



BGV Appreciation

**WELCOME
TO THE
BASSET
GRIFFON
VENDEEN
CLUB**



Welcome to the Basset Griffon Vendéen Club!

MANY PEOPLE JOIN A BREED CLUB when they buy a dog. Others join when wanting to learn more about a type of dog that they are thinking about owning. The BGV Club is special as it embraces two breeds—the Petit and Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen.



*"Hey you, under the umbrella.
I'm with you!"*

The Club name was chosen carefully at its inception in 1978. Although there were only Petits in the UK at the time, this allowed the different height and type of Basset Griffon Vendéen, the larger Grand BGV cousin, to be welcomed under the same umbrella on arrival to these shores 11 years later. With our family of members being happily extended, we are in the fortunate and unusual position of being able to thrive on the diversity of having more than one breed to enjoy in our Club. The Club exists to be there when you need us, to give you information about both breeds, to support you with any health matters and, importantly, provide an opportunity for you to meet other owners, enjoy their company and share experiences.

Both breeds have an outstanding appearance and charming personality. They are hounds developed to hunt game by scent, with their physical evolution directly related to the environment and terrain of the western coast of France, the Vendée, which is characterised by thick undergrowth, rocks, thorns and brambles. This difficult setting demands a hardy, alert, bold, determined and intelligent hunter with both mental and physical stamina. Your canine companion is therefore unique!



We are pleased that you chose to own a BGV, moreover that you decided to join us. Hopefully we will see you at some of our get-togethers, where you can meet like-minded people, make many friends and join the ranks of those who have come to love

The Happy Breed

Here we hope to tell you a little more about the Club which is managed by an enthusiastic committee, any of whom will be pleased to assist if you need help or breed advice. A list of committee members and their roles is on

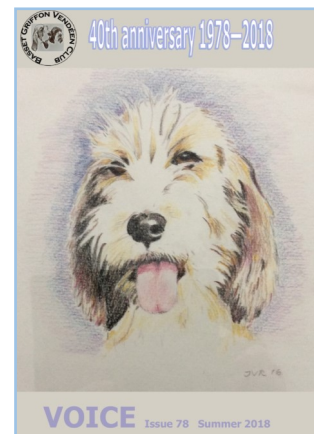
www.bgvclub.co.uk

So What Does The BGV Club Actually Do?

Club Members have access to...

Voice Newsletter and E-Voice

As a Club member, you will receive the BGV Voice newsletter in the Summer and Winter and, for those with email or internet access, the e-Voice in the Spring and Autumn. These cover reports of past shows and events, alongside news of forthcoming shows, get-togethers, competitions, health reports and articles, grooming tips, a section for junior members and much more. A special facility is also now being introduced to allow overseas members to receive the Voice by e-mail link at a reduced rate.



Breed Appreciation: Workshops, Seminars and Assessments

The Club mounts one-day training events, which provide a relaxed atmosphere for judges, prospective judges and for anyone who is keen to learn more about the breeds.

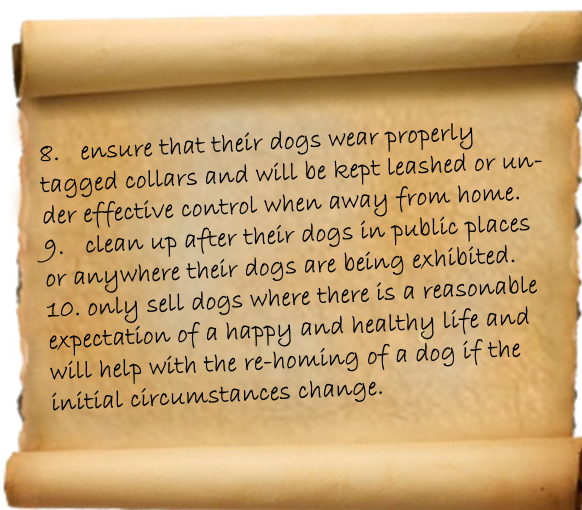
Club Shows

Exhibitors and anyone who would like to try showing their BGV are made welcome at the two Club shows every year—an Open Show in the Spring and a Championship Show in the Autumn.



KC Code of Ethics and Associated BGV Club Guidelines

All members of the BGV Club are expected to abide by the Kennel Club's essential principles, which are augmented by the BGV Club's own specific guidelines. These are reproduced in this module and are also on the Club website. The Club Rules are also on the website.





The Annual General Meeting

Held annually and open to all fully paid up members. You are most welcome to attend and vote on any proposals made. It is your opportunity to find out how things are run and to have your say. Traditionally the AGM is combined with the Club Open Show or a fun event, so the day is not all serious!

Fun and Reunion Days

Designed for owners to get together, these popular regional events allow members in all areas to join in. They may be held at a village hall or at a member's house—anywhere large enough to cater for all the BGVs, their owners, family and friends who turn up to enjoy the fun and games.



Regional Walks and Other Get-togethers

A favourite for those who are unable to travel far. Walks are always popular as are get-togethers with informal speakers—topics covered in the past have included aspects of health and grooming advice.

www.bgvclub.co.uk

The Club website contains a wealth of information on the history of the breed and of the BGV Club, past and forthcoming events with dates for your diary, also vital information on health and other important BGV-related topics.

For a full list of BGV Club events and shows go to



The Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of Great Britain

Founded 1978

Home	About BGVs	Finding a BGV	About the Club	Club Rules & Ethics	Club Shows/ Diary Dates	Fun & Education	BGV Care	BGV Health	Judging
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www.bgvclub.co.uk

KENNEL CLUB GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS

(as distributed to all Breed Clubs by the Kennel Club)

All members of the BGV Club undertake to abide by the KC Code of Ethics and Associated BGV Club Guidelines

All vitally important to guide you in giving your BGV the best possible life

Club Members:

- 1 Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required
- 2 Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operation to the Kennel Club
- 3 Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes
- 4 Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act
- 5 Will not create demand for, nor supply puppies which have been docked illegally
- 6 Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed
- 7 Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties
- 8 Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home
- 9 Will clean up after their dog in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited
- 10 Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change
- 11 Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home
- 12 Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity if not immediately available
- 13 Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog)
- 14 Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from Club membership

and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club

and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action as appropriate

BGV CLUB ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES

BGV Club Breeders will

- 15 Breed only to improve the quality of the BGV , selecting a stud dog/bitch to be mated based on researched compatibility of pedigrees, conformation and temperament, and being aware of health conditions on the breed and BGV Club research to overcome these. This includes taking account of any DNA test results in the case of PBGVs.
- 16 Not knowingly engage in cross-breeding.
- 17 Share all findings regarding their breeding, including providing evidence of health clearances of BGV breeding stock as required by the BGV Club, also for acceptance onto the BGV Club's Breeders Directory.
- 18 Only breed from a PBGV sire and dam who, unless hereditary clear, have been DNA tested, and do not engage in breeding the following combinations of dogs—affected to affected, affected to carrier, carrier to carrier.
- 19 Not breed from any bitch under the age of 18 months or before the second season should this occur prior to the bitch attaining the age of 18 months. No BGV Bitches to be mated under any circumstances prior to their first birthday in line with Kennel Club guidelines.
- 20 Recommend that all puppies are identified by microchip, tattoo or DNA profile, if not already done so.
- 21 Ensure no puppy changes hands under the age of 8 weeks of age.
- 22 Ensure puppies are in good health at the time of sale.
- 23 Provide the following at the time of sale/transfer
 - * A contract of sale to be signed, with one copy retained by the purchaser, including details of any known cosmetic faults; breeders should include in the contract of sale a recommendation that all PBGVs should be likewise eye tested between the ages of 2 and 6 annually
 - * A record of inoculations and worming with guidelines for continuing the schedule
 - * Advice on care and grooming specific to the breed
 - * Information on known health problems in the breed and provision for making a contact for help with care, health and welfare
 - * Guidance on encouraging the new owner to have their own vet check within a specified time to be assured of the puppy/dog's health status
- 24 Whether or not the KC documents are available, explain any breeder-placed endorsements on the registration and obtain signed confirmation of awareness and acceptance from the new owner/s before or at the time of physical transfer of the BGV to its new owner.
- 25 In the case of PBGVs, breeders will
 - * follow the recommendation that, before mating, a BVA eye test is carried out
 - * give Puppy Buyers proof of POAG status of both parents
 - * for progeny, provide the following information:
 - The status of the puppy if known (based on parents' results) ie Clear to Clear producing Clear, or Affected to Clear producing Carriers.
 - * In the case of a Clear to Carrier mating: either test the entire litter to establish the status of the puppies prior to sale; or endorse the litter and inform the purchaser that a DNA test will be required prior to the endorsement being lifted.
 - * If intending to export a puppy from a Clear to Carrier mating, arrange for a DNA test to be carried out before export.
- 26 When breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the scheme.

IT IS NOW LAW TO
MICROCHIP YOUR DOG

WHEN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE BGV CLUB, YOU SIGN AN UNDERTAKING TO ABIDE BY THE KC CODE OF ETHICS AND THE BGV CLUB'S ASSOCIATED GUIDELINES

Welfare and Rescue

The Breed:

Cute? Yes. Playful? Yes. A **HOUND?** YES!!

Be aware of, and ready to adapt to, those traits peculiar to hounds—and to BGVs in particular. They are a complete joy to own—but do not be misled by the eyes that look longingly. They have a mind of their own and ‘selective hearing’, preferring to obey their noses rather than their owners! After all, they are **scenthounds!**



The Reason:

Why do we need Welfare & Rescue and a Co-ordinator in charge? Sometimes a situation can arise where the owner may no longer be able to care for the dog. Indeed some do not appreciate the special traits of a hound or readily adapt to owning one. They may therefore ask for the Club's help. It is important to be able to offer immediate support and, where necessary, agree to find a new home for the BGV.

In 2006, to ensure high standards for Welfare and Rescue arrangements, the Club implemented a Code of Practice with a Trustee/Rescue Co-ordinator and two additional Trustees. In 2017 the number of trustees was increased from 3 to 5 which gives the Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator much better scope to deal with emergency situations. These people are collectively responsible for decisions made for the welfare of any BGVs needing help.

The Aim:

The goal is to never have a BGV in the Club's rescue kennels,. With careful management and placing of dogs into the correct homes, this can usually be achieved. If a BGV is taken into the Club's care, it will receive both the Club's attention and that of a vet. The Club also ensures good feeding, grooming, health and contentment before the BGV goes to its news home. The aim is always to do this as quickly as possible to minimise the stress for all involved and ensure the BGV is able to settle quickly into its new home.



Raising Funds and Awareness:

Rescue and re-homing work costs money. Proceeds from the Club's Fun Days and other events help to raise funds. These social occasions are held throughout the year in different parts of the UK and all are welcome to join in and enjoy a day of companionship and fun classes with other BGVs and their owners.

The Club also runs a Limited Odds Draw. It costs just £12 per year and you stand a chance of winning in the monthly draw, with a percentage of your donation going to the Rescue Fund. Details of this are on the Club website.

Welfare and Rescue

Your BGV's General Daily Healthcare

Hopefully your new BGV will live a long and healthy life. However, as with humans, BGVs can occasionally become ill. Ignore basic hygiene and health needs and, unless you take out insurance, you may end up paying expensive vet bills. Take a few basic steps to ensure your dog's health and you will have a happy and healthy BGV for the rest of its life.

So, how can you help your BGV have the best and longest life possible?

1 *Dog nutrition—your BGV's ideal weight and knowing what to feed*

Your BGV's breeder will give you advice on feeding. Don't let your BGV become overweight, as this could shorten its life and lead to other problems. As a guide, optimum weight—Petits: bitches 13kg, dogs 16kg—Grands: bitches 18-19kg, dogs 20-24kg.



2 *Grooming for health—teeth, ears, nails, coat*



Grooming entails brushing through with a slicker brush or comb to ensure the coat is matt-free. This should be done at least once a week. The coat also needs regular stripping (NOT scissoring) to keep it at a manageable length. Teeth should be kept clean and nails short. Ears need regular attention to prevent wax build up and subsequent problems. Usually all that is required is occasional hair removal from inside the ear canal and regular cleansing using an approved ear preparation.

3 *Spotting warning signs*

The better your relationship with your BGV, the easier it will be for you to notice anything out of the ordinary. Does he have a dry nose, a temperature, is he losing coat or weight, have his toilet habits changed, does he seem in pain, or is he generally not as lively

as usual? These are all signs which may indicate a problem needing breeder or vet advice.

For more guidance on routine health checks, go to

www.bgvclub.co.uk/bgv-care

The Health of the Breed

We are fortunate in that Grands and Petits have a common origin, hailing from long established, rustic stock and bred for working all day. Therefore overall they are healthy hounds with few breed specific problems. However, this is not to say they do not exist. Over the years the BGV Club has become aware of various health issues so impresses on breeders only to breed from BGVs that, at the time of mating, they sincerely believe to be sound, healthy and with a good temperament.

Specific Health Issues in BGVs

Eyes



In comparison with other breeds, both Grands and Petits have few eye problems but, since 1996, the BGV Club has been active in an eye testing programme. The main reason was the discovery of Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG) in Petits. While there is no need for alarm the Club knows that, if found early, there are remedies which may increase the length of time that the dog's eyesight remains good. Eye tests from the age of 2-9yrs on an annual basis are therefore extremely important for all PBGVs, whether breeding stock or pets.

The Club is extremely fortunate that, with the unstinting support of Professor Peter Bedford (BVA Ophthalmologist) and Vivien Phillips (BGV Health Officer for Eyes), the Animal Health Trust (AHT) has developed a DNA test for POAG. This means

that everyone can now be aware if their PBGV is likely to be affected and breeders can use this information to gradually eradicate the disease from the breed. More information about this can be found on

www.bgvclub.co.uk/eyes

Epilepsy

Epilepsy or seizing, of which there are many causes, is known to occur in both Petits and Grands. The BGV Club is working closely with the AHT in the hopes of locating the gene responsible for idiopathic epilepsy. Over past years DNA samples have been collected from older unaffected hounds (over 8 years old and seizure free) and their family units and the BGV is one of many breeds being studied under the AHT's Give a Dog A Genome project.



If your BGV has a seizure, it is important that certain tests are carried out before a diagnosis of idiopathic epilepsy can be made. Details of the necessary tests are available from Peter Marks (or any other member of the Health Sub-Committee). Make contact as soon as possible after the event, as some test results may alter with the passage of time. More details are on

www.bgvclub.co.uk/bgv-health

www.bgvclub.co.uk/epilepsy

Other Health Problems



There have been some instances of hip dysplasia, hypothyroidism, steroid responsive meningitis (juvenile pain syndrome), pancreatitis and, more recently, craniomandibular osteopathy, though these are thankfully rare. For more information go to

Craniomandibular osteopathy

www.bgvclub.co.uk/specific-concerns

The Joy of Owning a BGV

These few pages have been frank in telling you what you can expect when owning a BGV but bear in mind that the Club is here to help you should you need advice — and, above all, your BGV will give you many years of companionship, loyalty and fun.



The happy
breed



We look forward
to seeing you!