

The 411 on Basset Hounds

The American Kennel Club provides a good history and thorough physical description Basset Hounds:

http://www.akc.org/breeds/basset_hound/

Below is some general information about Basset Hound temperament and needs.

A Basset Hound is a loyal companion and loves to be with his human and canine family. They are comical, sensitive and very expressive with their feelings. If they feel they have been treated unjustly or are upset about not reaching that sandwich on your kitchen counter, most Bassets will whine or whimper instead of bark. Most like to bay or “sing.”

Like the Beagle and other hounds, Bassets are ruled by their nose and can easily get into trouble following scents. Positive training from the start will help you and your dog establish proper behavior and avoid a counter surfing pro! Because of their tendency to follow scents, Bassets must be leashed when outdoors or secured in a fenced yard. Again, like other hounds, Bassets can be very stubborn to train, but with patience and consistency—and of course, yummy treats—they can excel.

Many people have the misconception that Bassets are lazy, but this is far from true. Bassets love to go on walks, but be aware that they will stop and sniff *everything!* Due to their short legs, Bassets do not make good running or jogging partners. After a vigorous walk, your dog will be more than happy to lie on the couch or on a nice soft lap. Many consider themselves lap dogs, but beware—with their heavy bone structure, you may have a 60-lb. lap dog. Because they are so “top heavy” they do not make good swimmers and should be watched closely around any pool or body of water. Bassets can drown very easily.

Bassets by nature are very social with other dogs, and many enjoy living with other Bassets. Once you have one, it is very hard not to add another, and the dogs love the companionship.

Bassets shed their coats year-round and require regular brushing. Due to their long ears, they are prone to infections, and weekly ear cleaning is a must.

As with any dog, each Basset Hound has his own personality and traits. Please consider a dog's personality when looking for a canine companion, to ensure that he will be a good “fit” for your family for many happy years to come!