

Buying a Basset Hound Puppy

What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First

Basset Hounds can have exaggerated body features that compromise their health and welfare. Avoid a puppy whose parents have excessive loose skin, particularly on the face (which affects normal eyelid function); excessively long ears; or very short legs.

✓ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
 - KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
 - Microchip Registration Certificate
 - Temporary Pet Health Insurance
 - Vaccination Certificate
 - Copies of Health Certificates
- A good breeder will*
- have socialised and habituated the puppy
 - provide a supply of food
 - provide a blanket smelling of Mum
 - follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding

✓ Health Certificates (both parents)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC scheme for elbow dysplasia (ED)
- BVA/KC screening for eye disease, to include gonioscopy. DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined by an ophthalmologist before breeding (includes checks for many inherited and conformation-related diseases)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- CDDY - Chondrodystrophy
- POAG - Primary open angle glaucoma
- Some laboratories offer genetic tests for other rare inherited conditions in this breed

<http://www.bassetsrus.uk/index.html>

Breed Health and Conservation Plan
<http://www.bassetsrus.uk/Breed%20Health%20and%20Conservation%20Plan%20-%20Basset%20Hound%20Final.pdf>

www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed – if in doubt then consult your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

Elbow dysplasia - abnormal formation of the elbow joint - pain and lameness

BVA/KC eye testing scheme checks for many inherited and physical abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain. Gonioscopy tests for goniodysgenesis /PLA (pectinate ligament abnormality) which assesses a predisposition for primary closed angle glaucoma, a painful progressive eye disease leading to blindness. The BVA recommend gonioscopy is carried out every three years to assess for progression of PLA.

DNA tests relevant to breed

CDDY - Chondrodystrophy – abnormal intervertebral discs in spine

POAG - Primary open angle glaucoma – another type of glaucoma, causing gradual blindness

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Bloat/GDV (gastric dilation and volvulus) - where the stomach inflates with air and twists, sometimes fatally

Dermatitis – inflammation of skin, more likely if excessive loose skin; often with Malassezia (yeast) infections

'Cherry eye' - protruding gland of third eyelid in young dogs, may require surgery

Ear infections – more likely in long, drooping ears; can be allergy related

Ectropion – drooping lower eyelids

Entropion – inturned eyelids that rub on eyeballs (may be combined with ectropion)

IVDD - Intervertebral disc disease –degeneration of spinal discs and spinal cord compression, pain, possible paralysis

The Basset Hound Health Group runs a Health Award Scheme at bronze, silver and gold levels. All levels require a basic health check. Silver level upwards require further tests.

www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html

