

YOU BE THE JUDGE

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From *Dogs in Canada*, October 1997

PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDEEN

Based on the CKC Standard

DOG A AND DOG B

Both of these Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens conform to the physical requirements in the ambiguous Canadian standard even though their structure and movement at the trot are worlds apart. This judging exercise is on paper and, therefore, your decision affects no one. However, if you choose the wrong one in the show ring, you do the PBGV a serious disservice.

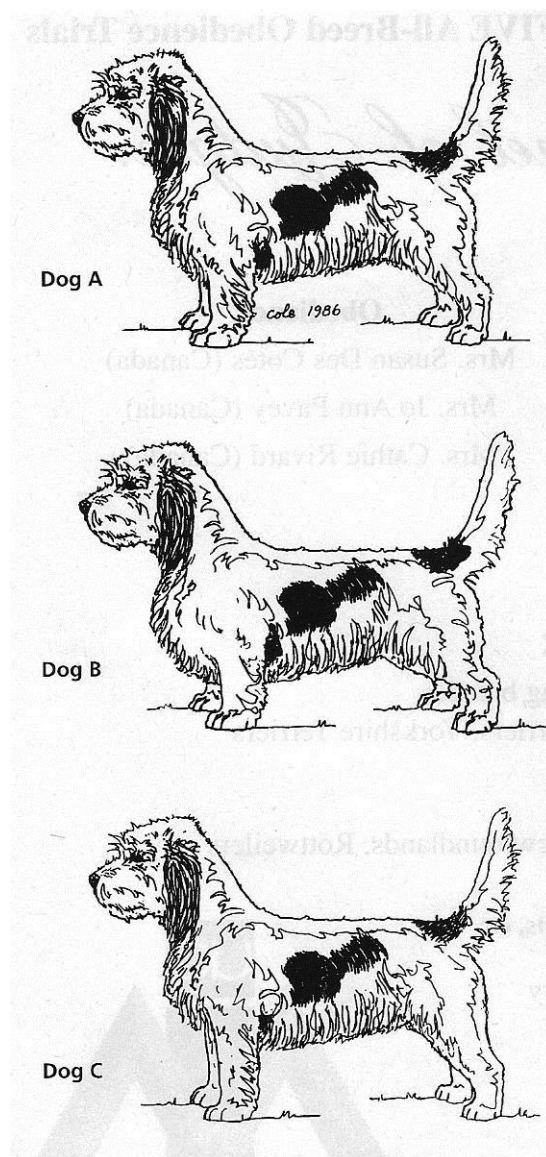
Both dogs are well angulated, have 50-per-cent-longer-than-tall proportions (1.5 to 1), have elbows close to the body, have a length of foreleg slightly less than the distance from the withers to the elbow, have a deep chest and have a prominent sternum.

The important difference between these two PBGVs is the position of the elbow in relation to the bottom of the chest. The elbow of Dog A is *level with the bottom of the deep body* and, viewed head-on, the forelegs are “straight”. The elbow of Dog B fits close but positions itself *well above the bottom of an equally deep body*; the forearm between the elbow and the wrist curves around in the form of an “acceptable slight crook”.

The ambiguous wording in the standard, “Viewed from the front it is desirable that the forelegs be straight, but a slight crook is acceptable” is the main reason for two diverse Canadian types. Delete, “... but a slight crook is acceptable” and insert “elbow level with brisket” and breeders could, in agreement, produce one structurally correct type.

DOG A AND DOG C

Since 1986, when I drew Dog A to represent typical, I have received further input from a number of sources including PBGV breeders who have travelled to France and brought back dogs. Based on my own specialty experience, the French standard and breeder input, I’ve revised my ‘typical’ representation and produced slightly higher-on-the-leg Dog C. the foreleg length (the elbow level with the brisket) is still less than the distance from the withers to the elbow, and the dog is still short-legged. In turn, the body has been lengthened. The front feet face straight forward.



DOG C

This representation of ideal stands almost 15 inches tall. Both sexes measure between 13 ½ and 15 inches (34 to 38 centimeters) at the withers with a half-inch (one centimeter) tolerance in either direction. (Height over 15 ½ inches is a major fault in Canada, a disqualification in the U.S.) A correctly proportioned PBGV is approximately 50 percent longer than tall. In other words, 15 inch tall Dog C is approximately 22 ½ inches long measured from the point of the forechest to the point of the buttocks.

It, instead of level with the brisket, his elbow was above the bottom of the chest (like Dog A), he would stand 1 ½ inches shorter at the withers, weigh the same, have an upper arm that curved around his ribcage, stand with wrists closer together than the elbows, and his feet would turn out.

The head is in balance with the overall dog. The expression is alert and intelligent. The almond-shaped eyes are large and dark, showing no white when the dog is looking straight forward. The ears fold inward, ending in an oval shape and never set above the level of the eye. The skull is oval when viewed from the front.

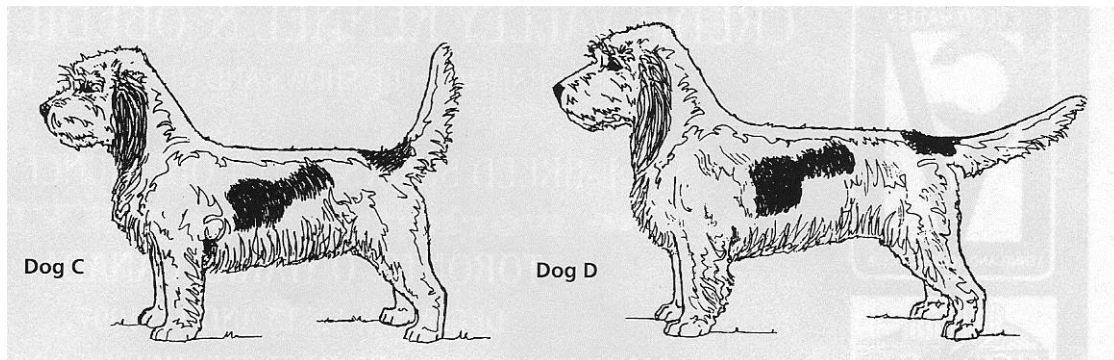


The stop is clearly defined, the muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull; the face is well cut away under the eyes; and the occiput bone at the back of the skull is well defined. The nose is large and black with wide nostrils. This dog has a scissors bite; however, a pincer bite is accepted.

The neck is long and strong, without throatiness. The back is level with a slight arch over the strong loin and, since the withers and the croup should be equidistant from the ground, the withers are not depicted high. The chest is deep, with a prominent sternum. The ribs are moderately rounded and extend well back. The tail is of medium length, set on high and carried in a curve at one o'clock. The hindquarters are strong and muscular with good angulation at the stifle and at low back.

The coat is rough, long (two inches), without exaggeration and harsh to the touch, with a thick shorter undercoat. The eyes are surmounted by long eyebrows, standing forward but not obscuring the eyes. The tail is well furnished with hair, the overall appearance of the dog casual and tousled. The PBGV should be shown untrimmed. (Indications of scissoring for the purpose of shaping or sculpturing should be penalized; however, the CKC standard doesn't go that far.)

Colour is white with lemon, orange, tricolor or grizzle markings. (Black for some reason doesn't receive CKC mention; however, grizzle is a mix of black and white hairs, so it has to be in there somewhere.)



PETIT AND GRAND

As late as 1975, the larger (15 – 17 inch) Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen was interbred with the Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen. As well as being familiar with Petit virtues, you should also be familiar with certain Grand characteristics that, when possessed by a Petit, become faults.

There is more difference between the two breeds than height – a proportionally longer foreleg isn't one of them. Dog C and Dog D represent Petit and Grand. Dog D possesses five Grand virtues that, when found on a Petit, are faults. They are a longer muzzle, a longer ear, a longer body, a longer tail carried lower and a longer, rougher coat.