

## **General Basset Care** **New Puppy Shopping List**

1. One crate to fit an adult Basset Hound, such as a Vari-Kennel Size 300, or any crate approaching the dimensions of 21"X 24"X 36".
2. Bedding for the crate. This can be a blanket or a large soft towel.
3. A 2-quart stainless steel bowl for food.
4. A heavy ceramic bowl for water. 2 or 3-quart size.
5. A high quality puppy food. We recommend Bil-Jac dog food.
6. A 6-foot long leash.
7. A 17" nylon adjustable buckle collar. Don't use a choke collar on a puppy. It can injure his throat. A choke training collar can be purchased when your dog is older.
8. Nail clippers or nail grinder.
9. Septic Stick (Stops the bleeding if you cut your puppy's nails too short)
10. An ear cleaner. Many are available in your vet's office.
11. Cotton balls or Q-tips for cleaning your puppy's ears every week.
12. Puppy shampoo.
13. A hound glove for brushing your puppy.
14. Nutritious puppy treats or biscuits.
15. Toys that are safe for puppies.

## **Bringing Your Puppy Home**

The following are a few tips to ensure that you give your new Basset puppy all the help it needs in learning to adjust to its new home.

Don't have unrealistic expectations. Don't expect your puppy to "know" what to do once you get it home. Remember, your puppy will be lonely the first few days and nights that it is separated from its littermates and familiar routine. Like children, puppies need to be taught what is expected of them. Decide ahead of

time who will be responsible for caring for your puppy. If you have children it is best to divide the duties among them.

### **Crate Training**

Crate training is not putting your dog/puppy in a cage or jail, and you are not being cruel if you follow these tips. Bassets feel secure in small, enclosed spaces, like a den. Dog crates make excellent dens. It is a safe place for him to stay when you're away or when you cannot watch him.

Watch your own dog around home. Where do you find him napping in his deepest sleep? Under the table, desk, chair? Yes, somewhere out of the traffic pattern where he has a roof overhead and a little privacy. A crate offers security, a den with a roof, and a place to call his very own where he can go to get away from it all.

There are basically just a few steps in "crate" training and they are as follows:

Choose a crate the same size as your puppy/dog. He should only have enough room to stand up, turn around and lie down. His crate is for sleeping or for a safe place to be when you cannot be with him. If you get a huge crate for a small dog, he may eliminate in one end and sleep in the other and you will have defeated the whole purpose of using the crate (dogs do not like to eliminate anywhere near where they sleep or eat).

Use a single-word command for your basset to enter his crate, for example, "KENNEL"; we use the simple word "BOX", throw in a treat or piece of kibble; when the dog/puppy enters, praise him and close the crate door. Increase the time he spends in the crate before you let him back out. Remember, your dog still needs time to play and eliminate. Maintain a regular schedule of trips outdoors so as not to confine him too long.

As a general guide, your puppy can stay in his crate comfortably for as many months as he is old plus one month (2 month old pup + 1 = 3 hours in his crate).

Set up a "dog area." Young puppies and even older dogs need their own space where they can get away from children and the hubbub of a busy family. In addition to crate training your puppy, you may also designate an area such as a laundry room or other room preferably with a tiled floor, which can be sectioned off with a baby gate. Puppies that are 2 to 4 months old need plenty of sleep. Your puppy may play for 30 minutes and then need to sleep for an hour or two. Don't stress a new puppy if it shows signs of needing to rest. Put him in his crate or dog area so he can sleep undisturbed.

Always take your basset outside on a leash to the same area in your backyard to eliminate so you can praise him when his job is finished. This will take the

guesswork out of his visits to the backyard. And don't forget to play with him and exercise him a little. He needs this kind of stimulation for his mental and physical wellness.

Remember, your basset hound is a pack animal by nature and he will be looking to you for direction. Your job as a responsible pet owner is to give him that direction so you can enjoy each other, as true companions should.

### **House Breaking**

A basset hound is either housebroken or not. If your basset is sneaking off to another room and having an accident, you will have to take some of his freedom away until you can solve the problem. The longer you allow this type of behavior to exist, the harder it will be to modify. Unless you can catch him, it really does not do any good to drag him off to the site of his mishap and try and punish him.

Keep him in sight if he is bold enough to try something in front of you, say "No," get his attention and take him outdoors quickly so he can finish eliminating in the appropriate area. Remember, it is your house. He has to earn his freedom through good behavior and this is your responsibility.

Start by establishing an elimination spot outdoors. In the morning, clip his leash to his collar and take the dog outdoors to his spot for elimination. State commands like "GO POTTY" or "SHOW TIME." After he does his duty, praise him and bring him inside for food and water. About 15 to 20 minutes after the meal, take him outside again for elimination. Take your basset to his "spot" at each elimination time. Maintain a regular feeding, drinking, and elimination schedule.

One of the most commonly made errors in housebreaking is rushing too quickly ahead of your basset. Too much freedom too quickly can cause some confusion. If your basset experiences an accident or two, you will have to back up and slow down. Marking should not be confused with housebreaking problems because marking is deliberate. This behavior will arise in bassets who may be trying to vie for the role of the leader in the household; marking is a way of claiming territory. It is advised that if you should notice this behavior indoors or out, you strengthen all obedience commands immediately. This will remove all doubts as to who is in charge around the house.

Providing your basset with a crate that is way too large may allow him to relieve himself in one end and sleep in the other. Placing food or water in his crate will allow him to fill up his bladder and bowel and he will have no choice but to relieve himself in his crate. Make sure you take your basset outdoors to eliminate on a regular schedule and especially prior to being left for prolonged periods of time.

If you have tried all the above and are still experiencing what you believe to be "Territorial Marking," consult your veterinarian. Your basset hound may have a bladder infection and it's always best to be safe, not sorry. If your basset hound is not spayed or neutered you may want to talk to your veterinarian about this procedure. It usually has a very positive effect on this type of behavior problem.

Even well trained bassets sometimes have accidents. Clean the accident area with a pet odor neutralizer (we recommend "OUT", available at most Wal-Mart's) so your dog won't be tempted to repeat his mistake. Here are some tips to help prevent accidents:

1. Do not make sudden changes in his diet.
2. Avoid giving your dog late night snacks.
3. No water 3 hours before bedtime.
4. Make sure to spend enough time outdoors.