



BGV Appreciation



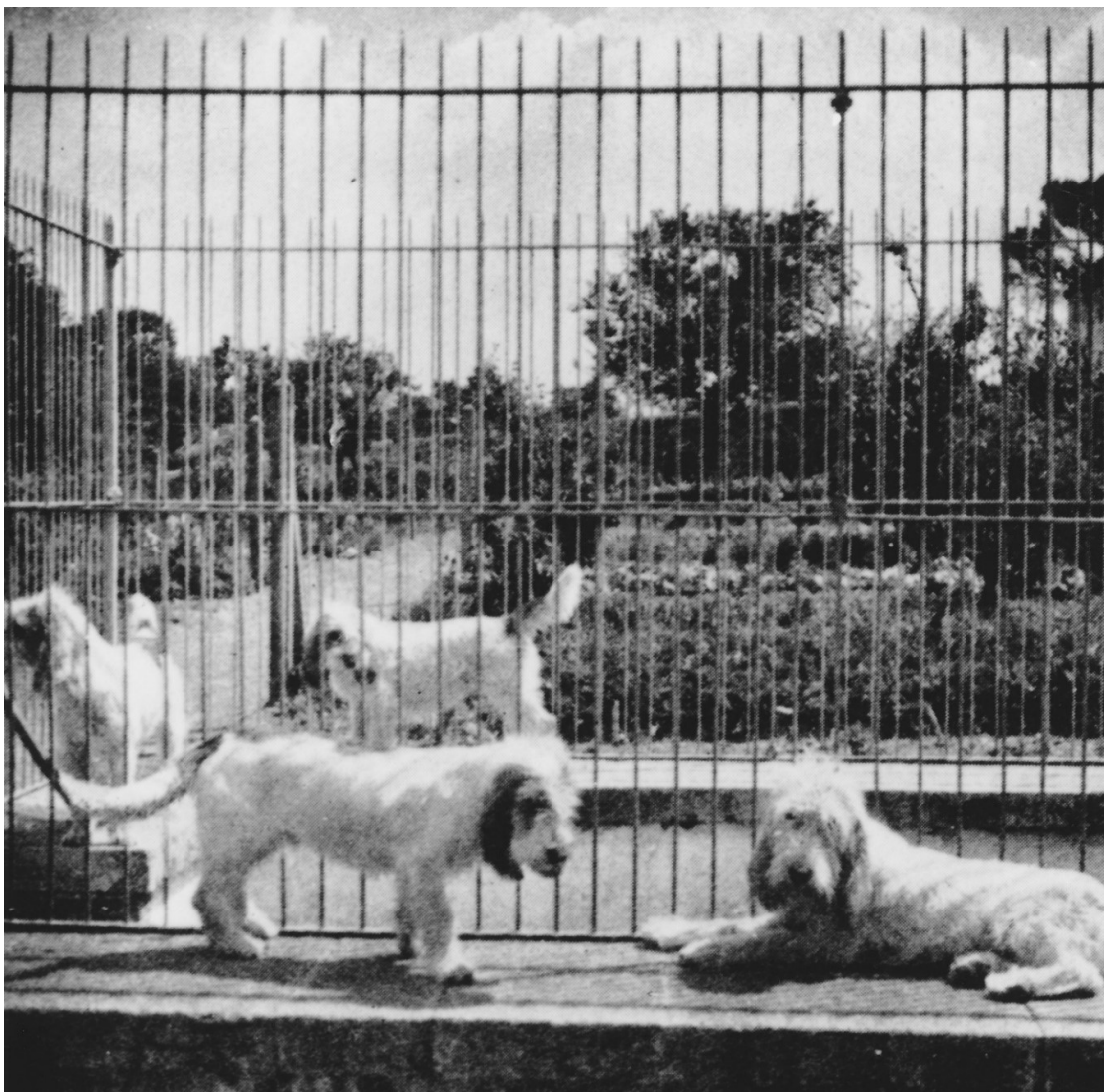
The GBGV

A History of the Breed

By Linda Winchester Skerritt

An Appreciation of the GBGV

"Preserving Our Past for Educating Our Future"

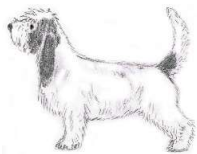


THE BASSETS GRIFFONS VENDÉENS IN THE OLD GUNDOG
KENNELS AT CASTLE MILK 1938-39

*“The Griffon Vendéen are useful active little hounds with good noses
but are inclined to be riotous”*

Just before World War II Sir Rupert Buchanan-Jardine, who followed his father’s passion for hunting, imported three couple of Bassets Griffons Vendéens from M. Sellier in France. They joined the Castle Milk bounds at Lockerbie in Scotland. He wrote “This breed is divided into two groups, one with straight, the other with slightly bent legs. The straight-legged variety reminds one very much of a small Welsh Hound, both in appearance and in working qualities. Each is full of activity has a good nose, is inclined to be riotous. This similarity between the Griffon Vendéen and the Welsh Hound is not really so extraordinary if one studies the history of both breeds”

“Several litters were bred from these and, together with a draft obtained from the Westerby Basset Hounds, I hunted hares with fair success for a few years”



About this Module

The **Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen: A History of the Breed** by Linda Winchester Skerritt has its early basis in researches carried out while writing the **Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen: A Definitive Study** and subsequent books on the *basset* breeds. Thanks are due to all those owners and breeders who, from 1998 onwards, have given valuable information.

Rare photographs combine to give a foretaste of the breed's origins in France and then into the UK before recognition by the Kennel Club and gaining championship status in 2006.

Much has happened in the years since then with several breeders coming to the fore. However hopefully this background information which, by its very nature, cannot include everything, will be a useful historical resource for studying the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen in the UK as part of Breed Appreciation learning.

Dear Fellow Breed Clubs:

You are welcome to use

**The Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen:
A History of the Breed**

within your own Club, as we hope this will inspire you to build on it and develop your own country's breed history.

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The GBGV: A History of the Breed

GBGV Appreciation

The GBGV: A History of the Breed is designed to give a brief insight into how the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen we know today came into being. It contains rare photographs and gives an easy-to-understand overview of the history of the GBGV breed from its early beginnings. This is key reading for any admirers of the breed, whether their involvement is in breeding, handling, judging, competing with or simply owning and loving a Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen.

This reading is recommended for all **breeders, owners, exhibitors, handlers, judges** and **lovers** of PBGVs.

Photograph - Dauphine van Tum Tum's Vriendjes
courtesy of Gwen Huikeshoven

The GBGV

A History of the Breed



By Linda Winchester Skerritt

**Issued By
The UK Basset Griffon Vendéen Club**

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**Cover photo: Ch Silvamoon Sweet Sapphire
by Amanda O'Day**

Preface

Before looking at the development of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen, it will help if you understand the meaning of the breed name, which is pronounced:

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

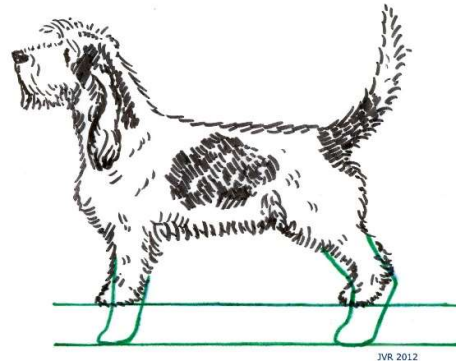
This descriptive French name gives an understanding of what the GBGV should look like - and its origins.

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 hound that is lower to the ground than the one 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, the GBGV does not resemble the Basset Hound in any other way.



GBGV and Basset



ORIGINS OF THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN



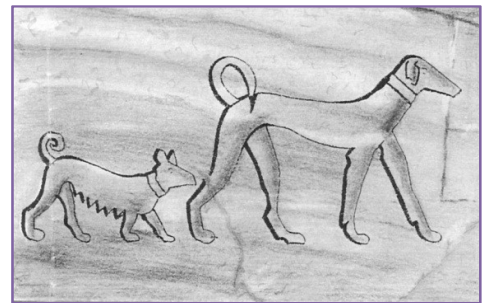
The origins of many breeds are shrouded in the mists of time but there is much we do know leading up to the time when reliable information is readily available about the Basset Griffon Vendéen. History shows how time, evolution and breeding through the centuries led to the rough-coated hound of the Vendée.

**LE REPOS – GEORGE HENRI FAUVEL
(1900)**

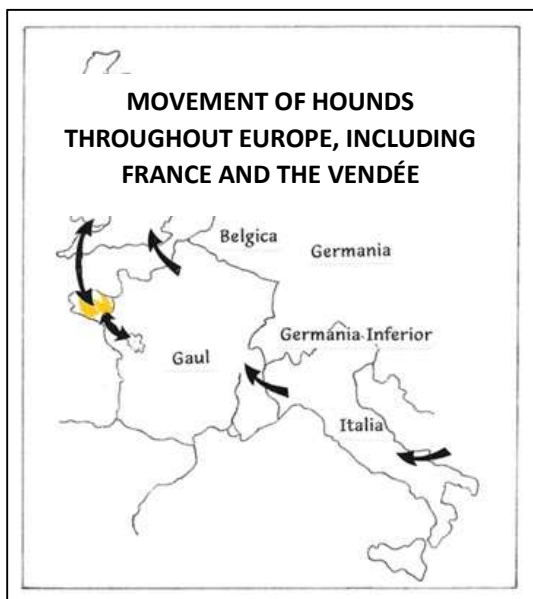
c6000-3000 BC Illustrations indicate the existence of short-legged hunting dogs, from Bronze Age Germanic cave-drawings to Assyrian, Indian and notably Egyptian monumental inscriptions and tombs.

2500-1000 BC Pharaonic Egypt glorifies hunting, with paintings in tombs of tall, elegant dogs accompanied by shorter-legged ones.

5th century BC The Greeks are possibly the earliest European breeders of hare-hunting scenthounds, which mirror Celtic hounds. Celts settle in Gaul (modern-day France), becoming renowned for their highly prized dogs.



**HUNTING DOGS IN XII DYNASTY TOMB
OF SARENPUT, ASWAN**



1st-2nd century AD Greek historian Arrian (95-175 AD) writes about Segusian Hounds, small dogs named after a Celtic tribe on the Rhone's western banks in western France. They contribute to creation of several breeds, the rough-coated ones being ancestors of the Griffon varieties of French hunting dogs.

Circa 200 AD Both the ancient Greeks and Romans are familiar with dwarf hunting dogs. The Spartan Hound, in particular, is described as "short-legged and deep mouthed".

700-1000 AD In France, hounds bred by the monks at the Abbey of Saint Hubert in the Ardennes, Belgium, are possibly the earliest selected for nose and other hunting qualities. These are thought to be the forerunners of many scenthound breeds throughout the various regions of

France. Significant development of shorter-legged dogs takes place.

1550-1574 Charles IX writes in his 1570 book *La Chasse Royale* that the St Huberts are suitable for people with gout to follow but not for those who wish to shorten the life of the hunted animal. He describes them as pack-hounds of medium stature and long in the body, not well sprung in the rib and of no great strength. He surmises that all hounds are descended from four “Royal Races” - the Chien Fauve de Bretagne, de St Hubert, Gris de St Louis and Blanc du Roi. The widely distributed Royal Races help in the development of French hound breeds, notably the full size chiens courants (hunting dogs), the medium-size *briquet* and the low, under 38cms (15ins), *chiens bassets*.

1561 In his work *La Vénerie* (The Art of Hunting) Jaques du Fouilloux describes a type of hound being strong of body, but with low, short legs. For the first time the word “*bassel*” (“*bas*” = low or “low set”) appears. This hound is further classified by coat varieties - that is smooth-coated, rough-coated, and half-rough/half-smooth. Degree of crook is also important - the crooked front (*à jambes torses*) and straight front (*à jambes droites*). In general the crooked-legged bassets were shorted-coated, whereas the straight-legged – or ones with slight crook (*à jambes demi-torses*) - were mostly rough-coated, forerunners of Bassets Griffons.

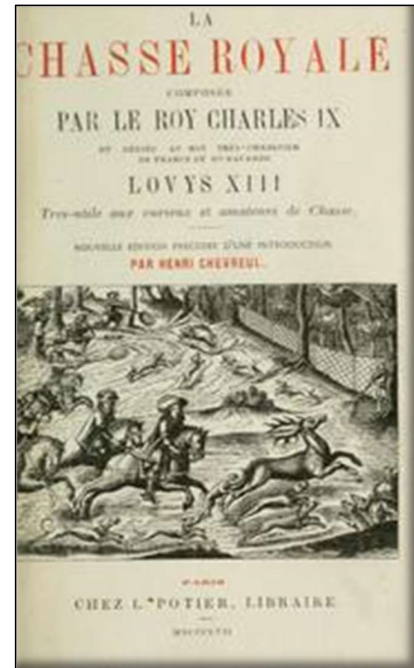


ILLUSTRATION FROM LA VÉNERIE (THE ART OF HUNTING)
DEPICITNG LOW-TO-THE-GROUND “BASSET” TYPE HOUNDS



BASSET À JAMBES TORSSES AND
BASSET À JAMBES DROITES

16th – 19th Century France

The aristocracy develop French hounds by crossing their own with the “Royal Races,” establishing hunting dogs of distinct breeds. They use the larger, powerful hounds when hunting on horseback. Those less wealthy hunt by foot so need a slower hound and possibly selectively breed down to 38cms (15ins) and under - or the dwarfed size may be due to unintentional mutations. This low-to-the-ground *basset* type emerges in several hound breeds, including those with rough coats being developed in various French regions. Those bred in the rugged Vendée need the harsh coat as protection against brambles and thorns.

1789-1799 The Vendée suffers greatly during the French Revolution, halting all thoughts of hunting for pleasure.

1793 Louis XVI is executed and France declares war on the rest of Europe. The Vendée inhabitants riot and not until 1799 is law and order restored

1815 Restoration of the monarchy (Louis XVIII) and re-establishment of the aristocracy herald resumption of hunting. There are just enough good specimens of various breeds, including Vendée hounds, to re-form the packs. With hunting rights then given to everyone, smaller hunts become increasingly popular amongst peasants and the useful *basset* varieties are found in greater numbers.

1858 and 1890 Comte le Couteulx de Canteleu, an authority on hounds and hunting, has noted works published including *La Vénerie Française (1858)* and *Le Manuel de Vénerie Française (1890)*. He details the *basset* breeds.

1863 Basset type hounds are shown at the first dog show held in Paris, where masters of hunting packs have been urged to attend. They are assumed to have been of either the Couteulx or Lane type as these two prominent advocates of the breed, Le Couteulx and Louis Lane, produced their own distinct strains. There are 27 of poor quality in the Basset class with no distinction between smooth-coat and rough-coat.

1865 The show moves to Cours-la-Reine, central Paris, and attracts more exhibitors. There are three times more *basset* types entered and division is according to height. In the *grands bassets*, Comte d'Incourt de Metz has a pack of nine. Although there is an irregularity of type, his rough-coated Revello wins first prize.



1870s Le Comte d'Elva perfects his Ricoudet pack of hounds, having started off with a female Basset Griffon and a fauve-coloured, male Basset de Bretagne. His hounds have a typical Griffon Vendéen coat – mainly white, so easily visible to the huntsman - marked lightly with orange; or tri-colour, with straight front or feet turned out slightly. They measure 34-43cms (13½-17ins) with an average height of 39cms (15½ins).

**ONE OF COMTE D'ELVA'S BASSET GRIFFON
VENDÉEN OF PURE BREED TYPE AND WITH
STRAIGHT FORELEGS**

1873 Following years of poor organisation, the tenth and last exhibition takes place at the Jardin d'Acclimation in Paris. This year also sees the foundation of the great hunt kennels at the Jardin, with the aim of having a section specifically for hunting dogs. Amongst the breeds is one Basset de Vendée.

1874 The Basset Français rises in popularity, though cross breeding of smooth and rough-coated Bassets is common practice. These are distinctly different from the true smaller-sized hound bred down from the larger, majestic Griffon Vendéen.

1875 In his book *Les Chiens de Chasse*, Henri de la Blanchère considers the Griffons de Vendée to be the finest in the world, capable of hunting in the most difficult terrain.

1885 Le Comte d'Elva's Royal Combattant attracts attention, a straight-limbed, tri-colour male of 43cms (17ins). He becomes the count's favourite stud dog.

1887 Ernest Ambaud, living in Le Havre, shows a "pretty pack" of evenly-sized *à poil dur* (rough-coated) Vendéen Basset Hounds. It has taken him some ten years of breeding to achieve uniformity of type. He did this by eliminating constantly from his litters – first smooth-coated dogs, then silky-coated ones. When he started, half the puppies were smooth-coated, a quarter were silky and the remainder harsh-coated. Five years later the smooth ones had almost disappeared. Out of five or six litters – altogether sixty dogs – he had only one smooth-coat. However, out of nine or ten whelps there were still one or two with silky coats, the others were wire-haired. He achieves uniformity of height but finds a remarkable tendency for the breed to get shorter.

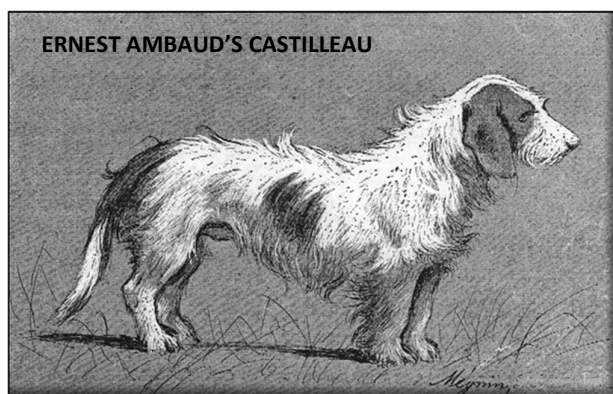
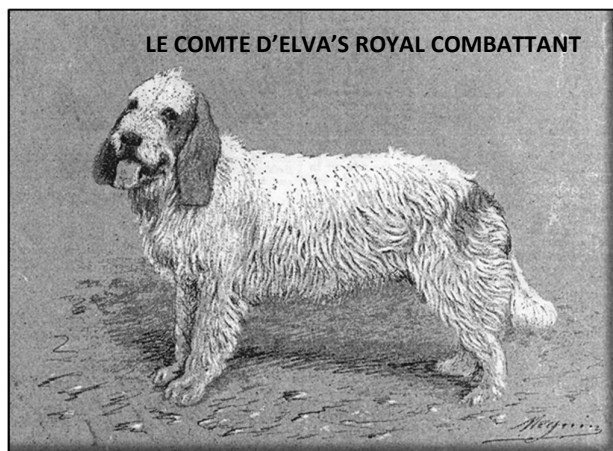
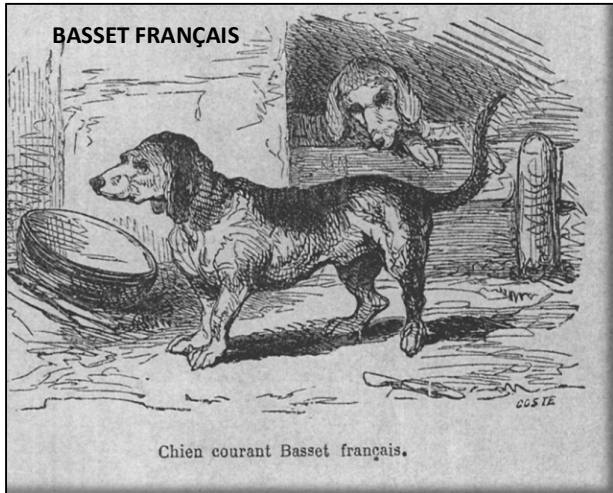
M. Ambaud's favourite stud dog, Castilleau, transmits his virtues admirably to his progeny "with a vigorous and clean head, flat and pliable ears, falling down well, straight legs, perfectly-cut feet, and well made, of an iron constitution, for he has never been ill".

Late 1880s Although d'Elva's hounds achieve a certain amount of success at exhibitions, towards the end of the 1880s they no longer dominate the *bassets à poil dur*.

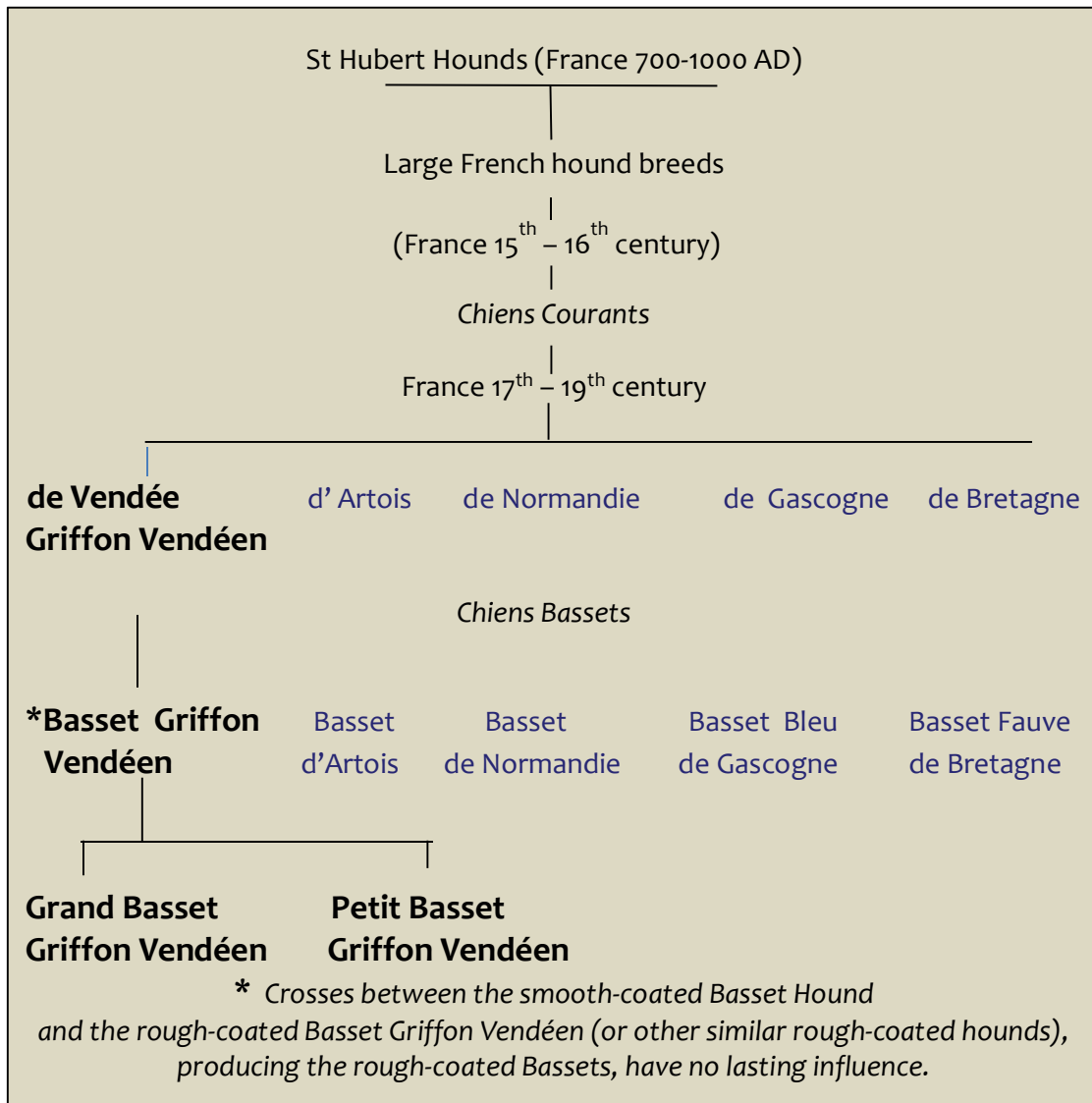
Because of this he forms two separate packs – one of *bassets* for *chasse à tir* (hunting with a gun), the other of *briquets* for *chasse à courre* (hunting larger game to death). His hounds make a great contribution to establishing type and earn him the soubriquet "Father of the Basset Griffon Vendéen".

1896 The Club du Basset Français is founded in an attempt to bring about some form of standardisation and to separate the French Bassets as definitive in their own right. Le Comte d'Elva, becomes president of the "long-haired Bassets" section of the club and devotes his time to writing a standard for the breed known as the Basset Griffon Français.

1898 The Club du Basset Français breed standard for the Basset Griffon Français is approved.



The Basset Griffon Vendéen's line of descent



The Griffon Vendéen could be Full size (*Grand*) Medium-sized (*Briquet*), or Low set (*Basset*)

The **Basset Griffon Vendéen** could be further sub-divided into: **Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen** (*basset de grande taille*), and **Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen** (*basset de petite taille*)

19th and Early 20th Century England

The 19th into early 20th century sees the arrival from France of “rough-coats” - the result of crossing Bassets and other rough-coated hounds - and English breeders continue this practice. Some associate their harsh coat with the qualities attributed to the Griffon de Vendée. Although these “rough-coated” Bassets are distinctly different from the straight-legged Basset Griffon Vendéen being developed in France, their part in history deserves a brief mention.

1875 Romano (sometimes Ramoneur or Ramoneau) is possibly the first Basset “of the Vendée type” to be exhibited in England. Originally owned by Dr Seton, he passes to Mr de Landre Macdona. Everett Millais writes that he is a Basset Griffon and that Bassets can be sub-divided into Couteulx hounds, Lane hounds and Griffons.

1890s Interest in those described as Griffons (rough-coats) grows in England. Several prominent Basset breeders are quick to buy this novel breed.

1891 and 1893 The Kennel Club defines the Basset Hound as rough and smooth and rough-coats from France are exhibited and sold at Crufts.

1895 – 1898 Several prominent Basset breeders become noted for rough-coats. All continue the practice of cross-breeding which produce litters of mixed type, both smooth and rough. Mrs Nina Ellis, who subsequently becomes Basset Hound Club secretary, writes “*One of the oldest importers tells me that the rough and smooth are not branches of the same family at all and that it is an absolute farce breeding them on the same lines*”. She adds “*Abroad they are classed as Griffons, favouring the Otterhound type*”.

1901 - 1916 Despite attempts by the Basset Hound Club to revitalise the rough-coats, deaths from distemper and introduction of quarantine regulations in Britain contribute towards their gradual decline. Exhibited by Queen Alexandra, the last one appears at Crufts. In all, less than 200 have been registered in the Basset Hound Club’s stud book, which Everett Millais started in 1874, ten years before formation of the club. Despite their disappearance from the show-ring, cross-breeding continues in British hunting circles, with the intention of reproducing the “*bassets à jambes droites*”.

1933 Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Morrison keeps the Westerby pack flourishing by introducing Petit Bleu de Gascogne blood and some Griffon Vendéen lines.

1938 Sir Rupert Buchanan-Jardine, who follows his father’s passion for hunting, imports three couple of Bassets Griffons Vendéens from M. Sellier in France.

These form the Castle Milk pack in Scotland and are possibly the first true Griffon Vendéen hounds in Great Britain. All are straight legged (*à jambes droites*) and between 40-43½cms (16-17ins) tall. They come out of quarantine the following year. He finds that the pure Griffons Vendéens have good noses, plenty of cry, though not the wonderful voices of the smooth-coated Artésien-Normand.

1938 – 1973 Other British packs draft in shorter-legged Griffons Vendéens. These include the West Lodge, the Casewick and Isle of White Foot Beagles.



SIR RUPERT BUCHANAN-JARDINE



CASTLE MILK BASSETS GRIFFONS VENDEENS 1938-39

To sum up - uncertainties shroud the early years of creation of all hound breeds. It is likely that the cross-breeding in France between Bassets and the harsh-coated and shorter-legged Griffons de Vendée produced the rough-coated Bassets. In time, these arrived in England, where further cross-breeding occurred, resulting in the rough-coated Basset that was exhibited and hunted in Britain in the late 19th early 20th century.

The straight-legged Castle Milk imports were possibly the first pure-bred Bassets Griffons Vendéens, of Grand type, in Britain. From this time we move into an era where cross-breeding continued within several packs.

While this short-lived era of the cross-bred rough-coat declined in Britain, early 20th century France saw firm foundations for the true Basset Griffon Vendéen.

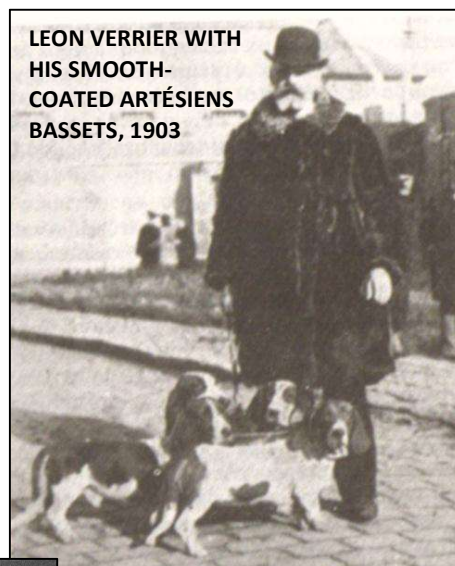
The next section tells how the Basset Griffon Vendéen fared in these early days in its country of origin and how the breed became two distinct sizes – Grand and Petit. We then follow its introduction into the UK.

20th Century France

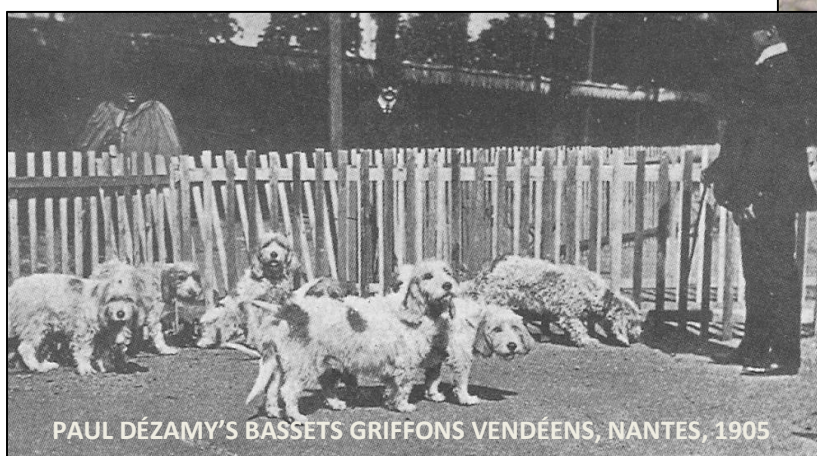
1900-1914 During the time leading up to World War I, two important breeders dominate the smooth and rough-coated Bassets. Léon Verrier for his *bassets à poil ras* (smooth coats) and Paul Dézamy for the *bassets à poil dur* (rough coats).

From the 1890s into the 20th century, M. Dézamy was looking for a “hare hound”, quick enough for the Vendée terrain where hunting on horseback was almost impossible. His Bassets Griffons Vendéens become the role model for the breed.

1901 Paul Dézamy forms the Rallye Bocage, his own hunting pack of between 15–20 Bassets Griffons Vendéens for hunting hare. In time, his ideal, larger size hound of around 42cms becomes known as the “42 Dézamy”.



LEON VERRIER WITH HIS SMOOTH-COATED ARTÉSIENS BASSETS, 1903

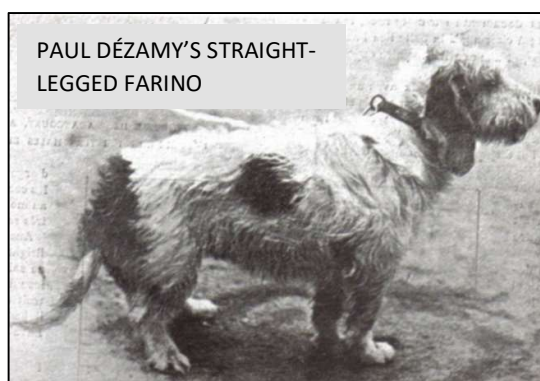


PAUL DÉZAMY'S BASSETS GRIFFONS VENDÉENS, NANTES, 1905

1903 M. Dézamy wins many awards at Paris shows and establishes himself as an important breeder of true Bassets Griffons Vendéens with straight forelegs. His dog, Farino, is crowned a champion at the Paris show - his first champion BGV.

1904 Following on from the provisional approval in 1898, with minor alterations the Basset Griffon Français standard is published in France.

1907 Paul Dézamy feels a locally run club would serve the Griffon Vendéen interests better and the Club du Griffon Vendéen is founded. Its headquarters is at La Chaize-le-Vicomte. At the first general assembly of the club, Comte d'Elva is elected as “President of Honour” and Paul Dézamy as President. The Livre d'Enregistrement du Basset Griffon Vendéen (BGV Record Book) is opened.



PAUL DÉZAMY'S STRAIGHT-LEGGED FARINO



1909 Club members accept Paul Dézamy's revision of the breed standard. This contains a reference to two sizes but with classification based primarily on crook of leg:

“Two types are recognised.
One, from 0^m 34 to 0^m 38,
the most often with semi-crooked legs.
The other, from 0^m 38 to 0^m 42,
must always have straight legs”.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY BGV BREED STANDARDS

	Club du Basset Griffon Vendéen 1909 (Paul Dézamy)	BGV Standard c1922 <i>Translated from the original French</i>
General appearance	Structure allongée; pattes droites ou demi-torses; fouet légèrement relevé sans retomber sur le rein; poil rude et long sans exagération, ne devant être ni soyeux, ni laineux, sur tout le corps sans exception; tête importante, allongée, bombée. Oreilles garnies de longs poils, assez longues et attachées bas, tournées en dedans. Le chien à pattes demi-torses doit être plus long que le chien à pattes droites.	Lengthened structure. Legs straight or semi-crooked. Stern slightly raised without hanging down over the loin; hair rough and long without exaggeration, it must be neither silky nor woolly over the whole body, without exception; substantial head, lengthened, domed; ears furnished with long hair, sufficiently long, above all attached low. The dog with semi-crooked legs must be longer than the dog with straight legs.
Head Skull	Bombé, allongé, pas trop large, bien évidé sous les yeux; cassure du front marquée; l'os occipital très développé.	Domed, lengthened, not too wide, well defined under the eyes; defined stop of the forehead, occipital bone well developed.
Muzzle	Long, carré à l'extrémité; chanfrein légèrement busqué.	Long, square at the end. Foreface very slightly aquiline.
Nose	Noire, développée, ouverte et bien sortie.	Black, developed, open and protruding well.
Lips	Recouvertes de bonnes moustaches.	Covered with good moustache.
Eyes	Grands, foncés, sans blanc, de belle expression, intelligente et familière. Le rouge de la paupière ne doit pas être apparent. Les poils surmontant la paupière supérieure doivent revenir en avant sans cependant masquer l'oeil.	Large, dark, without white, with noble, intelligent and friendly expression; the red of the eyelid should not be visible. The hairs surmounting the upper eyelid should turn back in front yet without masking the eye.
Ears	Longues, souples, placées très bas, jamais au-dessus de la ligne de l'oeil, couvertes de longs poils, tournées sans exagération en forme de papillotes.	Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair and ending in elongated oval, well turned inwards, reaching at least the end of the nose; attached below the line of the eye.
Neck	Long et robuste; plus épais près des épaules; sans fanon	Long and sturdy, thicker near the shoulders, without dewlap.
Body / Chest	Ouverte, longue et profonde.	Expansive, long and deep in the subjects with straight legs.
Ribs	-	Rounded, particularly with the semi-crooked legs
Flank	-	Full rather than extending downwards.
Shoulders	Sèches, obliques, sans être tournées en dehors, bien soudées au corps.	Lean, sloping, without being turned outwards, well joined to the body.
1 Limbs 2 Forelegs 3 Forearm	1. Ossature développée 2. Les genoux ne devant jamais se toucher. 3. Épais.	1. Developed frame 2. Straight or turned outwards, the knees must never touch each other. 3. Thick-set.
Pasterns	Même chez les sujets à jambes droites, le poignet doit être bien marqué.	Even in subjects with straight legs, the pastern would be defined.
Back	Long, large, droit ou légèrement arqué à la région des reins.	Long, wide and straight, starting to curve at its junction with the loin/
Loins	-	Solid, well filled and slightly arched.
Croup	Bien ouverte et très musclée.	Well expanded and very muscular.
Hindquarters / Thighs	3. Fortement musclées.	3. Strongly muscular, but not too rounded.
Hocks	Larges, coudés et jamais complètement droits.	Wide, bent and never completely straight.
Feet	Très larges aussi bien devant comme derrière. Les pattes de devant droites ou tournées en dehors. Gros et serrés à la fois, secs, solé résistante; ongles solides. Les pieds doivent être tournés en dehors, mais sans exagération, et ce seulement chez les chiens à pattes demi-torses.	Large and at the same time tight, lean; resistant pad, strong nails. The feet of the front limbs should be turned outwards, but without exaggeration and, this, only in dogs with semi-crooked legs.
Stern	Planté haut, gros à la naissance, s'amincissant régulièrement jusqu'à son extrémité, épié; assez long; ne revenant pas sur le rein; porté en lame de sabre.	Set high, large at the root, growing thinner regularly towards its tip, slightly offstanding hair (like ears of grain), fairly long, carried like a saber-blade or slightly incurved.

Coat	Dur et pas trop long, plat, jamais ni soyeux ni laineux. Les franges pas trop abondantes.	Harsh and not too long, smooth, never silky or woolly. Fringes should not be too abundant.
1 Colour 2 Colours	1. <i>Unicolore</i> - Orange foncé, orange pâle, poil de lièvre, blanc gris, gris ardoisé. <i>Bicolore</i> - Blanc et orange, blanc et noir, blanc et poil de lièvre, blanc et gris, noir et feu, blanc et ardoisé, blanc et feu. <i>Tricolore</i> - Blanc, noir et feu; blanc, poil de lièvre et feu; blanc, orange et feu; blanc, gris et feu.	1. <i>Unicolour</i> : More or less dark fauve; coat of hare; grey. <i>Bicolour</i> : White and orange, white and black, white and coat of hare, white and grey, white and tan. <i>Tricolour</i> : White, black and tan; white, coat of hare and tan; white grey and tan. 2. Fairly thick, often mottled in tricolours, white and black, or white and grey subjects.
Height	Deux types sont reconnus: l'un de 0m 34 à 0m 38, le plus souvent à pattes demi-torses; l'autre de 0m 38 à 0m 42, devant toujours être à pattes droites. La taille de femelles doit être inférieure de 2cms environ à celle des mâles.	Two types are recognized. One, from 0 ^m 34 to 0 ^m 38, the most often with semi-crooked legs. The other, from 0 ^m 38 to 0 ^m 42, must always have straight legs. The height of females should be about 2cms less than that of males.
Gait	-	The walk should be easy at the three paces.
Weight	-	-
1. Faults 2. Serious faults	1. Tête plate et courte; museau pointu; mâchoires inégales; oreilles plates et dépourvues de poil long, attachées haut; encolure trop courte; dos mou et plongé; pattes de devant se touchant aux genoux, en arc de cercle ou pliant sans pouvoir supporter le poids du corps; coudes décollés; poitrine ronde ou serrée; pieds plat ou gras; doigts trop écartés; jarrets trop droits ou serrés; gigots plats; fouet trop recourbé ou porté sur les jarrets; poil laineux, soyeux ou frisé.	2. Head flat and short, nose scant or losing colour; light eyes, sharp-pointed muzzle, unequal moustache, flat ears and without long hair, attached high; neckline too short, height not reaching the minimum or exceeding the maximum indicated; back weak and dipping; front legs touching at the knees, bowed or bending without being able to support the weight of the body; loose elbows; feet flat or heavy, splayed digits; hocks too bent or too straight, close or wide-open; thighs flat; stern too in-curved or carried on the hocks; coat woolly, silky or curly.

1912 The committee of the Club du Basset Français decides to hand over organisation of working trials to specialist clubs such as the Club du Basset Griffon Vendéen. This gives the Club du BGV improved status and recognition. On 8 July, the committee adopts what is possibly the first regulation in France governing the organisation of *chasse à tir* (hunting with a gun) working trials. Paul Dézamy devises the Certificate of Fitness for Hunting (*Brevet d'Aptitude à Chasser* or *BAC*), which later becomes known as the *Brevet de Chasse*.

1922 Under the direction of Paul Dézamy, the breed flourishes in the hands of the new Club du BGV. Moreover, due to the Vendée's somewhat isolated geographic position, the BGV fares better than other breeds during World War I. Original club members continue to hunt with the larger "*type Dézamy*". These swift, taller BGVs are ideal for hunting hare in large, open areas. However, in July the club acknowledges the need to nurture the smaller rabbit-hunting variety, recognising that they work well over a smaller area. These are also easier and cheaper to keep. Classification is still based on crooked and straight front and the breed standard also continues to place emphasis on height: 34cms-38cms (13½-15ins) and 38cms-42cms (15-16½ins). Straight legs are always required for the larger BGV.

1924 The Club de Basset Griffon Vendéen changes its name to Club du Griffon Vendéen after accepting the Briquet and, shortly after, the Grand Griffon Vendéen into its register (*RI – Registre Initiale*). This is a book of origins which records all information on each dog. Comte d'Andigné starts work on a set of standards for all French scenthound breeds.

1930 The Club du Griffon Vendéen's standards for all French scenthound breeds are published.

1932 Paul Dézamy, whose health is failing, resigns as Club du Griffon Vendéen President though continues to look after the club's register of hounds.

1933 Paul Dézamy's son-in-law, Abel Desamy takes over. (*Note the different spelling of this common Vendéen name*). He maintains that the two sizes of Griffon Vendéen are ideally suited for hunting different game, with the Grand Basset able to pursue at speed for chase in open countryside and the shorter-legged Petit skilled at ploughing through the thickest undergrowth.

1935 At the Exposition Canine Internationale d'Orléans, for the first time classes for BGVs are separated into "*à jambes demi-torses de 0m 34 à 0m 38*" (half-crooked) and "*à jambes droites 0m 38 à 0m 32*" (straight).

1939-44 Hound showing and hunting are set back due to the second World War. Only four BGVs are registered during the war years but, fortunately, due to their location, the Bassets Griffons Vendéens suffer less than other hunting breeds.

Post war years Hare become almost extinct but rabbit is plentiful and so the popularity of the eminently suitable Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen outstrips that of the Grand Basset.

1947-48 It is left to the huntsmen to restore the BGV to its pre-war glory. During this period of regeneration, it becomes clear that the Grand Basset and Petit Basset need independent standards. Spurred on by Paul Daubigné's view that, except for the different height, it is illogical to have the same standard for both breeds, Abel Desamy's work on the standards describes the Petit as being squarer in construction and with less dramatic features than those of the Grand Basset.

1951-1952 The new standards are agreed, allowing the registration of separate breeds. However, cross-breeding had been carried out for many years, especially between the Grand Basset and Briquet, whose numbers had declined dramatically during the war years, so the club rules that if necessary a puppy registered as one breed can be changed to another when adult. For this reason, "non-specific" registrations are given in the RCGV (Register of the Club du Griffon Vendéen) until after examination at one year of age.

1967 With committee approval Abel Desamy asks his son, Hubert, to help in the management of the club and Hubert takes on the position of President elect.

1970 As President elect, Hubert Desamy takes over responsibility for club affairs.

1972 The French Ministry of Agriculture recognises the Club du Griffon Vendéen as an approved Breed Association. Hubert Desamy asks breeders to stop inter-breeding between the Grand Basset and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen but, having not yet become President, he cannot force the issue.

1975 Hubert Desamy, who has by now taken over the Rallye Bocage, becomes President of the club on the death of his father. Thoughts return to separating the Grand and Petit Basset and progressing the renaissance of the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen especially the *type Dézamy*, made popular in the 1920s.



THE RALLYE BOCAGE 1967



1974 HUBERT DÉSAMY JUDGING IDÉE DES GENÈTS ROUX BRED BY RAYMOND ROUSSEAU, OWNED BY THELMA VLAS, NETHERLANDS. IDÉE WAS REGISTERED IN FRANCE AS A GBGV, SMALL YET WITH TYPICAL "GRAND" CHARACTERISTICS.



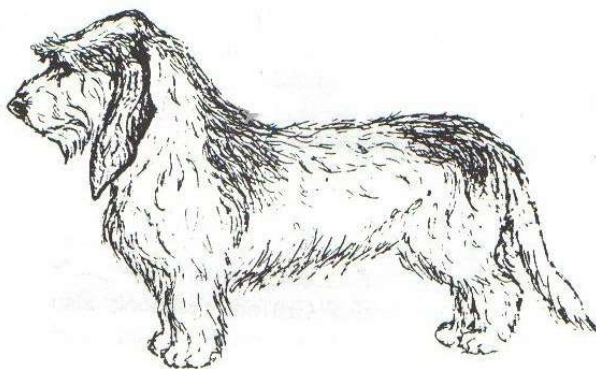
DONNED IN DARK SUIT, JUDGE HUBERT DÉSAMY

1977 With his position of authority as Club President, Hubert Desamy finally bans inter-breeding. From 1 January, the Grand Basset and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen become officially separate in breeding terms. Breeders realise however that, for many years to come, litters might produce puppies bearing characteristics of either breed. For this reason, they continue the process adopted in 1952 of having every young BGV assessed when one year old to decide whether it is a Grand Basset or Petit Basset. This examination is done by an independent "*confirmateur*", judge or knowledgeable person acting on behalf of the club.

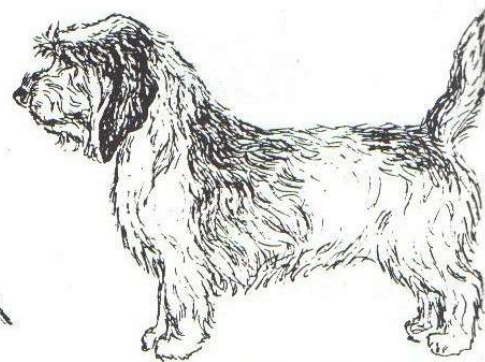
1985 Treasurer, Renaud Buche, takes over the Presidency of the Club du Griffon Vendéen. It is a difficult time, as the Desamy family had controlled the club since its inception almost 80 years before. Some feel it is time to bring the club into a modern era although M. Desamy maintains club affairs should be a traditional, family matter. Committee records and the RCGV are handed over to the new President, however many other historical records, photographs and writings are not passed on.

During this changeover, the decision is made to close the RCGV containing the origins of the club, hand over the studbook and all registration records to the Société Centrale Canine and adopt the SCC's similar registration system, which proves to be relatively straightforward. It is also decided to discontinue the practice of allowing the two varieties of BGV to be registered out of the same litter. If a Grand appears in a litter of Petits, or vice versa, it cannot be registered. Also any hound lacking the quality to pass the examination at one year of age cannot be given a Livre des Origines Français (LOF) number.

The standards are changed slightly to reflect the difference between the Grand and Petit. With the Grand minimum and Petit maximum both at 38cm (15ins), Renaud Buche feels the division should be more defined.



GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN



PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN

A 38cms (15ins) Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen on the lower end of the height range could be the same height as a 38cms (15 ins) Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen at the upper end of the height range – but there are distinct differences:

*The **GBGV** has:*

- Longer muzzle
- Longer ears
- Longer back
- Longer tail

*The **PBGV** has:*

- Shorter muzzle
- Shorter ears
- Shorter back
- Shorter tail

A tolerance of 1cm (1/2in) is added to the higher end of both Grand and Petit and the minimum height for the Grand is raised to 39cms (15 1/2ins).

With each breed now established in its own right, Renaud Buche’s presidency follows in the footsteps of the Dézamy dynasty founded a century ago. Not only do these hounds become strong contenders in the show-ring, they are also some of the most popular hunting hounds in France.

1998 The Club du Griffon Vendéen celebrates its 25th anniversary Nationale d’Elevage.

1999 On publication, the GBGV standard is altered again to reflect a difference between the height of males and females but there is no such differentiation in PBGVs.

2007 The centenary year of the Club is celebrated at the Nationale d’Elevage, Montier-en-Der.

2010 Renaud Buche hands over the Presidency to M. Christian Oustrières.



**MONTIER-EN-DER
2007 - TRADITION
AT ITS BEST, A
BOAR’S HEAD
TROPHY AND
FANFARES OF THE
VARIOUS PACKS
AND
BEST MEUTE (SMALL
PACK) OWNED BY
JOLANDA HUISMAN,
HOLLAND, HELPED
BY COREY BENEDICT,
AMERICA**

20th Century England

With GBGVs well established in some European countries, it isn't until 1989, twenty years after the Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen arrived in England that the first Grand comes into quarantine. However the years beforehand were significant in the run-up to its appearance on UK soil.

The first PBGVs that arrived in England were initially registered by the Kennel Club as Bassets Griffons Vendéens - this was because they were registered as such in France. In 1979, work was continuing on a KC format Breed Standard, commenced the year before - but, rather than a Standard specifically for the Petit, the question arose of one Standard incorporating both sizes of BGV. An old 1920s French BGV standard formed the basis of the draft.

The following year doubts were expressed over one Standard covering both Grand and Petit, especially as UK judges would only be seeing the Petit. Also, the Kennel Club pointed out there was no need to register another breed with them which did not at that time exist in England. Despite this and bearing in mind the club name - and that Grands Bassets would doubtless one day arrive in England - the committee felt it had a duty to look after the interests of both breeds and sought to resolve this by re-submitting the 1979 draft BGV Standard with a few amendments.

In 1981 the Kennel Club said it was aware of substantial differences between the Grand and Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen, adding that these could not be incorporated into the one standard. They did, however, agree to change the breed name from the meaningless "Basset Griffon Vendéen" to "Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen" so that, as and when the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen arrived in the country, it could be registered as such.

With this important anomaly ironed out, the way was paved for urgent preparation of a PBGV standard for submission to the KC. This task was hastened by needing to overcome association of the word "basset" in the breed name with the traditional Basset Hound and a failure by many to appreciate that "basset" signified less height in relation to the other Griffon Vendéen hounds. It was realised this would be even more important on arrival of the GBGV to the UK and, fortunately, cessation in France of inter-breeding between Grand and Petit did ease matters.

In 1986 the KC agreed that the club could retain the name Basset Griffon Vendéen Club, with its activities restricted to the PBGV - and the Grand Basset, when it arrived in the country.

1987 saw established PBGV breeder Nicholas Frost, who took over from Joan Wells-Meacham the running the Clipperdown Cottage kennels in Hertfordshire, negotiating to buy a GBGV bitch from Jolanda Huisman's du Greffier du Roi kennels in Holland. She had owned both Grands and Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens since 1978, starting with a Grand female and Petit male. Success at the 1980 French Nationale d'Élevage with a GBGV had helped her decision to specialise in Grands.

And so the way was paved for the Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen to enter the United Kingdom.

REVISED DRAFT STANDARD OF THE BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN 9.11.80

SKULL Domed, long, not too wide, well cut away under the eyes, stop well marked, the occipital bone well developed.

FOREFACE: Moderately long, square at the end, a snipey muzzle and weakness of jaw are objectionable.

EYES: Large, dark, showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. The red of the lower eyelid should not show. The hair immediately above the eye should stand out forward without at the same time quite covering the eye.

EARS: Supple, narrow and fine, can be covered with long hair and ending in a long oval, well turned inwards and reaching approx. to the end of the nose, set on low down, in line with the eye.

FLEWS: The lips well clothed with long hair.

MOUTH: A scissor bite is preferred but a level bite is acceptable.

NOSE: Black, well developed and wide open.

NECK: Long and strong, thicker near shoulders, without throatiness.

SHOULDERS: Lean, sloping and well attached to the body.

FORELEGS: The forelegs straight or very slightly crooked, the knees should never touch, forearm thick well boned. Hounds knuckling over or too crooked should be penalised.

CHEST: Fairly wide, long and deep, with prominent sternum.

RIBS: Moderately rounded.

BACK: Long, wide, level or slightly arched over the loins.

LOINS: Strong and full.

FLANK: Not running up, rather full.

STERN: Set on high, strong at base, tapering regularly to its end, well furnished with hair, fairly long, carried like the blade of a sabre or slightly curved.

QUARTERS: Wide and muscular.

THIGHS: Strong, muscled but not too rounded.

HOCKS: Wide, well angulated.

FEET: The feet should be thick, well-padded and not open.

COAT: This is an extremely important point. It should be profuse, thick and harsh to the touch, with a dense undercoat. The coat may be wavy, but never silky or woolly.

COLOUR: Any recognised hound colour.

HEIGHT: Two heights are recognised: one from 13-15 inches, usually with slightly crooked legs, the other from 15-16½ inches, these should always have straight legs.

ACTION: The movement should be free at all paces.

The Arrival of GBGVs in the UK

1989 Two years later, in 1989, I'm Dutch du Greffier du Roi (Hennessy Cognac Du Greffier du Roi ex Et Caetera du Greffier Du Roi) arrives in UK quarantine, in whelp to Int/Dk/Ned Ch Dampierre du Greffier du Roi, who had been used extensively at stud in Denmark, producing several champions.



INT/DK/NED CH DAMPIERRE DU GREFFIER DU ROI



NED CH I'M DUTCH DU GREFFIER DU ROI

Four pups are born on 10 February 1989 but, following the early deaths of some of them, including the promising Dehra Ambassador, only one – a bitch – goes on to appear regularly at shows in the early 1990s. Dehra Allo Allo owned by Lynne Owens (Jaclin) was the first GBGV to be campaigned widely.



LYNNE OWENS WITH A YOUNG DEHRA ALLO ALLO

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (Imp Reg)

New Registration - Litter (4)

Mr N G Frost, Feb. 10, '89, Dampierre Du Greffier Du Roi Den
Ch - I'm Dutch Du Greffier Du Roi (0/0/0, 1/4)
DEHRA ABSINTHE, b, c, Tricolour
DEHRA ALLO ALLO, b, c, Sable & White
DEHRA ALPHONSE, d, c, Sable & White
DEHRA AMBASSADOR, d, c, Sable & White

EXTRACT FROM THE KENNEL CLUB BREED
RECORDS SUPPLEMENT SPRING 1990

1990 Although the BGV Club had been formed specifically to cater for both sizes of Basset Griffon Vendéen, the Kennel Club places the GBGV on the newly introduced Import Register rather than granting breed status. There has to be fifty registrations before being taken off this register and the club discourages indiscriminate breeding to achieve this number.

BREED RECORDS SUPPLEMENT AUTUMN 1990 TRANSFER OF
DEHRA ALPHONSE FROM NICK FROST TO MR & MRS P HARRIS

Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (Imp Reg)

Changes of Name

DEHRA ALPHONSE OF GHAZIRIS (late Dehra Alphonse
Q01) Mr & Mrs P Harris

Transfers of Ownership

DEHRA ALPHONSE, Q01. From Mr N G Frost to Mr & Mrs
P Harris

Colin & Dianne Poole (Peterstown) and Nick Frost (Dehra) subsequently bring Ned Ch Halou Baba de Greffier du Roi into UK quarantine at Ryslip Kennels, on loan from Jolanda Huisman in Holland. Her sire is Rudhy du Val d'Orbieu, her dam Et Caetera du Greffier Du Roi. On 30 November 1990 she has a litter sired by Int/Dk/Ned Ch Dampierre du Greffier du Roi. Registered to Jolanda Huisman, adult height varies from 39-63cm.

**Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen
(Imp Reg)**

New Registration - Litter (5)

Miss J Huisman, Nov. 30, '90, Dampierre Du Greffier Du Roi
Dutch & Danish Ch – Halou Baba Du Greffier Du Roi **Dutch Ch** (0/0/0, 1/5)
 BIEN VENUE, b. c. Sable & White
 BILLY JOE, d. c. Sable & White
 BON APPETIT, d. c. Tricolour
 BON HOMMIE, b. c. Sable & White
 BUD WEISER, d. c. Tricolour

Changes of Name

BIEN VENUE AT DEHRA (late Bien Venue R02) Mr N Frost & Mrs V Phillips
 BILLY JOE PETERSTOWN (late Billy Joe R02) Mr & Mrs C F & D C Poole
 BON HOMMIE AT DEHRA (late Bon Hommie R02) Mr N Frost & Mrs V Phillips
 BUD WEISER PETERSTOWN (late Bud Weiser R02) Mr & Mrs C F & D C Poole

Transfers of Ownership

BIEN VENUE, R02. From Miss J Huisman to Mr N Frost & Mrs V Phillips
 BILLY JOE, R02. From Miss J Huisman to Mr & Mrs C F & D C Poole
 BON HOMMIE, R02. From Miss J Huisman to Mr N Frost & Mrs V Phillips
 BON HOMMIE AT DEHRA, R02. From Mr N Frost & Mrs V Phillips to Mrs V Jackson
 BUD WEISER, R02. From Miss J Huisman to Mr & Mrs C F & D C Poole
 DEHRA ALLO ALLO, Q01. From Mr N G Frost to Mrs L D Owens



NED CH HALOU BABA DU GREFFIER DU ROI



BUDWEISER PETERSTOWN

BREED RECORDS SUPPLEMENT SUMMER 1991 - REGISTRATION OF THE SECOND LITTER BORN IN QUARANTINE, REGISTERED TO JOLANDA HUISMAN; AND TRANSFER OF DEHRA ALLO ALLO FROM NICK FROST TO LYNNE OWENS.

A male, Budweiser, is chosen to go to Peterstown, while another male, Billy Jo Peterstown, goes to Miss Sue French.



A YOUNG BIEN VENUE AT DEHRA

The pick of litter bitch, Bien Venue at Dehra, goes into the ownership of Nick Frost and Vivien Phillips who has joined his interest in Grands at Clipperdown Cottage; and another, Bon Hommie, goes to Val Jackson and Peter Marks.

1991 Nick Frost and Vivien Phillips arrange to buy Efficace du Roc de Deymier (Diamant du Roc de Deymier ex Arima du Roc de Deymier) from Yves Audouy in France. She was born on 14 July 1989. Although in whelp to Eros des Erondes de Peussifier when coming into quarantine, tragically she loses all six pups at around two weeks of age. However she later produces several litters in the UK.

The interim breed standard is published in July 1991, taking into consideration the FCI standard but based mainly on the earlier BGV one, with wording in line with KC format. The Kennel Club agrees that the BGV Club can hold classes for Grands at their 1992 open show. These, however, must be classified as Import Register.

BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN (GRAND) INTERIM BREED STANDARD

	FCI 1976 - (in KC format)	KC INTERIM STANDARD 1991
General Appearance	Structure slightly elongated. Straight front legs. Stern carried slightly upright without falling back on the loins. Long rough coat without exaggeration, never silky or woolly, covering the whole body without exception.	Well-balanced, medium height hound. Rough coated with a familiar and intelligent look and noble bearing
Characteristics		A strong, active hound capable of a day's hunting, with a good voice freely used.
Temperament		Happy and outgoing but thoughtful and not easily agitated; independent, yet willing to please.
Head and Skull	<u>Skull</u> Domed, elongated, not too wide, well cut away under the eyes; occipital bone well developed. <u>Stop</u> Clearly defined. <u>Nose</u> Black, developed, round and prominent. <u>Muzzle</u> Long, square at the end; nasal bone slightly curved. <u>Lips</u> Covered with long hair forming beard and moustache.	A noble head. Skull domed and not too wide. Well cut away under eyes; stop clearly defined, occipital bone well developed. Long, square muzzle. Slight roman nose. Underjaw strong, well developed. Nose black, large with wide nostrils. Eyes surmounted by long eyebrows standing forward but not to obscure eyes; lips covered with long hair forming beard and moustache.
Eyes	Large, dark, without showing white, lovely intelligent expression. Haw not visible. The hair of the eyes should come forward but may not obscure the eye.	Large, dark, showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. Haw not visible.
Ears	Supple, narrow, fine, covered with long hair, ending in an elongated oval tip, turning well inwards, reaching at least the tip of the nose, set on below the eyeline.	Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair, folding inwards, ending in an oval shape, reaching to at least the end of the nose; set on low, not above the line of the eye.
Mouth		Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.
Neck	Long and strong, thicker at the set-on of shoulders, without throatiness.	Long and strong, set into well laid shoulders; thicker at the base; without throatiness carrying the head proudly.
Limbs	Well boned.	
Fore-quarters	<u>Forelegs</u> Straight. <u>Shoulders</u> Strong, clean and sloping. <u>Elbows</u> Set close to the body, never turning out. <u>Pasterns</u> Well marked but they may never touch each other.	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.
Body	<u>Back</u> Long, broad and straight, beginning to arch at junction with the loins. <u>Loin</u> Solid and well filled, slightly arched. <u>Croup</u> Wide, well muscled. <u>Chest</u> Wide, long and deep. <u>Ribs</u> Slightly rounded. <u>Flank</u> Full, slight tuck-up.	Deep brisket, ribs moderately rounded, extending well back. Back of good length and level topline with slight rise over well muscled loins.
Hind-quarters	<u>Thighs</u> Well muscled, but not too rounded. <u>Hocks</u> Wide, bent, never completely straight.	Heavy boned, strong and muscular with moderate bend of stifle. Heavily muscled thighs with well-defined second thigh.
Feet	Big and tightly padded, clean with strong nails. Pads firm.	Big and tight padded. Pads firm and solid. Nails strong and short.
Tail	Set on high, strong at the base, tapering regularly to the end. Sloping Well furnished with hairs of good length. Carried like the blade of a sabre or slightly curved but never falling back over the loins, .	Good length, set on high, strong at the base, tapering regularly, well furnished with hair of good length; carried proudly like the blade of a sabre or slightly turned in but never falling back over the loins.
Gait/ Movement	The movement should be easy at the three different paces.	Free with great drive. Front action straight and reaching well forward; hind action easy and elastic, hocks turning neither in nor out.
Skin	Thick; often marble-like in tri-coloured hounds, white and black or white and grey.	

Coat	<u>Hair</u> Rough and long without exaggeration. Flat structure, never woolly or silky, with more fringe than the Petit Basset but not too abundant.	Rough and long without exaggeration, with a flat structure, never silky or woolly, fringing not too abundant; thick undercoat. Hounds should be shown untrimmed.
Colour	<u>Self-coloured</u> : Hare colour; grizzle, more or less dark, fawn (not to be encouraged). <u>Bi-colour</u> White and orange; white and black; white and grey; white and tan. <u>Tri-colour</u> White, black and tan; white hare and tan; white grey and tan.	White, with any combination of lemon, orange, tricolour or grizzle markings
Size	Height 39-43cm, with a tolerance of 2cm above the upper limit for exceptional specimens.	Height 39-43 cms (15½-17 ins); 2cm (¾in) above the upper limit permissible.
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.	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.
Note:	Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.	Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

** FCI – Severe faults Flat and/or short skull. The nose uncoloured or uncoloured nostrils. Light eyes. Muzzle snipey. Uneven bite. Flat ears, set on too high or without any hair. Neck too short. Weak or saddle back. Legs crooked or half crooked. Hocks too bent or too straight. Woolly coat.

1992 As well as PBGVs, Yvonne Dean (Deanound) has the honour of judging the three Grands entered in two classes at the club open show. They are Frost & Phillips’ Bien Venue at Dehra, Poole’s Budweiser Peterstown and the orange and white Dehra Allo Allo whom she awards Best of Breed. With Import Register breeds unable to compete further, the Grand is unable to challenge the Best of Breed PBGV for Best in Show.

On 31 October at the BGV Club’s 5th Championship Show, Grands are represented for the first time in Import Register by the same three and Evan Roberts (Varon) also awards BOB to Dehra Allo Allo.

During the year, a litter born on 31 August - Billy Jo Peterstown ex Efficace du Roc de Deymier – co-bred by Nick Frost and Vivien Phillips, introduces several newcomers to the breed: – Pam Aldous (*now Aldous-Town*) (Sweetdean) who had Chanaan, the Checketts (Cavanero) with Cassoulet, Val Jackson and Peter Marks (Duntech) with their foundation bitch Cherie; and Stella Blackmore (Melanter) who has Charlotte in Scotland.



DEHRA CHANAAN, CASSOULET AND CHERIE, BGV CLUB OPEN SHOW 1993



DEHRA CHARLOTTE



1993 Following a mating in Sweden between Mise-en-Scène du Greffier du Roi (I’m Dutch daughter) and Amour du Roc de Deymier, a young male, Cupid du Greffier du Roi, born 10 February 1992, arrives in quarantine in the UK. He becomes a useful stud dog and, later in the year, sires the Dehra “D” litter by Efficace. He also sires a litter, born in December 1993, for Lynne Owen’s Dehra Allo Allo. From this, Jaclin Indecent Exposure goes to Elaine King (*now Dennis-Skeuce*) (Kandecx) and Mixed Blessings to Pam Aldous (Sweetdean).

JACLIN INDECENT EXPOSURE

1994 Just before the death of Yves Audouy, there is a further import, Ned Ch Flambeur du Roc de Deymier (César du Roc de Deymier ex Altesse du Roc de Deymier). Born 9 October 1990, having arrived into UK quarantine in 1993 from the French des Rives de la Garonne kennels, he becomes Top All Breeds 1994 for Vivien Phillips. He also goes BOB at the BGV Club Championship Show under John Miller (France).

Born in September 1994, the Dehra "E" litter (Ned Ch Flambeur du Roc de Deymier ex Bien Venue at Dehra) attracts more into the breed with Esprit d'Amour going to Dr Jessica Holm as her foundation bitch for Holmchappell, though Esperance remains at Clipperdown.



NED CH FLAMBEUR DU ROC DE DEYMIER



JESSICA HOLM WITH
HER FIRST GBGV
DEHRA ESPRIT
D'AMOUR (photo
Johnson) AND DEHRA
ESPERANCE



A GOOD REPRESENTATION OF THE BREED IN
IMPORT REGISTER CLASSES AT EAST OF
ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 1994

I-r ELAINE KING, VAL JACKSON, VIVIEN PHILLIPS,
PAM ALDOUS, JULIE SHELTON, JEAN TURNER

1995 There are two further imports. Vivien Phillips obtains Jolanda du Hamel de la Renaudie (Fr Ch Grognon du Hamel de la Renaudie ex Abelle des Erondes de Peussifier) from Renaud Buche; and Val Jackson and Peter Marks import a bitch from M. Raffy in France - Joie de Vivre du Clos de Montpezat (Archimede des Erondes de Peussifier ex Clochette des Erondes de Peussifier), who sadly never has puppies.



JOLANDA DU HAMEL DE LA RENAUDIE

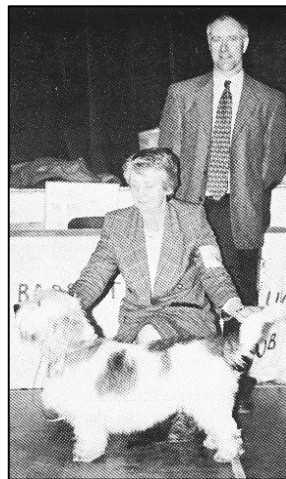


JOIE DE VIVRE DU CLOS DE MONPAZAT

Alongside litters being produced at Clipperdown, this year sees those who were the first to have a GBGV starting to breed themselves.



BON HOMMIE AT DEHRA



On 31 January Bon Hommie at Dehra produces a litter of seven for Val Jackson and Peter Marks. Although she is too tall at 52cm, the sire, Dehra Chanaan, is 41cm and average litter size turns out to be 43-46cm. From this "A" litter, the aptly named Audouy, who goes to Julie Shelton, is subsequently used to produce in 1998 some nice youngsters out of Dehra Cherie who is 40cm, and all progeny are 42 to 45cm in height.

VAL JACKSON WITH DEHRA CHERIE, JUDGE PHIL FREER, 1997

And, in Scotland, on 21 April, Stella Blackmore's has her first litter from Qu-Pid du Greffier du Roi ex Dehra Charlotte at Melanter and Melanter Athos appears in the ring.

Jaclin Mixed Blessings at Sweetdean goes BOB at the BGV Club Championship Show, where the entry has risen to 17. The judge is Adele Walton Haddon.

The "F" litter born on 23 November 1994 (Qu-Pid du Greffier du Roi ex Efficace du Roc de Deymier) were the last Dehra Grands to be bred in the UK as, during the year, Nick Frost goes to live in America taking Dehra stock with him and Vivien Phillips obtains her own kennel name of Debucher.

On 23 September 1995, the first Debucher litter was born, (Qu-Pid du Greffier du Roi ex Efficace du Roc de Deymier). This includes Gaston who goes to Basset breeder, Bill O'Loughlin (Bassbarr). He sires four litters.



JACLIN MIXED BLESSINGS AT SWEETDEAN

At the end of 1995, on 29 December puppies born from a mating between Dehra Esperance and Dehra Degage (Qu-Pid du Greffier du Roi ex Efficace du Roc de Deymier) attract others. From this litter one bitch, Haute Couture, goes into the partnership of Roger Stock and Vivien Phillips. Another, Heureuse d'Être Monkhams, goes to Linda Skerritt; a dog, Hermes Autour, to Linda Millar (*now Mackenzie*) (Limier); and Hercule Poire Eau to the Crocketts. This litter, co-bred with Julie Shelton, has no prefix but the Debucher suffix is added to the sire Esperance, Haute Couture and Hermes Autour. The year ends with seeing many new owners, though some do not stay in the breed for any length of time.

1996 On 9 May Val Jackson and Peter Marks' "B" litter of nine s born sired by Dehra Ebats. The dam is Dehra Cherie. Beau Geste goes to Mick and Sue Virgo, Bellette to Lou and Tina Parker (Kantilou); and they keep two themselves - Bavard and Berlingot, who both appear in the show-ring.



BIEN-FAIT DU GREFFIER DU ROI



VAL JACKSON WITH DUNTECH BAVARD & PETER MARKS WITH DUNTECH BERLINGOT, WINDSOR CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, 1998

1996 also sees Vivien Phillips bringing Bien-Fait du Greffier du Roi (Rendez-Vous du Greffier du Roi ex Pourquoi Pas du Greffier du Roi) into the UK, the first GBGV to enter the country under the Balai Directive. With strictly controlled conditions, this avoids six months quarantine. Bien-Fait was born on 9 April 1995 and goes on to be a prolific stud dog, siring fourteen litters.

Pups from some of these are to introduce others to the breed, however born on 20 February 1997, the one to go on to become a top winner and lasting influence on the breed is Debucher Le Barbu (dam Efficace du Roc de Deymier). Becoming a Ch/Ned/Ger/World/Euro Ch, over the coming years he notches up many top awards both in the UK and overseas and becomes Top GBGV 1998, 2000 – 2004 and Top Hound in the UK 2001.



CH/NED/GER/WORLD/EURO CH
DEBUCHER LE BARBU

He was also #7 All Breeds 2001, unprecedented for a rare breed.



JESSICA HOLM'S YOUNG BASSBARR ALLEZ
FRANCE VIA HOLMCHAPPELL

The Balai facility encourages new imports, including Bill O'Loughlin's brother and sister GBGVs, Entre Nous and En Avant du Greffier du Roi (Dehra Extra Ordinaire ex Oh La La du Greffier du Roi). When mated to Debucher Gaston, on 27 November 1997 En Avant produces the Bassbarr "A" litter of ten. This includes Allez France who goes to Jessica Holm.

From a mating between Flambeur du Roc de Deymier and Dehra Favorite, two of the litter born on 4 December 1996, Debucher Karess and Debucher Karisma, go respectively to Jan Pain (Ravensbeech) and Linda Lewis (Tangaer). Karess goes on to have two litters for Ravensbeech, the first of which includes her successful Bayeux, who is born on 4 November 2000 and goes on to become a champion. Another from this litter, Beau Geste, goes to Stella Blackmore. The sire is Debucher Jaromir.



JAN PAIN'S DEBUCHER KARESS AT RAVENSBEECH AND LINDA LEWIS WITH HER DEBUCHER KARISMA AT TANGAER



RAVENSBEECH BAYEUX

Although Debucher is an undisputed dominant influence in GBGVs during this era and Debucher males contribute towards helping other breeders to establish themselves, Lynne Owens has great success with Jaclin James Bond from Allo Allo's third litter born in November 1997 and sired by Flambeur du Roc de Deymier - and around this time several new enthusiasts are introduced to the Grand via early Dehra and Jaclin lines and subsequently Kandecx Grands produced by Elaine King (*now Dennis-Skeue*).

Never shown, in 1996 Sue Birney's first Grand is Kandecx Excuse My French (Dehra Chanaan at Sweetdean ex Jaclin Indecent Exposure at Kandecx), born on 28 October 1995.



KANDECX EXCUSE MY FRENCH



KANDECX DALWHINNIE AT SILVAMOON



SILVAMOON SANCERRE

Her next GBGV, Kandecx Dalwhinnie at Silvamoons (Dehra Esperance de Debucher ex Jaclin Indecent Exposure at Kandecx), born on 26 March 1997, sets Silvamoons on the road to success both in the showing and as a foundation bitch. On 9 July 1999, Dalwhinnie produces a litter of six sired by Ebats, from which she keeps Sancerre.

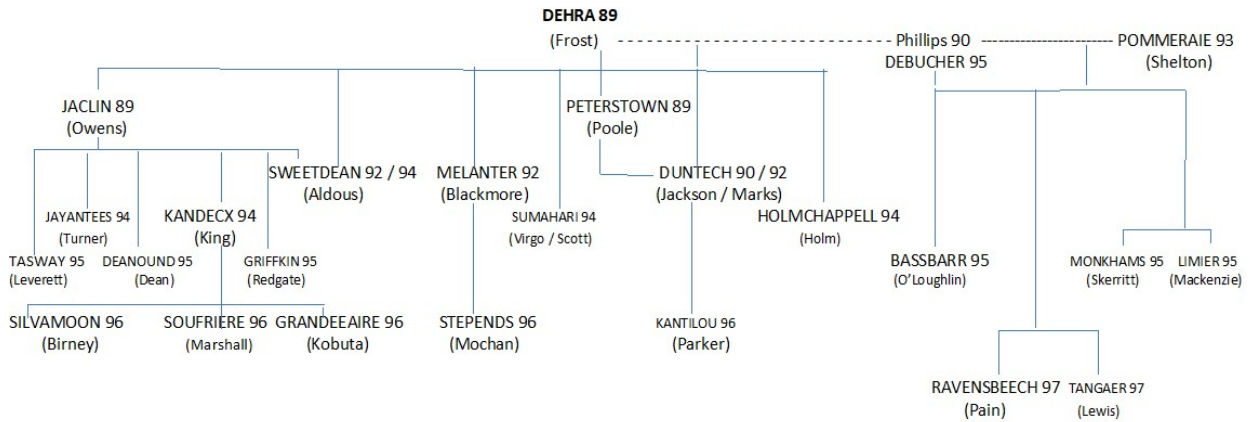
Amongst others to enter the breed with pups from the Kandecx "French" litter of ten were Chris Kobuta with Kandecx French Revolution at Grandeeaire and Sue Marshall who, with husband Nick, had French Bon Bon. On 25 January 1999, she produced nine puppies, sired by Dehra Ebats. From this litter they kept the well-known La Toc Lightening, who went on to sire four litters.



I-r SUE MARSHALL WITH KANDECX FRENCH BON BON AT SOUFRIERE 1998 AND SOUFRIERE LA TOC LIGHTNING BORN ON 25 JANUARY 1999

1997 On 1 January GBGVs finally come off the Import Register, allowing them to compete against other dogs in the ring, including in Groups and Best in Show. May sees the first club open show to schedule GBGVs in their own right. The judge is Jim Makin (Ekoz). Best of Breed goes to Jaclin Mixed Blessings at Sweetdean. Later in the year Dehra Allo Allo goes BOB at Hound Association Championship Show, the first to classify the breed. The judge is Jolanda Huisman (du Greffier du Roi). The same award comes at the BGV Club championship show in October, where there are 25 GBGVs entered for judge Vivien Phillips.

FOUNDATION OWNERS / BREEDERS 1989 – 1997 (REMOVAL FROM IMPORT REGISTER)



The First Decade

Removal from the Import Register encouraged more and more Open Shows to mount classes for GBGVs, or they swelled the Not Separately Classified classes. Several Grands achieved Reserve Best in Show, such as Peter Marks & Val Jackson's Dehra Cherie at the Swindon show but it was only twelve days into 1997 when Vivien Phillips' Dehra Esperance de Debucher went BIS under Peter Jolley at Buckinghamshire Canine Society. Remarkably she followed this up the following year by going RBIS at the same show with Bien Fait du Greffier du Roi.



DEHRA CHERIE,
RESERVE BEST IN
SHOW, SWINDON
OPEN SHOW 1997
UNDER JUDGE ANN
ARCH

DEHRA ESPERANCE DE
DEBUCHER, BEST IN
SHOW
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CS,
1997, JUDGE PETER
JOLLEY



BIEN FAIT DU GREFFIER DU ROI, RBIS BUCKS
CS, 1998, JUDGE GEIR FLYCKT-PEDERSEN



1998 In 1998 GBGVs appear for the first time at Crufts where they by far outnumber other breeds in the Not Separately Classified Hound classes. From the 30 Grands entered, Anne Macdonald awards Best of Breed to Jessica Holm's 3yr old Dehra Esprit d'Amour.



CRUFTS 1998 - AVNSC HOUND POST GRADUATE BITCH, PETER MARKS WITH DUNTECH BERLINGOT AND LINDA SKERRITT WITH HEUREUSE D'ETRE MONKHAMS



CRUFTS 1998 - MIKE GADSBY HANDLING JESSICA HOLM'S DEHRA ESPRIT D'AMOUR IN THE HOUND GROUP

This year also sees Vivien Phillips impressing on breeders the need to inform their buyers of any litters born to parents carrying the long-legged genes. She says, being a "basset" breed, over-sized Grands should not be allowed to dominate. The planned introduction in France of an upper limit of 43cms for bitches and 44cms for dogs (with a further upper tolerance of 1cm) helps reinforce this.

A LONG-LEGGED GBGV

1999 After their fleeting appearance in NSC, the following year GBGVs have their own classes at Crufts for the first time. The judge is Kari Jarvinen (Finland) who, from an entry of 36, awards Best of Breed to Vi Mochan's Melantar Fetlar (Dehra Esperance de Debucher ex Dehra Charlotte at Melanter), born on 8 August 1996 and bred by Stella Blackmore. Best Opposite Sex is Yvonne Dean's Jaclin Bewitched for Deanound (Dehra Chanaan at Sweetdean ex Dehra Allo Allo) handled by Rose Phillips.



FIRST BREED CLASSES AT CRUFTS 1999 – BEST OF BREED MELANTAR FETLAR, BEST OPPOSITE SEX JACLIN BEWITCHED AT DEANOUND

Around this time further newcomers join the breed. Some stay only a few years but undoubtedly make a contribution when breeding several litters. During the period 1997-2001, the Leverett's Jaclin Abracadabra at Tasway (Dehra Chanaan at Sweetdean ex Dehra Allo Allo), born on 14 June 1995, produces three litters, two sired by Bien Fait, one by Esperance. In October Kandecx French Kiss is born (Dehra Chanaan at Sweetdean ex Jaclin Indecent Exposure at Kandecx), eventually going to K Boothe (Booleska). She produces one Kandecx litter in 1997 and two for Booleska in 1998 and 2001.

Bassbarr Berceuse (Debucher Gaston ex Utopie du Greffier du Roi), born on 26 February 1998, goes to Sara Lefley. When mated to Kandecx Elvis On Stage, in June 2001 she produces a litter of five for Nicsar. From this litter the Lefley's Flame of Tara goes on to produce two litters for them. Born in 1999 and 2000, Holmchappell Hellzapoppin (Bien Fait du Greffier du Roi ex Dehra Esprit d'Amour) and Holmhappel Dutch Ado (Debucher Jaromir ex Kalipha du Greffier du Roi) go to David & Ursula Fitches as their first GBGVs at Durena. Dutch Ado produces two litters.

Others remain stalwarts to this day, some preferring to own and show consistently, some whose foundation bitches lead them to create their own successful lines.



DEBUCHER OH LA LA FOR TIOGA

In 1998 Debucher Oh La La (Bien Fait du Greffier du Roi ex Dehra Embrasser at Darsoms) goes to Anita Roberts. When mated with Dehra Esperance de Debucher in 2002, she produces the Tioga A litter. From A La Mode, in 2004 comes the B litter, sired by Nireau du Barbillot des Maladières.



BARBARA MILTON WITH DEBUCHER UTOPIE AT WILMIT, 2005

In 1998 Ray and Barbara Milton's first GBGV for Wilmit is Tasway Honcho (Bien Fait Du Greffier Du Roi ex Jaclin Abracadabra at Tasway), born on 11 August. Shortly after, he is joined by Debucher Utopie at Wilmit (Debucher Jaromir ex Debucher Libertine), born on 4 August 1999. When mated to Nireau du Barbillot des Maladières, her first litter in 2002 produces their Wilmit Altesse.



In 2000 Colin and Ann Makey (Gairside) began their long association with the breed by acquiring Dalwhinnie's litter brother, Kandecx Old Huckleberry (Dehra Esperance de Debucher ex Jaclin Indecent Exposure at Kandecx) who was born on 26 March 1997.

Left - ANN MAKEY WITH KANDECX OLD HUCKLEBERRY AT GAIRSIDE
Below - FIONA BUCHANAN WITH MELANTER TOOT A LOO OF TARMACHAN, 2009

And just into the turn of the century, born on 1 April 2001, Melanter Toot a Loo (Melanter Fetlar from Stepends ex Bassbarr Posh Spice from Melanter) is the first GBGV in the Tarmachan household. She becomes a Champion and Irish Champion and goes BIS at the BGV Club Championship Show 2009. She has two litters for Fiona Buchanan and Mike MacLaren, the second of which in 2006 produces their successful Ch/Ir Ch Tarmachan Arc-en-Ciel. The sire is Surcouf de l'Oustal Viel.



Just in Time to Make History

1999 At the end of 1999, registrations of the breed since the first litter was born in quarantine in 1989 are catalogued in the BGV Club newsletter by Peter Marks, showing numbers published up to the end of June that year. 43 litters had been born sired by 14 different males and 296 registered (including 12 imports). Average litter size was 6.88 and, in spite of individual variation between sexes in the litters, there were almost equal numbers of males and females.

2003-2004 The Kennel Club indicates they will give GBGVs championship status but they are unable to say in which year. Moving towards finalising the Standard, amendments to the interim are presented at the 2004 AGM but several points need clarification. These and members' subsequent comments are reviewed. Given the importance of the matter, the committee decides to hold an open meeting to finalise proposed changes. In preparation for this, Linda Skerritt reviews members' comments and researches the FCI Standard seeking to be faithful to the Standard of the country of origin and taking the opportunity to differentiate clearly between the Grand and Petit Standard.

2005-2006 Following the Open Meeting on 16 January 2005, the proposed Standard is presented to the AGM at Warwick on 10 April. Chairman, Phil Freer, and Linda Skerritt explain the presentation which incorporates small alterations to facilitate early approval by the Kennel Club. Members present vote unanimously in favour of the final version.

Following submission to the Kennel Club, in October 2005 the Club secretary, Mrs Yvonne Dean, hears back from them advocating minor changes. These are mostly agreed and the KC issues the final Standard on 1 January 2006, just in time for the first CCs to be awarded at Crufts on 10 March. There, judge Dr Jessica Holm awards Dog Challenge Certificate and Best of Breed to Vivien Phillips and Jolanda Huisman's Ned / Ger Ch Debucher Le Barbu and Bitch Challenge Certificate to Vivien Phillips and grand-daughter Amelia's Debucher Sauve Qui Peut.



VIVIEN PHILLIPS WITH NED / GER CH DEBUCHER LE BARBU, JUDGE JESSICA HOLM AND VIVIEN PHILLIPS' DAUGHTER, MEREDITH THEODOROU, HANDLING DEBUCHER SAUVE QUI PEUT

GRAND BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉEN - FCI 14.2.2001, IN KC FORMAT

GENERAL APPEARANCE	Slightly elongated overall, with straight forelegs, the structure of a 'basset' and must not resemble a small Briquet. Balanced and elegant
CHARACTERISTICS	...tenacious, courageous.....Fast, well voiced, a passionate, hunter; courageous, loves bramble and scrub
TEMPERAMENT	...a little stubborn. He must, from an early age, be accustomed to obeying ...A little stubborn but nevertheless well behaved. It is up to the master to take command
HEAD	
Cranial Region: Skull	Without heaviness, convex, elongated and not too wide, well chiselled below the eyes. Occipital bone well developed
Stop	Frontal indentation well defined
Nose	Protruding well. Nostrils well open. Black and developed, except for white and orange coats where a brown nose is tolerated
Muzzle	Square at its extremity, noticeably longer than the skull, very slightly convex
Lips	Quite pendulous, covering the lower jaw well and giving the front of the muzzle a square profile. Well covered by a good moustache.
Jaws/Teeth	Jaws strongly developed, scissor bite
Eyes	Of oval shape, large, dark not showing white; friendly and intelligent expression. The conjunctiva must not be apparent
Ears	Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair and ending in an elongated oval, well turned inwards. Low set, below the line of the eye. They must be able to reach beyond the end of the nose
Neck	Long, robust and well muscled. Strong at set-on. Without dewlap
BODY	The body is that of a 'basset' but avoiding an exaggerated length
Back	Long broad and really straight, never saddle-backed, and starting to arch at its junction with the loin. Withers protruding very slightly
Loin	Solid, well muscled, slightly arched
Chest	Quite broad and well let down to elbow level
Ribs	Rounded, never flat or cylindrical. Thorax slightly less broad at elbow level to facilitate the movement"
Flanks	Rather full, belly never tucked up
SKIN	Quite thick, often marbled in tri-colours. No dewlap
Tail	Thick at the base, tapering progressively, set quite high, carried sabre fashion or slightly curved but never on the back or bent at the tip. Rather long
LIMBS	Overall view: Bone structure developed but lean. It is understood that bone quality is not a question of volume but of density

FOREQUARTERS	They must be straight with a thick forearm and a very slightly defined but very solid carpal joint (wrist)
Shoulder	Long, clean and oblique
Elbow	Must be neither too close to the body, nor loose
Forearm	Thick, the wrists (carpus) must never touch
HINDQUARTERS	Overall view: Solid and well directed in the axis of the body
Hip	Apparent
Thigh	Strongly muscled but not too rounded; bone structure and articulations very solid
Hock	Wide and angulated, must never be straight. Seen from the rear, it must appear turned neither outwards nor inwards
FEET	Large and tight, with hard pads and solid nails. Good pigmentation of pads and nails is desirable
GAIT/MOVEMENT	The dog in action must give an impression of resistance and ease; the movement must be free and harmonious
COAT	Hard, not too long and flat, never silky or woolly. The fringes should not be too abundant; the belly and inside of the thighs must not be bare; eyebrows well pronounced but not covering the eye
COLOUR	Black with white spotting (white and black), black with tan markings (black and tan), black with light tan markings, fawn with white spotting (white and orange), fawn with black mantle and white spotting (tri-colour). Fawn with black overlay. Pale fawn with black overlay and white spotting. Pale fawn. Traditional names: hare colour, wolf colour, badger colour or wild boar colour
SIZE	Males: from 40 to 44cm Females: from 39 to 43 cm, with a tolerance of 1cm more or less
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.
Head:	Too short, flat skull, short muzzle, lack of pigmentation of the nose, lips or eyelids. Level bite. Light eye. Ears set high, short or insufficiently turned in or lacking hair.
Body:	Too long or too short, lacking balance. Slack topline. Croup drops away. Kink in tail.
Limbs:	Lacking bone, angulation too straight, hocks too close, slack in pasterns.
Coat:	Insufficiently dense, fine hair.
Behaviour:	Timid.
Eliminating faults	Lack of type
	Prognathism (overshot or undershot mouth)
	Wall eye. Eyes of different colours (heterochromia)
	Lack of room in the sternal region; ribs narrow towards the lower part
	Kink in tail
	Crooked or half-crooked legs
	Woolly coat
	Self-coloured coat black or white
	Size outside standard
	Noticeable invalidating fault
	Anatomical malformation
	Fearful or aggressive subject
Note:	Males should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN (GRAND) BREED STANDARD – FINAL

(As agreed at GBGV Open Meeting, 16 Jan 2005, and incorporating proposed amendments to ensure early acceptance by KC)

GENERAL APPEARANCE	Well-balanced, medium height, rough-coated hound. Slightly longer than it is tall, with straight forelegs. A friendly and intelligent look, with noble bearing.	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.
CHARACTERISTICS	A strong, active and courageous hound possessing great stamina to keep going in the field. With a good voice, freely used.	A strong, active and courageous hound possessing great stamina to keep going in the field . With a good voice, freely used.
TEMPERAMENT	Happy and outgoing. Independent and a little stubborn, not easily agitated yet willing to please with firm handling.	Happy and outgoing. Independent and a little stubborn, not easily agitated yet willing to please with firm handling.
HEAD	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, very slightly roman. Nose protruding, well developed. 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. 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 very 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.
EYES	Large, dark and oval in shape, showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. Haw not visible. Long eyebrows, standing forward but not to obscure eyes.	Large, dark and oval in shape , showing no white, with a friendly, intelligent expression. Haw not visible. Long eyebrows, standing forward but not obscuring eyes.
EARS	Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair, folding inwards, ending in an oval shape, reaching beyond end of the nose. Set on low, not above the line of the eye.	Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair, folding inwards, ending in an oval shape, reaching beyond end of the nose. Set on low, not above the line of the eye. *
MOUTH	Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.	Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.
NECK	Long and strong, set into well laid shoulders; thicker at the base; without dewlap.	Long and strong, set into well laid shoulders; thicker at the base; without dewlap.
FORE-QUARTERS	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; elbows close to the body, never turning out. Forelegs straight, thick and well boned. Pasterns strong and slightly sloping. Knuckling over is unacceptable.
BODY	Slightly elongated without exaggeration. Back of good length and level topline with slight rise over solid, well muscled, slightly arched loins. Good forechest, broad and deep, well let down to elbow. Ribs moderately rounded, extending well back. Flanks rather full, belly never tucked up.	Slightly elongated without exaggeration . Back of good length without exaggeration , with level topline and slight rise over solid, well muscled, slightly arched loins. Good forechest, broad and deep, well let down to elbow. Ribs moderately rounded, extending well back. Flanks rather deep , belly never tucked up.
HIND-QUARTERS	Well boned, strong and muscular with moderate bend of stifle. Heavily muscled thighs with well-defined second thigh. Hocks turning neither in nor out.	Well boned, strong and muscular with moderate bend of stifle. Heavily muscled thighs with well-defined second thigh. Hocks turning neither in nor out.
FEET	Big and tight padded. Pads firm and solid. Nails strong and short.	Big and tight padded. Pads firm and solid. Nails strong and short.
TAIL	Rather long. Set on high, strong at the base, tapering regularly, well furnished with hair; carried proudly like the blade of a sabre or slightly turned in but never falling over the loins.	Rather long. Set on high, thick at the base, tapering gradually , well furnished with hair; carried proudly sabre fashion or slightly curved but never too far over the back or bent at the tip .
GAIT/MOVEMENT	Free with great drive. Front action straight and reaching well forward; hind action easy and elastic, hocks turning neither in nor out.	Free with great drive. Front action straight and reaching well forward; hind action easy and elastic, hocks turning neither in nor out.

COAT	Rough, of moderate length, with a flat structure, never silky or woolly, fringing not too abundant; thick undercoat. Over-trimming or stylising should be penalised. For show purposes, the coat may be tidied to present a neat outline.	Rough, of moderate length, with a flat structure, never silky or woolly, fringing not too abundant; thick undercoat. Over-trimming or stylising should be penalised. For show purposes, the coat may be tidied to present a neat outline.
COLOUR	White, with any combination of lemon, orange, sable, grizzle or black markings. Tri-colour.	White, with any combination of lemon, orange, sable, grizzle or black markings. Tri-colour.
SIZE	Height at withers: Males: 40-44cmS (15¾ -17½ ins), Females: 39-43cms (15½-17 ins). A tolerance of 1cm (½") more or less is permissible.	Height at withers: Males: 40-44cmS (15¾ -17½ ins), Females: 39-43cms (15½-17 ins). A tolerance of 1cm (½") more or less is permissible.
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	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
Note:	Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum	Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum

* **2007** Stemming from the Kennel Club's 2004 Pure Bred Dog Health Survey, Linda Skerritt contacts the Kennel Club since they amalgamated health information obtained for the PBGV and GBGV. It is suspected that, as both are numerically small breeds, the analysts had combined the information supplied to obtain statistically better data.

2008 Following on from this, with veterinary assistance, the Kennel Club reviews all Breed Standards to ensure each description promotes the health, welfare and temperament of the dog. All Standards have a new introductory paragraph stressing that exaggerations are detrimental to the breed's health, welfare and soundness.

The Grand Basset is one of the breeds selected for removal of what they see as exaggerated features, citing length and heaviness of ear flap being thought to lead to aural problems. The KC contacts the BGV Club proposing a change the Standard to: "Ears: Supple, narrow and fine, covered in long hair, folding inwards, ending in an oval shape, reaching to approximately the tip of the nose, set on low, not above the line of the eye".

As part of the Club's considerations of this request and strongly opposing the proposed change, Linda Skerritt writes:

1. This is a French breed and we seek to keep as close as possible to the standard of the country of origin (FCI).
2. The FCI breed standard says "Leathers: Supple, narrow and fine, covered with long hair and ending in an elongated oval, well turned inwards. Low set, below the eye. They must be able to reach beyond the end of the nose".
3. The length of muzzle, ears, back and tail are salient features that distinguish the BGV (Grand) from the BGV (Petit).

She points out that the Breed Standard makes it clear that the ear flap is "supple, narrow and fine" and "covered with long hair". It is not a heavy ear flap, therefore does not restrict airflow which could lead to the accumulation of wax or growth of bacteria/fungi. However, as a coated breed, the BGV(G) does have hair inside the ear canal. Failure to remove this excess hair and clean ears regularly, may have contributed to the ear conditions reported in the survey. Length of ear flap is completely irrelevant. Additionally fringing on the end of the ear flap, which protects it when the head is lowered, gives the appearance of a longer ear.

2009 The KC concede the point and, in a happy medium, change the Standard to "reaching to just beyond the tip of the nose".

Much has happened in the years since then, with some drifting away to other breeds but those who became interested in the Grand Basset around the turn of the century become prominent in the breed. However it is a testimony to those early GBGVs that their names live on in pedigrees of dogs we see in the ring today.