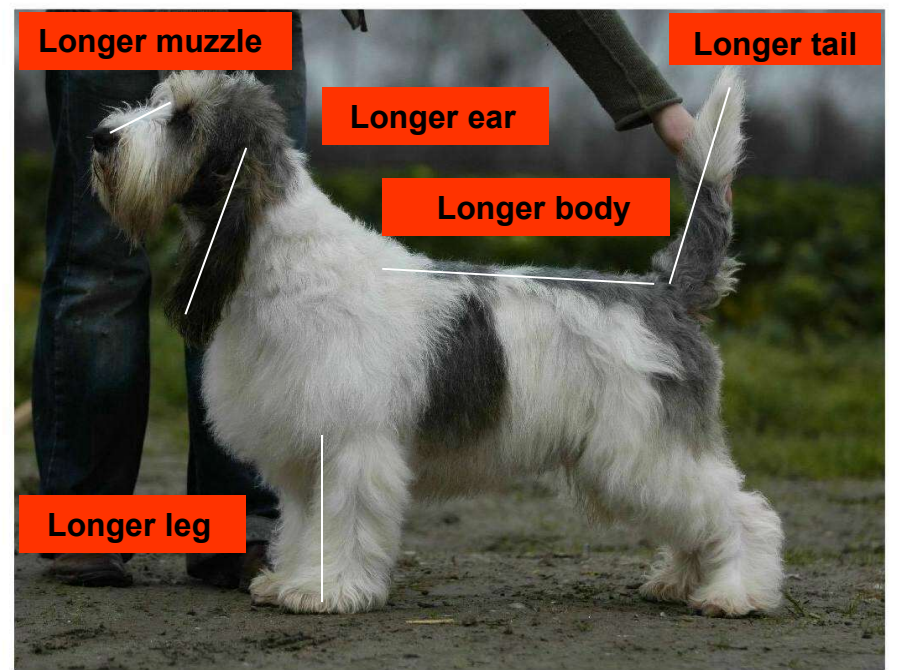


⇐ Petit

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

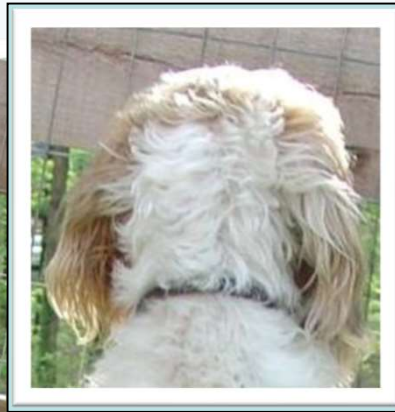
Grand⇒

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



The Overall Difference

The Petit – look at the shape of the skull, shorter ears, shorter back, shorter hocks and shorter tail



The Grand – look at the shape of the skull, longer ears, longer back, longer limbs and longer tail



This GBGV, whose coat has been stripped out, illustrates



**Domed skull, long strong neck,
good length back and long tail.**

The Difference in Heads

The Grand >>>>

Whole head longer. Muzzle longer - Ears longer - Head more domed



<<<< The Petit

Muzzle shorter - Ear shorter - Head not as domed

The Difference in Heads – from the front



The Petit



The Grand

The *domed head* of the **Grand Basset** and *the longer ears* extending to *just beyond* the end of the *longer muzzle*, compared with the **PBGV's** *less domed* head and *shorter ears* that *must not* extend beyond the end of the *shorter muzzle*.

And now to concentrate on

The GBGV

General description

- **Well balanced**, medium height hound
- **Rough coated**
- **Friendly, intelligent, noble bearing**
- **Strong, active, possessing great stamina**
- **Happy, outgoing, independent and a little stubborn yet willing to please**



~THE HEAD ~



- Noble, carried proudly
- Elongated, not too wide
- **Well cut away** under the eyes
- Stop **clearly defined**
- Skull domed
- Occipital bone **well developed**
- Muzzle **noticeably longer** than from stop to occiput
- Underjaw **strong** and **well developed**

~ The Head ~

EARS – Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair. Folding inwards. Reaching just beyond the end of the nose, set on low, not above line of eye.



NOSE – Black.
Brown tolerated in white/lemon, white/orange coats.



EYES – Large, dark and oval. Friendly, intelligent expression. Surmounted by long eyebrows - not obscuring eyes.

BITE – Scissor.

Look at these heads

You be the judge

1



2



3



4



5



6



Pleasing heads



~ THE BGV BODY ~

NECK – Long, strong, set into well laid shoulders. Thicker at the base; without dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS – Shoulders clean and well laid back. Forelegs straight. Well boned.



BODY – Prominent forechest. Brisket broad and deep. Good length back, without exaggeration. Moderately rounded ribs, extending well back. Level topline.

HINDQUARTERS – Well boned. Strong, muscular, moderate bend of stifle. Well defined second thigh. Hocks turning neither in nor out.

~ CORRECT PROPORTIONS AND BALANCE ~



**Notice the body shape of these
correctly balanced GBGVs.**

Slightly longer than height at withers.

Look at these examples of shape and balance
You be the judge





GOOD EXAMPLES OF AN ADULT GBGV'S BALANCE



~ FEET - TAIL – COAT ~

FEET –

Large and tight padded

Pads firm and solid.

Nails **strong and short.**



TAIL -

Rather long.

Set on high, thick at the base, tapering gradually.

Carried proudly sabre-like.



COAT – **Rough**, of moderate length, never silky or woolly.

Tidied up for the show-ring – **but the rough, unrefined appearance is vitally important.**

It should not lose the “*au naturel*” look.

Over-trimming or stylising should be penalised.



THE “AU NATUREL” LOOK FOR GBGVs



This is a rustic hound.
When hunting, the thorns
and brambles of the
undergrowth strip the coat
out naturally, leaving a
good, harsh coat.

If exhibited, a GBGV needs
help to look its best.

**The art of grooming the
GBGV is to make
it look as though it
hasn't been groomed!**



Tidying up for the show-ring

An ungroomed GBGV that *may* be sound underneath all its coat will be at a disadvantage to ...



...one that has been tidied up to display its good points - shape of skull, front, topline, moderate bend of stifle etc.

As a judge, you will need to weigh up structural faults against artificial failings, such as scissor-marks!

The judge's role

This GBGV displays a flat structured, moderate length coat, which looks typically rough and unrefined



..... whereas this one has been sculpted and so lost that natural appearance, which is part of the characteristic charm of the breed.

As a judge - be aware of what kind of grooming and presentation is expected and acceptable – and how to treat those GBGVs that, in your view, are over-presented.

~ SIZE ~

Height : 39-44cm (15½- 17½in)

A tolerance of 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in) more or less is permissible

**PBGV at
top end
of height
range**



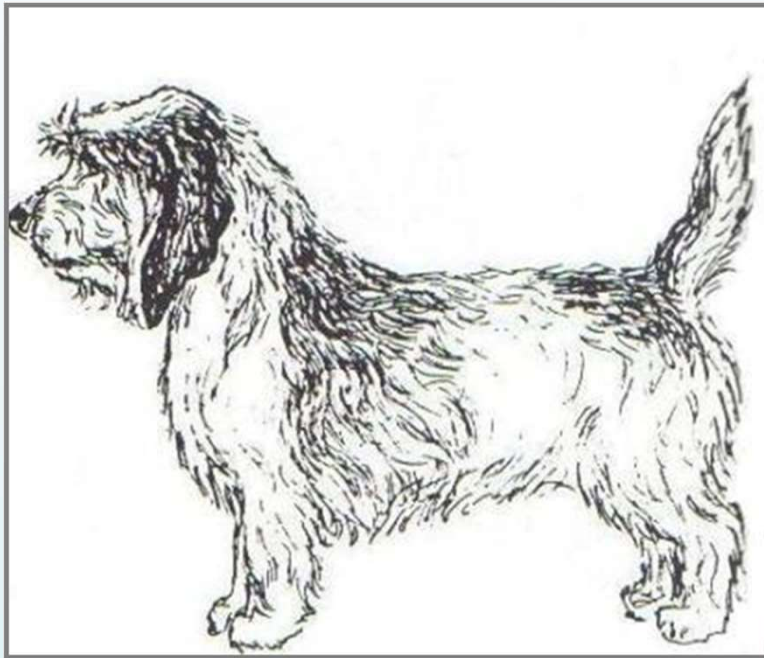
**GBGV at
lower end
of height
range**



**With the 1cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") tolerance,
a PBGV at the top end of the height range
may be the same height as
a GBGV at the lower end of the height range.**

**Therefore it is important to know
the distinct differences between the two breeds
and bear in mind those features which distinguish the PBGV.**

~ SIZE ~



The importance of knowing the distinct differences between the two breeds can therefore be seen.

A good specimen GBGV 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.

Now look at these fronts

You be the judge

1



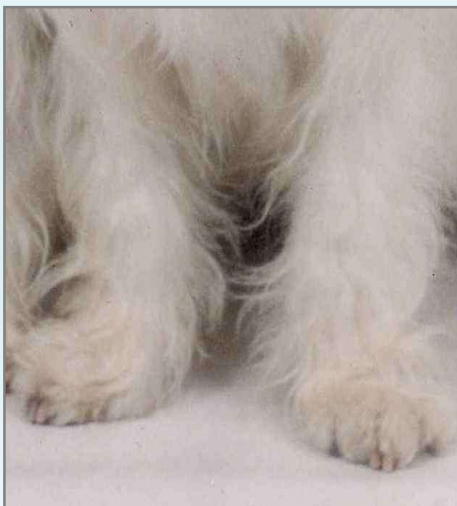
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3



4



5



6



Look at these hindquarters

You be the judge

1



2



3



4



5



~ MOVEMENT ~



Free with great drive.



Front action straight and reaching well forward.

Hind action easy and elastic, hocks turning neither in nor out.

Look at these examples of movement

You be the judge



~ COLOUR ~



White and lemon



White and orange



White and sable



White and grizzle



White and black



Tri-Colour

COLOUR – White with any combination of lemon, orange, sable, grizzle or black markings. Tri-colour.

~ THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GBGV PUPPY ~



*And into the
show ring*



~ FROM PUPPY TO ADULT ~



4 months



7 months



1 year



18 months

When judging the GBGV, bear in mind that body shape will change as it develops from young puppy to adult.

Note the change of colour and coat markings, also the amount of coat.



2½ years

FULLY GROWN ADULT



Finally

This is a scent-hound, a born hunter that has adapted well to the British show-ring.



Enjoy this happy, outgoing breed and, when judging, bear in mind its origins.

