

# 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 inherited and conformation-related diseases)

#### DNA tests relevant to breed

- CDDY - Chondrodystrophy
- POAG - Primary open angle glaucoma
- Lafora disease

<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](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)



# Buying a Basset Hound Puppy

**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 many inherited and physical abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain. Gonioscopy tests for goniodysgenesis; PLA (pectinate ligament abnormality) assesses a predisposition for primary closed angle glaucoma, a painful progressive eye disease leading to blindness. Gonioscopy should be carried out every three years to assess 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

**Lafora disease** - a type of epilepsy

## 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](http://www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html)

