

# A Basset Hound World Guide:

## Is a Basset Hound the Right Dog for You?



In this e-book I am going to discuss advantages and disadvantages of owning a Basset Hound, so that you can decide whether or not a Basset Hound is the right breed for you and your lifestyle.



First of all, there is nothing as cute as a Basset Hound Puppy. Their enormous ears, beautiful sad eyes, rolls of flesh, and their distinctive waddle, they will win over your heart and you will be utterly charmed.

There is no doubt that Basset Hounds are very popular dogs, but before you get carried away, I want to help you find out whether this breed is the right one for you and your lifestyle. Before choosing a Basset Hound there are some things that you need to be aware of. I'm not going to pull any punches here, and I am going to give you the negatives as well as the positives. There are many dogs in dog pounds looking for new homes because people did not realise what owning a Basset Hound entailed before they went ahead, so it is important that you have the realistic facts about this wonderful breed. I love Bassets and judging by the thousands of fans of [Basset Hound World](#) so do many other people **but** you need to know the downside before you can love the upside.

The Basset Hound is an adaptable dog and is suitable for most situations so long as his needs are met and he is given love and respect. Bassets are usually docile and calm and are definitely a dog that loves to be around people. In addition to this they are usually tolerant to other dogs and cats. There is no doubt that this is **not** a breed to be chosen if you are out of the house a lot. This dog loves to be near you and will be **very** unhappy if left alone.

Although Bassets look like small dogs because of their short legs, they are bulky and heavy. They weigh around 50 to 60 pounds when fully grown and need a moderate amount of exercise even if they do give the impression that they are happy snoozing in front of the fire. When you come to lift your Basset into a bath, or into the back of your car, be prepared that they are heavy and will not help you with the task.

Bassets are prone to weak backs because they are long in the back, and for that reason they should not be encouraged to jump onto furniture or into the back of vehicles, so there can be some lifting to be done. If you have back problems then you might want to look at a lighter breed, or one that does not need to be lifted.

When you do take your Basset Hound out for a walk, it is best to keep him on a lead or in a fenced in area. This is because the Basset Hound has a powerful nose and has the irresistible instinct to go wandering off if he gets the whiff of an interesting scent and no amount of calling shouting his name will get him back until he is ready to return.

Another unsociable Basset trait is the urge to roll in disgusting substances such as fox poo, duck poo, all sorts of poo, dead rabbit carcasses, anything smelly, the smellier and more disgusting the better. You may have your Basset firmly on the lead, but be prepared for them to just drop one shoulder and roll.

Bassets tend to have a mind of their own and are often called stubborn. They do respond to rewards of food and praise, but training them can be a slow process so you will need to have plenty of patience. Bassets have gentle and sensitive temperaments and if you lose your temper or get cross with a Basset Hound he will be utterly devastated for a long time and most likely go off and sulk, looking very hurt in the meantime.

Basset's are notorious thieves - be aware that if you are part way through your lunch and the doorbell should ring, it is unlikely that your lunch will still be there when you return. Although short legged, they have a long reach when on two legs. Many a sandwich has disappeared due to unexpected callers at the door.

When house training a Basset Hound, be prepared that it takes a lot longer than for other dog breeds. Patience will be required. It may feel that you will never get the message through, but eventually they will get the idea.

As mentioned before, Basset's hate to be left alone, and will howl and cry for hours if left. Be prepared for complaints from the neighbours.

Basset's moult, a lot, so be prepared for dog hair on everything, and snowy piles of Basset fur on the floor and furniture.

Basset's can have a tendency to drool, so if you find drool and dog hair offensive, then the Basset is not the dog for you. When you see a Basset about to shake his head, then it's best to make a sharp exit to avoid being covered in drool.

Your windows, doors and furniture will have drool marks at Basset level and it sure can travel a long way!

Unfortunately due to poor breeding practices is is common for Bassets to suffer from health problems such as joint issues, skin problems, and ear and eye problems.

Snoring can be an issue for some Bassets!

Bassets can be flatulent. You have been warned!

Bassets have a very distinctive 'houndy' smell which is not eradicated by bathing. Some people find this very hard to tolerate.

## To sum up:

- Bassets are a docile and happy breed
- They generally get along well with other dogs, and cats.
- They do not like to be left alone.
- They are heavy, solid dogs which are hard to lift.
- Have a tendency to go wandering off - may need to keep on a leash.
- They like to roll in smelly, disgusting things.
- Can be difficult to train and a tendency to be stubborn.
- Will steal your sandwich given half a chance.
- Takes a while to house-train.
- May howl and cry if left alone.
- Bassets can be flatulent and also snore!
- Bassets are a breed that moult a lot.
- Bassets have a distinctive hound odor.
- They have a tendency to health issues due to poor breeding practices.
- Bassets drool so if you are house-proud they are not the breed for you.



*Bassets and cats can get on very well!*

## The Basset Challenge:

Here are some questions to help you decide if you are ready for the Basset challenge! Answer these questions as honestly as you can.

Are you and your family committed to spending the next 8 to 12 years looking after a family pet?

Do you have enough time and do you have the physical fitness to take your dog for walks, and to bath him and groom him as often as necessary?

Do you have the financial ability to pay for visits to the vet when needed?

Do you have enough space for a dog?

If you have children, are you prepared to teach your children to respect your dog's space and to treat your dog properly?

Are there likely to be any major events which could alter your ability to look after your dog (such as a new baby, a house move, a divorce, etc)?

Are you a patient, flexible, loving, person?

Would you freak out if your house was covered in dog hair and drool?

Are your neighbours likely to complain if your dog howls?

Are you out of the house all day?

Do you have the time and patience to train a new puppy?

Are you going to be upset by accidents in the house?

Can you tolerate a houndy odor?

Do you like meeting new people? (There is never a fast walk with a Basset and everyone will stop you to chat.)

If you have answered these questions honestly then you should be in a good position to know whether or not a Basset Hound is for you.

Also consider, do you want a puppy and all the work that is entailed, or would you think about giving a home to a rescue dog? If you decide that you really don't want all the hard work of raising and training a puppy, then you might be just the person to adopt an adult Basset.





We have spoken a lot about the downsides to owning a Basset hound, now let us talk about the positives:

Bassets are mild-mannered, gentle and calm dogs.

They are full of character.

Sociable with people.

Get along well with other dogs and cats.

Adaptable to circumstances.

Makes you smile every day with their comical antics.

Loyal and loving.

Thinks they are a lap dog despite their size.

When choosing a Basset Hound you are choosing a companion who is going to live with you and share your life for many years. The next decision you need to make is whether you want a puppy or an adult dog, and where to purchase your dog from.

We hope you have enjoyed this guide and if you have any comments we would be pleased to hear from you.

Look out for more ebooks from Basset Hound World coming soon.

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