

This leaflet has been produced to introduce: -

## "The Basset Hound Health Group"

In November 2008, the Kennel Club (KC) wrote to all breed clubs describing the difficult times being experienced and the need for real change to highlight the fact that we all care about the health of pedigree dogs. The KC also stipulated that all Breed Clubs should establish a breed health committee as a requirement for on going health supervision by Kennel Club registered clubs. This requirement has been met in full by the formation of the Basset Hound Health Group.

The KC Health plan also included a review of all Breed Standards to ensure that the guidance given within these standards shows the way to breeding and exhibition of healthy dogs. Happily, the KC saw that the Basset Hound Clubs were giving serious consideration to any amendments and therefore minor changes were required to the Basset Hound Standard.

### BELOW

#### Basset Hounds taking part in Agility



To keep up to date with all matters affecting Basset Hounds in your area, why not join your local Breed Club?  
Contact details for the Breed Club in your area:

#### **The Basset Hound Club**

Mrs S Jones 01279 874838  
clanwillowbassethounds@gmail.com

#### **The Basset Hound Club of Scotland**

Mr D. Sharpe 01786 880259  
thebhcofscotland@aol.com

#### **The Basset Hound Club of N. Ireland**

Mr P Lennon 0282 5892703  
Zanabekbassethounds@yahoo.co.uk

#### **The Basset Hound Club of Wales**

Mrs T Watkins 01495 271101  
blackveink9@gmail.com

#### **The Midland Basset Hound Club**

Mrs C Whitehead 02476 315577  
cath\_whitehead@fsmail.net

#### **The Lancs, Yorks & Cheshire Basset Hound Club**

Mrs M Ledward 0161 626 4985  
marled33@hotmail.co.uk

#### **The Hadrian Basset Hound Club**

Mr T Coddington 0191 285 4116

#### **The South of England Basset Hound Club**

Mrs K Culyer Dawson 0207 684 8152  
kimgreen2003@yahoo.co.uk

WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE KENNEL CLUB  
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



ALWAYS CONTACT YOUR OWN VETERINARY SURGEON FOR  
ADVICE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF YOUR BASSET HOUND

HL10 01/12



[www.bassetsrus.co.uk](http://www.bassetsrus.co.uk)

## Health Group Information

**This leaflet has been produced to introduce you to the Basset Hound Health Group and its objectives.**

**Website: [www.bassetsrus.co.uk](http://www.bassetsrus.co.uk)**

The Basset Hound is generally a very robust and healthy Breed. The Basset Hound is a very individual and distinctive breed. As far as health and welfare issues are concerned, we are a very proactive Breed. Should a health concern arise, we are usually very good at finding an answer.

The Basset Hound, our chosen and much loved Breed, has been the subject of much media scrutiny. The Basset Hound tracking, its nose to ground with its ears disturbing and enhancing the scent as it works the fields is a much healthier and fitter Breed than many give credit to. We have never been casual or careless about the health and welfare of our Breed, but neither are we complacent nor are we under any illusion that there is no room for improvement.

The Health Group objectives are not complicated. We, as a Group, are working diligently with The Kennel Club, The Animal Health Trust, The Royal Veterinary College and other professional bodies for a continuing and sensible approach to maintain the wellbeing of the Breed.

The specific objectives of The Health Group are: to collate information, to monitor and to promote the health and welfare of the breed, and thus to educate and inform.

To be a united Breed influence in all matters relating to health and welfare issues and, together with The Breed Clubs, to be in a durable position to lobby on Kennel Club or any Government legislative issues that may affect the future health, welfare, integrity, status and reputation of the breed..

To work with Veterinary and Health Professionals, The Kennel Club, Breeders, Stud Dog Owners, Pet Owners, the Media and any other relevant Body, Group or Organisation to promote the Health and Welfare of the Basset Hound.



The Basset Hound tracking, its nose to ground with its ears disturbing and enhancing the scent as it works the fields.

The Health Group has carried out a General Health Survey—collecting, collating and analysing data that relates directly or indirectly to the health and welfare of the breed. We are particularly taking note of any conditions which are considered to be either inherited or potentially inherited.

We have an agreement with The Animal Health Trust that they store blood samples and cheek swabs so that eventually we will have recorded details of DNA. This will allow research to be carried out for any condition which the Breed may wish to be investigated.

The Group actively supports on-going research into a skin condition, called Malassezia Pachydermatis, which is being carried out by the Royal Veterinary College.

The intention is that any Research Team will work with The Animal Health Trust to share information which may be revealed in the course of their work.

We also work with, and share information with, other Breeds which experience similar and sometimes chronic conditions which may occasionally be detected in The Basset Hound. The experiences of other Breeds will help to give us an insight into what might happen if we let a rare or occasional health or welfare issue get out of hand and, hopefully, enable us to address it with an appropriate and established therapy.

The Basset Hound Health Group is run under the auspices of the 8 UK based Basset Hound Clubs and are happy to be a part of the Kennel Club's "Fit for Function campaign".

We believe the future of our breed is knowledge and communication. Sharing information is the only way forward.

We have a very informative website,  
**[www.bassetsrus.co.uk](http://www.bassetsrus.co.uk)**  
where you can find more information

The Kennel Club "Fit For Function: Fit For Life Campaign" aims to make breeders, judges and puppy buyers aware of the opportunities to work with the Kennel Club on health related issues and reminds them that a dog's health should be the most important consideration in any decisions they make.

There are many aspects to this campaign and many ways to achieve the Kennel Club's aim – to ensure that the majority of pedigree dogs live without any illness that would be detrimental to their quality of life and this is increased so that every single dog has the opportunity to live a healthy life.

This includes halting the trend towards exaggeration in certain breeds, encouraging participation in and funding of research into health testing, the education of judges and developing even further the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme, which is absolutely crucial to the success and is the point where breeders, dog buyers and the Kennel Club can all come together to ensure that all dogs truly are "Fit For Function: Fit For Life".

Basset Hounds are energetic and not as they are depicted so often as couch potatoes



There is no better sight than a Basset Hound at full speed!

